



RAD
ROSEBUD
ABAGAIL
DENOVO
1973-1992

memories of rebellion
against the development
of people's park

Life

Rosebud Abigail Denovo
(1973-1992)

Defender of People's Park and anarchist murdered in the dark hours before dawn on August 25, 1992 by police inside the University of California Chancellors mansion.

This zine is a collection of interview excerpts from Rosebuds friends, lovers and accomplices during her time fighting for and living in People's Park. Everything is selected from the book *What Really Killed Rosebud* by Claire Burch. As much as possible we selected excerpts where people spoke directly about their experiences with her.



Rosebud at People's Park

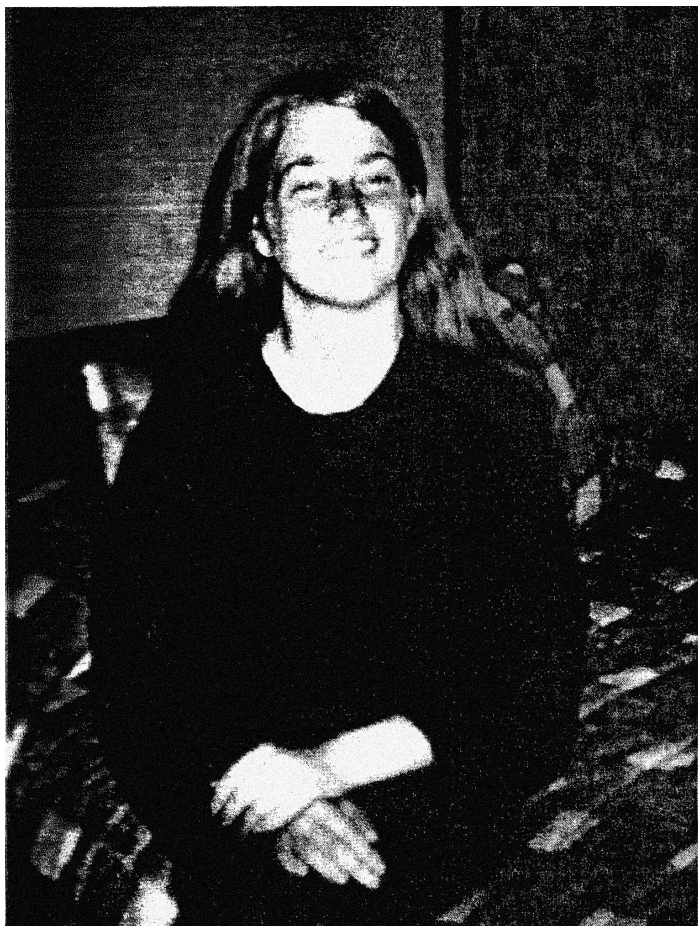
Right after the volleyball courts went into the park (1991) there were days of street fighting between People's Park defenders and assorted cops. Rosebud was arrested again for sleeping in the park. While she was there police found The Anarchist Cookbook, firecrackers... (and molotovs) at a campsite in the hills that they traced to her. So they charged Rosebud... her boyfriend (Andy) and Timothy with trying to make bombs. At the time these charges were filed, Rosebud was seventeen so she was sent to Juvenile Hall. She wasn't allowed visitors. After two months they decided to try her as an adult.¹

At her camp the police confiscated a diary attributed to Rosebud which described a "people's army to destroy the means of oppression" and discussed a plan called COUGAR: Conspiracy to Overthrow Unlawfully the Government of Amerikka by Revolutions.²

They were talking about giving her like two years. For her that would have been an eternity because she was a creature that had to have it's freedom. She was not going to be put in a cage.₃

She had some political action she wanted to do with a car and I went and broke into a jewelery store trying to get the money together. I got caught. I was still in jail the day Rosebud died. ⁵

She'd get in demonstrations in the street, and that woman put up a fight. She was not getting in any cop cars without being physically forced. And that meant using every means at her disposal... She meant it.



