

Dissonant Times



November 2025

Vol 01.08



We return with the sea, the tides
we return as often as the leaves, as numerous
as grass, gentle, insistent, we remember
the way

-Diane di Prima, REVOLUTIONARY LETTER #4

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LETTER TO THE EDITORS:

DIY Solutions to Flock Cameras

***Editor's Note: *this was an anonymous report back. It contains some spelling errors; since we have no way of contacting the author about editing suggestions, we chose not to make changes.*

this is a report and call to ation from one of the people who won't tolerte flock cameras in their area.

i'm one person but many people sabotage flock cameras. i've disabled upwards of a dozen. sometimes when i come across them, theyve already been painted over, or had their wires unplugged. personally, i'm not satisfieduntil they are smashed beyond repair. A pause on flocks is not enough. As long as those cameras are stilll up, they're a threat to anyone who doesn't fit into the dominant culture. so I hope more people will take some initiative. It's great to see so many people in our town showing up to city council meetings to demand n end to this despotic addition to the surveillance state. I hope those same people arer cancelling their accounts at OCCu and not shopping at Lowes. They are two of the private businesses that have contracts with Flock

May all the flock camerasbe reduced to shattered pieces.

—an anonymous report

Some Good News: November Solidarity Share Fair Reaches Hundreds of Community Members

By: Neighborhood Anarchist Collective



On November 15th, 2025 the Neighborhood Anarchist Collective hosted another Solidarity Share Fair at First United Methodist Church in Eugene. An estimated 400 attendees came to the event and enjoyed a day where needs and wants were met for free. The organizers coordinated courses of hot meals and drinks, live performances from local musicians, a free store that rivaled the size of a Goodwill, and many workshops and services. Leftover clothing went to Queer Eugene, so if you missed this market, there are still community resources distributing clothes.

Organizations like HIV Alliance, Occupy Medical, Herbalists Without Borders, Radical Assistance for Vulnerable Eugene Neighbors (RAVEN), and Medics for Action Collective Eugene (MACE) provided first aid care and supplies, a foot care c l i n i c , naloxone, and STI testing. Daisy Chain, Free to Be Pediatrics, and Days for Girls tabled with resources for parents and children, as well as period supplies. Mask Bloc Eugene p r o v i d e d hundreds of free masks and folks stepped up to provide free pet care, haircuts, bike repair, mending, legal consultations, and resume support. The Brake Light Clinic also set up shop in the church parking lot to help people repairs the lights on their cars.



One attendee shared that the only thing missing was, "Antacid: the food is so good I couldn't stop eating," overall attendees reported to be happy with this most recent Share Fair.

There have been three dozen 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, January 24th at Unitarian Universalist Church Eugene (1685 W 13th Ave). Donations of survival gear such as hand warmers, coats and other warm clothes, sleeping bags, tarps, and tents are urgently needed. Any monetary donations can be donated at <https://neighborhoodanarchists.org/sharefair/> and will go to purchasing these items.

EPD Gets Away with Murder (Again): *Wrongful Death Lawsuit Ends in Injustice for Eliborio Rodriguez*

By: Joy Santiago

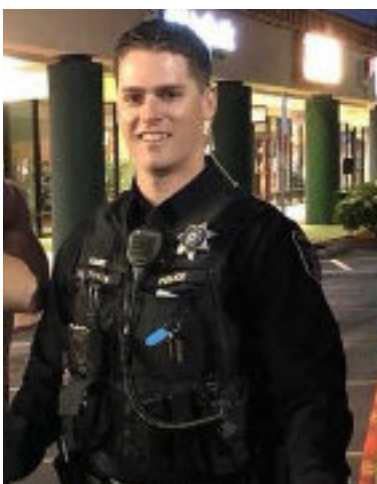
On Tuesday, November 25th at the Eugene Federal Courthouse, a week-long trial for a wrongful death lawsuit initiated by the estate of the late Eliborio Rodriguez Jr. ended with the jury ruling against Rodriguez's estate, denying the family financial recompense for their loss. Forty-year-old Eliborio (Eli) Rodriguez was shot and killed by Eugene PD Officer Samuel Tykol on November 30, 2019.

Six years ago this week, unarmed Eli Rodriguez was profiled and stopped by EPD Officer Tykol for walking in the street wearing all black "in a quiet neighborhood in the middle of the night," according to court documents. When Rodriguez was approached by Tykol, he was collecting cans to deposit to support his family. By the end of a four minute interaction, Tykol had shot Rodriguez three times and he died at the scene. Tykol's body camera footage showed only two minutes of their interaction before his camera reportedly fell and was switched off during an alleged scuffle between him and Rodriguez.

In the brief body camera footage, Rodriguez asks for a sergeant (superior officer) eleven times. Ignoring this request, Tykol put his hands on Rodriguez in an attempt to restrain him after Tykol asked if he had an ID and Rodriguez asserted his right to not respond. When Tykol accused him of interfering an officer, Rodriguez said "I want to talk to a real cop," at which point Tykol forced him to the ground. The body camera footage does not show Rodriguez using any kind of force against Tykol, but does show that Tykol escalated quickly and initiated the use of force against Rodriguez only one minute into the interaction by grabbing a hold of Rodriguez's arm. He then pulled him to the ground, used "focused blows" (punches) and pepper spray to try and get Rodriguez to put his hands behind his back to be handcuffed. The footage captured Rodriguez calling for neighbors to come help him. The camera then cuts off. After this point, the only witness to Rodriguez's death is his murderer, with backup officers arriving at the scene seconds after Tykol used lethal force.

As backup arrived, Tykol was struggling to handcuff Rodriguez who he had just shot in the abdomen three times. Responding Officer Justin Russell helped Tykol handcuff Rodriguez --who was face down on the ground-- before he noticed Tykol's taser and the pool of blood beneath Rodriguez. Tykol picked up his radio and called for medics 45 seconds after they handcuffed Rodriguez. According to Russell's testimony, paramedics arrived more than six minutes later, too late to help and at which point Rodriguez was pronounced dead.

Testimony from another responding officer, Lieutenant Jeremy Sullivan, further demonstrated EPD's attitude and priorities concerning this shooting. Responding Officer Jentzsch's body camera footage showed that upon arriving at the scene, one of the first things then-Sergeant Sullivan said to Tykol was, "just want to make sure your body camera isn't on," to which Jentzsch replied, "my body camera is on, can I mute it?" Sullivan then told Jentzsch to mute his camera. On the stand, Sullivan testified that if it weren't an officer who killed someone, he would have kept his body camera on. He stated he did not consider Tykol a homicide suspect.



Sergeant Tykol-- EPD's X Account

Sullivan also testified that he was responsible for taking care of Tykol that night. Sullivan recalled that Tykol's typical behavior is serious on calls for service and jovial and joking at the office. He testified that at the hospital he and Tykol were "joking around in our normal jovial fashion," and that Tykol joked with him about the shooting. He remembered Tykol saying "all my rounds hit," meaning all the shots he fired hit his target: Eliborio Rodriguez.



Rodriguez was murdered by a 27-year-old white cop who stopped him because he looked out of place in a nice neighborhood, a decision the state has relentlessly defended. District Attorney Patty Perlow refused to pursue charges against Tykol, calling the shooting justified. In the years following the shooting, Tykol was promoted to sergeant and helps hire and train new officers. Tykol testified on the stand last week that he does not regret the killing nor any of his actions that led to it, emboldened by unconditional support from EPD, the very agency that continues to grant Tykol power.

