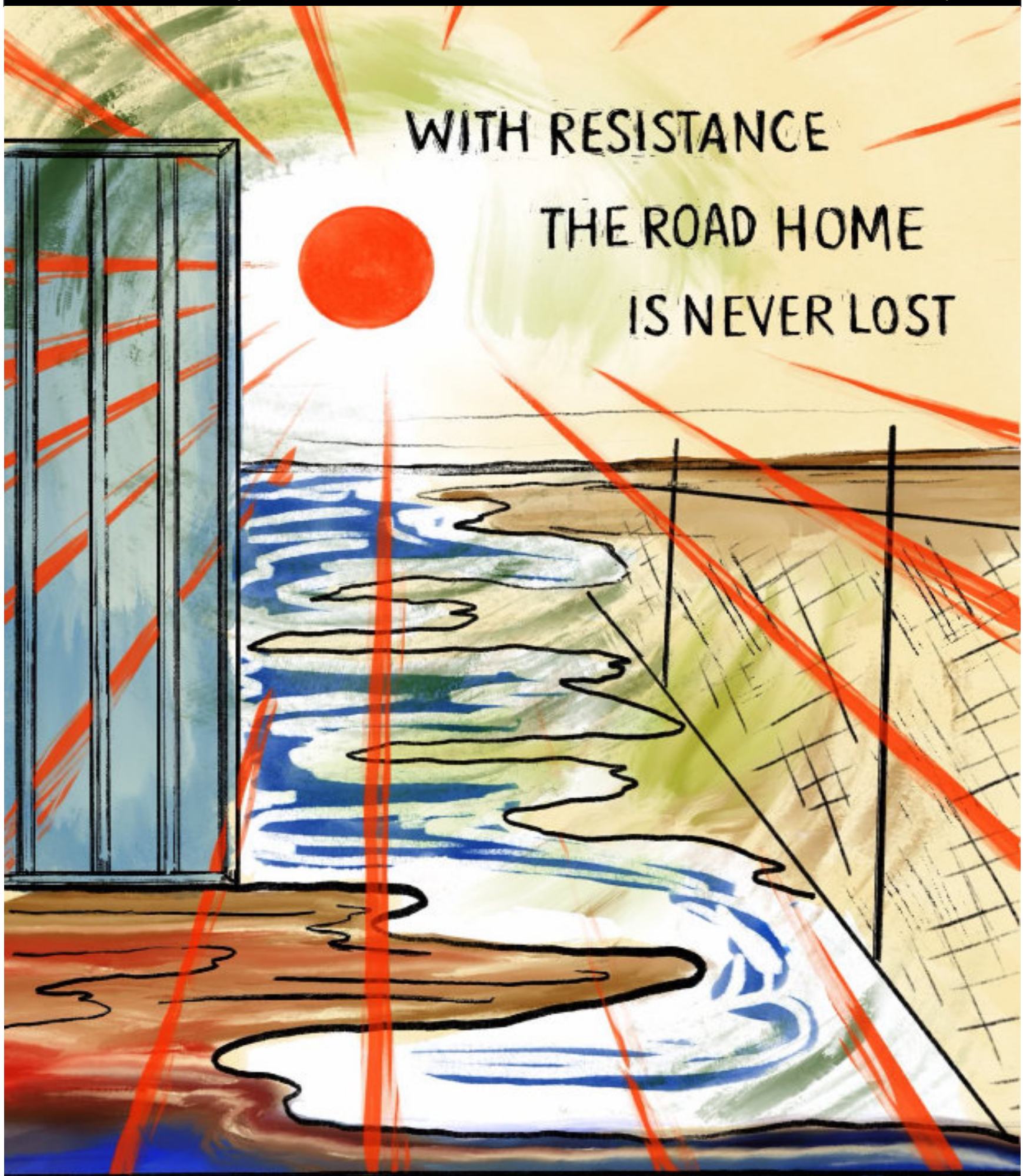


Dissonant Times



August 2025

Vol 01.05



GEORGES ABDALLAH, UPON BEING RELEASED FROM PRISON AFTER 41 YEARS

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Some Good News: Another Successful Share Fair

By: Neighborhood Anarchist Collective



On Sunday, August 25th, the Neighborhood Anarchist Collective (NAC) hosted its 3rd Solidarity Share Fair of the year at Park Blocks.

Share Fair is a mutual aid event held about 4 times a year. It's "a really free market," with free goods like clothing, food, and gear, as well as free services like haircuts, massages, medical care, and pet care. Local organizations table to connect attendees with resources and information. HIV Alliance, a long time supporter, provided free HIV testing on site. Several orgs provided Narcan.

But connecting people with life saving harm reduction and survival supplies is only the beginning. Share Fair is a fun and festive event with live music, yoga classes, and games and story time for kids. Surveys from attendees stated they appreciated the kindness and positivity from volunteers, "watching people drop their guard," and the sense of comfort and community.

Share Fair is growing and offering more resources. The NAC Brake Light clinic inspected vehicles for minor repairs like brake light replacement, helping prevent traffic stops and scrutiny from police. Donations rotate throughout the day as more attendees bring what they don't need and take what they do. Medics for Action Collective of Eugene (MACE), and Radical Assistance for Vulnerable Eugene Neighbors (RAVEN) both provided foot care. Leftover clothing went to Queer Eugene, so if you missed this market, there are still community resources distributing needed goods.

This event did pose a challenge with the heat. Volunteers worked to provide shade with canopies, and a cooling station with fans provided relief. Volunteers with spray bottles misted (consenting) participants, and ice water was always available. Despite the heat, an estimated 400 people attended this Share Fair.

There have been 35 Share Fairs since founding in early 2018, with modified distribution projects through COVID. Many community members view Share Fair as a charitable project, but organizers firmly emphasize solidarity, not charity. There is no means testing or hierarchy in distribution of goods and services, and volunteers and coordinators also need and use the resources provided. Mutual aid might be the most broadly appealing principle of anarchism, but Share Fair is at its core a radical event-- "all belongs to all" in action.

The next Share Fair will be Saturday, November 15, 12-4 PM at First United Methodist Church.

On the Necessity of Care

By: dime reid

"We called them survival programs pending revolution. They were designed to help the people survive until their consciousness is raised, which is only the first step in the revolution to produce a new America... During a flood the raft is a life-saving device, but it is only a means of getting to higher ground. So, too, with survival programs, which are emergency services. In themselves they do not change the social conditions, but they are life-saving vehicles until conditions change."- Huey Newton, Co-Founder and Chairman of the Black Panther Party

Survival programs, mutual aid, community defense and networks of care - there are many strategies and programs that work toward the singular, people-powered aim of ensuring all people have access to safety, dignity, and an autonomous life.

Along with their first program of Police-alert Patrols in which members trailed cop cars in the Black neighborhoods armed with guns, tape recorders, cameras and law books, the Black Panther Party built many other survival programs: Free Breakfast for Children, Free Clothing Program, Free Busing to Prisons Program, Sickle Cell Anemia Research Foundation, Free Housing Cooperative Program, People's Free Medical Research Health Clinic, and many more. Once labeled by then-director of the FBI J. Edgar Hoover as "the greatest threat to the internal security of the country", the BPP knew that codifying community care was a structural necessity in posing a meaningful militant challenge to the control of the state.

Its harder to fight cops if you're hungry, ill, or struggling to find a safe place to sleep.

In Lane County and all over the region, the tension is continuing to build between people getting their basic needs met, and engaging in efforts to resist an increasingly oppressive state regime. As the housing crisis, wealth disparity, federal cuts to social services, and generally worsening economic and

social conditions intensify, the barriers to achieving stability are intensifying. Individualism, despite being a mythological ideal within our culture, is not a viable survival strategy. One of the main things that keeps people safe in community is having their material needs met, and when people turn their back on those who are disenfranchised, separated from the means to make themselves safe, they make the world less safe for all of us.

Inversely, programs that provide low or no barrier access to food, health care, and shelter create opportunities for people to stabilize and take the competitive edge off of survival. When built and powered by the people, such programs strengthen interdependence and power within community, and lessens dependence on a state that leverages access to resources to keep people compliant. Police have long targeted and harassed groups such as Food not Bombs that provide free resources to the community. Its almost as though addressing people's disregarded needs challenges the social order, which state agents are charged to protect.

We need collective networks of care. Taking care of each other is not only a moral imperative, it is in our own best interest, and its a winning strategy.

As we organize in this way, we teach ourselves and each other that we are all inherently deserving of safety and care. There's enough food, enough housing, enough care, enough love, for everyone. In rejecting the capitalist lie that we must compete for our survival needs, we tend to the garden of neighborly love. In working together to build survival programs that become networks of care, we till the ground to become fertile for resistance.

“At the risk of seeming ridiculous, let me say that the true revolutionary is guided by a great feeling of love. It is impossible to think of a genuine revolutionary lacking this quality.”

— Ernesto "Che" Guevara

Layers of Support and Resistance at the Lane County Jail

By: dime reid

On Friday afternoons from 1-5pm, a group of friends and comrades sit outside of the Lane County Jail. We welcome people out of jail, and offer them drinks, food, bus passes, basic first aid supplies, cigarettes, and whatever other treats we pulled together that day. A canopy, table and camp chairs are set up, and two banners are hung. One reads "Everything for Everyone - Todo para Todos", and the other reads "Jail Support - Apoyo para los Encarcelados", with a drawing of a pink pig with an ex over it, below the word "no". We chose Fridays because a high concentration of people are released before the weekend.

The jail is located at the juxtaposition of 5th street and Olive, a four-story brick building surrounded by a steel black fence. The fence around the jail is not an institution, but was built after one of several protests in 2020. Originally able to cage 120, today the jail can cage 411,



largely due to a levy on property taxes that was passed to keep funding it. Two blocks away stands Eugene's 5th street market, a property development owned by one of the county's most wealthy property developers, Brian Obie, filled with retail and hospitality renters (including Nike), upscale hotels, and luxury apartments.

