



# the Four Star Digest

Free  
2011  
Issue 2

## Déjà Vu at Whittier School

at Whittier School



Remember last fall when parents occupied a fieldhouse on the Whittier Dual Language School campus? In September 2010 community members, students and teachers joined the parents to save the building, called La Casita, from demolition. When construction fencing and a dumpster showed up on the Pilsen campus and the make-shift community center and meeting place was marked for destruction, the parents took matters into their own hands--they refused to leave and called on the community to defend the building and to create a library. With collective action, negotiations with the City, massive book donations and support from volunteer librarians, architects and others, a plan was made to keep La Casita and move forward with the library.

At the end of the school year, less than one week after students were released for the summer, June 2011, construction fencing and dumpsters again materialized at the school. Did the City think we wouldn't notice? This time, the City and Chicago Public Schools prepared to demolish a classroom and displace special needs students to build a small library inside the main school building. The parents, teachers, students and community around Whittier have meanwhile raised most of the money needed to rehab La Casita and create a multi-use center and library that is safe, accessible, modern, and a focal point for the neighborhood.

Clearly, CPS leaders don't want to set a precedent for conceding to demands of parents at a school they want to shut down (and maybe ultimately give the campus to the private school moving in next door). The school board and Alderman Solis might also believe, wrongly, that by building the library inside the school they will be making the community center redundant and can then tear down La Casita and build the soccer field that the private school wants.

The second around-the-clock occupa-

tion of the fieldhouse has ended, but this struggle is far from ended: pickets, marches, door-to-door canvassing, and more are needed to take on CPS, Solis, and private interests with their collective sights set on wrecking Whittier. Help Four Star provide support and that keeps control of La Casita at Whittier School in the hands of the parents and neighbors. Learn more and get involved: [FourStarAnarchists@gmail.com](mailto:FourStarAnarchists@gmail.com)

Come to a benefit for La Casita/Whittier Parents:

Vanguardia/AvantGarde Conceptual, Intellectual Expression Live Art & Music Ristorante Al Teatro 1227 W. 18th St. / Chicago, IL Friday August 26

*The 'rithmetic:*

\$750,000 is needed to create library, meeting and event space at La Casita. \$560,000 is available from a state grant and TIF funds.

\$190,000 must be raised by parents, neighbors, friends of La Casita.

\$150,000 was wasted by CPS toward converting classrooms to a library.

*The grade:*

F- for CPS.

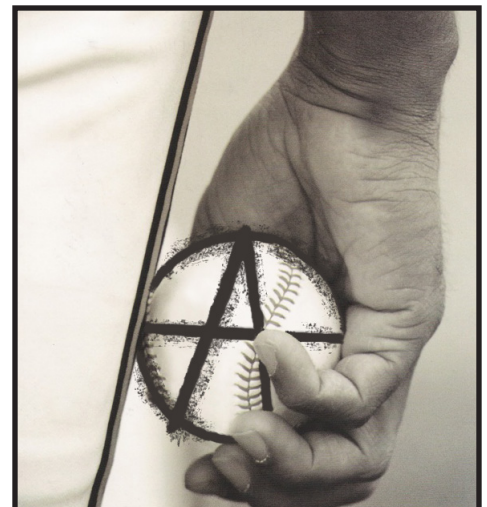
## School's In!

### Summer Vacation Book Report

Four Star Education Committee is getting ready to rollout the next book club selection. After examining the development of anarchist theory detailed in **Black Flame**, we want to look at a strategy that builds on the lessons of the past (and the Oakland A's baseball team) and plays to our strengths. If any organized group needs to assess what skills and resources are best applied for leverage against a better funded, resourced and staffed opponent, it is anarchists! Get ready to put into practice the wisdom of **Moneyball: the art**

*of winning an unfair game* by Michael Lewis. Get your copy now, and get ready for a vigorous and successful season of anarchy, just without the bats, balls and unflattering uniform.

If you would like to participate in this or other education events, please introduce yourself to us by email at [fourstaranarchists@gmail.com](mailto:fourstaranarchists@gmail.com) and we will add you to our invitation list. Include your name, neighborhood you live in, what projects and activities you have done, and your practical advice for an anarchist movement in Chicago--we want know .





