

# dis-orientation

2023 - 2024





reader,



## we arrive at the university curious, dreaming.

We imagine a world where life is meaningful, abundant, and joyful.

This is a beautiful dream, which gives us purpose and meaning.

But the university, particularly its executive suite, does not dream with us. They seek to transform our dreams into mere *interests* — the kind which can be recorded on a balance sheet, which can generate returns on debts.

They say, dreams are for the nighttime. During the day, we must work; we must be *interested*.

Our days might grow busy and full, as opportunities ripen around us. We can become an entrepreneur, they say. We can sell something, we can start an NGO, fly around the world, join the global conversation.

But our minds still wander. In quiet moments, we know the news — climate breakdown, escalating war, and fear.

Do the rich and powerful, with whom we are taught to shake hands and deliver petitions and resumes, not threaten to turn our very days into nightmares?

Our dreams return to us.

Dreams are powerful, we realize. Suddenly the day's work can no longer hold our interest; we think only of nighttime, dreamtime.

When the offices and university are closed, we gather. We read clever books; take care of each other. We declare a strike, shut it down, propose a revolution.

We dream together.

Welcome to *dis-orientation*!

# de-carbonize de-colonize

The 'climate change' talked about in textbooks and news reports often seems like an intractable, impossible problem. When I was in high school, I struggled to comprehend the magnitude, urgency, and causes of the crisis. It was often presented as something that only smart engineering and investment could invent a way out of.

The simple reality is that our entire society is based on burning. Burning coal creates power; burning petroleum moves cars and trucks. These emissions have to go somewhere. If you burnt these things in a closed room, you'd suffocate. But instead, we're relying on our disappearing forests to create breathable air.

If we continue at this rate, within just 20 years the average amount of CO<sub>2</sub> in the Earth's air will rise enough to equal a stuffy room today — making "a breath of fresh air" a thing of the past. We can't allow that to happen.

Institutions like UC Berkeley put a lot of resources into studying and quantifying ecological destruction. But that's not enough. We need to pull the fire alarm; kill the exams and put the profit bonanza on ice.

Only we — in collective projects of abolition, rather than as individual consumers or policy-makers — can hope to stop extraction and dispossession at home and abroad. The survival of the world depends on the end of the one we're living in now, which connects us only fleetingly through consumption, war, and profit.

Consumption in the global North does have an outsize impact on the rest of the world, however, so even simple choices do make a meaningful difference. Here are some ideas.



## **AVOID AIR TRAVEL**

One of the single most significant things you can do is to avoid traveling by airplane.

A single flight generates the same amount of carbon emissions as an average person in many countries does in an entire year.

Oakland airport is currently considering a major expansion, which would lock in emission increases for generations.

Consider traveling by train or bus instead. In California, you can ride the train to LA, the Central Valley, and San Diego. It takes longer, but the difference is less when you consider the amount of time you would have spent in security and waiting for your bags. Plus, there's comfy seats, a snack car, and people to socialize with.

[stopoakexpansion.org](http://stopoakexpansion.org)

## **CONSUME LESS**

The Bay Area has a robust network for getting things cheap or used — see the resources in the contact list for details. Look first for used furniture, electronics, and other goods. You'll save money and keep it local.

## **UNDERSTAND THE CRISIS**

The different variants of COVID-19 were highly publicized during the pandemic, and we adapted our behavior accordingly. We should be paying the same attention to the different sources of emissions, and the specific gases — such as carbon dioxide and methane — which cause climate breakdown.

## **TAKE ACTION!**

Join a forest defense or pipeline stoppage. Make demands of your employer. Quit your bank; switch to a credit union. Boycott Amazon and sabotage Elon's rockets.



# the haste st. squat of 1989

In 1985, after years of mass struggle, the UC regents voted to divest \$3.1 billion from companies profiting off apartheid in South Africa. Unfortunately, it was a sham, but this wasn't discovered until after the movement had dissipated. On March 9, 1989, the Campaign Against Apartheid organized a torchlight march of about 500 people.

After the march, some students and homeless activists stormed and occupied a house at 2417 Haste St. This university-owned house had been vacant for 8 years.

Activists condemned the existence of vacant property while thousands in Berkeley were homeless. They favored direct action to reclaim it. During the week after the takeover, people worked to clean, fix up and organize the house and build political support outside.

Exactly a week after the occupation started, about 80 police officers evicted the squatters and took back the house. "It's a crime to have that house vacant with people in the streets," said Oscar Gutierrez, a collective member who was evicted.

The streets were filled with demonstrators after the eviction. A gay and lesbian rally was just ending nearby, and chants shifted to "What do we want? Housing! When do we want it? Now!" Hundreds gathered out front. From the Rochdale co-op across the street, people slung mud and bottles at police barricades.

By the next morning, the university had torn the building to the ground, claiming it had to destroy it in order to "save" it from the squatters.



*Police leave UC-owned house shortly after evicting a group of squatters.*

STAFF PHOTO BY WENDY LAMM



CalFresh, aka Food Stamps or EBT, can put a little extra in your pocket for buying groceries. The process is very bureaucratic, but once approved you get a card you can use like a debit card at almost all grocery stores. Get up to \$280/month in free food benefits.

#### TO QUALIFY YOU MUST...

- Meet income requirements
- Be a US citizen (except if receiving SSI/SSP benefits) or a legal permanent resident
- Be enrolled as a student at least 1/2 time
- Work at least 20 hours a week; or be eligible for work-study; or be a parent who needs to care for your child under 12

#### WAYS TO APPLY

- Do-it-yourself at [students.getcalfresh.org!](http://students.getcalfresh.org!)
- Go to a UC Berkeley "Group Application Session," or request help from a CalFresh Ambassador. Book online or email [calfreshsupport@berkeley.edu](mailto:calfreshsupport@berkeley.edu).
- More info: [basicneeds.berkeley.edu/calfresh](http://basicneeds.berkeley.edu/calfresh)

## the magic of **FM**

Stop paying for Spotify and give radio a try. Hear music spun by DJs in real time. Find your favorite shows and tune in weekly to see what's new. Call into the studio to talk to a real human! Just turn on your set to feel less alone late at night – you'll be sharing a live experience with thousands of people across the city. All the stations below are 100% independent and commercial free:

**90.7 KALX** – UC Berkeley Radio

**94.1 KPFA** – Berkeley's famous independent leftist radio station. News, talk, and music.

**89.5 KPOO** – SF's Black-run community radio

**Lower Grand Radio** – [lowergrandradio.com](http://lowergrandradio.com)  
Oakland QTPOC-run radio (online only)

**90.1 KZSU** – Stanford radio

**91.1 KCSM** – Public jazz radio from San Mateo Community College

**102.5 KXSF** – SF community radio

**89.7 KFJC** – Strange sounds from Foothill College

**88.1 KZSC** – UCSC radio (listen online)

# free textbooks!

Need books for class? Why spend hundreds on amazon funding Jeff Bezos' space vacation when you could get them for free!