The plaintiff's objective in the lawsuit was to prove to the jury that Tykol's actions needlessly escalated his interaction with Rodriguez, abandoning EPD de-escalation, use of force, and foot pursuit protocols, which negligently led to Rodriguez's untimely death. They argued that all Tykol would have needed to do differently was slow down the pace of escalation and allow backup to arrive. The plaintiff also demonstrated the impact of Rodriguez's murder on the children he left behind, with his two eldest sons --Joshoua and Danyel-- testifying to the overall impact of losing their father to police violence. Despite days of damning testimony contradicting Tykol's justification for his actions and his alleged timeline of events that night, the jury was somehow unconvinced.

The defense was steadfast that Tykol did not act negligently, and that he took reasonable action to preserve his own life. The state, in essence, convinced a jury that a father of five deserved to die for suspected jaywalking based mostly on Tykol's one-sided account. In closing arguments, they proudly declared that because of this trial, Tykol finally gets to tell his story. And since the only other witness to the events from that night is deceased, Tykol's version of events was uncritically accepted by EPD, and ultimately an eight person jury, as proof that Rodriguez was more responsible in his own death than Tykol was.

No amount of money would ever bring back Eli Rodriguez, but that's not the point. This case means that once again, Tykol, EPD, and the City of Eugene shirked responsibility for Rodriguez's murder-- a woefully predictable testament to the unwillingness of the U.S. court system to bring justice to victims of police violence who are poor, brown, or otherwise marginalized. Eli Rodriguez's constitutional rights were violated from the outset of his interaction with Tykol, to his extrajudicial murder, and even up to today with the denial of recompense by a jury of so-called peers.

The case as a whole demonstrates the potentially fatal implications that overpolicing petty issues can have on citizens. And because justice is nonexistent in this case, Tykol is presently assigned to the downtown Eugene beat (5th to 15th Aves. & Lincoln to High St.) where he primarily interacts with folks committing minor, so-called "quality of life" violations, such as trespassing. In 2021, retired Eugene police auditor Mark Gissiner condemned EPD leadership, stating that Tykol's initial contact with Rodriguez was flawed from the beginning and under no circumstance should Rodriguez have been killed that night. Under no circumstance should Tykol have gotten away with this murder.

For whatever their reasons may be, the jury ultimately ruled that Rodriguez was 55% responsible for the events of November 30, 2019 that led to Tykol shooting him. If they had determined that he was only 5% less responsible, or 50% responsible, Rodriguez's family could still have won some amount for the harm they've suffered and will continue to endure. Rodriguez's family and supporters were in disbelief over the verdict, and the future for them seeking justice through legal avenues is now unclear. For now, they continue to mourn and honor the loving legacy of Eli Rodriguez. On the six year anniversary of his death, his family continues on in his memory and the broader community remembers his name and this case in the continued fight for justice.

THE PEOPLE’S BLOTTER

Submissions from the public documenting abuses of institutional power

Thanks to Eugene Police, Thanksgiving is no Picnic for the Hungry

By: Dime Reid

In writing this, I spoke with Lisa Levsen and Carol Sherle, two eyewitnesses that serve with Neighbors Feeding Neighbors (a group that serves meals at WJ park four days a week), and a handful of people who regularly receive hot food at their serves, all of whom will remain anonymous for their own safety.

On Thursday, November 27th, Eugene police officers made an appearance at Washington Jefferson (WJ) Park during the hot meal serve by local group, Neighbors Feeding Neighbors. While people were waiting in line for their meals, officers issued a number of citations to people in the park for "leaving property unattended."

According to Levsen, Eugene Police officers Matthew Pizzola, Jackson Stramler, and Lane Doggett* all arrived at WJ park, and posted up near the basketball courts with a direct line of sight to the area where volunteers were setting up to serve turkey, mashed potatoes, and other fixin's. As people lined up to get food, EPD moved in to take the belongings of people who had stepped away for food.

"They waited for people to get in line, and then they confiscated their property." - Levsen

One person (who received the ticket pictured) began running to where officers had seized his wagon full of personal belongings. They succeeded in getting the wagon back, but received a \$200 citation for "Violation of Park Rules - Unattended Property".



"They told me 'we're showing you compassion by not throwing your ass in jail'," said M., one of the recipients of a citation on 11/27.

It's impossible to separate this individual incident from the constant harassment, lack of access to survival needs, and dehumanization that people living outside experience on a daily basis. When asked about this incident, a number of folks who regularly come to the park for meals remarked on the ordinariness of it; they had many stories of the same and worse targeted harassment from police officers occurring. I spoke with K., A., and S. about their respective experiences.

K. spoke about being on constant high alert against the police, and others who would take advantage of her vulnerability. She shared that every woman she knows has a story about being assaulted while resting or sleeping. **"I'm not allowed to have a tent, I'm not allowed to have privacy, I'm not allowed to be safe. I can't stop moving, I can't sit down. They're like sharks, circling."** She wants to know - Why? Why is it wrong not to have a house?

In speaking with A., the perceptions of housed people toward people living outside were emphasized. **"This is our community and our home too, but people forget that because they don't see us as real people. The perception people have is that there's housing**

available. There's not. I've been on a list for years; I've done everything."

S. talked about being forced to leave home as a child, being trafficked by their parents, and never having a real chance to "fail" and therefore "deserve" being on the streets. They stressed the bonds they made with other people they met since living outside: **"I've made a family out here that is stronger and more loving than anyone in my bloodline."**

This is one story, and a few small glimpses into the experience of the resilient people surviving on the streets and without traditional housing. There are countless more. Got one? Reach out to us.



Left: Lane Doggett



Matthew Pizzola

Right: Jackson Stramler

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

WANT TO DEFEND YOUR NEIGHBORS?
1) Get trained. Find a local deportation defense training to get plugged into. 2) If you see ICE, don't spread panic. Use the SALUTE method to share info with your deportation defense network.

ICE OUT OF EVERYWHERE

S **SIZE**
"THERE ARE 4 AGENTS"

A **ACTION**
"HARASSING PEOPLE AT THE PARKING LOT"

L **LOCATION**
"ON THE CORNER OF X ST. AND Y AVE."

U **UNIFORM**
"WEARING BLUE AND VESTS THAT SAY 'ICE'"

T **TIME**
"SPOTTED AT 11:07AM ON 11/12"

E **EQUIPMENT**
"HELMETS, CARRYING ZIPTIES AND BATONS"

This is one of many best practices you'll learn at a rapid response or deportation defense training. Find your local training and chinga la migra.