## Sign On & Stand Up

The International Day of Action Against Fascism and Racism occurred on July 31st of this year. The mission on this 2nd annual Day of Action--pull back the curtain of neighborly respectability and reveal the lurking white supremacist, Art Jones. Jones has been a member of the National Socialist White People's Party and the American National Socialist Worker's Party, organized a birthday celebration for Hitler and attended a speech by Holocaust denier David Irving. Busy boy! ARA and friends held a kind of "block party" on Jones' driveway and alerted the neighborhood of the fascist in the 'hood. The restaurant venue for the Hitler event, P.J. Klem's, was similarly "de-patronized."

Four Star joined Anti Racist Action in "cleaning up the streets and taking out the trash." Job well done!

Look for more politics-in-action ARA-style at the ARA conference September 17 in Chicago. The nitty gritty: <http://southside-ara.blogspot.com/>

## Ready to Get Set, Go!

All of you sci-fi fans out there have probably heard of Octavia E. Butler, an American author who has won both the Hugo and Nebula awards. If you have read *The Parable of the Sower*, the first of the post-apocalyptic "Earthseed" series, you may have considered making your own emergency packs a la Lauren Olamina--the teen-aged heroine whose foresight allowed her to escape and survive when her neighborhood was attacked and destroyed.

Your neighborhood will probably not be plundered by drug-crazed adolescents who shave their heads, paint their skin green and blue and indulge in sprees of arson, rape and murder. Probably. Call them what you will--go-bags, emergency packs, bug-out kits--these little numbers could someday save your life, or at least make it easier to make a split second decision to leave town and join forces with workers in a neighboring state. In that spirit, here's a list to get you started:

### DIY Bug-Out Kit packing list:

- Money
- Matches/lighters, flashlight, pocket knife, duct tape, electrical tape
- Change of clothes, including shoes
- Comb, toothbrush, toothpaste, soap
- Towel (in tribute to another dearly departed sci fi writer, Douglas Adams)
- Tampons/keeper
- Safety pins, needle, thread
- Alcohol, bandages, aspirin
- Spoons, fork (or save space with a spork)

can opener, lightweight pot  
Water bottle (gallon or larger), canteen, water bottle for carrying around  
Dried fruit, nuts

There are millions of other things you can add, as-needed for your specific situations/general strike/crisis/revolt. Maps are good. Paper, pens, batteries, chargers for various electronics, solar-powered devices, radio, seeds, defense items. You will probably need a cricket bat. You just never know, do you?

### The Lucy Parsons Workers' Center



LPWC organizes with workers to help workers, tenants to help tenants. Together we confront bosses and landlords and solve problems.

Contact LPWC

37 S. Ashland Avenue in Chicago, IL  
312.772.3794 • [LucyCenter@gmail.com](mailto:LucyCenter@gmail.com)  
<http://lucycenter.org/>  
Meetings arranged by appointment

### The Four Star Anarchist Organization

Four Star believes all people must have control over the basic conditions of their lives. Core values of cooperation, equality, and direct democracy guide our struggle toward a free society that transforms our relationships with our neighborhoods, workplaces, culture, the world in which we live, and each other. Our original basis for unity was the Anarkismo ([anarkismo.net](http://anarkismo.net)) statement, but we have since finalized and established our own guiding Statement of Principles.

### Events to come

(contact us for more info):

- Moneyball** reading group
- Earth First! article reading group
- Art in Anarchism
- Inside Hell's Handbasket II
- CSAC contingent and report
- Chicago Anarchist Film Fest 2012

### Recent events (check blog for reports):

- Anarchism and the Environment
- Midwest Rising conference and report
- Black Flame** reading group
- Mutual Buffet meet & greet
- Chicago Anarchist Film Fest 2011

## Getting from A to B

### A Bus Cooperative Gets Rolling

from the Chicago IWW

This proposed route, shown below, would provide regular service for Little Village Lawn-dale High School (LVLHS) and Gary Elementary students, connect to the El at the 35th Street Orange Line Station, provide traffic for local businesses along the route, and drastically reduce transit times for Little Village residents. An initial fundraising goal of \$40-60,000 is targeted to pay for the buses. Learn more, get involved, make this bus project happen: <http://chicagoiww.wordpress.com/2010/09/25/31st-street-transit-co-operative/>