## UC BERKELEY LIBRARY

Visit [search.library.berkeley.edu](http://search.library.berkeley.edu) and see if you can get it either in print or online (Pro tip for PDF e-books: you have to download one chapter at a time, and it will limit how many you can download. When you hit the limit, copy the link, shut down your browser, open a new Private window and keep going!)

## BERKELEY PUBLIC LIBRARY

BPL has no late fees, so you can keep the books the entire semester. Downtown main library is near BART at 2090 Kittredge Street.

## OAKLAND PUBLIC LIBRARY

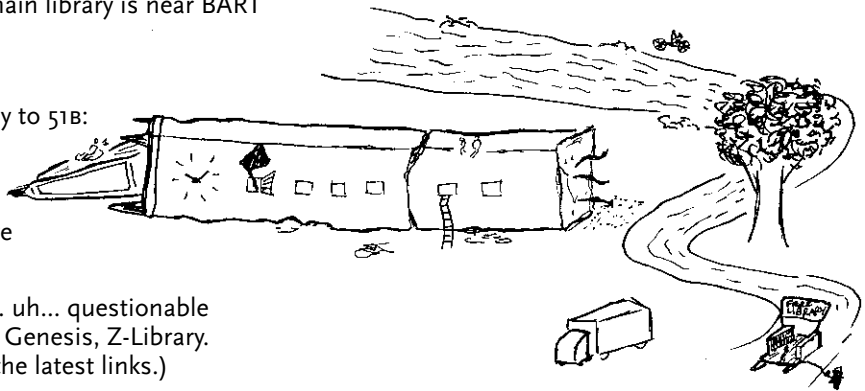
The Rockridge branch is handy to 51B: 5366 College Ave, Oakland.

## ALAMEDA COUNTY LIBRARY

Albany Branch: 1247 Marin Ave

## PIRACY WEBSITES

Reliable, trustworthy, legally ... uh... questionable sources for free PDFs: Library Genesis, Z-Library. (You can check wikipedia for the latest links.)



## used bookstores in berkeley

You might not find your book,  
maybe you'll find something better!

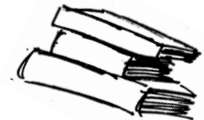
**HALF PRICE BOOKS** 2036 Shattuck Av @ Addison (by downtown BART)

**FRIENDS OF BERKELEY PUBLIC LIBRARY** 2433 Channing Way (in corridor of shops next to Unit 3)

**MOE'S BOOKS** Telegraph @ Dwight

**PEGASUS BOOKS** Shattuck @ Durant

**URBAN ORE** 900 Murray St  
(take the 36 Bus towards West Oakland and get off at 7th & Anthony)



# land education

Click-buy abstraction and technology can obscure the forces which sustain life — soil, water, sunlight, fire, and air.

Interested in forms of education that center the land? There are abundant regional resources.



## Sogorea Te' Land Trust

An urban indigenous women led group that is rematriating land and educating people.

[sogoreate-landtrust.org](http://sogoreate-landtrust.org)

## Berkeley Student Farms

A collection of democratically-run student farms which seek to meet basic needs and practice food justice.

[studentfarms.berkeley.edu](http://studentfarms.berkeley.edu)

### INDIGENOUS WORLDVIEW

humans have a place in web of life

flora, fauna, landscape 'personhood' (animism), are relatives

landscape design works with the ecology, even astronomy

### CAPITALIST WORLDVIEW

nature and humans are separate

flora, fauna, landscapes are reduced to "natural resources"

landscape design is for human enjoyment, aesthetic

*from "Ecological Allyship on Native Lands," by emmy akin olivo with L Frank Manriquez, on acorn.wiki*



Liberation of the UC Gill Tract farm, 2012.  
Photo by Daniel Arauz.

## Merritt College Landscape Horticulture

A program at the local community college which offers classes on urban farming, herbalism, and other subjects of interest.

[merritt.edu/lanht/](http://merritt.edu/lanht/)

## ◀ Gill Tract Farm

A community-run farm, on UC-owned land near University Village, Albany. A 2012 movement known as "Occupy the Farm" reaffirmed its use for education.

[gilltractfarm.org](http://gilltractfarm.org)

# a people's history of uc berkeley

Today UC Berkeley promotes and advertises itself for its “legacy of radical activism,” yet its starring role in many social movements is as one of the structures being opposed!

Oppressed students have not struggled *with* the liberal university against a discriminatory and unjust society, but *against* the university itself! The most powerful movements have been those which extend far beyond the campus to strike at the heart of the american war culture. These struggles are challenging and have been met with intense repression, yet each is like a firecracker in the dark — sending off thousands of sparks, showing that another world is possible if we want it.

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## Golden State Blues

The place now known as Berkeley is xučyun land, the territory of the Chochenyo-speaking Ohlone.

The first thing to know about the university of california is that it was a settler institution, created by rich colonists who came from the east coast with dreams of Manifest Destiny and profit. They liked this site between the bay and the hills, nestled away from what they saw as the “brutalizing vulgarity” of urban San Francisco and the coal mines near Antioch that powered its industries. No treaty was ever signed for this land, no sale was made.

Standing at Founder’s Rock, near modern-day Memorial Stadium, UC trustee and railroad magnate Frederick Billings was struck by a line written by Bishop George Berkeley, “Westward the course of empire takes it way,” and named the campus after its author. The rest of the poem discarded, this central line became prophesy and motto, slogan and parable. The university was named in celebration of the conquest – of the domination of the peoples and landscapes of the Western hemisphere, with hopes of extending the reach of the empire-to-be across the Pacific.