BY MAFSA FIELDS

Support Our Sudanese Comrades

By: Ki

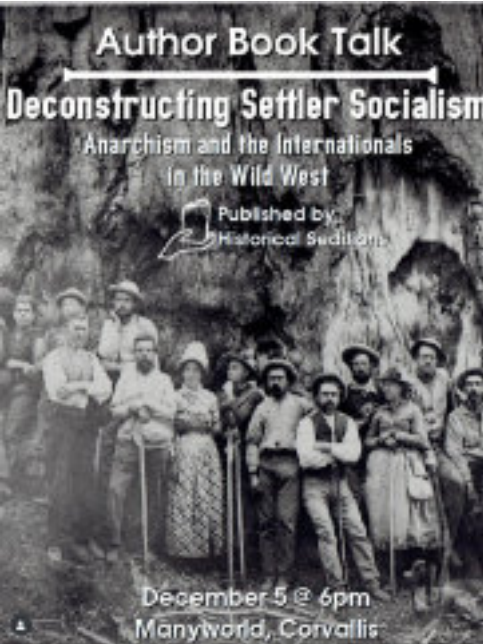
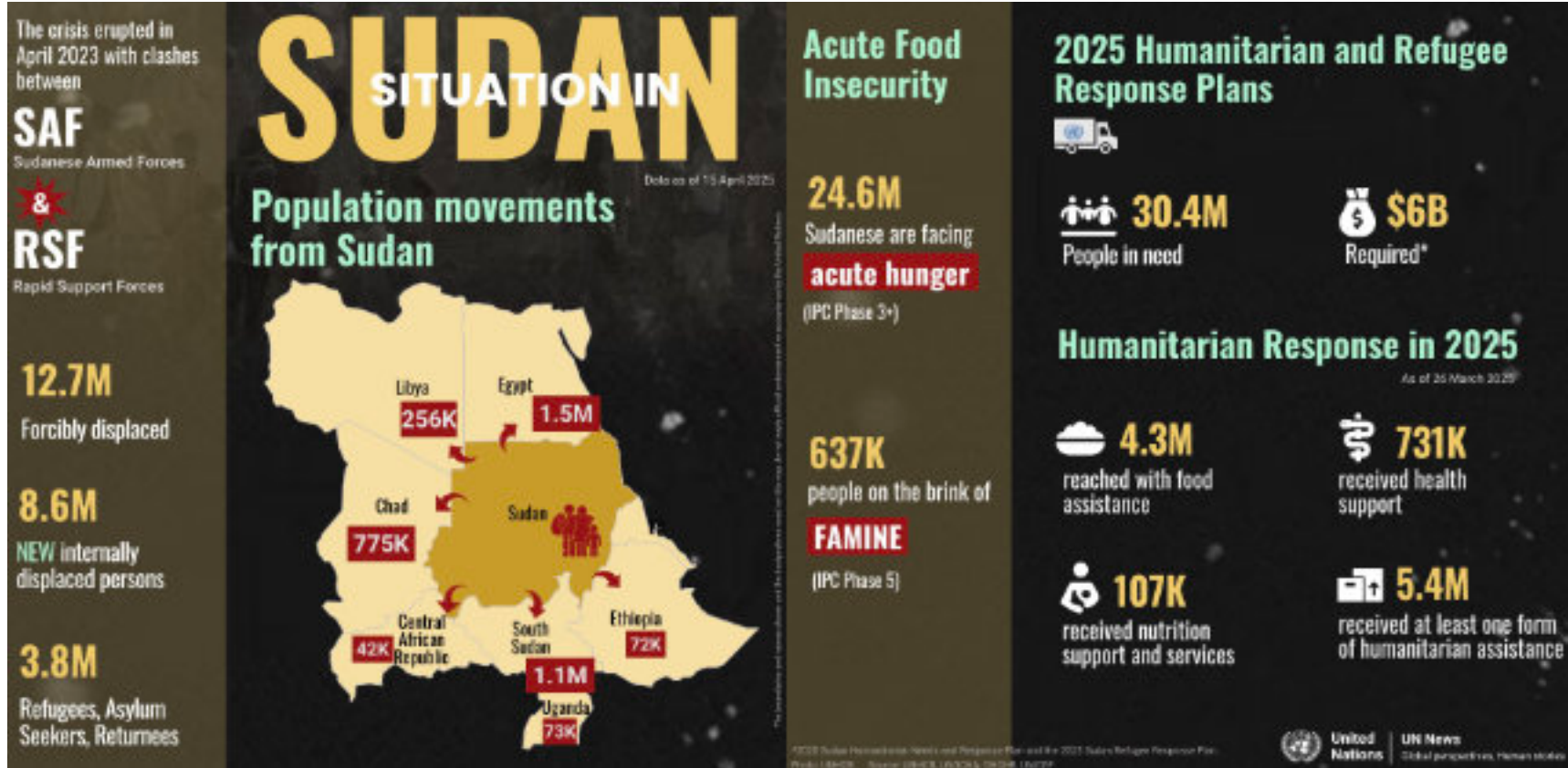
Sudan now holds the status of largest displacement crisis in the world, and the International Rescue Committee has designated it the largest humanitarian crisis ever recorded. But unless you have been closely following the global liberation struggle, you may not have even heard about it. Unsurprisingly, major news stations in the United States have not been eager to run coverage of the ethnic cleansing campaign being committed by militias backed by the UAE, a major US ally in the Middle East. While social media has been an incredibly useful tool for the people in exposing the crimes of governments like the genocide in Palestine, the genocide in Sudan has not picked up the same coverage, in part due to internet blackouts across the country. The RSF and SAF aim to seize the nation’s resources, like gold and agricultural products, for the benefit of foreign capital at the expense of the people of Sudan. More people in Sudan are living in famine conditions than in the rest of the world combined. More than 20 million people face severe food insecurity and 70% of Sudan’s hospitals have been destroyed allowing preventable disease to run rampant. Women face increasing sexual violence, and millions of children are being denied education and are permanently affected by these famine conditions. This is an attack on the lives and the futures of the Sudanese people.

The current civil war in Sudan is mainly a power struggle between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF). The SAF is the government army. The RSF is a paramilitary group that evolved from the Janjaweed militia. The Janjaweed militia was an armed group that had been funded by the previous government to suppress popular uprisings, it was later formally organized under the RSF and continued its role of brutally suppressing popular movements. These two factions carried out a joint military coup against the government of Omar al-Bashir, al-Bashir had been president of Sudan from 1989-2019 until a growing

popular revolution movement was co-opted by a military seizure of power. The coup was denounced by the Communist Party of Sudan as “a military coup to reproduce the same faces and institutions against which our great people revolted”. After two years of a civilian elected government, the SAF and RSF staged another coup establishing a transitional military government.

Disagreements between the SAF and RSF over leadership and the integration of the RSF into the SAF lead to the ignition of a civil war. This civil war has been devastating to the people of Sudan and many atrocities have been committed by both sides, with accusations of ethnic cleansing being especially levied against the RSF. The gold production of the country has more than doubled since the start of the civil war with most of the gold being smuggled into the UAE. In return the UAE has been providing arms to the RSF to keep the fighting going and the gold flowing. As hunger and death spreads in Sudan, foreign nations continue to make money off of their raw materials in a disgusting example of neocolonialism.

Make the struggle of our comrades known. Do not allow them to be exterminated while the governments of the world remain silent. If you have the resources, you can contribute directly to the work of our comrades here (<https://opencollective.com/support-sudanese-comrades>). If you would like to know more, read this statement from the Anarchist Group in Sudan (<https://tdugout.substack.com/p/statement-from-the-anarchist-group>). We must fight against imperialism on all fronts; it is both our moral and revolutionary duty to do so. The fight against imperialism is the fight against capitalism. Imperialism is the only way capitalism can continue existing. It is the legs holding up the table on which the ruling classes feast. We must tear down these legs and return the feast to the people. All Power to the People!





