

Happy Birthday - Again!

On July 31st, "Emancipation", your favorite anarchist monthly, will celebrate its Seventh birthday. Of course, many things have changed for our editorial collective since that summer in 1978 when a small band of high school students put out its first enthusiastic, mildly unpolished four-page issue (then named the "Anarchy Times"). As in all movements and groups devoted to social reconstruction and bucking the tide against stupidity, human waste and class criminality, we have seen many friends and compatriots pass in and out of our family of libertarian militants, labor activists, ecology crusaders, flinty-minded intellectuals, gay advocates, long-haired poets, feminist hell-raisers, education revolutionaries, dreamy-eyed hippies, vegetarian pacifist, punk subculturists and Taoist mystics. The separate issues of "Emancipation" have reflected our diversity and the wide-ranging diversity of the North American Anarchist community itself.

The present and future are and will be as zany, dangerous and demanding as ever. The "Emancipation" group and the other work collectives of the Anarchist Association of the Americas will do everything we can to present in print and action alternative

methods of living and working in a society which appears to be largely mad and on a planet which is more than a little endangered. There is an incredible task ahead for all willing to take part in the creation of a just, free and ecologically healthy world.

The Anarchist movement is not like other movements of the left. We do not measure "success" in quite the same way. We have no elections to win, no rival parties to upset, no power to seize. But we do have each other, a commitment to our unwavering principles, and the conviction that it is possible to build a classless society where hierarchy, Capital, the State, authoritarianism and violence no longer have a part. Though often accused (in the last century and a half) of being overly idealistic and naive, we are in fact the least romantic or naive of people. We do not believe revolutions ever truly end. We know the reconstruction of society is an unending process in a most imperfect world, and unlike our other friends on the left, we know you cannot reduce theory, society or people to merely an economic factor, a political faction or even a spiritual factor.

If you get the drift and feel that you as a free and autonomous individual can work collectively, without a leader, to open up such a life for all, then come and lend a hand. All you may gain is everything you should have had to begin with.



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