Between the violent establishment of the

Bear Flag Republic in 1846, creating modern-day California, and the founding of UC in 1868, almost 85% of California’s indigenous population was killed – a genocide – by armed death squads, murders by individual settlers, and the spread of foreign infectious diseases such as smallpox and cholera. Of the 2,395 parcels of land granted to the University of California, 96% were expropriated from 125 individual tribes without ratified treaties. Many of these were then sold off at a profit, a lucrative business that funded the university’s early operations.

Billings and his colleagues accepted the genocide of indigenous peoples as a necessary condition to grow their industries and university. Shellmounds, once important ceremonial and burial sites numbering over 400 across the Bay Area, were demolished. They took the human remains to the university for study, while some of the earth gathered in the process was used to pave Berkeley’s first roads.

## The University

While officially having a race-neutral admissions policy, it is little surprise that the university primarily served Euro-American Protestants.



Today, there are UC campuses and other public universities across the state. But in the beginning, there was only one. Berkeley was the University of California – that’s where the nickname “Cal” comes from. For students across California seeking higher education, Berkeley was the place to go.

The early university settlement was initially surrounded by farms. The waterfront, now part of West Berkeley, was the factory town of Ocean View. A small port serviced bustling lumber facilities, a soap factory, mills, and other heavy industries.

When university Berkeley and industrial Ocean View were merged in 1878, the new town was highly segregated. Wealthy neighborhoods such as Claremont were bracketed by large stone pillars, still existing, which marked them as wealthy “sundown” white-only areas.

A 1920s census reported 1,333 people of Asian descent and 507 Black people living in Berkeley, of whom most were working in service or industrial jobs. Even in the university’s early years, students of color – though few in number – enrolled and obtained degrees. South and east Asians formed student organizations going back to the early 1900s. Early campus groups like these often confronted the segregated conditions of the city, and some learned tactics from farmworker activism in the local fields, or even anti-colonial struggles abroad.

While the university often portrays itself as a beacon of progress, the campus has been deeply connected to the maintenance and expansion of deadly power, locally and abroad.

Berkeley’s first chief of police, August Vollmer, was a professor of police administration at UC Berkeley. Known as the “father of modern law enforcement,” Vollmer honed military tactics from the american imperialist war in the Phillipines into standard practice for domestic policing in Berkeley and Los Angeles. One of Vollmer’s beliefs was that

crime was connected to “racial degeneracy,” and he described the patrol car – of which Berkeley had the first fleet in 1913 – as “the swift angel of death.”



## Strikes & Co-ops

The Depression severely impacted many UC students. Financial aid was insufficient and opportunities for students to earn money were meager. In this environment, organizations like the YMCA became more secular, and shifted their work to focus on basic needs and civil rights.

In 1934, thousands of students and faculty went out to San Francisco’s waterfront in support of the 1934 general strike. This city-wide work stoppage paralyzed the city’s economy for four days until the port workers won the right to unionize.

As capitalism failed to meet the needs of striking and unemployed workers, many organized self-help cooperatives. Food and housing projects sprung up across the Bay, including a group called the Unemployment Exchange Association. One group of UC students and YMCA people took inspiration from these efforts and created the student-run housing co-op now known as the Berkeley Student Cooperative (BSC).

## The Bombs

The atomic bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan, in 1945 were developed at Los Alamos National Laboratory under the direction of UC scientists. This military-academic program was understood as an emergency war measure, to force surrender of the Nazis, but since the war its capacity has only continued to expand.

A decade after Japan’s surrender, vastly more powerful weapons were tested in Bikini Atoll, resulting in the forced relocation of the



island's residents and the permanent poisoning of their homeland. One man was murdered in a 1954 hydrogen bomb test. UC Berkeley atomic scientist Edward Teller remarked, "It's unreasonable to make such a big deal over the death of a fisherman." (In the fall of 1970, protesters avenged the fisherman by descending on Teller's Berkeley house.)

### **The Free Speech Movement**

From 1960 to 1964, students greatly strengthened their political and civil rights. The Free Speech Movement (FSM) in October of 1964 was one of the most impactful demands for student civil liberties.

Since political tabling was banned on Sproul Plaza, students traditionally set up political tables on the sidewalk at the Telegraph/Bancroft entrance since this was considered public property. However, the Oakland Tribune (which students were then picketing for hiring discrimination) pointed out to the administration that this strip of land actually belonged to the university.

When the university announced that students could no longer set up their tables on "the strip," students organized and defied the ban through direct action. They deliberately set up tables where they were forbidden and collected thousands of signatures of students who said they were also sitting at the tables.

In October 1964, police suddenly arrested a man sitting at a CORE (Congress of Racial Equality) table. First one, then two, then thousands of people rebelled and trapped the police car on Sproul Plaza for 32 hours. The car became a speakers' platform from which many spoke grievances against the university.

The governor declared a state of emergency by request of UC president Clark Kerr, and sent hundreds of police to the campus.

In a complex struggle with many tactical phases extending over two months, the FSM exposed and isolated the administration and regents so effectively that a notice of disciplinary proceedings against four FSM leaders triggered a sit-in of 800 students and a student strike of up to 20,000.

This forced Kerr to go before a gathering of 18,000 in the Greek Theater with some pseudo-concessions. When FSM leader Mario Savio attempted to speak, the administration ordered UC police to drag him off stage. But they underestimated students' dedication to the FSM. This repression caused increased anger and further activated the campus. The eventual settlement greatly expanded student political



rights on campus and inspired movements across the country.

### **The Third World Strike**

For the first time, in 1969, Third World students on campus led a major, campus-wide struggle around self-determination and demands specifically relevant to BIPOC students, faculty, and workers.

Three Third World groups had been involved in separate smaller negotiations and confrontations with the administration for a year. Inspired by the strike at San Francisco State, these Berkeley students formed the Third World Liberation Front (TWLF) and put forward their demands, chief among them a Third World College with adequate funding, open admissions and financial aid for Third World people and Third World control of these programs.

The first stage of the struggle was mainly an attempt to educate the campus. Picket lines were set up, along with a program of dorm speaking, convocations and circulation of literature. Then there were blockades of Sather Gate and the Telegraph Ave entrance.