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!

A graphic with a black background. At the top left is a white logo consisting of a circle with a diagonal line through it. To its right is the text 'Ask An Abolitionist' in a white, monospaced font. Below this is the URL 'dissonanttimes.org/ask-an-abolitionist/' in a smaller, green, monospaced font. In the center, two hummingbirds are depicted in flight, facing each other with their wings spread. Between them is a small, glowing, chain-link graphic. At the bottom left is a black and white portrait of a man with glasses and tattoos, wearing a black t-shirt with the text 'Protect Trans' and a knife icon. The background of the graphic features faint, stylized clouds and a barbed wire fence at the bottom.

What is abolition? 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 & accountability, prisons and the prison industrial complex, and how you can practice abolition every day.

Submit your questions to Eric at dissonanttimes.org/ask-an-abolitionist

Amber Fitts: Status Update, and Request for Letters and Support



Amber Fitts, longtime resident of Eugene, Oregon, and advocate for the unhoused, is being held in Idaho. She was arrested in June and is seeking support. Amber would love to receive letters to help her get through the next seven months, and funds for commissary and legal fees.

Personal Update:

Amber is so grateful for the two letters she has received since first putting out an ask for penpals in August! They brought her a tremendous amount of joy and comfort, and she asks that the community please keep it up. Normally, Amber is an avid follower of news, current events, and loves being in-the-know. Since being cut off from her community and access to the internet or outside world, she is limited to what people tell her. So, let's write her letters with stories about what's going on here in Eugene and the surrounding areas! She misses her community here, and wants to know she's not forgotten. More than anything, she wants to come home and have the safety and stability to both continue her work in homeless advocacy, and work through her own personal trauma amassed from years of living on the streets.

The Legal Update:

On October 10-27-25, Amber received a seven-month sentence. Despite having already been held for several months already, the seven months does not begin until the time of sentencing. After seven months, she will appear before a judge to be evaluated, and they will decide if she can be released.. Amber is being transferred, but will maintain the same address - mail will be forwarded. She is in need of hygiene supplies, and something other than a jumpsuit to wear. If you're able to help her out with commissary funds and legal fees, venmo: @steven-kimes-2, and put "Amber" in the description.

Note: whenever highlighting an incarcerated person or publishing their work, Dissonant Times sends money to their commissary or support system.

Original article, published in August 2025:

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.

Write to Amber:

Blaine County Detention Center ID

Amber Fitts 20250032

PO Box 247

Phoenix MD 21131

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 feel like I'm going, to use a child friendly word, fluffing crazy! Every time I sit down to get work done, I think, "Does this really matter? Am I really doing anything that's really, truly important in the world? Am I simply a hamster running in its wheel? Will anyone remember what I did?" It's office work. I shouldn't be overthinking this BS. And yet, every day, I find myself thinking it. And then, every time I watch the news, I think to myself "Goodness, I'm not doing enough. I can't do enough. No matter how much work I do, no matter what I think, or what I say, or who I support, the world will still be shit. We will still have a disgusting president who looks, to be frank, like a piece of molding babybel cheese, and who feels, to be frank, even less than said molding piece of babybel cheese. We will still have a system leading us to oligarchy. I can't do anything useful."

And then, when I try to watch a show, for example, the Great British Baking Show, I think, "Wow, I like macarons." And then I think, "Is that the only moment of truth in the unending abyss of my own mind and ever changing emotion and sense of self? That I like fluffing MACARONS?????" Is this what an existential crisis is? To believe that nothing matters? You don't matter? What you do doesn't matter? Nothing matters. So why bother? Why even think about macarons? It doesn't matter. Nobody will care when I'm dead that I liked macarons. So why persist? Why keep moving? Why keeping spinning the wheel, so to speak, if perhaps the wheel, however indirectly, helps spin the wheel of the American oligarchy, and thus, the moldy babybel man? Why keep moving if nothing I do matters?

Going crazy over here,

Lover of Macarons

Hello, dearest Lover of Macarons,

I'll get the obvious out of the way first: Macarons rule, you have good taste for enjoying them, and that's not nothing! OK, now that that's settled, holy moly you are not going crazy, or at least not any crazier than your baseline. Our world is sliding into fascism at an overwhelming pace, it seems like everyone in town is struggling to hold it together in some way or another, and the news is just one awful thing after another. The truth is, you'd be crazy to NOT have some kind of response to this moment in time! And with so much going on all of the time, and so much of it being mostly out of our control, it seems quite logical to get swept away in the thought storm of "Why does it matter?" And that's exactly what they want you to think. You know who I'm talking about: the Macaron Haters (OK OK, I'm actually talking about all of those who hold positions of power without regard for the will of the people, but bear with me...) They want us to be overwhelmed, they want us to feel helpless and ineffective, they want us to develop a hard, waxy, uncaring shell like the Babybel Man and all of the rest of them. There's a name for this tactic they're using to overwhelm us all, it's called the "shock doctrine", there's a whole book written about it if you're interested. Essentially, moldy-ass Macaron Haters use moments of social rupture (like natural disasters, wars, recessions, etc.) as an opportunity to introduce a ton of policies, structures, programs, etc. that benefit the interests of those Macaron Haters. This tactic specifically relies on us being too overwhelmed to track what's happening to us in real time. And sadly, it works! It's so so hard for our little nervous systems to process everything that's happening and all of the seen and unseen implications and impacts, how could we NOT feel defeated before we even start?

One way that I have found for handling this is by adjusting my metaphorical scope a little bit. If I tune into everything that's happening everywhere all the time, I'm going to overload my system and shut down. But if I dial it in a little bit (say, from the national level to the local level), I can more clearly see the areas where I can actually have an impact. That's not to say that I shut everything that isn't the Willamette Valley completely out of my awareness, but I do try to filter how much news from "out there" I take in. Truth is, I (a humble anonymous advice columnist) am not likely to have an impact on what the Supreme Court of Anti-Macaronists decides and how that's going to negatively impact millions of baked goods enthusiasts. But I might be able to have an impact on how those effects are felt right here in my community. Along similar lines, I suspect that many of the people who choose to read a magazine called "Dissonant Times" are likely

dreaming in some way of a world without Moldy Babybel Men and without Supreme Courts of Anti-Macaronists, and if/when that world arrives, it will be the community connections that we've baked locally that will help us build the structures we want to see, structures that are accepting of Macarons, and also Knafeh, and Concha, and Baklava, and Syrnyky, and Frybread, and... you get the point. What I'm trying to say is, we don't each have to take on the responsibility of saving the world at large. It's totally fine to just work on caring for our neighbors, our friends and families, or just ourselves if that's all we can manage. It's also totally okay to need help from the community from time to time, that's what a community is for! Wherever you're at, my suggestion is to focus your efforts on the things you can change, start small, and build from there.

