

THE OSCAR GRANT PLAZA GAZETTE

Friday, October 14 2011

Day 5.

.....
"the commons is back"
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FROM A COMRADE

Today, many of those of us who came of age in the past decade are waking ourselves or being awoken from the mire of irony, depression, pity, ignorance, and self-abnegation that characterized being young in America since 9/11.

I became an adult in that decade dedicated to war, impoverishment, loneliness, arrogance, mincing cynicism, finicky mockery, class antagonisms sublimated into insipid "culture wars," the fragmentation of common intellect, the decline of labor and manufacturing as meaningful pursuits, all of us abject and (so they'd have you believe) solitary witnesses to an ongoing oligarchical takeover whose true purpose is fascistic: the administration of society by an "art of politics." It is a decade that I abhor, and from which I now realize I must wean myself.

Fascism – by aestheticizing politics, by making politics grandiose, terrible, and beautiful – would seek to *facilitate* daily life in a way that appears to its subjects as abstract and natural and infinite – and not, as would true progressivism, to demystify tools of obfuscation, denaturalize channels of power, and develop ideas about how to meet people's material needs.

If I understand this movement correctly, we are here in Frank H. Ogawa Plaza to declare ourselves separate from the neo-liberal fascistic takeover of daily life by a political ideology that keeps us blandly hypnotized by sham issues extrapolated fractally across the 24/7 news cycle to which we have allowed ourselves to be chained as if to a morphine drip, and to stand up as real progressives, progressives with blood in our throats, with the voices of the poor and hungry in our voices.

The people who "run our country" do not run our country. What they run are offices. Never forget this. Oligarchs, look around you: the commons is back.

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Look around you, how beautiful it is! What is missing? Is there anything you hold in your heart or mind or anything coming to you from the wind of all spirits that says, "This should be here . . .?" Painted boardwalks? A banjo? Rain barrel garden? Woodworking tent? Ablution station? Find a way to bring it, or something like it!
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The Oscar Grant Plaza Gazette aims to be a voice & record of the historic Occupy Oakland movement, part of a national & international movement of resistance. Please consider writing your thoughts, reflections, opinions, and what you've seen -- you are part of this movement & we want to get your words out there !