1992, Age 19

**She wasn't fucking
around when she
said she wanted to
be free.₃**

*She Had a Thousand-Watt Smile*₅

We had a religion class since it was a Catholic school. And she made up her own saint called Ronald McSexburger. She said he was her patron saint. They did the reports in a chapel, and presented them, and she had a really religious teacher who was sensitive about things like that. So, it probably upset the teacher a whole lot. And she opened up a Big Mac wrapper and unfurled a condom, which, you know, at a Catholic school causes a lot of problems.₄

Once she was out of jail, Rosebud moved in the Info Cafe, a radical commune in north Oakland, she stayed active in People's Park... and she and Andy pitched a tent in People's Park Annex.

*...in the spring of 1992 Rosebud and Andy moved into People's Park. They spent their days in The Grove west of the driveway entrance... During what was to be the last few days of her life Rosebud was almost constantly harassed by police.*₁

Sometimes it was like living with a bird you know, some kind of singing bird.

She was a really good writer. She was a poet. She used to like making flyer's.₃

**FOURTH OF JULY
ANTI-FESTIVAL**

My body fills with light and
My spine layed on spine
is sorta exploding
supernovae
As I stand before the
almighty thermonuclear blast
I have become Shiva destroyer
of worlds and
When I die the world dies with
me...

IN
**PEOPLE'S
PARK**

with
**PUNK
ROCK!**

**FIFTEEN
GAG ORDER**

DEAD AND GONE (THE
CLAMS FURLEY
FULL METAL CHICKEN
the
PEABODY 4 Stolen Face
ED ASHER
& the little bandits
NUB

**TIME: NOON
- 6 PM**

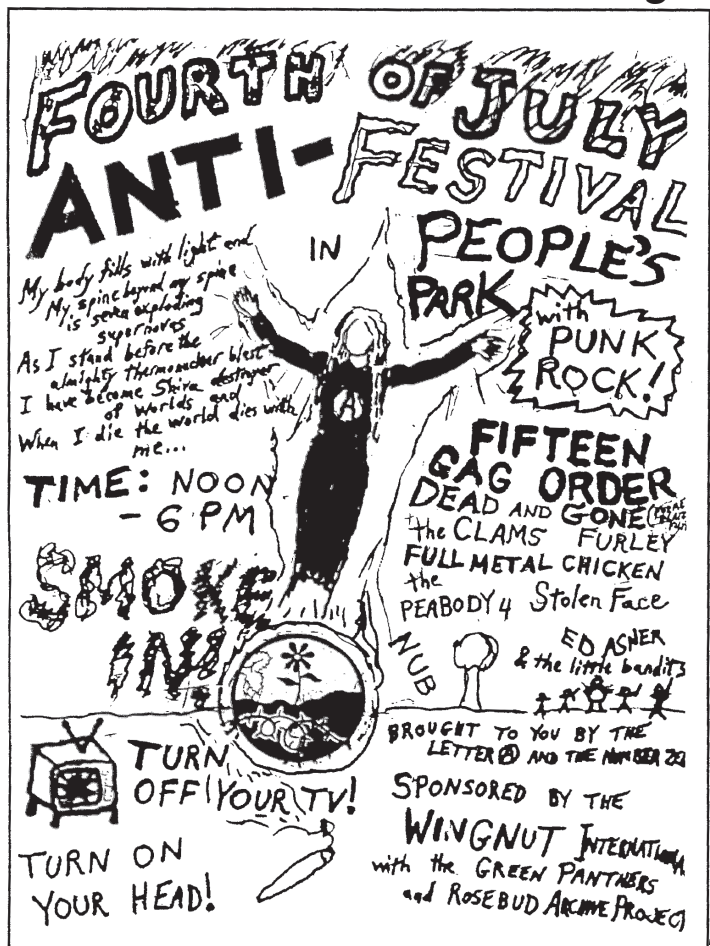
**SMOKE
FIRE**

**TURN
OFF YOUR TV!**

**TURN ON
YOUR HEAD!**

BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE
LETTER 0 AND THE NUMBER 20

SPONSORED BY THE
WINGNUT INTERNATIONAL
with the GREEN PANTHERS
and ROSEBUD ARCHIVE PROJECT



The police do chase us all over and try to keep us from demonstrating all day. So, we tend to express ourselves in the middle of the night artistically. Rosebud and a friend of mine were discussing decorating a police car and she started laughing and wanted to come with us to help us decorate this police car. We had things like spray paint and well, other implements of decoration.₃

She was quick to laugh at jokes, better at making them, easy with strangers, kind to street people and their dogs.₅

You know, she always used to tell us about the things she wanted to do. She used to talk a lot of stuff, you know she was really militant, and I don't know if she was joking.