The other thing I'll say is that, if you're feeling stuck and unsure of what to do, follow your interests! You love macarons, and I bet you're not the only one out there who feels that way. So let's brainstorm what can we do with Macarons that feeds back into the community (and maybe even builds more community along the way). One idea that comes to mind right off the bat is hosting a fundraiser macaron bake-off, to show off your (and your neighbors') skills in making the most delicious macarons the Willamette Valley's ever seen. Or if you're more interested in the consumption side than the production side, you could host a fundraiser macaron eating contest! (I actually really hope somebody takes this idea and runs with it). If public events aren't your thing, you could find a way to get macarons into the hands of people who don't normally have access to macarons, maybe run a macaron distro of some sort? My point is, the things we are interested in are worthy of being celebrated (as long as they don't infringe on others' autonomy), and many of those interests can, with a little creativity, be pursued in ways that serve the greater good. Find your calling, seek out your fellow maniacarons, and start baking up some ideas of how to share your love with the rest of us!

Anyways, I hope this was helpful, and not just some seriously underbaked advice. Feel free to reach back out and let me know, I love hearing updates from people who've listened to my ramblings here. And please invite me to the macaron-eating contest when it happens!

With all my love,

Darling Tonia

Mutual Aid Classifieds

WJ Food Squad: This group serves a potluck buffet at the Washington Jefferson Park basketball courts, every other Sunday, 5pm until they run outta food or everyone has eaten. Always done by 7pm! The last three dinners of 2025 are at 5pm Sunday, 11/30, 12/14, 12/28. Ways to support: volunteer to set-up, break down, and/or bring hot food, to-go sandwiches, snacks, drinks (NA); cash donations, blankets/sleeping bags, handwarmers, first aid and hygiene supplies, winter clothes, tarps.

For more info or to get involved, email redtwig@protonmail.com.

Get Out of Jail! Support: This group provides supplies and other support to those being released from the county jail on Fridays from 2-5pm, and Mondays 2-5pm.. Come by and join! They could also use in kind donations of snacks, cigarettes, hygiene supplies, and bottled water. Cold weather clothes and supplies welcome!

Medics for Action Collective Eugene (MACE): A medic collective that partners with other outreach groups to provide free first aid and first aid kit distribution at street feeds and other similar events. They welcome in kind donations of wound care supplies and hygiene items like toothbrushes, body wipes, and foot cream. They can be found at Raven on Sundays for wound care or medical assessments. If you want to reach them about having medics at a protest, hosting a pop-up clinic, or you are a medic interested in getting plugged in with the group, you can reach out to mace. eugene@proton.m

Free Skool Eugene: A group coordinating free classes and skill shares by and for the community! (Read More). They would love to have more instructors willing to share their knowledge and skills by teaching a FreeSkool class in 2026! Contact via email or instagram. freeskooleugene@gmail.com or on Instagram

@eugenefreeskool.

Community Christmas -The second annual Community Christmas Day gathering is a place to spend the day, be with community, and get some basic resources on 12/25, from 11-5pm. Looking for volunteers to help day of, or host a supply drive before! Volunteer form [HERE](#)

Barefoot Defenders: BFD distributes food directly to where people are staying outside, and could use more people to help heat, package and distribute on Tuesdays and Fridays. Reach out on facebook or instagram: @barefoodefenders

Lavender Guard: This group assembles and delivers foodboxes to those most in need. It is a low-barrier way for people without fixed addresses or other limitations to bureaucratic processes to access food and have it brought to them. They need help sourcing more food supplies, dog/cat food, and period/menstruation products. Find them on facebook, or reach out via email: LavenderGuardEugeneSpringfield@protonmail.com

Heater Project: An offshoot of BFD, this is a project for making simple, safe heaters that can be set up and used anywhere, even inside a tent. They are seeking a number of supplies, including terra cotta pots, fuel, epoxy, and more. For more info, reach out to BFD on facebook or Instagram.

Food Not Bombs: A group that feeds people at the Park blocks on Fridays starting at 4pm. They need volunteers to: cook 12-4pm, and folks with vehicles to transport food and supplies. Reach out via IG or email: eugenefoodnotbombs@proton.me



KEEP EM OFF YOUR TAIL!

DONT LET THIS BE WHAT YOU SEE

FREE AUTO LIGHT CHECK AND REPAIR!

FIRST TUESDAY EACH MONTH CENTERS FOR SPIRITUAL LIVING 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM

390 VERNAL ST

Co-sponsors: NAC & Centers for Spiritual Living

living creatively

From the Backcountry to the Frontcountry

By: barbazu



While hiking the Pacific Crest Trail last summer, I found that backpackers traveled in a special kind of bubble. The Pacific Crest Trail (PCT) is a 2650-mile hike that runs from the Mexican to Canadian border through California, Oregon, and Washington. Thousands walk all or part of it every year. It usually takes between four and six months to complete.

"I'm homeless," backpackers often joked. Although that's technically true, we were honored with special treatment rather than the stigma normally faced by the urban homeless population. We received special discounts, sometimes free drinks or food. Sleeping in parks was often tolerated, if not always welcome. A self-organized network of unpaid "trail angels" supported us in the forms of food, shelter, transportation, and simple but profound acts of kindness.

We were generally welcomed. Our dirtiness and large backpacks were written off as quirky or appropriate to the experience, rather than marks of shame, danger, or exclusion.

PERCEPTIONS OF BACKPACKERS

Backpackers were usually received as sort of dirtbag athletes or harmless idiots arriving in town hungry and with money to spend. The one exception I experienced was while passing through Ashland, Oregon, where I received significantly more stares or an avoidant demeanor I understood to mean "don't ask me for money". While texting in front of the nearby WinCo, a passing mother and her young son skirted around me on the sidewalk. The mother advised her son, "That's a homeless person." I tried unsuccessfully to hitch a ride back to trail for two hours before being rescued by a trail angel who I found on a hiker app. She quickly arrived to provide me a ride to trail and friendly conversation, free of charge.

The experience in Ashland was jarring because it was unusual, at least relative to the world I'd become accustomed to over the last few months. And even there, I was welcomed with food and a yard to sleep in from some hikers I met in California, tolerated while shaving my beard in a Safeway bathroom, and lent a pair of scissors to cut my hair by a thrift shop employee.

The way I see this is: Ashland is on the I-5 corridor, and hosts many less-privileged travelers. Many people I spoke to weren't aware of the PCT or the fact that it passed through town. In contrast, many trail towns are smaller and off the beaten path. Locals are generally used to backpackers passing through and causing a minimum of trouble. And spending money, sometimes a lot of it.

Part of the perception of backpackers has to do with wealth; backpackers in general are coming from and going to a stable life. Engineers and health professionals were overwhelmingly common on trail. Hiking for half a year can be an extremely expensive endeavor. There's also the idea that people hiking a long trail are on a journey of some sort, usually not just in the literal sense. We were not perceived as "stuck" in the way that many view the urban homeless population. More on this later.

TRAIL ANGELS, AKA MUTUAL AID ON THE PCT

While I credit much of the positive treatment of backpackers to our status as a kind of dirty tourist, not all of this experience boils down to spending money.

A trail angel is a person who offers aid or comfort to backpackers. It's hard to quantify just how much these generous souls do. Their help could mean water in the desert, company in a lonely stretch, a week-changing hot meal, a

shower and laundry when dirtiness has drained the spirit and multiplied the rashes, or a safe spot in which to sleep. A night resting under a friendly roof is something that can't be quantified, no matter how hard the ever-expanding borders of capitalism try to commodify hospitality. To receive kindness from a stranger is to have one's sense of safety expanded.