As the oldest building in all of Lane

Story continues on pg. 11

"We used to have big dreams, but now our dream is only to be killed in one piece so people know who we are."

– Ayat Khaddoura, Palestinian journalist killed one week after this quote



Rest in Power
Anas Al-Sharif - Al Jazeera
Killed August 10, 2025

Since Oct. 7th, 2023, 245 journalists and media workers are confirmed to have been killed in the genocide in Gaza.

219 of the dead are Palestinian journalists, among at least 63,000 other Palestinians, who are being systematically massacred by the Israeli government.

These reporters, by documenting the genocide in Gaza, were working against the imperialist empire which turned their “Press” vests into targets for bullets and bombs.

Here we mourn the dead and affirm the continued fight for the living. Free Palestine, from the river to the sea.



SPREAD INFORMATION,
NOT PANIC

When reporting or boasting
potential threats: provide as
much information as possible!



REMEMBER! → **S.A.L.U.T.E**

Size/Strength

"5 to 6 law enforcement officers"

Actions/Activity

"harassing random people on the street"

Location/Direction

"Chicago, West of Millennium Park, on Michigan Ave"

Uniform/clothes

"Dark Blue uniforms that say 'Police ICE' on the back"

Time and date of observation

"12:45 PM January 20"

Equipment and weapons

"They have helmets, vests and batons"

Not a useful message: "URGENT!!! Potential ICE Raids on the west side!!!"

"Where? When? What are they doing? How Many? What are they carrying?"

USE YOUR JUDGEMENT! WE KEEP US SAFE!

Have a people’s blotter submission? Make sure it follows the guidelines of SALUTE!

THE PEOPLE’S RIOT

Submissions from the public documenting abuses of institutional power

DHS Brutality Injures Community Members at Eugene Federal Building

By: Frog & Toad



EUGENE, Ore. Community members who consistently observe immigration check-ins at the Eugene Federal Building on 7th and High report that Tuesdays usually have the highest concentration of scheduled immigration check-ins, and that the last Tuesdays of each month have consistently had the highest number of immigration check-ins.

Throughout the summer, community members have been showing up to the Federal Building in increasing numbers, especially on Tuesdays, to increase protection for all community members targeted by ICE and bear witness to any ICE kidnappings that do happen during check-ins. These community defense efforts have included people across many age groups and political affiliations who take many different approaches.

On August 26, there was the first known arrest by DHS officers of someone who was not reporting for their immigration check-in. Six DHS officers in navy blue “Police: Homeland Security” uniforms tackled a young person riding their bike, pinning them to the ground, cuffing them, and pulling them into custody into the federal building. A few hours later, at least seven DHS officers pushed violently through a crowd of observers in order to pull the person arrested into a white DHS car and drive them away. During both these incidents and throughout the day, DHS officers repeatedly acted with swift violence and without provocation, seemingly without reason. DHS officers caused bodily harm to multiple community members, including an elderly person who was pushed against a concrete wall, resulting in a gash on their arm. One young person was shoved so violently they fell to the ground and required transport to a higher level of medical care. At the ER, they learned they had sustained a concussion, torn back muscle, and bruised ribs.

Trained volunteers stationed outside the federal building regularly greet and provide know your rights information to people attending their check-in appointments. On August 26, these volunteers tracked over 30 people who successfully responded to their check-ins and left the building freely. Aside from the aforementioned arrest, no other arrests or detainments were observed on this day.

According to the Deportation Data Project (<https://deportationdata.org/>), the following number of people have been detained by ICE in Oregon and Eugene:

	Sept-Dec 2023	Jan-Dec 2024	Jan-July 2025
Eugene	6	10	69
Oregon	37	109	312



Above: DHS coward menacing an elderly community member



Above: Two smug-faced DHS cowards at the Eugene Federal Building on August 26th

EMPLOYER'S RIGHTS IN THE FACE OF ICE

the 4th ammendment means law enforcement of any kind needs a judicial warrant to enter private spaces

**PRIVATE
AREA**

**differentiate "private" from
public space - put up signs!
install doors with locks! you're
allowed.**



**EVERYONE IS WELCOME HERE
but if you're a federal agent, to enter
past this point we'll need to see a
warrant signed by a judge**

A real, official warrant contains:

- **name of a district court**
- **signature of a judge**
- **specifies where they can search**

**They may have official-looking papers, but
if it is issued only from the Department of
Homeland Security and NOT a judge who
has signed off, it is not a warrant.**

Full Workplace Guide [HERE](#)

Know Your Rights: Migra Watch

By: Joy Santiago

Attorney Lauren Regan from the Civil Liberties Defense Center (CLDC) joined us to review first amendment rights and how they apply to community defense efforts against increased ICE detentions and deportations. In July, the CLDC hosted Know Your Rights trainings that covered scenarios specific to community defense against ICE raids and detentions. Here's what you need to know when dealing with ICE:

Know Your Rights for Immigrants:

Immigration Appointments

In today's political climate, immigration appointments carry more risks than they used to. If you can, try to get a lawyer and line up legal representation before your next appointment. Organizations like Portland Immigrant Rights Coalition (PIRC) and Equity Corps of Oregon (ECO) offer free legal help to immigrants.

Many people have been attending check-in appointments for years, many of which have been online. If this applies to you, and you are called in for an in-person appointment you should contact a lawyer immediately. When you show up for the appointment, make sure you remind ICE that you are legally represented and provide your attorney's name. At the appointment, inform immigration officials that you would like to have your lawyer on speaker phone for your check in. Additionally, have a safety plan in case you are detained: situate valuable legal tools like power of attorney, guardianship forms for children and dependents, bail plans, and secure your personal property. It is crucial to ensure personal devices such as your phone is completely clean: delete call history, apps with your social media accounts on them, etc. a bare bones phone means there is less that the government could exploit in case they pursue charges.

Immigrants & Protesting:

Under normal circumstances, immigrants have the same constitutional rights as anyone else in the US. But within this fascist regime, that is not the case at all. Undocumented people or even green card holders need to be very cautious. Even attending lawful protests is a substantial risk as it stands, and getting arrested protesting would be strongly cautioned against.

Know Your Rights for Protesters:

Remember that Oregon is a sanctuary state. This means it is illegal for local and state police departments to use their resources to assist with immigration enforcement without a judicial warrant. Because of this, at anti-ICE protests it is more likely that you will be dealing with federal agencies. ICE does not have any enforcement authority over U.S. citizens so you'll often see DHS or U.S. Marshals as the federal law enforcement entities that deal with the public during anti-ICE actions.

All of the information taught in generic Know Your Rights (KYR) trainings still applies to anyone with a badge, including ICE and DHS. Don't talk to cops (and remember that they are legally allowed to lie to you, and often misstate or do not know the laws they attempt to enforce). If you are detained or arrested, you have the right to remain silent and are entitled to legal representation.

Constitutional case law very strongly protects your rights to hand out literature (AKA leaflet) on any outdoor public spaces-- this includes federal property. In Eugene, some folks were told by DHS that soliciting -the act of attempting to do something for money- is prohibited. This is false and the CLDC suspects that they used that to intimidate people from handing out KYR literature to immigrant neighbors

going to the federal building for their immigration check-ins. That said, if/when a cop threatens you with arrest whatever (however lawful) action you are taking is immediately riskier and cops can and often will erroneously arrest you. You must always do your own risk assessment but remember that you have far more legal protections than the immigrants you may be attending a protest to defend.

Know Your Rights for Employers:

As employers and businessowners, there are steps you can take to keep your employees safe. One easy precaution is to put up signs on office doors that state "only staff or invited guests are invited inside." It is unlawful for ICE agents to enter these private areas and detain someone.

If your business is visited by ICE agents who produce a warrant, there are specific requirements in order for you to be legally mandated to comply. Make sure the warrant is signed by a judge, this is known as a judicial warrant, and if one is issued you will likely have to produce the requested employee. There are specific kinds of subpoenas that could require employers to produce documents of employment and ICE can fine your business by the day. In the event you are issued a subpoena like that, you are legally allowed 72 hours to confer with a lawyer.

Whatever paperwork they bring in tow, it is critical that you consult with an attorney before doing anything else if ICE comes to your business looking for an employee.

The CLDC may host more Migra Watch trainings in September, so stay tuned! Until then, stay safe and continue making it harder for ICE to do their jobs.



Jailbreak is an abolitionist column broadly devoted to supporting political prisoners & all who resist the prison world. No revolutionary movement will ever succeed that doesn't fight state repression & support all who face it. We have so much to learn from our imprisoned comrades inside & so much support to give in our collective struggle for liberation that will be stopped by no prison wall. None are free until all are free! Write to a prisoner today!

Rattling The Cages & Editing the Pages:

an interview with Josh Davidson and Eric King [Part 5]

By: Joy Santiago

Josh Davidson is an abolitionist and member of the Certain Days collective, an educational fundraiser raising awareness about North American political prisoners. Eric King is a political prisoner who was incarcerated from 2014-2023 for an attempted firebombing of a (vacant) congressman's office in Kansas City, MO in solidarity with the Ferguson Uprising of 2014. The pair co-edited Rattling the Cages, an anthology of oral histories from political prisoners that spans movements and decades. In our interview, we discuss the process of publishing the book, life in prison, and abolition.