Governor Reagan declared a “state of extreme emergency” and placed control of the campus in the hands of the Alameda County Sheriff. A brutal campaign began to crush the strike. Picketers were arrested and beaten in the basement of Sproul Hall. Leaders were arrested. All rallies and public meetings on the campus were banned. But the demonstrations got bigger and bigger. On campus, police fought against students with tear gas and clubs; students responded with rocks and bottles. Hundreds were injured or arrested.

After two months of strike, students were worn down and exhausted by court battles. A divisive debate about tactics had arisen. Under the circumstances, the TWLF decided to suspend the strike. They entered into negotiations with the administration over specifics of an Ethnic Studies program, which, while falling short of their demands, was a significant victory and created today’s Ethnic Studies departments.

### **Anti-Apartheid Movement**

In early 1977, as a response to the anti-apartheid struggle in South Africa, activists demanded divestment of university holdings in companies doing business in South Africa.

Students plastered Sproul Hall with banners and signs and renamed it Biko Hall, after the murdered South African Black Consciousness Movement leader, Stephen Biko.

On April 15, 350 slept out and UCPD began making arrests.

Over 1,000 people created a 24/7 shantytown in front of Sproul Hall until the demands were met. A newsletter was produced at Barrington Hall co-op and rushed to campus. Police repression was intense, and the movement only ended

when the Regents announced a large divestment from South African companies.

### **Free the UC, Occupy Cal**

In the 2000s, the regents aggressively raised tuition while welcoming corporate influence, outsourcing labor, and developing new and improved anti-union, anti-worker practices. The Regents made dozens of deals with Wall Street which specifically pegged investors’ profits to UC tuition increases.

In response, March 19, 2008 was “Free the UC Day,” a direct action held in front of the regents’ meeting as an “Alternative Regents Meeting” with free food and music. People called for free education, democratically elected regents, an end to warmongering and military contracts, better wages, and affirmative action.

In September 2009, thousands gathered in Berkeley to protest a massive proposed tuition increase of 32%. Students at UC Davis took over an administration building that November, with the slogan, “Occupy Everything,



# radical places archival traces cultural spaces contact list

Welcome! Although UC Berkeley cashes in on a “tradition” of radicalism, the state of campus activism can seem disappointing to newcomers hoping to get involved in radical activities. You’re often faced with a choice between liberal, reformist, single-issue groups, a student government with little power, or sectarian Marxist-Leninist cults.

Despite the situation on campus, the Bay Area is home to vibrant and comprehensive radical communities. Most are not organized like sectarian parties with a strict “party line” and aggressive tactics — always trying to sell a paper. Radical activists can live fulfilling lives while trying to increase the role of revolutionary activities in society.

The university, not enjoying having their administration building constantly occupied, has taken steps over the last 30 years to try to separate activists in the community from potential activists on campus. Therefore, we strongly encourage you to get off campus and out into the community. Finding the right communities is up to you. You may find some projects hostile and outright oppressive. You may find a nurturing community and a second (or literal) home at others. And you can always meet people along the way and start your own project.

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## **Albany Bulb ①**

### **1 Buchanan St, Albany**

A park at the edge of the bay filled with unauthorized art constructions.

## **Bandung Books**

### **2289 International Blvd, Oakland**

New and used books; Black, Asian, Latine, Indigenous histories, stories, poetry, events, and art.

## **Bay Area Coalition for Headwaters**

A group that fights logging of forests to protect biodiversity.

## **Bay View Newspaper**

### **4917 Third Street, SF**

A national Black newspaper based in Bay View/Hunter’s Point

## **Berkeley Free Clinic ②**

### **2339 Durant, Berkeley**

Volunteer-run medical help, STD tests, and peer counseling by phone. (510) 548-2570

## **BAVC Media**

### **145 9th St, Ste 101, SF**

Supports independent filmmakers.

## **Berkeley Flea Market ③**

### **Sat/Sun at Ashby BART**

Vendors, primarily from the African diaspora, sell bikes, housewares, and decor.

## **Bound Together Books**

### **1369 Haight St, SF**

Volunteer-run anarchist bookstore.

↑ Albany

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4

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**Committee for South African Solidarity (COSAS)**

**1837 Alcatraz Ave, Berkeley**

Advocates for realization of the South African Freedom Charter.

**Creative Growth**

**355 24th St, Oakland**

Non-profit that advances the work of artists with developmental disabilities.

**Copwatch**

**2022 Blake St, Berkeley**

Grassroots group that monitors Berkeley police abuses and proposes alternatives.

**Critical Resistance**

**4400 Telegraph Ave, Oakland**

Prison abolition group; publishers of a radical abolitionist newspaper.

**Berkeley Animal Rights Center**

**2425 Channing Way, Ste. C, Berkeley**

Community and vegan event center for animal rights activists.

**East Bay Food Not Bombs**

**served at People's Park, Berkeley**

Cooks and serves free vegan food daily at People's Park around 3pm.

**Flying Over Walls / SF Bay Area**  
**flyingoverwalls.org**

Prison abolition group, hosting regular letter-writings to queer & trans prisoners.

**Gill Tract Community Farm** 4

**San Pablo @ Marin Ave, Albany**

UC "owned," community-run farm. Free farmstand & land education projects.

**924 Gilman** 5

**924 Gilman St, Berkeley**

All ages, all volunteer punk venue.

**Self-Help Hunger Program** 6

**Driver Plaza (61st & Adeline), Oakland**

Self-determination after the Panthers' model.

**Industrial Workers of the World (IWW)**  
**2022 Blake Street, Berkeley**

The workers union that empowers rank-and-file workers at any workplace.

**Intertribal Friendship House**

**523 International Blvd, Oakland**

Urban Native American community center offering social services and community/cultural events

Mi Tierra Foods

Dwight Way

Ashby



**La Peña Cultural Center**  
3105 Shattuck Ave, Berkeley  
Latin American cultural center

**Long Haul Infoshop**  
3124 Shattuck Ave, Berkeley  
Reading room with a library and  
zine archive.

**Marcus Books**  
3900 MLK Jr Way, Oakland  
Historic Black-owned bookstore

**Moments Cooperative**  
410 13th Street (near 19th St BART),  
Oakland  
QT/BIPOC artist space, bookshop,  
zine distro, and printing arts.