She used to say things like “Oh, this needs to be destroyed over here.”₆

...she wasn't someone who just spouted, you know, something she'd read. She had a mind of her own. She understood how bankrupt all these other political philosophies and ways of thinking are...₃

From Hegel to Marx to Goldman... reading everything she could get her hands on.₆

**Being free and
being wild and
being alive was
like the thing, you
know, that she
needed to be. And
so, since it wasn't
that way, it was
gonna be like doing
whatever needed
to be done to
make it that way.₆**

She was so driven! All day she'd be walking around doing or planning actions.₆

Then periods would set in, in which she declared it all a waste of time (philosophy). It's real things, doing things I admire," she said, "not talking about them."₅

Rosebud fought for People's Park in Berkeley, as an idea, a dream if you will. She thought of public space as the site for collective action.

**It continues to
exist in Berkeley
as a very loaded
question mark,
full of contrary
opinions.₆**

**Stop the
war!!**

Against:

'Homeless People

'Radical Youth

'Angry Women

**'Teenage Immigrant Welfare
Mothers on Drugs**

Sponsored by

Wingnut



International

Normal person, we will get you!



Rosebud's Dead. Rosebud's Dead

On August 25, 1992 an alarm at the UC Chancellor's mansion went off. The Chancellor was escorted out by police. Only Rosebud was left inside.

**“Hey, this is
Rosebud. I called
to say goodbye. I’m
at the Chancellor’s
place. They’re going
to shoot me. Go tell
the people in the
Park.”**
8

“I was thinking of her heart, you know, and I was like picturing how strong and how fragile it was at the same time. It’s so weird that she was shot in the heart.”₈

This is about destruction on a colossal scale, as an unavoidable price of a tolerable world, about people from all walks of life calling down an apocalypse of those complicit in the dynamics of power.

Rosebud wanted to bring this all about through the effort of individuals and small autonomous groups of outlaws.₂

LONG LIVE ROSEBUD

I think she was making a gesture, showing them how it felt for her to have her space to be invaded. I don't believe that she had in the back of her mind as a goal to kill anybody. But I do think that she wanted something to happen in the hardest way. And she was tired of complacency.₉

She was right. That person who shot her was an enemy. He was an enemy of everyone who is poor to everybody of color. He was an enemy to us all... He's wanting to wage war on homeless people. That's why she went in there. She felt we had to do something. Otherwise, we're dead, hopeless.₃

She probably felt that it would be a strong statement or legacy to leave behind that was more important than her living out her life expectancy of 70 or 80 years. I don't agree with that. I think she would have been more valuable had she stayed around.

But she had absolutely no way to compromise with the society and the way that it's run.₁₀

*She was a soldier.
She was a warrior.
She was five foot nothing, man.*₃

The evening of Rosebud Denovo's death about 150 people gathered in People's Park... a fire broke out on the corner of Telegraph and Haste... Down Haste people began ripping down construction wood from the new UC dorm at 2424 Channing and a large barricade was built and set on fire. Many people began throwing rocks at the police.

...Running from police charges, setting bonfires in several intersections, making barricades, attempting to overturn a police car and smashing at least two others. At different points in the night people openly chased police away making for angry celebration.