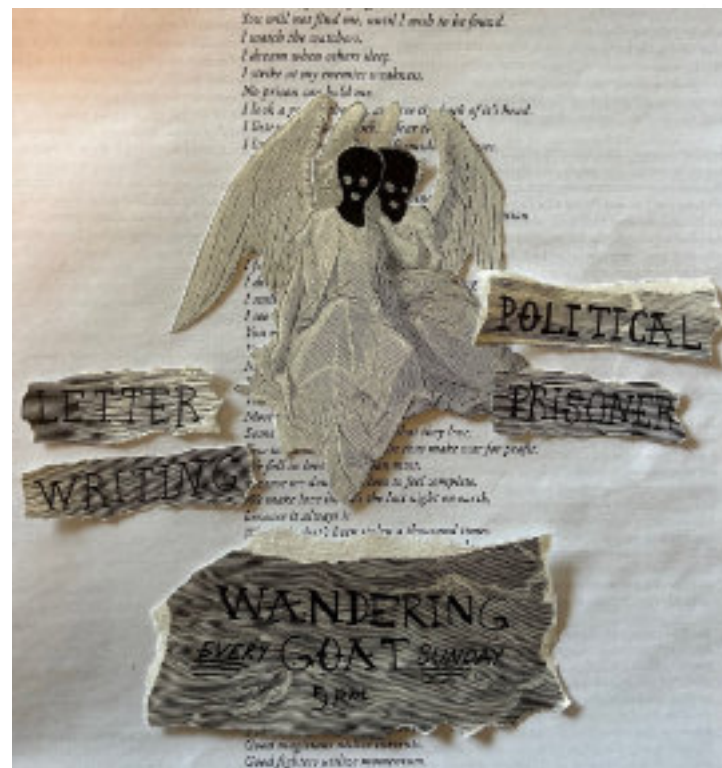
DT: Do you have tips on how the public can expand our focus? I'm curious if you have any other ideas how the public can expand our focus from not only political prisoner support work, but also to supporting social prisoners; people who may not benefit from the same publicity and activism as political prisoners. And obviously mass incarceration makes it hard to get to everyone, there's so many people to support but, it gets to your point that you're making, Eric, about how if people felt loved and cared about from the outside maybe the problems that are existing inside of prison in between people in the population wouldn't be so prevalent. So do you have any ideas as to how to integrate social prisoners a little bit more into [existing] political prisoner support work that's more prominent?

EK: So it's tricky because the abolitionist movement is so small... We don't have mainstream appeal except for like Mumia. And Luigi, and Leonard. And what we didn't do was parlay Leonard's support into other people. We didn't parlay Chelsea Manning's support into other people. And the same thing I fear is going to happen to Luigi because we're not making those connections with like non-abolitionist people we're not reaching out to people and like making these connections, and so I don't know how to expand because our movement is so small and you only have so many spoons, you know? Like what if you can only have the mental energy to write one person you're going to write someone you connect with. And most likely you're not going to know who the social prisoner is.

So I know there's places like Mongoose that give platforms. I know Books Through Bars send things to social prisoners. But I don't know if they do anything else to lift them up or to encourage people to write them. Like, Books Through Bars, if you did it globally, probably has 20,000 prisoners, and we don't know their names. There's no list of those prisoners. Like there is a political prisoner list and the state succeeds in burying them even more. Sorry, how the fuck would you know about him? How would you know about Abdul Shahid who's done 19 years in ADX? You've never heard of them. You've never heard of Randy Platt. So I think political prisoners need to do a better job of taking the support we get and magnifying it with other people. And I think the abolitionist groups could possibly, man, make a fucking directory or something. I don't know. Find a way. Make a directory is all I could think of because I'm not creative either. But it's hard because we have limited resources and if it comes down to Johnny Nothing or... Oso Blanco, I'm repping Oso. So it's tricky. Josh, you would know this better than me.

JD: It is tricky...And I've been trying to write more of them...One reason for that is because there are fewer political prisoners in prison now. They've either died or they've aged out or yeah, so there are fewer political prisoners than when I started writing to people. So one thing I do anytime I write to a new political prisoner, I also write to a social prisoner. That's just like something that like motivates me to write to more social people and like learn from them and with them. So anytime I'm like, oh, let me write to this World Trade Center bomber, I'm also going to write to someone who didn't, you know, who was in there for a completely non-political action.

I'll raise up Garrett Felber's work with the Mississippi Five. Garrett Fel-



ber is a historian, former academic who has a new book coming out that I was lucky enough to interview him about on Martin Sostre. And Garrett started this Mississippi Five campaign for five women imprisoned in Mississippi who have each been up for parole nearly 10 times and they've been denied every single time. They're now all in their 60s and 70s. And they're just some of the most amazing and beautiful women. I write to them, they send me pictures of their cats. And I do the same back. So it's a whole new relationship, but it's also about building community and learning from them. And with them. I convinced one of the Mississippi five to write something for the certain days calendar next year so hopefully that's hopefully accepted and hopefully then more people that are politically oriented by the calendar then become more aware of these social prisoners. So I think making those connections is really important.

That's something I work with Oso Blanco on too. He and I make these cool greeting cards with indigenous artwork made by prisoners, indigenous prisoners in prison with Oso Blanco, they're not necessarily there for political reasons, but we make these cool greeting cards with this beautiful artwork and we sell them and send all the money down to the Zapatistas. So people get these cool cards, but they also get to learn who the Zapatistas are and what this radical movement in Mexico looks like and means for us today. So I think there are ways to get to get involved with social prisoners and make those connections. It is difficult but think about, you know, there's nearly 2 million people in prisons across the US, so it shouldn't be that hard to find someone who knows someone that is currently in prison.

EK: Two things real quick, so like there's a lot of times where I'll see someone going through a hard time or someone I care about and I'll bring them up to Josh. And Josh will immediately write them. So he does that with social prisoners and I think political prisoners need to do that more. I don't want to put that like onus on us, but like we're the ones inside. We're the ones knowing people...And I also... Not to sound like a pessimist, but I feel like there's a lot of gatekeeping with radical news...Leftist news doesn't talk about prisoners unless there's a big riot and they want to try to capitalize off of it. You're not seeing Democracy Now talk about other prisoners. You don't see this on radical media as much as we could. And I don't know, it just feels like... if we're going to keep people in these boxes like we're just forfeiting the movement. Like we might as well just quit because if you only care about political prisoners, then you don't care about prisoners.

...

DT: ...I think why so many of my questions, I'm like, yes, like the political prisoner movement, and also social prisoners because that's especially what I want us to be doing with this column...a lot of our contributions will probably be from social prisoners and people who aren't famously incarcerated.

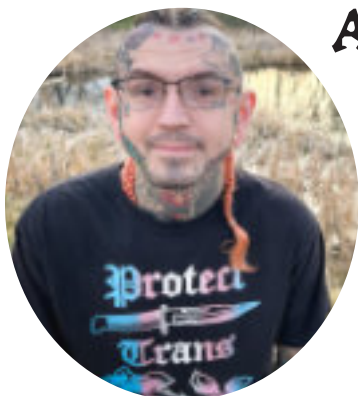
EK: There's only like one or two at least federal prisons in that area in the Northwest. I don't know how many state prisons there are but you guys have a plethora of social prisoners. And people forget, goddamn, he's not a prisoner. This person's a mom. This person's an artist. This person's a baker. This person does really great knitting. This person has a dad that died and needs help. Like, we're talking about people. We

were talking about the same humans we want to radicalize and put in our movement, and if we're going to throw them away because they robbed a... fucking gas station or like to smoke crack then we are not abolitionists. We're not anarchists we are...I don't know what we are. I don't know what the term for that is. But we're not shit. So we have to include everyone. All means all. And if it doesn't, we're fucking phonies. I'm sorry for that.

What's Next:

Eric is releasing a new book, called A Clean Hell: Anarchy and Abolition in America's Most Notorious Dungeon.

He's also our newest columnist! Check it out below...



Ask An Abolitionist

What is abolition? What does it look like in practice? Ask our friend, author, and former political prisoner **Eric King** your most burning questions about setting fire to the prisons and what we'll make out of the ashes.

Write to Eric and explore questions relating to harm and accountability, prisons and the prison industrial complex, and how you can practice abolition every day.

Fill out the form at <https://dissonanttimes.org/columns/jailbreak/>

to submit your question!

Q: *I was talking with a friend recently about how open fascist organizing post-election has been surprisingly quiet. The re-ascendancy of Trump, and especially his granting of pardons, seems like it might have mobilized the athletic clubs and Proud Boys back into the streets. The disruption in Oregon of some of these networks by arrests could explain some but likely not all of this pre-storm quiet. This got us thinking about the fascists, and antifascists, in prison. Angel Davis has said that prisons render problems invisible and we started reflecting on how that may be true for antifascist action too. We certainly aren't going to mourn white supremacists no longer being able to kick the shit out of our local queer and homeless populations, but prisons are full of their own vulnerable populations. We may have, for now, run the fash out of the streets in Eugene, Portland, and various other Oregon cities but do they become invisible to us once they are run off? When we demobilize these creeps to "keep us safe" who is included and excluded from the us? Antifascist, racialized, and queer prisoners who are targets of fascist animus aren't necessarily safer when these shitheads get locked up with them. "We go where they go" isn't a realistic strategy for continuing to demobilize fascists while they are incarcerated. Asking someone to volunteer for prison in order to carry on the fight is a bridge too far. How do we make sure abolitionists don't fall into the same trap of allowing prisons to make our problems invisible? And what can we do to continue demobilizing fascists while they are incarcerated?*

A: Let me start by saying that we absolutely do not need martyrs inside. We gain nothing by having more of us stuck in those god damn cages. No one should ever volunteer to go inside. We should do absolutely everything to try and not get caught and try to get out as soon as possible.

I feel that abolitionist indeed allow prisons to be a burial ground for all of our problems. We ignore misogyny inside, homo/transphobia, sexual violence, but then absolutely lose site of the fact that the people we consider our enemies are in absolute abundance.

