

# ¡DIGNA RABIA! VIEWS FROM BELOW AND TO THE LEFT NOTES FROM UCSB

To the disenchanting UC graduate students,

To the fugitive mapaches assembling lines of revolt,

The barricade at UC Davis was the first ¡ya basta! of the so-called “un-concerted” activity of the “ULP” strike. And many of us heard it from the trincheras at UC Santa Barbara, as the chatters of the picket line began to fear such actions. In the last week, we have witnessed from afar (or in our own geography) the taking to the streets, the liberation of dining commons to feed students, and the anger toward the UAW bargaining team conceding language on COLA. These radical activities and their flowering have prompted us all to an invitation: ditch class, make friends, and spread the strike! These autonomous actions are an emergence of not only dissent but a call for graduate students to realize the labor “movement” they are now entangled in as strikers need to escalate and become part of abolitionist horizons, and some have called it anarchy and communism. Others might call it decolonization. For those provoked by such words, you might say “another university is possible.” To whichever expression calls to you, there is no room for respectability. We are in struggle for our lives as student-workers. The spontaneous or organized militancy for joy, food, community, and action is the sign of a dignified rage for a dignified life. The UC recognizes neither but to silence its existence with concessions, cultural centers, DEI initiatives, and cohorts of POC students who become rent-burdened and drop out sooner or later. It shouldn’t be a surprise that the most marginalized are demanding COLA and taking the means of the strike into their own hands.

None of this is new. The UAW-authorized strike opened the doors to a history of struggle, where the wildcats of 2019-20 came out of the shadows to agitate us all into not accepting anything less than our lives. New generations and cohorts of disgruntled graduate students are chanting from the margins: “cops off campus,” “land back,” “no cops, no borders, no chancellors,” as the words ring against the symbolic shouting of the yellow-vest managed picket lines. The paternalism of UAW organizers demands the subservience of undergraduates who desire to be in solidarity. The patronizing of the UAW organizers is nothing less than management and control of agitation. What is a strike if we are not striking back in full force? What is a strike at the UC if we won’t hold the line for the bare minimum of a COLA? For the UAW to tremble at the sight of autonomous action is to fear the people whose struggle is for life. We have nothing to lose but our grades.

The Zapatistas (an insurgent group of Maya rebels) from autonomous municipalities in Chiapas, México call this capitalist world-system *la finca global*. This global plantation is permanent war. This war is re-

searched, funded, and sustained by the war-machine we call the UC. The university as we know it must be abolished: for it is the rational and material infrastructure for the destruction of Earth, of human life, and of animal and plant existence. From its shell, we might locate the hope for a place of knowledge-in-common against destruction. And if it does not exist, we will build it together. From all corners of the UC system, there exists collectives, organizations, and individuals planning Earthseed. They are building another world in the cracks of the university. They are the ones distributing free zines. They are the ones preparing food for strikers. They are the ones hosting workshops. They are the ones building barricades. They are the ones liberating dining commons. They are the ones yelling with all their heart: “no COLA, no contract!” The sounds and actions of autonomous activities are felt in the soul of our discontent. The wildcat in us all can topple the UC war-machine in the spirit of abolitionist world-making!

We all heard it loud and clear from the dining commons on Tuesday from autonomous collectives: ***Everything for everyone! Nothing for us! The university belongs to you!***

Multiply, proliferate, and flower autonomous direct-action! These are the radical encounters where graduate students, undergraduates, workers, and subversive professors re-imagine the university: a people’s university for all—without degrees, without debt, without hunger, without rent. And in that time, we feel the friendship, joy, and conviviality of our being-together-in-common, however temporary.

Compañerxs: do not lose hope! Fuck concessions! Hold the line! Rebellion is life; submission is death! Build a network of friends! Tear down the walls of capital! Abolish the UC!

We all felt the fear of the wildcat then and now from the union bureaucrats and local organizers. We yell from the banners dropping: Become unreasonable! Become non-negotiable! And to the bureaucrats, union organizers, and yellow-vests reading this: fear the dignified rage of the people!

Let it ring on the picket line—from the margins, the barricades, and the liberated commons:

***¡Alerta! ¡Alerta! ¡Alerta que camina! ¡La lucha por la vida es la lucha colectiva!***

**Link up: [abolishtheUC@protonmail](mailto:abolishtheUC@protonmail) | [@abolishtheUC](https://twitter.com/abolishtheUC)**

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