**National Lawyer's Guild**  
558 Capp St, SF  
Radical lawyers who defend activists  
and sue the police.

↓ **Oakland**

**Needle Exchange Emergency  
Distribution (NEED)**

Distributes clean needles and harm reduction supplies.

**Medicine for Nightmares  
Bookstore & Gallery**

**3036 24th St, SF**

Chicanx/latine bookstore and event venue

**Niebyl-Proctor Marxist Library 9**  
**6501 Telegraph Ave, Oakland**

Left-wing library and community event space.

**Noisebridge**

**272 Capp St, SF**

Anarchistic hacker space with public tools.

**Omni Commons**

**4799 Shattuck Ave, Oakland**

Left-wing community center, event space & free store.

**Pacific Center for Human Growth**

**2712 Telegraph Ave, Berkeley**

Queer community center with resources, support groups, library.

**People's Park 10**

**Haste and Dwight St, Berkeley**

Urban green space, arts & culture venue, and liberated patch of land for the poor and landless of the East Bay.

**Prison Literature Project**

**2022 Blake St, Berkeley**

Sends books to prisoners.

**POOR Magazine/Prensa Pobre  
poormagazine.org**

Poor people/Indigenous-led media, education, and art.

**Slingshot Collective**

**3124 Shattuck Ave, Berkeley**

Radical newspaper that began at UC Berkeley.

**St. James Infirmary**

**1089 Mission Street, SF**

A peer-based non-profit health organization serving bay area sex workers

**Tamarack**

**1501 Harrison St, Oakland**

A collectively-run bar and restaurant, and space to organize.

**TGI Justice Project**

**1349 Mission St, San Francisco**

Trans, intersex, and non-binary support in and out of the prison industrial complex.

**Urban Ore 11**

**900 Murray Street, Berkeley**

"Punk Costco."

**Where Do We Go Berkeley?**

**linktr.ee/wheredowegoberk**

Group that coordinates defense and material support for homeless encampments



Demand Nothing,” hoping to seize power from the Regents rather than continue begging for concessions. The movement gathered steam across campuses, so the Regents delayed the tuition hike. Then, once the immediate pressure had eased, they passed it anyway.

By fall 2011, that “Occupy” demand may have inspired activist scholars to sound the call to Occupy Wall Street. Students and faculty held anti-capitalist “teach-outs” around Berkeley, mirroring street education projects at New York and the Oakland Commune. Rallies and protests were held around around town. When police forced participants to remove their tents from Sproul Plaza, the campus was galvanized as a result and a General Strike was called. Students and professors skipped class. Word spread across the UC, with a particularly strong presence at UC Davis – where a cop was famously photographed casually pepper spraying seated students in the face.



#### **COLA4ALL**

In February 2020, grad students at UC Santa Cruz went on a “wildcat strike” – meaning without the blessing of their union, since their contract contained a no-strike clause. The strike

spread rapidly to every campus, as many others being exploited by the UC began to build a collective struggle.

Students at UCSC liberated the dining halls to offer free food, classes were canceled due to a strong picket line, and eventually strikers withheld grades and stopped labor for the UC. At its most radical, “COLA” (Cost of Living Adjustment) was not just about more money but a collective demand for UC’s looted wealth to be shared, decolonization of academia, and abolition of police. The Crossroads dining hall at UC Berkeley was momentarily liberated, before management threw away all the food to prevent people from eating for free. Nonetheless, people chipped in money for pizza and co-ops brought big pots of pasta and salad from their houses.

As things reached a fever pitch with huge rallies stopping labor at many UC campuses, the pandemic hit. The movement diffused as people scattered and avoided crowds. UC wasn’t able to deport the non-citizen wildcat hold-outs as they had hoped, and were forced to re-instate them. Some token concessions were made. But sparks were lit. In May 2022, UC Davis Cops off Campus disabled the swipers in the dining hall and opened it up for hot, free meals. Grad student workers won higher pay in the UAW strike of 2022. And while campuses were dormant in 2020, flames burned wild in the summer uprisings against police murder.

One warm summer afternoon that year, a small block party was held before a riot in Oakland. A group marched from UCOP headquarters to former UC president and warmonger Janet Napolitano’s luxury condo, carrying the banner “Fuck the UC!” There were free burritos and literature. People talked and planned, wondering what the struggle to come will be like. What’s next is up to us. ■

# On being a student of color @ Cal

IN POOR SCHOOLS ACROSS THE COUNTRY, college admission is discussed as if it is a golden ticket into paradise. On my college visits as a high school senior, the promise of paradise was superficially confirmed by the overflowing food at the dining halls, the rows of brand new computers in the computer labs and the promise of financial aid dollars. I was also promised the opportunity of joining a prestigious intellectual community. Coming from a “low-performing” urban high school, where most classes included worksheets and goofing off, I was excited to become a part of a community that valued critical thinking. But as soon as I started receiving acceptance material it became clear that paradise was more like a polishing school for suburban middle and upper class students in order for them to secure corporate jobs.

My dreams of becoming part of the greater campus community quickly dissipated as I was encouraged to limit my activities and course schedule to those organized by students and faculty of color, most of whom shared my feelings of rejection and disappointment. What I had not been prepared for was that leaving my home town and “movin’ on up” also meant entering into a world where what I said, what I wore, what music I liked to listen to and the color of my skin, made me strange.

Together the African American community on campus made our own parallel institution within the greater university, and this was somewhat satisfying. We had our own newspaper, theater group, acapella group, themed dorm and graduate ceremony.

This was our way of challenging the isolation and alienation that we had found in paradise, but what I realize now is that it was never paradise to begin with. The modern college culture that rejected me and other students of color is universally alienating and dehumanizing. Those suburban men and women who I was so envious of are being manipulated into sacrificing their spiritual, psychological and physical health to become slaves to a way of life dominated by fear and aggression.