It seems to me that there are multiple factors behind this. One of which is just out of sight out of mind. We have a thousand issues going on in the world and within our communities, it can be hard to remember that inside prison hatred is thriving, and that some day those chickens may come home to roost. Prisons are intentionally built in areas that bury them from public attention. They want us to not only forget what is happening to our people, but also to ignore all the other bullshit.

Further, we do not have hard conversations. When we focus on prisons it is always either talking about how bad it is for our people, how horrific and unjust it is. But these aren't the only realities of prison. Not every prison is a 'notorious' prison, not every restriction is repression just for us. When we focus on only our people inside, we lose focus on everything and everyone else. I feel this lack of conversation doesn't prepare radicals who are going inside for what they might realistically face. We do not prepare people for having to have social relationships with the people we hate. We are not prepared for how to live with and eat beside white supremacist. For the most part, we also don't ask the people inside how they are managing it. We forget that prison is a microcosm for society as a whole, and everything bad in society is magnified inside. I don't even know if this answers the question or not, but when we are able to get rid of the romanticization of prison as some revolutionary school of hardships, we can then see it for what it is, a breeding ground of economic inequality and intense racial hatred and resentment.

How do we demobilize fascist while they are inside. What are you willing to do? Same way on the streets, how far are you or anyone willing to take things? One thing I know for sure, you will not eradicate fascist from within prison. We will not outfight them or out violence them. Something we can do though, is meet people where they are at. This is not the romantic or preferred answered, but a good way to neutralize fascist inside, is to talk with them.

One of the main things that contributes to the proliferation of fascism inside, is

the isolation from the real world. When people do not have any friends or family supporting them or encouraging them to grow, it is easy to fall into that madness. The only people they are ever going to hear from are the people lifting them up, the racist. Abolitionist ethics cannot just apply to our people. We need EVERYONE to get free, and that means offering support or an open ear to the people we hate. Every time I have been able to break through with white gang members, it's been through conversation. It has been by listening, connecting, trying to see where the hatred comes from, acknowledging their anger or sadness or isolation, and finding ways to connect their feelings with other repressed people in the our society. When we practice mutual aid with those inside, we provide another outlet. It's hard to hate Antifa when Antifa is the only one writing you letters or helping you buy coffee.

This is hard, oftentimes thankless work. We don't want to put in that effort. It takes a lot of time and can be enraging in a thousand ways. But you cannot beat the hatred out of someone inside. We do not have enough people to make it unsafe for them to operate. Not only do we not have the numbers, they are also backed by the majority of staff. So if violence isn't the option, using the state to further repress them should never be the answer, so what is left? What's left is showing them how they are wrong on a very practical level. Show them that there is a community that will care about their feelings and what has happened to them. Give them a way out, give them something to lean into. But this conversation can never and will never happen if we don't put in that work. For every one nazi we get to open their eyes, that is countless people they could've recruited and now they wont.

Violence is the sexy option and in the streets it is often the only option. But if you can change someone's heart inside, then you can save trans prisoners, you can save queer prisoners, you can save future leftist inside. It's hard practicing our ethics with people we despise, but that's the only way we can move forward. The hard work can demobilize their hearts and brains, and I think that is worth it.

BLACK AUGUST



From MALIK MUHAMMED on the observance of Black August from behind prison walls, an excerpt from the Aug. 17th episode of *The Final Straw Radio*:

“Black August is in remembrance of George Jackson and Jonathan Jackson.

Every Black August for all 31 days you’re supposed to do 100 reps of something, most of the time it’s burpees. You get together in groups with the Blacks ... you get into as many groups as the pigs will allow you to until they break you up.

It’s about being physical and mentally fit, for preparedness, for physical conflict with the pigs, but also with white racist gangs.

Personally it’s annoying to me that there’s just one month... it should be Black August every day of the year and we should all be unified.”

Listen to the entire interview at: <https://thefinalstrawradio.noblogs.org/post/2025/08/17/2020-uprising-prisoner-malik-muhammad-speaks-from-snake-river-dc-in-oregon/>

Write to Malik:

Malik Muhammad #23935744

Snake River Correctional Institution

777 Stanton Blvd

Ontario, OR 97914-8335

“Study, fast, train, fight”

These are the principles of Black August, a month of commemoration rooted in the 1970’s Black Liberation Movement that honors fallen Black freedom fighters and political prisoners.

In August 1619, the first enslaved Africans were brought to the amerikan colonies and ever since the month of August has been marked by resistance. Black August formally began in California prisons following the police murders of revolutionary brothers Jonathan and George Jackson in 1970 and 1971, respectively.

Therefore, the spirit of those who struggled, and continue to struggle, for liberation is honored every year in this month.

Here (Oregon) and now, Malik Muhammed and Brian Hakiym Simpson are regularly featured in this column as two currently incarcerated members of our movement.

Malik is a Black/Palestinian Muslim, anarchist antifascist, antiracist abolitionist imprisoned fighting for their love of freedom during the George Floyd Uprisings in Portland. Throughout their prison sentence, they’ve fought back against racist, exploitative abuse and conditions, landing them in solitary confinement for long durations, where they continued to fight, waging hunger strikes. Learn more at malikspeaks.noblogs.org

Hakiym is a wildland firefighter and father of four who is facing six years in prison for self defense against a racially motivated attack, despite his aggressor admitting that he started the fight. Support this defender of our forests @justiceforhakiym

Write to Hakiym:

Brian Simpson* #27433390

Snake River Correctional Institution

777 Stanton Boulevard

Ontario, Oregon 97914-8335



RESILIENCE

BY: BRIAN HAKIYM SIMPSON

*Didn’t understand I was in a state of depression
‘Til I was asked the question
Are you alright?!*
*Getting lost in my mind
That must be the sign
How else would they know
I say yes,
Although it’s really a no
I tell my brain
Struggle and pain is how we grow
I’m lost on this road
Which direction
Traveling inward to self reflection
Trouble sleeping
Barely eating looking for the rhyme
within the reason
Trying not to lose faith or become a heathen
You can’t fake it to you make it
You gave to face it til you make it
I bare my soul in my poems
Heart vacant can’t be complacent
Prisoner of self upon second look
Freedom I can taste it... let me cook
Don’t over brew as I stew on ideals
What and who’s fake or real
Destroyed yet I rebuild
Survive the prison of mind
As I find myself in this state of decline
Depression
I question life’s lessons
I’m Stressing
Is the test the blessing
Was the blessing test
My mind can’t rest
What is the message in this mess
Self I’ve second guessed
I suppress tightness in my chest
Am I too much if so why do I feel like less
Systemic thinking of the oppressed
Depressed
Only reason I’m OK
Is because its OK to not be OK
Truth is I struggle everyday
So I wrote this poem
I wanted to say you’re not alone...*



Write to Homeless Advocate Amber Fitts

By: dime reid

Amber Fitts, longtime resident of Eugene Oregon, is being held in Idaho at Blaine County Detention Center. She was arrested in June and will be held without sentencing until at least October and is seeking support. Amber would love to receive letters to help her get through the next few months, and funds for commissary and legal fees.

Amber Fitts is a wonderful friend, a dedicated advocate, and a hilarious companion. She has also been essential to the work of serving and distributing food weekly to the unhoused. In the words of one of her friends and co-organizers: "Together we gave food and supplies to the unhoused and housing insecure people in West Eugene every week. She has shown unshakable commitment to our community and our work. I look up to her, and while I have often struggled under the weight of our schedule and our responsibilities, even though she has been unhoused the entire time we've known one another, she works harder and faster and without complaint. She is a total inspiration

to me and many people who live without a whole lot of kindness."

Amber is also a board member of a new organization, Project Stability, that will establish housing for homeless folks. We are asking the Eugene community to show Amber that her care and commitment to us is reciprocated. Through sending her letters and funds, lets keep her spirits lifted and ease the path for her return home.

Amber's friends want us to remind her that she can get through this and finish probation, and to stay focused on Project Stability and the people she cares about.

Send letters to:

Blaine County Detention Center ID
Amber Fitts 20250032
PO Box 247
Poenix MD 21131

Funds can be venmoed to her friend, with "Amber" in the caption: @steven-kimes-2

Dear Darling,

Darling's outlook on life, relationships, conflict, and crime can best be described as whimsical. She values care for self and community, feeling good, looking good, and fucking s@! up. There are no questions too bold, topics too old, and anything you're thinking is conversation gold.*

Send your ponderings, your questions, and your deepest darkest fears and desires to our dear Darling ;)

For social relationships, organizing and tactical tips. Poly-drama? Poly-saturation? Ask darling.

Dear Darling,

I'm gonna be blunt with you: I saw someone the other day with the most amazing ass that I've seen, maybe ever, and I can't stop thinking about it. It's not like me to be so fixated on someone's anatomy as a source of attraction. Normally I'm downright demisexual and it takes me months to develop a crush! But here's the thing: they were in full black bloc from head to toe, masked up and covered. Was it the aura of mystery and intrigue about them that attracted me, or perhaps effortless grace in their every movement? Or was it that thick, perfectly outlined pair of gorgeous buttocks in the military style pants, whispering to my heart that we could be soul mates?

Darling, I really need your advice! In a protest culture that depends on anonymity for safety, how do I tell the hottie in black bloc that I want to get to know them better?! Should I trust that if it is meant to be we'll find eachother out in the normal world? Should I pretend to be offering to write the jail support number on their arm, and substitute it with my own? Or...are we destined to remain strangers, confined to the endless,

ethereal sets of realities that would have but couldn't have been?

