Nine Gallons #2
by Susie Cagle

It's issue two of Susie Cagle's celebrated Food Not Bombs comic zine, Nine Gallons! This time around Susie addresses issues of volunteer burn-out, misguided agendas, and activist in-fighting. Hers is the story of San Francisco Food Not Bombs (specifically, for this issue, the under-doggy Civic Center lunch.)

Over the course of 32 packed pages we get Susie dealing with her roommate just not gettin' it, fellow activists offering critiques but not solutions, and working hard with little help. But it's also fun—and funny—and Susie gives both a conversational insider look and a brief biographical sketch of the (non)organization.

It's a struggle the whole way through while Susie looks for inspiration, answers, and hope, and runs up against nine thousand gallons of contradictory activist philosophy.

An important moment (and message) comes late in the zine when Susie chats with a friend over email who tells her, "It's not about doing it, Susie. It's about doing it better." Part Food Not Bombs primer, part clear-headed look at volunteer ethics and philosophy, Nine Gallons' second issue is above all a great well-drawn story, a relevant discussion, and a thoroughly enjoyable read.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:
Susie Cagle lives in Oakland and blogs regularly at thisiswhatconcernsme.com. In her further adventures in muckraking, Susie has written about food politics, urban blight and the new trendy eco pseudo revolution for a variety of print and web publications, including McSweeney's, SF Weekly, and the SF Public Press, among others.

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