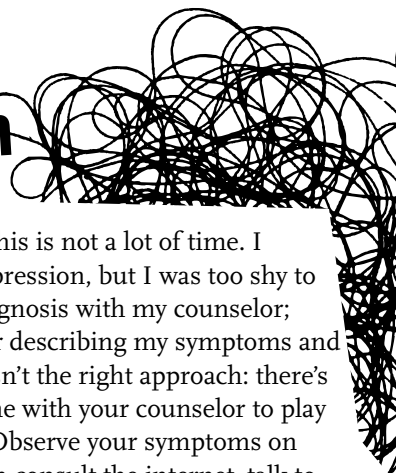
All they get for their sacrifice are trinkets bought on credit. At least I was welcomed into a community when I got to college which was nurturing, meaningful and did not require hazing to become a member. Now I am in graduate school at Cal and I have seen students of color struggle with the same sense of bewilderment that I felt when I first got to college. What has helped me this time around has been an understanding that the dominant culture of the university is a disease that infects our ability to make connections.

Our ability to identify relationships between people, our environment, our hearts, our minds and our actions are destroyed by the modern diseases of isolation, otherization, manipulation and domination which flourish on our campus. The antidote that has worked for me in warding off these devastating diseases and their consequences (depression, apathy, drug and alcohol abuse), has been seeking out the interconnections within my life and the world around me. It has also included becoming active in creating a campus culture that is conscious and respectful of diversity and interdependence.

let's talk about



# Mental Health



I hadn't attended class in weeks. I couldn't keep up with assignments, I barely left my room. I didn't know what was wrong with me, but I knew it was time to seek help. If you find yourself in a crisis like mine, here's what you need to know:

Call (510) 642-9494 to make an appointment with University Health Services—any student can do this, regardless of insurance. It took me a long time to make the call; I had no experience with mental health professionals and I assumed that my symptoms weren't "severe" enough to bother with. Don't make that judgment yourself, the intake staff at UHS can determine what kind of care is best for you.

Drop-in counseling is available at their offices in the Tang Center. Now, call their phone line and state that you would like "Drop-in urgent counseling." This is very useful for immediate help — you'll probably have to wait at least two weeks before getting an appointment with a counselor the regular way. Urgent is a very loose term: you can qualify for urgent care if you are having thoughts of self-harm, or if you haven't attended class in a week, among other reasons. I recommend taking an urgent counseling session whenever possible.

If you do not qualify for drop-in urgent counseling, you can take a walk-in, virtual Let's Talk Counseling session. Just sign up online. Either way, it's better than waiting.

About your University counselor: they are (in my experience) all very nice, helpful people that are on your side. But they are overburdened and underpaid by the university, so your meetings with them will be limited to three sessions a semester, two weeks apart between sessions.

Suffice to say, this is not a lot of time. I suspected I had depression, but I was too shy to be pushy with a diagnosis with my counselor; instead, I settled for describing my symptoms and experiences. This isn't the right approach: there's just not enough time with your counselor to play detective like that. Observe your symptoms on your own time, then consult the internet, talk to your friends, or reach out to Peer advising, and come up with a name for what you might be suffering from. Communicating this with your counselor ensures that you'll get the kind of help you need quicker.

As you can see, the biggest problem with Berkeley's mental health services is that it is **S L O W** ! It is very difficult to rely on the University's slow-ass mental health services to help you while you're still trying to complete schoolwork. UHS can hook you up with the school's pretty generous Disabled Students Program (you should always do this), reduce your courseload, or change your grading option. Another option to consider is withdrawing from school for medical reasons (by the way, SHIP lasts 'till the end of the semester even if you withdraw).

If you do decide to stay in school, make sure to be frank and open with your professors that you are struggling with your mental health; your counselor can even write a letter of "proof" that you can show your professors. Even if you aren't in the DSP program (they're **ALSO SLOW**), the professor might offer you accommodations regardless.

The university does not adequately fund its mental health programs! You'll have to advocate for yourself to get the help you need.

*In crisis? Pause, take a breath. Call a hotline or somebody you trust.*

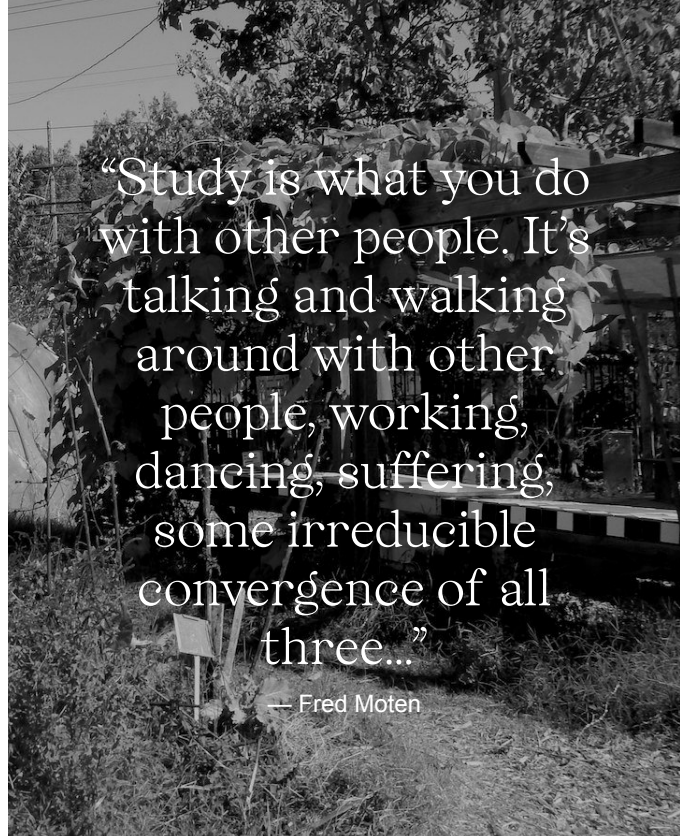
# dreaming of liberation...

*From 'Abolish the UC!'*  
Twitter @AbolishtheUC

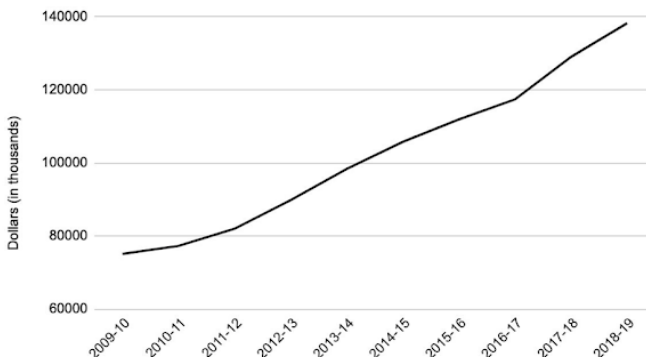
Over the last decade the UC has dramatically increased the money it spends on policing. Every UC campus saw over a 50% increase in police expenditures, with five of the ten campuses doubling their police budgets in the last decade.