Sincerely,

Blunt about Butts in Love

Sweet BBL,

Ahhh a black bloc crush, feels like the 90s again, or maybe July of 2020. I can feel the tear gas remnants burning in my eyes. What a hot, thrilling and politically based way to start crushing. An anarchist storybook romance if it works out, and an exciting story from the streets if it does not. Plus, unlike matching with someone on tinder who has "ACAB" in their profile, you definitely know you have a lot in common when it comes to strategy and tactics if you've seen them in full bloc on the streets of your town.

Anyways, it would be great if you could simply lock eyes across the burning barricades and fall into a passionate kiss (note: you would have to look up from their ass for this to be possible), but let's get practical here-- this is the real world, not a crimethinc story... you need an actual plan here comrade. As far as I can tell, you have a few options:

1. You could just walk up and talk to them. We all know street protests often involve a lot of standing around. You could keep it casual and strike up a conversation about their military pants, how the demo is going, what the police are doing etc. Unfortunately, the black bloc is no place for asking about personal information, or playing the 'who do we both know' game, so it's going to take charisma and creativity to keep the conversation going and build a connection. Maybe you could ask their name in a security-culture-aware way like "hey, I know we're both in bloc, but I like talking to you and I'm curious what your name is, or what you want to be called on the streets?" From there

you could let a connection develop naturally, or perhaps at some point admit that you are crushing and find out if they'd want to take a break from the protest, de-bloc and walk to the river or perhaps exchange signal usernames. (note: you probably want to memorize yours before you try this move, and have a pen and paper in your bag, because no one should be bringing their phone to protests!)

2. You could start asking your friends on the streets if anyone knows them, and try to get introduced in a regular way. Note that this will involve you asking a lot of people questions about one person in bloc, which might make people think you are sketchy.

3. You could pass them a note. It could say something full-black-flag-romance like "I saw you across the sea of black bloc and something about you made my heart explode like kerosene on a pile of tires blocking the entrance to the federal building. Don't worry, your block is solid, and I promise I'm not a cop. But the truth is, I'm crushing and I had to take direct action. Here's a burner number where you can find me, lets walk down a dark street sometime without all these riot cops around? Loot my heart like the 2020 Jimmy Johns, break my heart like a Starbucks window, I don't care, there is a riot in my heart for you." It could also say something a lot chillier than that. You could mention your fixation with their ass, but I dunno comrade, not everyone is into that from someone they don't know. Then you wait and see if they respond.

4. I really like the jail support number idea for its general innovation. If you go that route, you should use a burner number to protect yourself. You're also gonna have to crush confess right away, so they know what the number is and what it's for. If you chicken out, prepare yourself to answer their calls and facilitate their jail support if they DO get arrested cause

Continues on pg. 11

Mutual Aid Classifieds

The Mutual Aid Classifieds is a compilation of requests from local groups that provide material aid and support throughout town, derived from a spokes-council meeting among local orgs. This list is updated monthly. Here are the descriptions of the organizations, how to get involved, and the ways in which we could use more support:

Food Not Bombs serves food and basic needs supplies at the park blocks on Fridays from 4-5pm. They're looking for more Friday volunteers to help with food and inventory prep on Fridays, and they're noticing that they could especially use help with some of the kitchen set up around noon and cleanup around 5 or 6pm. They're also about to start a Rain or Shine fundraiser to buy canopies, but would happily take in kind donations if you have a canopy you don't need. In kind donations of hygiene and survival supplies like soap, toothbrushes, and razors are also greatly appreciated. If you're interested in stopping by to help out or have supplies to donate, reach out at eugenefoodnotbombs@proton.me or on Instagram @foodnotbombs_eugene

Barefoot Defenders provides food and material support for unhoused neighbors on Tuesdays and Fridays, and they also host a monthly BBQ on the last Sunday of the month. They welcome more volunteers if you are available August 31st, and they'll also be searching for a new location for the following months, so reach out if you know of a venue that might work. As for weekly distribution, they could especially use more help with food prep on Tuesdays before distribution. They also get requests for aid throughout the week, so they would really benefit from volunteers who could respond to needs on an on-call basis. Lastly, there's a constant need for more tents, sleeping bags, and tarps to replace what gets taken by city workers. If you want to help with either of these needs, DM them on Instagram @barefootdefenders or email at eugenebfd@protonmail.com

Eugene Community Fridges hosts a number of free food fridges around town, and they are also running a cooling station during the summer. They could always use food and beverage donations, and the cooling station could

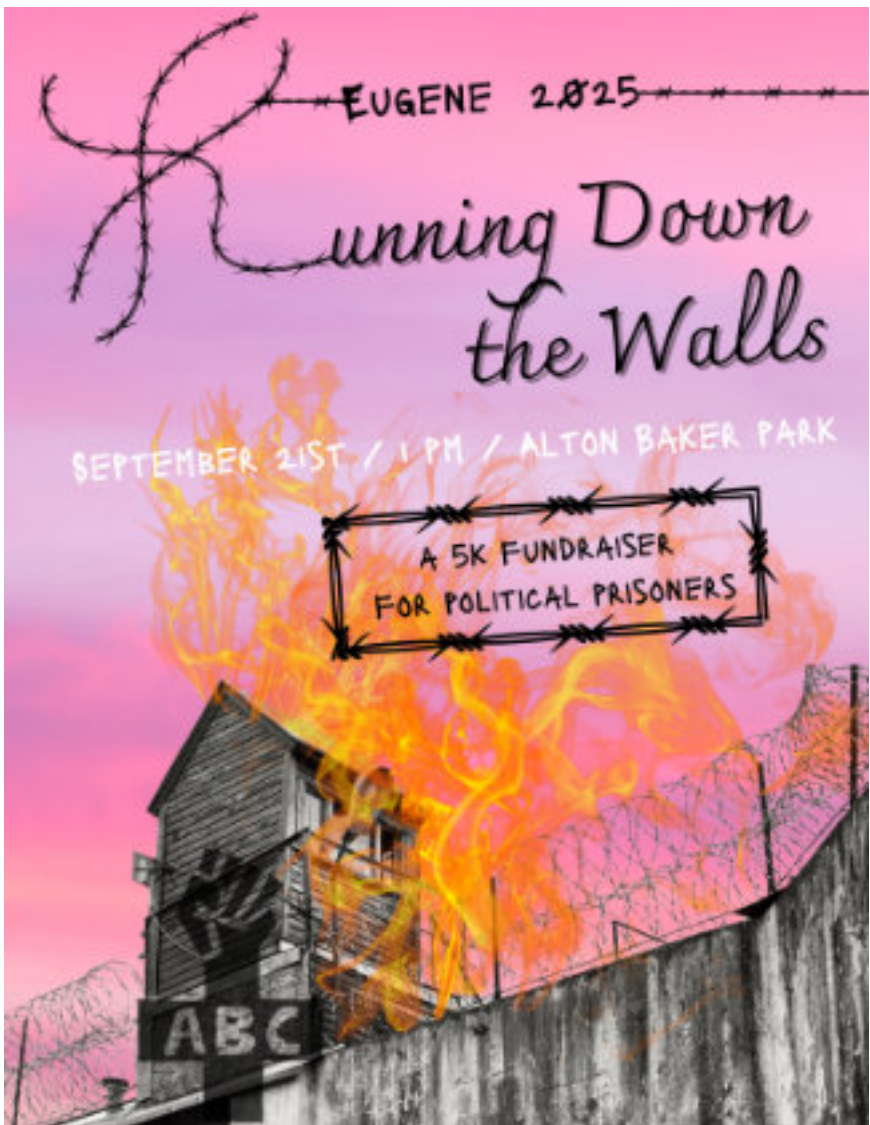
use extra attention during heatwaves. If you could spend time attending a cooling station or even pop by to check on them and do the occasional restock, reach out to @eugenecommunityfridge on Instagram to coordinate with them.

Get Out of Jail Support provides food, bus passes, and other jail support to people being released from the county jail between 1 and 6pm on Fridays. They would love to start offering this aid on Mondays as well, but need a few more volunteers to make that a reality. If you're interested in finding ways to help, come down to the front of the jail on Friday afternoon to chat with folks and plug in.

Mask Bloc provides free high filtration masks and COVID tests to the community, and they could use more volunteers to help with deliveries, tabling at events, and help with other roles. They're also looking for more storage space for their inventory. You can find more information on their Instagram @maskbloceug or email them at maskbloceug@proton.me if you have any questions. If you want to help out, the link to their volunteer form is <https://tinyurl.com/mbevolunteer>

MACE is an action medicine collective that provides medical aid and crisis management during political action, and also collaborates with other mutual aid organizations to provide pop-up clinics throughout the month. Given the increase in first aid kit distribution that they've been doing, they are always inviting donations for any wound care supplies, electrolyte powders, and other survival supplies. If you have any of these supplies you'd like to donate, you can email mace.eugene@proton.me

The Brake Light Clinic provides free vehicle bulb replacement to reduce the risk of getting pulled over for a missing auto light. The clinic runs every first Tuesday of the month at Center for Spiritual Living from 5:30-7:30pm. They could use some support in covering the cost of the bulbs, as well as getting the word out to people who need it. If you want to donate, use the description "BLC" on Venmo @naceugene



RUNNING DOWN THE WALLS IS HAPPENING SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 1-4 PM AT ALTON BAKER PARK.

This is an anti-competitive 5k to raise funds for political prisoners. We will be running/walking/rolling/skating together in solidarity with communities in many different cities, and with our incarcerated comrades.

Proceeds will be evenly split between the Anarchist Black Cross Federation Warchest: <https://www.abcf.net/warchest-program/>

and the Justice for Hakiym Movement: <https://linktr.ee/JusticeForHakiym>

SUGGESTED DONATION IS \$10. CONTRIBUTED AS YOU ARE ABLE; NO ONE TURNED AWAY FOR LACK OF FUNDS. YOU CAN VENMO DONATIONS TO @NACEUGENE WITH RDTW IN THE SUBJECT LINE.