A hiker friend described trail angels as "The best-organized mutual aid network I've ever seen." Many coordinate by phone with other trail angels, and others still have set up local Facebook pages as resource hubs for hikers.

Most trail angels do their work for free. Their payment comes in the form of human interaction or just the act of kindness itself. The reasons for rendering aid are as varied as the person giving it. An elderly woman who picked me up while hitchhiking explained it this way: her son was traveling rough somewhere in the world, and offering me a ride was her way of making the world a better place for a child who had long ago left her protection.

Some trail angels are fans of backpacker social media accounts. Some are looking to trade food for stories. Some are former backpackers, while others have never heard of the PCT but just happened to get a good feeling about the person with a thumb out on the side of the road.

Perhaps most importantly, trail angels seem to enjoy practicing generosity. Helping another person doesn't need to be a grim-faced deed, and usually isn't.

THE WHY AND WHAT

I think what trail angels do is about helping someone on a journey. Their motivation is to be a part of that journey, live vicariously through it, and to give in the sacred tradition of providing hospitality to travelers. There's practical reasons for this too. You might be a traveler now. You might be a traveler one day, in the future or past. Someone you love might right now be relying on the sometimes-rare kindness of the world.

I wonder if that same grace can be extended to people who are living outdoors on other types of journeys. The housed population holds a lot of fear and mistrust towards unhoused people, much of it unexamined. And then there's the phenomenon of moralizing the problems of others: "Homeless people are like that because they chose it," goes the refrain. This type of myth has been created and dispelled time and time again, in mental health, in addiction, and (hopefully, one day) in poverty. Explaining the suffering of the other in terms of personal failure makes it seem less possible that we too may suffer similarly. In reality, hard things happen to everyone, mostly for reasons out of our control. Not everyone on the street is going through the same thing. But everyone is going through something.

I'm not qualified to give a list of suggestions about how to treat a neighbor or visitor. That's a practice to be developed according to each of our means, and according to the need we witness. What I can observe is that hospitality and human kindness is a coin more valuable than the calories or warmth shared. We're all in this together.

Author's note: I'm a cis white male with a North American accent. While I observed people of many nationalities, races, and identities treated with kindness in the trail community, it bears mentioning that my experience may not be the same as others.

Auntie Steph's Fab Vegan Recipes

Multigrain Porridge

Choose 3 of the following: steel cut oats, farro, amaranth, bulgur wheat, spelt berries, barley, brown rice, freekeh, millet, quinoa

- **½ cup each of the 3 chosen from above list**
- **4 cups water**
- **¼ (heaping) teaspoon salt**
- **½ cup non-dairy milk, plus more to thin out porridge if necessary**
- **½ teaspoon ground cinnamon**
- **1 -2 tablespoon maple syrup, more to taste**

- 1. Mix grains, water and salt in large saucepan and stir**
- 2. Bring mixture to a simmer over med-high heat. Reduce heat to low and simmer uncovered until nearly tender, approx. 25 minutes**

NOTE: cook times may vary: brown rice and barley take longer to cook and more liquid may be needed

- 3. When grains are almost done, add milk and cinnamon and stir frequently, about 5 minutes longer while thinning with milk as desired**
- 4. Stir in the maple syrup. Mix well. Other toppings such as dried fruit can be added if desired. Serve warm.**

The problem with intersectional identities is that you never know which direction the truck that hit you came from

By: Teeth

The waiter misgenders my date
and I want to set him on fire
The man in the store
calls my mother a brown dog and
I want to tear his throat out with my
Wolves teeth
The once father of my beloved
drops her dead name like
his tongue is a coffin and
I want to put him
in one

This is the beaten coin tossed into
My tempest wishing well
look and see it's two screaming
Faces
half love
And half fury
Made of the same
single seamless piece
I have never known peace

I think about how the only difference
between riots and vigils
is Fear
I think of Fear and
How it has followed me
how I know it's face better than my
fathers
Consistent companion I wonder
What life would taste like without it.

More like blood.
Less like bloodlust

More like love.



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.

CARNELIAN: TELLING THE TRUTH IN COMMUNITY

"So does it work? Does carnelian help you tell the truth?" my radical mental health friend asked.

"Well, something does!" I said.

We laughed. I thought of causes-- all the ways we get here.

"Probably it's a variety of things, helping me tell the truth," I added.

I thought of telling the truth in my writing, art, zines, relationships. Consent is vital, and we need honesty for consent.

Truth is one way I conceive of God-- it's sacred. Truth is worthy of worship. In the beginning, there was the Word.

COMMUNITY

I explained to my radical mental health friend how long ago, orators held the stone carnelian to help them speak well. So I decided to keep carnelian for strength to say what I need to say.

At the time I was living in a community where sometimes my truth was minimized. My needs around disability were not considered valid by all my community members. Weird ideas of fitness were centered over justice. There wasn't equal consideration for everyone there. Yuck.

You know how some people who have normative, abled bodies think everyone should? Some people believe that considering non-normative bodies is expensive and optional?

There's the idea, "I worked hard to be fit and keep my health, and if you don't have your health, it's your fault." Fatness and disability were both treated as shameful, and attitudes toward food damaged me to be around.

Meetings hurt me, so I would cry and suffer the day before, the day of, and need a day or two to recover. Then two days later, time to prepare for the next meeting! Yeah, they were weekly. It was a horrible cycle.

GOOD AT DIFFERENT THINGS

"What if I just stopped going to meetings?" I asked a housemate friend. "You know I could have Ming tell me what happened, and ask Ming to advocate..."

"Eh," my housemate friend said.

"What if we can be good at different things, and I'm not good at meetings?" I suggested. "I'm good at some cooking, Den Parenting, putting away all the clean dishes in the morning from the night before... It's ok to have different skills."

No, my housemate friend was not having it. She believed we all need to attend meetings. Was she right?

I made a list of ways to make meetings less stressful. I shared it with the house and asked if we could try. Meeting outside was good for a while. Snacks didn't happen. Others weren't having the same problem I was having, so the change-energy needed to come from me.



CARNELIAN

I'm not going to say that the stress of the meeting cycle is what ended my stay in that community. There are a few different ways of framing what happened there.

But really that community wasn't set up for me or someone like me-- that's for dang sure. Close, but no cigar. Some ways of intelligence were high, which is how I got there. But emotional skills were low. Truth was low.

Now I'm getting to my crystal point. In the middle of all that, I put some carnelian on my altar, and a red / orange candle that I associated with carnelian. I prayed every day to become more ready to say the unwanted. My truth needed me. My body and the needs of my own body needed me.

This is a way of creating change. Pray for it every day. Even if no God is hearing your prayers, you're hearing your prayers. Commit. There

was the red / orange candle and hunk of carnelian on my altar; I woke up next to them every day. There was no way to forget.

If not for myself, I needed to speak up to benefit the next disabled person who came to live there.

PERSONAL POWER

I was fearful around housing after spending four months homeless with Ming, and my fear was not always grounded in reality.

I forgive myself for being afraid. It takes a long time to understand how a community works, and looking back, I wish I'd allowed myself more access to my own personal power.

Some things I could have done...