When we talk about police budgets, it is because we know defunding the police is one way to reduce their capacity on the way to eliminating them entirely.

We want the police off our campuses for the same reason we want the police out of everywhere else. **But our desires don't stop there. Abolishing the police is only the first step in the larger project of abolition**, a project that seeks to overcome the carceral logics that undergird every part of our society, **including the university.**

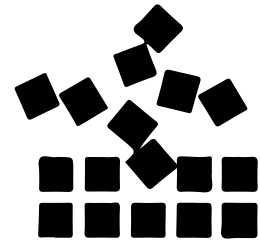


**UCPD Permanent Budget**  
UC Police Total Base Expenditures, All Campuses, 2009-2019



That is why, although we adamantly support the movement to abolish campus police, we cannot be satisfied with a university that “has the right priorities” or allocates its budget according to the so- called “public good.” Our ultimate horizon is not to reform the university but to destroy it and the anti-Black, colonial-capitalist World of which it is a part. In the new world(s) beyond that horizon, neither the university nor the police have any place.

# are you being designed?



Community engagement is not the same as community power. Corporations, university executives, and governments are hoping we won't notice the difference. Here's how it goes down:

## SCENARIO 1

The university wants to build expensive dorms on People's Park to "develop the potential of the area" and create a "win-win-win" situation. Naturally, the UC thinks the free green space, presence of poor people hanging out and playing music is "impeding development." So they hire some firms like LMS Architects to design a number of models of what they "could" (read: intend to) build there, and Walter Hood Studio to design a nice "monument" to the lives they are displacing. UC and these design firms hold a public input session to "discuss" these "solutions." You find out about the meeting and go with a bunch of people who live at and use the park. The "discussion" is a speech by somebody from the design firm showing off multiple "potential models" of the buildings that will replace the park. You and your friends get mad and start asking questions about what will happen to the people who live there, breaking into loud chants at times. Security people show up, but the designer tells them to let you speak. The designers say you and your friends make interesting points and she'd like your ideas to be incorporated into the new plans.

You feel confused, angry, but strangely hopeful that this big-wig might take your concerns into account. The designer has everyone at the session split into small groups to discuss different aspects of the plan like "public usage," "beautification," "security" and "community impact"... you and your friends are split up to try to variously influence the official people there to talk about why this plan will displace you. The meeting ends, the free snacks are eaten. You and your friends leave, the official plan will move forward unchanged.

## SCENARIO 2

A mass campus movement has called for the abolition of campus police and funding and creation of a food pantry open to the public. After months of silence or repression, the Chancellor suddenly invites prominent or well-connected students of the movement to join a new advisory council on "Re-imagining Campus Security and Basic Needs."

Despite the university having hundreds of administrators whose job it is to move money around and establish new programs, they want *you* to take the lead on this re-imagining. The committee will have 2 radical students, 2 student politicians who hand-wave and do nothing, and 4 administrators with fancy titles who are there to "help" you understand how to implement your ideas (i.e. tell you why it's so complicated and how you can't get anything done). After months of "learning the ropes" of university budgets and administration, the committee will run out of time. It produces a 50-page report and disbands. None of the movement's demands will be implemented, but the committee's existence will continually be cited by the chancellor to justify the continuation of the status quo.

Disorientation recommends the following response to "design": Flip the tables, make a lot of noise, don't listen to anything they tell you! It's all bullshit. Start getting organized, and grow a militant movement until your demands are realized!