We also need volunteers on the day of the race to help put up signs, greet and direct participants to our location, help hand out water, and clean up after the event. If you are interested in volunteering or have more questions, please email denise@neighborhoodanarchists.org

SEE YOU THERE— UNTIL EVERY PRISON WALL COMES DOWN

Dear Darling cont. from pg. 9

they're going to be calling you. Maybe you can crush confess outside the jail upon their release? Don't do it on a jail phone, cause remember the cops are listening. Honestly, as I think about it, a lot could go wrong with option 4.

Anyways there's your options as I see them. For what it's worth, I had some friends who fell in love in the black bloc in summer 2020, and they used option 1. Though this crush is strategically challenging, I encourage you to pursue it! What is street protest but passion spilling out of our bodies, and navigating our fears of consequences... sounds like crushing to me. If they don't take you up on it, well, that just means they aren't your soul-mate after all, cause who wouldn't respond to a crush note passed to them in a black bloc?? (on a burner safely messaging another burner of course).

Good luck!

Darling Tonia's Assistant

Lane Co. Jail from pg. 2

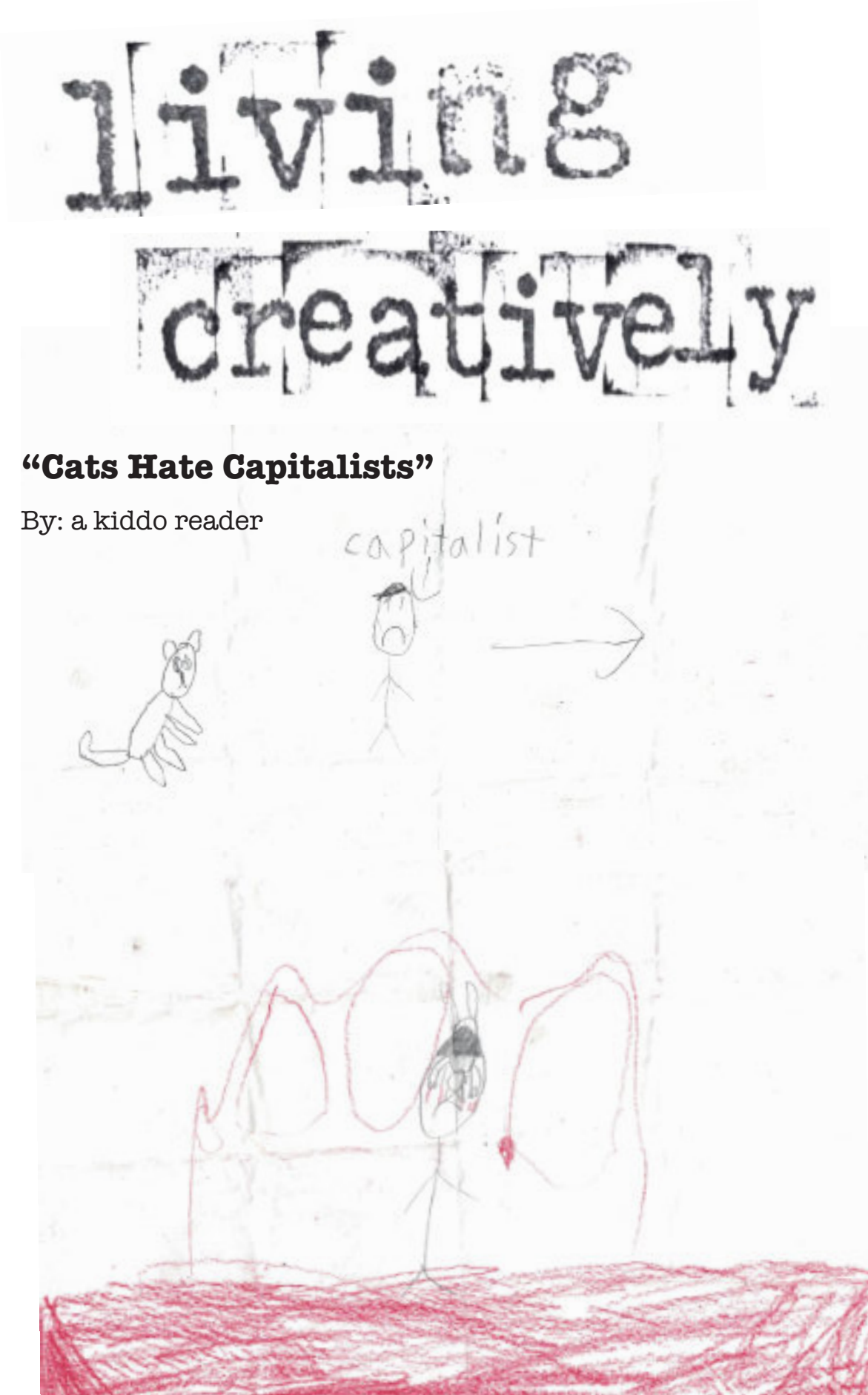
County, the jail is emblematic of a state that has tried since its inception to incarcerate itself out of social and economic inequity and, racial and systemic oppression. This jail, as with all jails and prisons, holds history layered in pain, loss, and injustice.

The walls hold stories that we'll never know.

These days, most of the people we meet were were arrested for charges related to being poor or unhoused, with the most common one being "Violation of Park Rules". Once inside, people are stripped of their most basic rights to safety and dignity. One month ago, on July 25th, 2025, 37 year-old Karah Lynn Bowman died while in custody due to medical neglect. Karah Lynn deserved care, not a cage. She was loved, and her family is seeking justice.

This world would be a much better place without Lane County Jail in it. Until that day, we'll be here to offer a little bit of the care that is so lacking inside. A hot cup of coffee, a cold drink, snacks and meals, a ride, a phone charge, but more than anything a welcoming face, companionship, and solidarity. This is just a fraction of the care that jails, prisons, and police exist to deny every day. Moments of welcoming people out also allow us to share information about what conditions are like inside or just to chat, smile, share fresh air, and dream of a better world.

Come join us on Fridays from 1 to 5 PM. Phone chargers or phone banks are always welcome, as are hygiene kits, cold drinks, nutritious snacks & cigarettes of any kind.



“Cats Hate Capitalists”

By: a kiddo reader

“Sunday Blues”

By: dime reid



El derecho de vivir en paz: An interview with Misery Whip

By: Joy Santiago

After their Portland show on August 25th, I talked to AJ and Ben from Oregon-based “Working Class Death Metal” band Misery Whip about their newest LP “The Right to Live in Peace,” their politics, and the intersection between hardcore and politics.

Listen to their newest release on all streaming services or (preferably) purchase it at bleakhouse.store/pages/misery-whip. This feature isn’t quite an album review but it is endorsed by Dissonant Times as the best death metal album of the year.

The interview in its entirety is available on our website: dissonanttimes.org/

“We’ve had enough of that music that doesn’t speak to us, that entertains us only for a moment but leaves us empty...We began to create a new kind of song. It was music that was born out of total necessity.”– Victor Jara

DT: How was it putting out your first LP? How long were y’all working on the material for?

AJ: We wrote the songs in about a year, and we’ve kind of been sitting on them for quite awhile. When we went to the studio, total instruments we recorded was about a month, four weeks total [was what] we had time spaced out for--

Ben: Vocals took way longer than instruments, it took me like five months.

AJ: Yeah, we had to keep going back. Shoutout Shane, we love hanging out with Shane.

Ben: It was basically just hanging out with Shane... Friendship is intertwined in the whole record...50 jokes, [for every] one line.

DT: I want a blooper reel extended cut of the record.

Ben: No, no! We put our phones in a faraday cage when we go to Shane’s.

DT: That’s good security culture.

Ben: It’s called opsec, if you’ve ever heard of it.

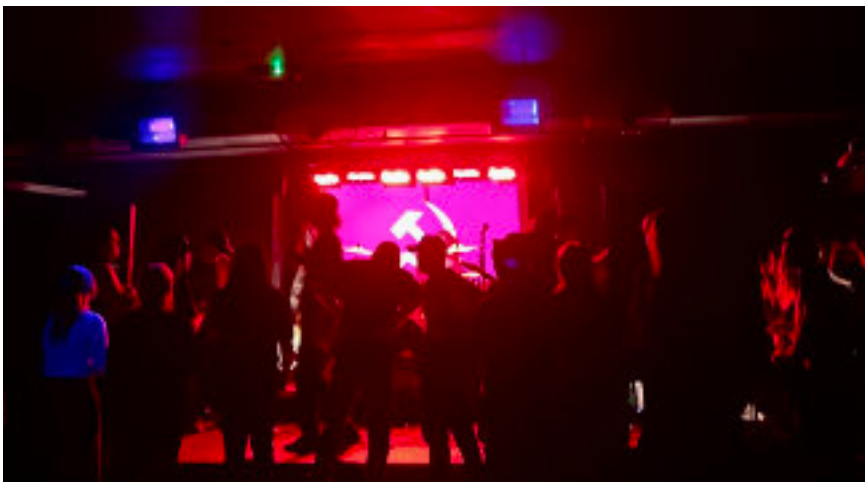
DT: The reason I wanted to feature this release in DT is because of how explicit it is about your bands’ political values. I noticed your merch that has Victor Jara on it, and then I realized your title track The Right to Live in Peace was probably a reference to his song of the same name. Are there other influences (musical or otherwise) from revolutionary figures or movements that are featured within your newest release (or older ones)?

Ben: Every single quote that’s in the beginning of Democracy Prevails. We’ve got Thomas Sankara...

AJ: Maurice Bishop.

Ben: Michael Parenti.

AJ: There’s a couple Parenti clips in there. A lot of great communist speakers that really influenced the album honestly, a



lot of books that influenced the album. This album is years and years of us reading and years and years of us being Marxist Leninists and trying to put it into songs, is what we went for.

