

Young people everywhere have come to the realization that today's society is stifling and oppressive. It is not surprising that some people have stood up against the complacent, consumer-oriented culture of today. These rebels find their anger channeled into actions which, due to their isolation, result in failure and frustration. These isolated malcontents are easily silenced by the system. The time is now to break out of this vicious cycle of isolation. If anything is to be accomplished we must unite and find our strength in numbers.

If we are to accomplish anything we must begin to communicate with one another. Anti-authoritarian youth and organizations can exchange information, ideas, and coordinate actions by communicating with similar groups and like-minded individuals. Several groups across North America have sprung up with this aim in mind. Now is the time to get together and establish a federation of anarchist youth and youth groups. With a network and channels of communication open between anarchist youth everywhere we can work together to fight against oppression and spread the ideals of youth rebellion.

WHAT IS THE AYF?

The Anarchist Youth Federation is an organization of concerned young people who are dedicated to building a better future for ourselves and future generations. Here's what we believe:

- 1.) The world today is filled with injustice, corruption, and oppression. This is largely the result of political and economic systems based on greed, rather than need, which rely on the domination of one human being over another.
- 2.) Where power exists, the capacity for its abuse also exists. Power corrupts. Once people find themselves in a position of power, they invariably set themselves apart from everyone else and use their power for their own benefit, at the expense of others. Therefore, people in positions of power will not readily give it up; instead, they will seek more and more power until they are utterly corrupted and willing to use all the oppressive means at their disposal in order to maintain their hold of power.
- 3.) All government is undesirable and unnecessary. There are no services provided by the state that the community could not provide for itself. We don't need anyone telling us what to do, trying to run our lives, harassing us with taxes, rules, and regulations, and living high on the hog off our labor.
- 4.) Communism, capitalism, fascism, monarchy, and every other system of government or economics which bases itself on power is unjust and exists for the benefit of a ruling class at the expense of everyone else. The only solution is a society based on equality and cooperation within the community, to provide for the needs of everyone, not the greed of a few.

The Anarchist Youth Federation has as its goal: education, communication, and liberation. We are a free association of like-minded individuals working together for these common goals. We are not a political party, or some other organization with an official platform, membership cards, dues, a president, or even anything remotely like that. We don't concern ourselves with endless meetings or debates over fine points of theory. If you for the most part agree with the statement above and want to change today's screwed up world, you might as well consider yourself a member of the AYF. Most members of the AYF are in their teens or early twenties; our approach reflects our concerns as young people coming of age in the world today.

EDUCATION- We want to spread anarchist ideas among young people

and society as a whole. Nothing will change until people are made aware of the injustices in the world today and their sources. We utilize every medium possible to spread our message: music, flyers, graffiti, posters, and just plain talking to people.

COMMUNICATION- We need to build a network of anarchist groups who share similar ideas and views. We need to get in touch with each other to share ideas and find people in our own areas who want to work together.

LIBERATION- This is our ultimate goal. We wish to live our lives as true to our beliefs as possible today, and look forward to the day when we can live and work together in a society based on liberty and equality.

HOW YOU CAN GET INVOLVED

There might already be an AYF affiliate in your area, but if there isn't, why not start one? Rent a Post Office Box and print up flyers introducing your group and its ideas to others. Soon you will be in contact with people who share your ideas—the nucleus of a new group. You can get in touch with other AYF affiliates and share information, flyers, experiences, etc. Together we can spread the ideas of anarchism and work for a better future.

MINNEAPOLIS AYF

The Minneapolis chapter of the AYF was started in 1988 following the example of a group in the Washington D.C. area. Minneapolis has a large anti-authoritarian community, many of whom are youth involved in counter cultural activities. AYF found its initial support among these youth and had several meetings at a local public library to attract members and discuss projects which we would undertake. The primary mission of the Minneapolis AYF was to spread anarchist ideals among young people and to society as a whole. Unlike other chapters, such as Mid-South, less emphasis was placed on demonstrations and direct action, partially due to the fact that another local anarchist group (RABL) was already organizing many demonstrations and actions. AYF set out to start a non-profit distribution service which would make anarchist and socially relevant music and literature available at a low price. We also helped release several records and tapes on AYF records. We work closely with Profane Existence

which is an increasingly popular magazine covering anarchism, news, and music, as well as being an independent record distributor and organizing concerts and unity picnics. The Minneapolis AYF produced and distributed a free monthly bulletin for a while which consisted of news and information on the AYF and its affiliates, this proved too expensive to mail out for free and was combined with Profane Existence. The AYF also participated in the Minneapolis Anti-Authoritarian Forum, which was an attempt to stimulate debate and share information within the Minneapolis anarchist community. These monthly meetings were popular scenes of lively discussion and debate. We have been engaged and involved in numerous other projects from raising funds for Polish anarchists to buy printing equipment, to introducing black bloc tactics to demonstrations in the Twin Cities. In the future we hope to get more people actively involved and branch out into more areas and take up many projects we've never had the time or funds to attempt. Obviously our activities are unique to our situation and capabilities, different chapters have different emphasis pertaining to their own individual situation.

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