*People's anger was extremely focused against the Police and the UC.*₁₁

**This world killed
her. The locked
psych units, maybe
the school, the
whole bit.**₃

**...waves of
despondency
shimmering off me
like heat waves on
an asphalt top, you
know...₈**

Joan of Arc worked for God. But Rosebud was an atheist. She was a dedicated atheist anarchist warrior.₃

I got mad when a cop insulted Rosebud and I hit him and went to jail. ₄

But people aren't that simple. Nothing is just a political act, or nothing is a crime of passion. Nothing is that simple. Things combine. People react. Especially people like her. ₃

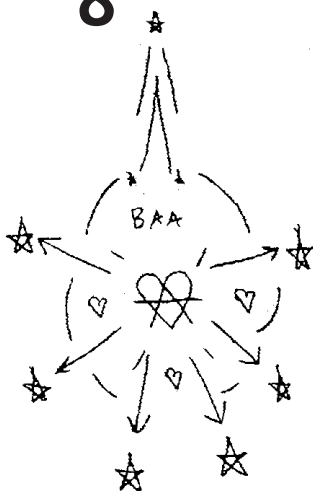
"Andy couldn't contain himself. He hit the cop so he landed in jail from August to Christmas."₇

...confronting the fear and ACTING provided the rites of initiation necessary for constructive personal growth as REVOLUTIONARIES, but also, on a deeper level, we both had a longing for the ecstatic clarity...₅

He's this... pig and he's laughing and gloating and telling me that the girl I write to was shot and killed by the police. And I just went berserk. I picked up a chair and hit him with it. I had to do another year because of that.₅

Everybody in this world has got a piece of her death on his shoulder...There are a lot of people who die in their spirit just because we're not able to treat each other correctly. We're not mature, we're insane as a race, as a species. And until things like governments, jails and prisons and all that stuff is gone, we're not gonna make it.₃

Revenge is a dish best served cold.₈



Voices

1. *What Really Killed Rosebud*, by Claire Burch
2. *Slingshot Fall 1992*, Anonymous friend
3. Andy Barnum, Boyfriend
4. Burke, Childhood friend
5. Teddy, Imprisoned partner
6. Steven
7. Elisa Smith
8. Jim Henry
9. Carol Denney
10. David Nadel
11. *Slingshot Harvest Season Issue 1992*

More about Rosebud Abigail Denovo 1973-1992

Rosebud grew up in Lexington Kentucky and first came to Berkeley at age 17 in early 1990. She was already an anarchist, having attempted to host an anarchist gathering in her hometown and writing and performing a piece of influential radical street theater. She had also survived involuntary institutionalization. When released from the institution she changed her name to Rosebud so her combined initials would spell RAD. She left high school early, challenging all her exams and passing despite the wrenches she had thrown into the system earlier by purposefully answering incorrectly on standardized tests. She was deeply loved by many including those not referenced in this zine. Like any radical act her life's impact on the world can not be measured.

-Editors

A Note from the Editors

We put this zine together not being from Berkeley, not being Park people, but like Rosebud, already anarchists by the time we first made it to People's Park and Berkeley in the early and mid-2000's respectively.

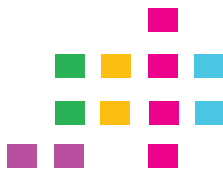
Peoples Park is a psychedelic vortex and at the same time the longest running squat that we know of in the United States (excepting the United States itself). It's a zone of chaos where there are always all different sorts of people. Thousands and thousands of people whether local, travelling or homeless use it as a place of refuge and respite from the normality and commerce of the city.

Intergenerational rebellion maintains a living legacy of physical and spiritual struggles, won or lost, and brings them into our present. As Teddy said

"The revolutionary believes that the spirit can only find expression in this material world."

The dead are still with us, therefore their rebellions are our living companions and guides. We welcome the spirit of Rosebud in rebellion against the development of the park which we know is it's destruction.

- Love & Anarchy



LONG LIVE ROSEBUD

PEOPLES PARK ACTIVIST EXECUTED BY BERKELEY,
OAKLAND, UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA POLICE ON
AUGUST 25, 1992 AT THE BEHEST OF CHANCELLOR
CHANG-LIN TIEN IN HIS RESIDENCE FOR UNLAWFUL
ENTRY; AGE 19, WEIGHT 97LBS., FEMALE, ANARCHIST