Ben: This record really is a complete transfusion of everything that happened while being Misery Whip. Not only did the ranch burn down, and then I went to the hospital, but October 7th happened and stuff. Also just our natural journey is growing as Marxists together. All these things happened and manifested themselves within it. There’s a lot of little one lines throughout, you know? Somehow we could fit dialectical sublation in a little song. So it’s equally as personal as it is talking about applying Marxism to our lives, and the optimism throughout.



...

DT: How did you get into this music and politics in southern Oregon? Walk me through when you discovered hardcore and leftist politics and what was it like coming into these identities in a place not often associated with those countercultures?

Ben: So I grew up in Azalea, Oregon on Upper Cow Creek Road on a ranch. We moved there when I was 9. We lived in Coolin, Idaho on a farm before that. So farm to a ranch, I was very isolated [and] far away from everything. My dad gave me AC/DC “High Voltage” when I was 9 or something, and I was like oh yeah rock n roll y’know. And listening to Alice Cooper-- he had a station that he would do. So I would do homework after moving hand lines and stuff, and then get to listen to Alice Cooper tell me about cool music while I did homework. And then I discovered Slayer, and that changed my life with music forever...

Roseburg is like about an hour away from where I lived. Once I got gas money together from working on the ranch and stuff, I’d message my friends on instant messenger and make our whole hour drive out to Roseburg to go to a show. And you’d just get whatever show it was...I think they had like a church backing, this is the Christiancore era y’know, so they would do like a sermon beforehand and I could tell my mom not to worry, that they were Christian. And it was just the weirdest mixed bills that were very 2006 style. Then that Stick to Your Guns show, I was like woah this album’s really talking about different stuff, this album is not just about surgery or whatever dumb shit they were pumping into our brains with Whitechapel and stuff.

So then, as I became an adult all I knew was working hard and work ethic and that’s all I thought that life was. And then I met a friend in college, shoutout Blake Norton, who was like “oh I’m a communist,” and I was like, I heard that was bad. And we would just talk in the library, and argue in the library, until I was like wait a second...I’ve been poor my whole life, I’ve seen my entire town get completely stripped when large lumber companies come in and clear cut everything and then spray cancer and then all our neighbors die. And then all the guys who worked all of that had no insurance anyway and broke themselves through setting chains, and then the money dries up and they’re all left doing nothing except doing meth and beating their wives in their trailer park, y’know, because all the money dried up. Make all of that make sense. So then I went down the path of like, there’s gotta be other political bands, and then they all suck. Nahh, just kidding shoutout Clique.

...

AJ: Yeah so I grew up in Southern California. Shoutout Antelope Valley hardcore. It was kind of politics right from the beginning, we had STYG out there. we had Rotting Out, it was Terror, we always kinda had left politics honestly. So it was kinda embedded in that really, [and] my mom's side is Chilean. Those politics have always been there. My mom lived through Allende, my mom lived through Pinochet. They were there for that. Those politics have been embedded in my family. They've always kind of traveled with me, I wasn't like full on Marxist-Leninist til like, I don't know, 2019-2020.

DT: [To Ben] was your family accepting of your political journey?

Ben: Fuck no. That's why I can argue so good. My dad is amazing and taught me how to work and taught me how to yell. The thing is...there's something to be said about the raw building block logic of the American working class that is almost, just without the label, almost more Marxist than any latte liberal ever could be. Because they see, oh man, I work so hard and I don't have any money, and Amazon has it all. This sucks. Then they dive into the nihilism, this all sucks, we need to burn the system down...You can get so close to that raw logic, y'know, what if we got to decide? What if we voted on it? What if we controlled this? What if any of the share of money was controlled by us? That kind of raw logic, [is what] I've been able to connect with my dad about, plus with my dad being so isolated and far away from everything, [he's] pretty based about Palestine. Super anti-cop because he's been a criminal his whole life, so [also] pretty based on 2020. So a lot of the ways where people are just like anyone with a big truck is a bad guy don't understand. And that doesn't help anything...

I appreciate how you use your platform as musicians to advocate for various causes, how do you engage with these issues when you're not performing or writing music?

AJ: We stay engaged, with communist parties, [and] almost every show we do is a benefit show. It's like a joke now. We're always raising money for something. That's why we have no money.

Ben: Yeah every show we play, it feels like a benefit show. I'm a member of the Multinationalist Communist Party--sign up, do real stuff. If there's little lines in the party you disagree with, so what? You can sit all day just like any Christian and look at all the little denominations wondering which one is the right one. Who cares? If you're a Marxist it's about the material reality and you can change the material reality by joining a party and actually getting organized and actually doing something.

DT: Ben said on stage at NWHC that hardcore is more than a community, it's a flag we fly- what does this community/identity mean to you? I'd love to hear your thoughts on how community spaces like the ones hardcore shows create can be in service to political movements.

Ben: ...Hardcore is one of the only spots where it waxes and wanes, we've seen it badass, we've seen it shitty-- it's awesome right now...It's where ideas get exchanged and organization can really happen. When you go to benefits, when you go to protests, you go to book clubs, you see all the same people. Make that venn diagram one singular circle. We're not a hardcore band, y'know? We're a fake death metal band. But hardcore is an ethos. It's a spirit, like I said, it's a flag you wave. Getting to wave that flag [a communist flag at Northwest Hardcore Fest] and have that many people cheer was awesome...I'm 100% a hardcore lifer, its given so much to me and continues to. The aid I got in my time of need, in my dad's house burning down and losing literally everything and having no connection to the outside world and being threatened, literally with death as winter neared-- literally hardcore saved that. When I was in the hospital, facing death myself only mere months later, same thing-- hardcore had my back. I'm not homeless-- incredible. And that's just my own personal anecdotes....Individualism can't exist it doesn't exist. Every single good memory you have is with someone else, truly. And all of that is fostered here. And if we can come in and show you that politics are not separate, and can never be separated, and you can see and identify that every piece of your life is political, and you can begin to see the historical context of the answers to the problems you have now, then that's where the unity can come in. And that's where I think hardcore is a good path to that and a powerful mode for that...

AJ: Hardcore has always been a community to me. Growing up, especially in Southern California, we had such a good hardcore scene down there.. .my first hardcore show was Terror, Murder Death Kill, Betrayal, shoutout my mom for taking me to that. She's badass, shoutout Laura LaFrance, she's sick. Even moving to Portland, this scene is crazy, it's growing. And the kids too, these newer kids, they're smart. They have things to say too, and even though that didn't really exist that much, that community that's been built, even from 2020 is insane. People pack out for the benefit shows!...We have real, material change that we see every month almost.. .it's stronger than it's ever been now...[and] It's incredible to see how these little kid bands plan Palestine benefit shows in outdoor venues.. .that's what we love to see. It's taking the hardcore community and actually doing good things...

Auntie Steph’s Fab Vegan Recipes

Orange Cranberry Sauce

Yield: 3 cups

- 1/4 cup orange juice (freshly squeezed if possible)
- 1 orange for orange zest
- 1/2 cup sugar, or more to taste
- 1 12-oz bag fresh cranberries

In a medium saucepan, combine orange juice, orange zest, sugar and 3/4 cup water over medium heat. Cook stirring occasionally until the sugar is dissolved.

Stir in cranberries and bring to boil; reduce heat and let simmer until sauce has thickened, about 15 minutes.

Let cool completely before serving. Or just refrigerate.

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Disabled Love

What happens when we tell the whole truth about the parts of us we've been taught to pretend don't exist?



Strawberry (they ki he she) is a queer disabled art witch who lives in community. Find berry at listeningtothenoiseuntilitmakesense.com.

HOW HOMELESSNESS BREAKS US

Homelessness traumatized me—homelessness fucked me up. There are physical health consequences I still live with like the chronic UTI. But homelessness broke my heart in new ways. Abandonment got a new name. It wore me down

past

my minimum.

I emotionally invested in some ridiculous places, after landing in community in Eugene. Looking back I marvel—why did I believe that unavailable man ever could have committed to me? Things I did for safety, I can see now—they made no sense. I was stuck half in a dream, not yet recovered my senses.

I was wrong about home. I was trying to create home in places and people that I now understand were impossible.

It's been three years that Ming and I have been consistently housed indoors, and I'm finally feeling baseline safe. Homelessness tore me apart. I had to rebuild myself. I'm a different person now.

It sounds dramatic, but my culture abandoned me. My family of origin abandoned me. There was freedom, having no home to lose. I learned things I never would have learned otherwise; for that I will always be grateful. But it was wrong to endure that without my choice. It wasn't ok with me.

shame

My mystery of time means at the beginning of homelessness, we didn't know how long it would last. I thought it might be a few weeks—if I'd known it would be more than four months, I would have done things differently.

Friends might have done things differently too. Shame is part of it—I was ashamed of my apparent failures which got me in that position, ashamed of what I needed. Friends might have been ashamed for not offering more.

It's hard to face the emotions directly while enduring the physical realities of homelessness. I couldn't show up for myself emotionally when meeting my basic needs took up all my energy.

Where are we sleeping tonight?

Where is my next meal coming from?

Should I be searching craigslist right now for inexpensive temporary housing?

Is it ok to cry in the library?

Do I have the emotional strength to try calling services again today?

What should I wear to the community interview?

community

We visited communities in the Bay Area and had an interview at a place in San Francisco that I still think about sometimes. What would our life be now, if we had said yes? That weird dinner, the surly teenager, the power couple who obviously ran the place, the scared looking young people who seemed part of the revolving door crew, and a poet-elder who was on his second stay and maybe needed help escaping.