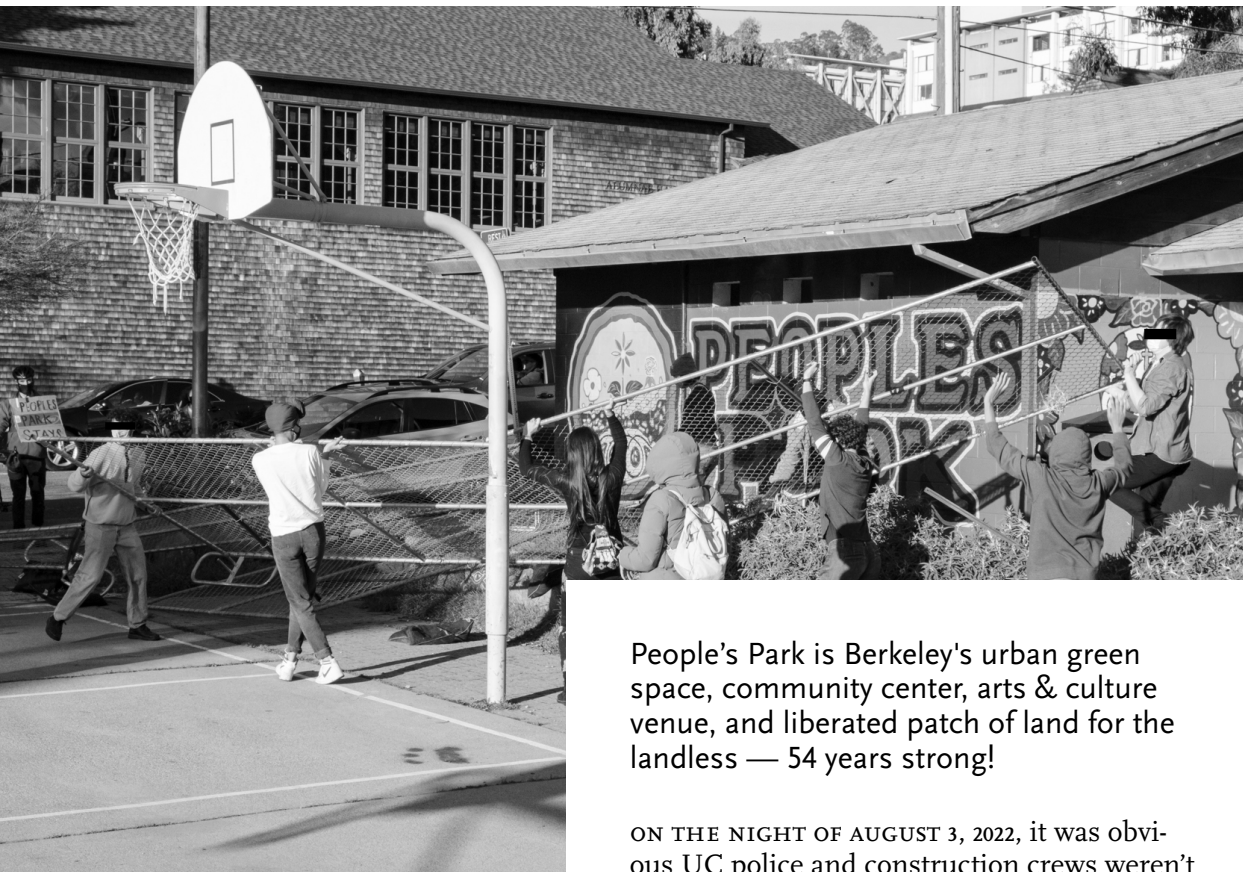
# The culture of competition



cannot see its loneliness



# people's park: this is the people's land



People's Park is Berkeley's urban green space, community center, arts & culture venue, and liberated patch of land for the landless — 54 years strong!

ON THE NIGHT OF AUGUST 3, 2022, it was obvious UC police and construction crews weren't coming to People's Park with good intentions.

Heavily armed riot police encircled the last tent dweller with a clear message: move or be moved. Police shoved his stuff into bins and forced him out. As the fence quickly went up around the park, many activists were trapped inside. People stood on top of the kitchen, yelling to those outside, as the helicopters started circling.

**Defend people's park!**

Text  
SAVETHEPARK  
to **41372** to join the  
emergency alert.



People cried as they watched an urban forest brought to its knees — trees they had planted, laid under on hot days, or lived under in times of need.

Had the university's brutal assault succeeded that day, every chance encounter, basketball game, hip-hop show, free meal, or stoned daydream at People's Park would have been the last. We can't allow that to happen. Bulldozers and riot police won't offer opportunities for healing.

The university promotes their plans for People's Park as a generous offer, combining housing with tasteful acknowledgment of the park's past. But they don't allow the park's 'people' the autonomy to define what genuine support would look like, or to reject these plans. So we are left with little choice but to put our bodies on the line to stop it.

The university must acknowledge that further attempts to demolish this community and cultural center will be harmful and traumatic. They could create vast opportunities for student housing by confronting the wealthy suburbs surrounding the campus, with whom they made binding agreements not to build. And they can open their abundant land holdings to the landless.

BEFORE PEOPLE'S PARK WAS BORN IN 1969, the land between Haste and Dwight streets was cheap housing. The buildings housed students, political organizers, hippies and dropouts, and were a center of the Telegraph Avenue counter-culture scene.

The university was eager to get rid of this scene, which caused constant protests on the campus, so they acquired the entire block through eminent domain.

The landowners were told "we're getting rid of the hippies." During finals week in fall 1967, they gave everyone a three-day eviction notice and demolished the entire block.

The ruined foundations and basements became filled with stagnant water, and the old backyards were being used as a muddy parking lot. The students and residents of southside got tired of the eyesore and injuries sustained by children playing in the lot, and decided to take action. Hundreds of people brought in soil, trees, grass sod, and created a park.



A few weeks later, the university stormed the park and fenced it off. The National Guard was stationed 24/7 on the site. On May 15, 1969, 35,000 people marched to free the park from the state occupation. Governor Reagan and the UC Regents unleashed police on the crowds, authorizing the use of live ammunition. Hundreds were shot at, 35 seriously wounded, and one died defending this effort to create common land. Governor Reagan doubled down, stating "if it takes a bloodbath, let's get it over with."

Eventually activist pressure prevailed, through persistent marches, strikes, and widespread student, faculty, and



Food Not Bombs continues to serve daily meals at the park.



People's Park hosts dozens of events, including hip-hop shows and the popular anniversary concert each year.



A rally in early 2021, when students tore down fences put up around the park.



In the early morning of August 3, 2022, UC police attacked the park and fenced it off.

A standoff by land defenders blockaded any further bulldozers from entering the park; demolition crews quickly retreated.



Riot police at 2 AM protect the failed attempt to start construction on the park last year.

community support for the park. In 1971 the park was landscaped and green again! The park motto "Everybody gets a Blister" is from this era.

In 1979 a new UC plan to build a fee parking lot was sprung on the public. A machine to take fees was installed, and a portion of the park was paved. The idea seemed to be to claim a little piece, with more to come. With the support of Berkeley's coolest mayor ever, Black socialist Gus Newport, Park defenders rented jackhammers, ripped up the asphalt and the fee machine was bashed and removed. In 1984 the park was made a Berkeley City landmark again under Newport's leadership.

In 1991, the university tried to reassert itself over the park with a gradual plan beginning with the installation of sand volleyball courts.

A new wave of organizing began, with the rallying slogan "Defend the Park," which was shared in coordinated solidarity with organizers at Tompkins Square Park in the Lower East Side of New York City.

Emergency committees were established. Nightly vigils and open meetings were held. As a UC construction team arrived in July, hundreds of protesters gathered to prevent the bulldozer from breaking ground. The

final cost to UC of installing one sand volleyball court was \$1 million.

One young radical, Rosebud Denovo, took matters into her own hands. With a machete in hand, she forced her way into the chancellor's mansion. The chancellor wasn't even there, but that didn't stop the police from shooting her dead.

*defendthepark.org*

IG: @peoplesparkberkeley

Text SAVETHEPARK  
to 41372

TODAY, THE UNIVERSITY HAS A MORE compelling plan for People's Park. It involves constructing student housing and some more affordable, low-income units.

UC is betting that students today have forgotten the park's history, don't know of its central role as a heart of the street community, or simply are afraid to set foot inside. They have claimed there are no alternative housing sites, despite owning 110 acres at Clark Kerr campus. But hey, that's close to rich people.

And one thing about rich people, as I was told by a UC Capital Strategies official: "They are really well organized." ■

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#### **dis-orientation 2023-2024**

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QUEER

CULTURE

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DECOLONIZE

PARKS

PEOPLES' HISTORY

HOUSING

LIBRARY