- skipped meetings often as a gift to myself
- said "no" to being shamed
- called out bullying

- asked for help from more people
- requested mediation
- clearer assertions from the beginning about what I need
- requested ritual
- laughed at evil

I was more cautious then. I'm always growing up—traumatized and autistic. Definitely I forgive myself for what I didn't do, and I'm glad I don't live there anymore.

BRAVE

What would you like to be more brave about? I'm a witch who did a sect of Hinduism for 27 years. My spouse Ming is Jewish, and we're members of a local synagogue. But my favorite Bible verse these days, on my mind all the time, is Romans 12:14. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse.

I want to create a world of long term connection where we don't abandon each other. Kindness is beautiful, and gentleness is how I need to be treated. I thrive, with gentleness. I'm all about love of myself, love in two person relationships, love in family, and love in community.

But I'm never going to be harmed again, how I was harmed by the fitness-loving bully who's mean to others because she's mean to herself inside— self-loathing, spreading hate, carrying a doom cloud. She centers her white, starving pain.

I'm sorry for whatever happened to her. But no one is allowed to do that to me anymore.

questions for discussion

- What helps you tell the truth?
- What are your strategies for interacting with bullies?
- What helps you feel grounded socially?
- What's your favorite type of rock?
- What you are so afraid of, that you can't think clearly think about it?

- What do you most need in community?
- What are your strengths / offers in community?
- Who would you be, if you were abundantly supported?
- How have you pushed support away?
- What could you do, if community was strongly holding you?

HOLDING HANDS

Carnelian is my good friend. Dark orange is my favorite color. I hold hands with rocks, especially when no people are around.

I'm holding my favorite hunk of carnelian right now as we speak. It fits in my left hand perfectly. I feel its ridges and smooth places; I turn it over and over in my hand.

I'm safe to tell the truth to you. It's 4:30 in the morning, a quiet time to write, and I rub the carnelian on my forehead.

When I hold rocks, I'm holding Parent Earth. We hold hands. Parent Earth loves me more than anything, and I'm ok no matter what.

BLESSINGS FOR THE READER

Please hold a nearby rock. Or hold your own hand and think of the bones in your hand like beautifully shaped rocks. Then speak these words aloud or in your mind.

May you be known for who you truly are and supported in community.

May you respect others and be respected by everyone fairly.

May you find new sources of strength for doing the work you need to do, and return to old sources that you forgot about.

May your mouth be free to speak the truth.

May your ears be ready to hear the truth.

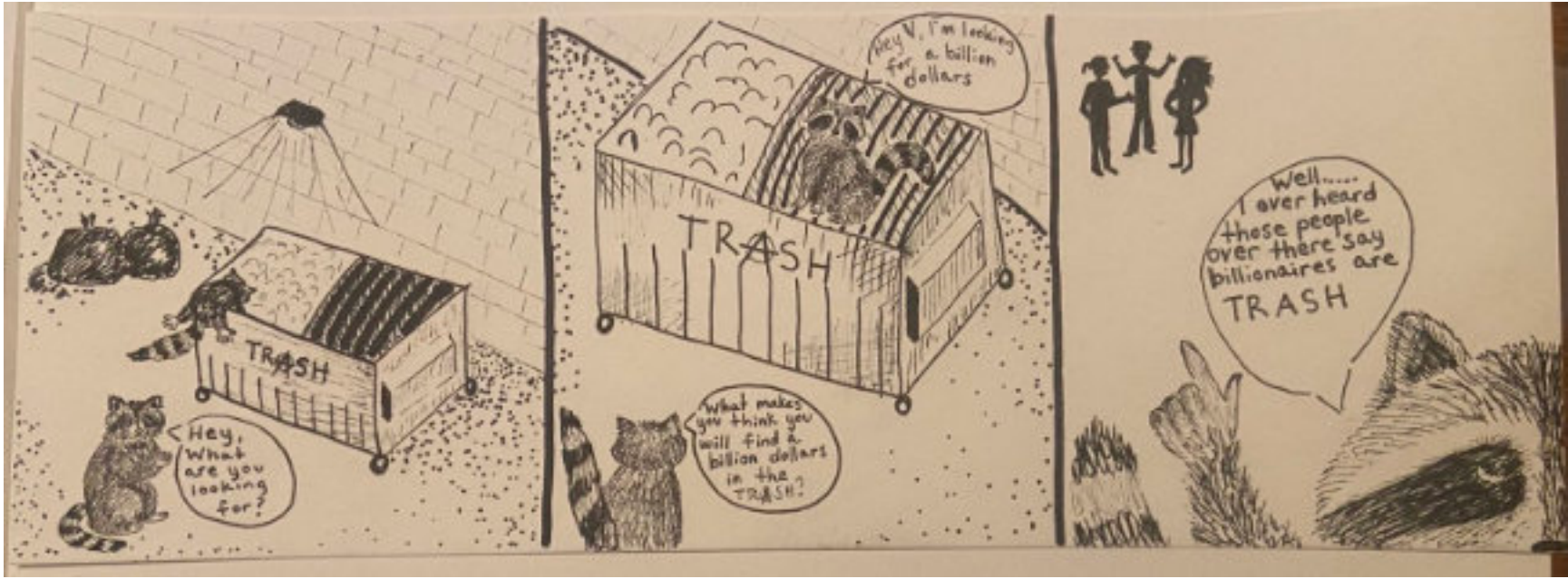
May your eyes take in the truth.

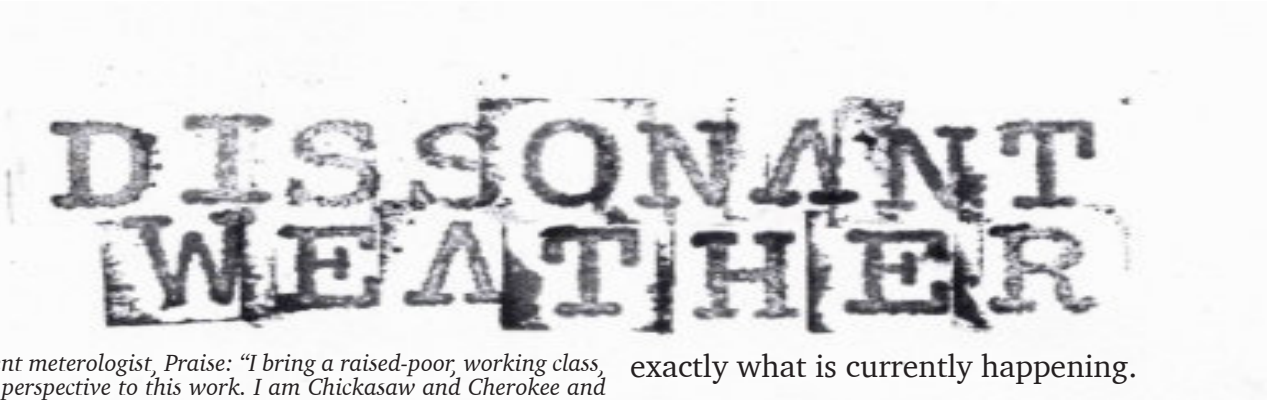
May your work be meaningful and smooth today. I love you.

For Those of You Who Only Read the Newspaper for the Comics...