I remember the backyard tour, beautiful roses, and comparing the available rooms—what the man boss was saying, vs what was actually happening there. The utopian narrative vs the garbage-strewn reality, as community often is.

sugar

We stopped by a late night donut shop after our interview dinner, and I remember the surreal feeling of, "This could be the donut shop I pass by daily if we end up living here." There was a giddiness. We could walk to that huge park whenever we wanted. Yes, it's a lot of traffic, but it's San Francisco—we could do anything here.

"How did that go? Did that go well? Did you like those people?" I asked Ming. I tend to feel a lot of skeptical "hell no," while Ming is a yay-sayer.

Ming had history with the man boss at that house, and it wasn't entirely good. Decades-old beef about a mutual anarchist friend—not really Ming's drama, but you know how people associate you with something, and that's hard to shake.

disability in community

I had stimmed a little bit at the dinner, just slightly swaying. The boss lady looked at me sternly. Yes, I'm the swaying kind of autistic; I thought it was subtle. What if my physical honesty was charming? You know, probably not.

Deviation from the norm is so suspect in community at the interview stage. My fatness is enough. The funny way I go up and down stairs due to hypermobile joints. Maybe the way I look at you—my word choice. Some of the words are weird, I admit. I laugh at the wrong times. Anyone looking for cracks in my normalcy is going to find them.

Some people like the quirk—my friends love me as I am. Community bosses are scared of letting in bad people who are hard to push back out. Even a shadow of a question can be too much.

This power couple was looking for new housemates who would believe in the dream enough to help put in a new water heater and do their chores, but not believe in the dream so much that they called out the injustices and took over. There's a specific range of care.

Community bosses often look for people they can control. I'm sorry that's true. They search for a follower who will help out while keeping their head down, accepting the status quo.

where to sleep

I don't remember where we were sleeping that night. A lot of that time is a blur now. By the end of our four months, I realized we were good at being homeless and I should write a book. I learned how to make all our cooked meals in a crock pot when we had electricity. There were delicious soups. I had my traditions, like biting the ends off carrots and breaking them in half.

Homelessness was life without a cutting board. We made do with little, in constant motion. I couldn't process what was happening to me because the next experience piled on top of it. I couldn't rest in a safe home and stare at the wall for a while. The unprocessed experiences turned into a kind of poison.

Safety was a rare feeling. I found it hugging Ming, in prayer, writing a poem, telling the truth.

When Ming and I finally landed in Eugene, I remember sitting on the couch at our housing co-op, silent and wide-eyed, shocked to have a couch to sit on. Is this really home? Will it be taken from us? Homelessness broke me, and I glued myself back together only recently. One way it changed me is that I'm more curious than ever before.

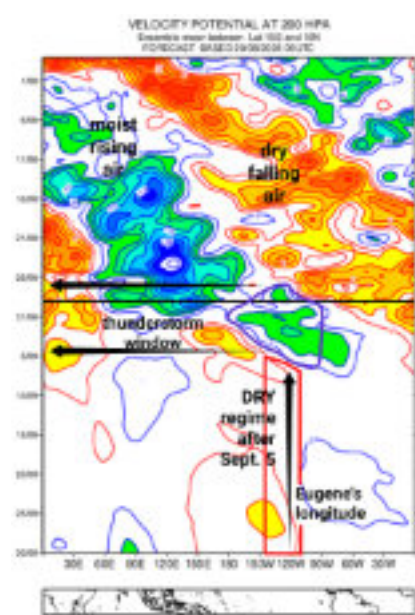
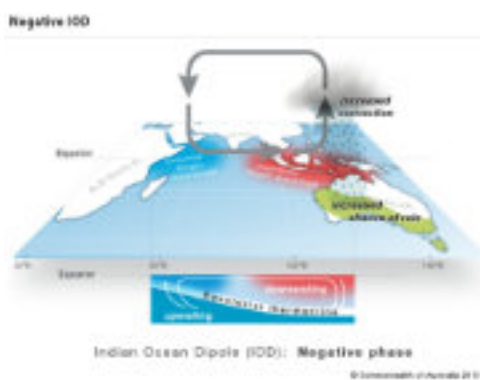
If anxiety is the tension between what's really happening vs what I'm supposed to pretend is happening, it helps to tell the truth. My culture abandoned me, and I will never forget how that feels. So I'll never stop fighting for others who are abandoned also.

DISSONANT WEATHER

Meet our resident dissident meteorologist, Praise: "I bring a raised-poor, working class, and Native raised-white perspective to this work. I am Chickasaw and Cherokee and feel a deep love for animals, plants, trees, clouds, the night sky, gurgling brooks, the ocean, and our exquisite, unique, precious, irreplaceable planet Earth. Though I have no formal climate science education, I studied astrophysics as a young person. I became interested in ecology in 1977, then moved close to Glacier National Park, Montana in 1980 and fell in love with cryospheric science...I've been a climate activist since the mid-1990s and also bring that perspective to the amateur weather forecasts for the Eugene area...Given the increasing attacks on the climate sciences, it's perhaps no surprise that I am beginning to see myself as something of a dissident amateur meteorologist"

EARLY AUTUMN SUMMARY

A counterpart south of Asia to the El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO), in the Pacific, is called the Indian Ocean dipole (IOD). That oscillation can have an outsized effect on our weather in North America and beyond, at times.



In tandem with easterly Pacific trade winds producing La Niña conditions in the coming weeks, warm, moist air is on the rise around the Southeast Asian islands (aka the "Maritime Continent"), and the MJO tropical convection oscillation is also strongly predicted to kind of get stuck there for awhile.

This situation should generally lead to a lack of precipitation in the northeast Pacific, although I wouldn't rule out systems up north curving back towards the northern Pacific Northwest later in September.

Heading into the second week of September, global winds are predicted to reach more normal levels. BUT, recent velocity potential charts suggests mostly dry conditions will continue in Oregon beyond September 5.

However, general atmospheric instability and surface troughing seem likely to give September kind of a wide range of possible weather, just not nearly enough rain quite yet.

SEPTEMBER FORECAST

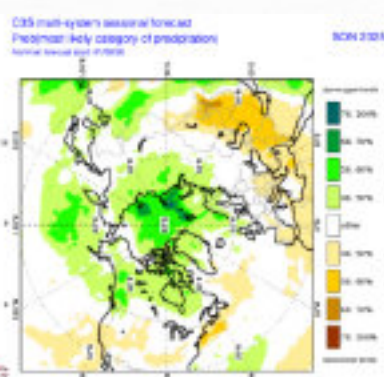
As many people know by now, there's another significant heatwave coming this week, which I've been predicting for about 3 weeks. Having a persistently strong signal for over 3 weeks is almost a dead giveaway that this will be unusual for this time of year.

The 106.3° recorded in Lytton, British Columbia last Wednesday was a harbinger of this next event which is likely to hit B.C. and Washington state the hardest.

Folks in Eugene-Springfield should prepare for temperatures to reach somewhere between 93–98°, just in case. The more urban metro areas are predicted to suffer from major heat risk.

(This unusually late, fairly strong heatwave is almost certainly being enhanced by the major marine heatwave

stretching across the northern Pacific, along with a strong blocking regime farther east.)



Temperatures should begin to fall by next Friday or Saturday, Sept. 4–6.

Some instability and possible thunderstorms are likely to develop near the end of the first week of September, setting us up for periods of showers or maybe rain heading into the second week, with possibly some downstream effects of a weak polar vortex disruption.

More warm weather could arrive into the third week of September, followed by low pressure and more instability as we enter a transition towards more Autumn-like weather.

AUTUMN and EARLY WINTER SEASONAL OUTLOOK

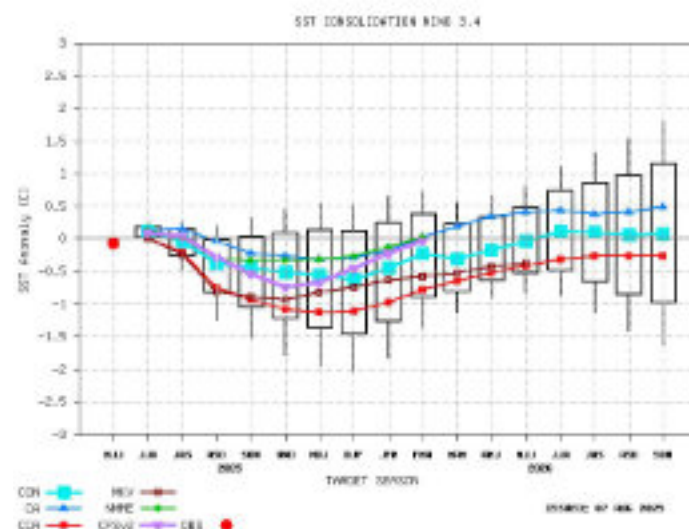
The September 2025 C3S multi-system precipitation forecast suggests generally dry conditions for much of Oregon, with the probable exception of the northwest corner and maybe parts of the northern Oregon Cascades.

But the upcoming La Niña is still likely to bring us significant amounts of precipitation heading into the heart of Autumn.



The overall region of above normal wildland fire potential is still predicted to contract in September, but the more southern near-coastal areas will likely be MORE at risk as soils and vegetation continue to dry out.

And again, as I mentioned in May, the expected development of weak La Niña conditions heading towards Autumn bodes well in terms of promoting lower global temperatures.



Multiple sea surface temperature forecasts suggest this La Niña will be very weak and short-lived, however, with neutral ENSO conditions redeveloping by late winter or March/April 2026.

Other indicators strongly suggest temperatures will generally be colder than usual this winter, at least through January, with an increased chance for one or more major sudden stratospheric warnings. But a more neutral ENSO could help to improve conditions heading into late winter.

Heading into next summer and autumn, the window of possibility for El Niño conditions to develop begins to open up, but it's really anybody's guess when the next El Niño occurs and how strong it gets.



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