Raccoon 99%

By: Clover

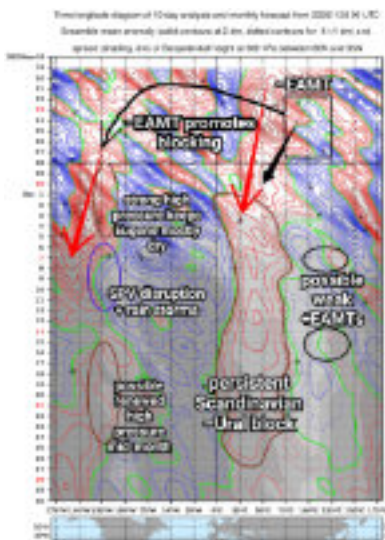




Meet our resident dissident meteorologist, Praise: “I bring a raised-poor, working class, and Native raised-white perspective to this work. I am Chickasaw and Cherokee and feel a deep love for animals, plants, trees, clouds, the night sky, gurgling brooks, the ocean, and our exquisite, unique, precious, 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”

LATE NOVEMBER and EARLY DECEMBER SUMMARY

Unlike last month, I wasn't able to put together a plain language forecast. I apologize for that, but please bear with me as I have tried to explain some of the more technical terms below.



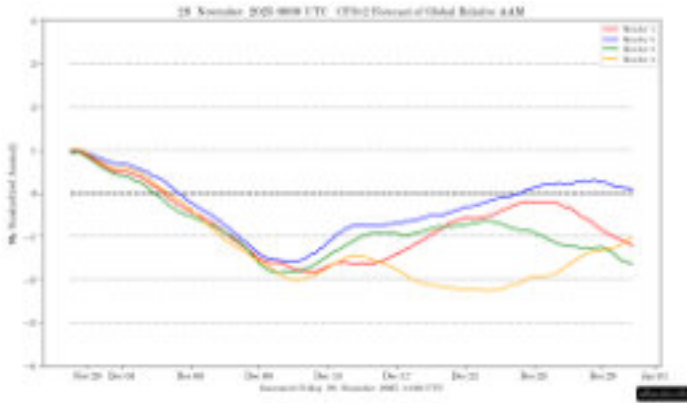
Strong Rossby wave flow is quickly giving way to a persistent blocking regime and Rossby wavebreaking.

Ural Basin high pressure regressing towards Scandinavia will induce a blocking regime and Rossby wavebreaking over North America.

So, over the next 4–5 weeks I would expect an alternating series of extended ridges and troughs. The current lengthy period of high pressure

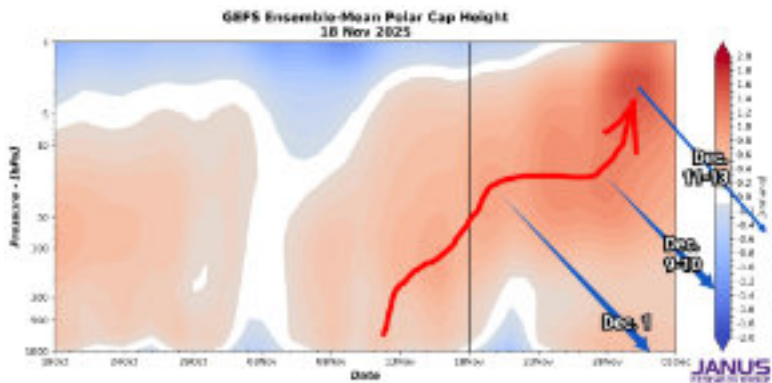
(ridging), for example, will get further extended, bringing us mostly dry weather for another four days.

Atmospheric angular momentum (AAM, i.e. average global wind speeds) has reached a peak and is quickly declining. Meanwhile, eastward progression of the tropical Madden-Julian Oscillation (MJO) will slow down soon and bring us some much needed rainfall starting around Friday, December 5.



Negative east Asian mountain torque (–EAMT), lower AAM, and Rossby wavebreaking will all dovetail with the major stratospheric polar vortex (SPV) disruption currently underway to probably extend that period of rainfall for several days, with the coldest weather around Dec. 11–13.

POLAR VORTEX (SPV) FORECAST



On Nov. 18, Dr. Judah Cohen (see link in the credits below) suggested that the long-awaited late November SPV disruption could involve a stretched polar vortex and "wave reflection" event. More recently he said he's all in and this is

exactly what is currently happening.

(A "wave reflection" occurs when a single wave or plume of high pressure gains enough altitude to take a big swipe at the lower SPV, but doesn't quite have enough energy to cleanly split the vortex. This is called a "Wave-1" disruption, whereas a "Wave-2" pattern disrupts the SPV from both sides of the Arctic Basin.)

Something I noticed early on is the possibility of FOUR STAGES, so here I added some predictions for when the latter three disruption stages will affect Lane County.

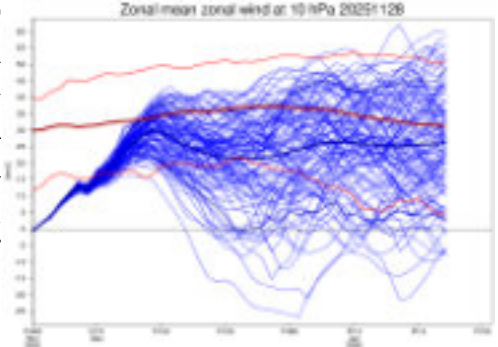
NOTE that the 4th stage is currently underway and recently crossed the line into a "sudden stratospheric warming" (SSW) event in which the SPV stopped flowing east (clockwise from above) around the Arctic Circle and started flowing the other way.

Because this occurred for more than 24 hours straight, this event is considered a "major SSW".

With La Niña reaching a peak in the last week and generally still promoting easterly equatorial trade winds, and with easterly QBO winds in the tropical stratosphere, the SPV will likely remain weaker than average for several weeks.

Thus, the prospect for a Wave-2 major SSW sometime in the next 3–6 weeks seems quite good.

The 46-member ECMWF ensemble (EPS) mean prediction for SPV zonal wind speeds at 60° N. shows the next SPV disruption cycle getting initiated (briefly) around Dec. 4–5 at the lower levels.



But the main disruption has consistently shown up around Dec. 11–13 just as the SPV should be nearing its average strength for this time of year.

Peak disruption should occur roughly Dec. 14–16. And adding 13–14 days gets us to roughly Dec. 27–30. So, that's about when I would expect significant winter impacts on the Northwest.

You can also faintly discern another SPV zonal wind downturn near the end of December.

As @Aigle_e tweeted several days ago, it is... "IMPORTANT to take a step back and not just look at your OWN country when making a long-term forecast."

"Zooming out and looking further ahead, we see a strong Greenland–Scandinavia dipole, [which is] well-documented in the literature as a precursor to a major SSW."

[That Greenland–Scandinavia dipole is very prominent near the center of the time-longitude Hovmöller diagram (first chart above).]

GRAPHICS CREDITS

- (chart #1) ECMWF (European Center for Medium-Range Forecasting)
- (chart #2) Dr. Victor Gensini at Northern Illinois University
- (chart #3) Dr. Judah Cohen at Arctic Environmental Research, a subsidiary of JANUS Research Group (by permission)

And, here is the post Judah made on Nov. 20 predicting that the current SPV disruption would be a "wave reflection" event – <https://x.com/judah47/status/1991598893604434019>

- (chart #4) ECMWF (European Center for Medium-Range Forecasting)



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