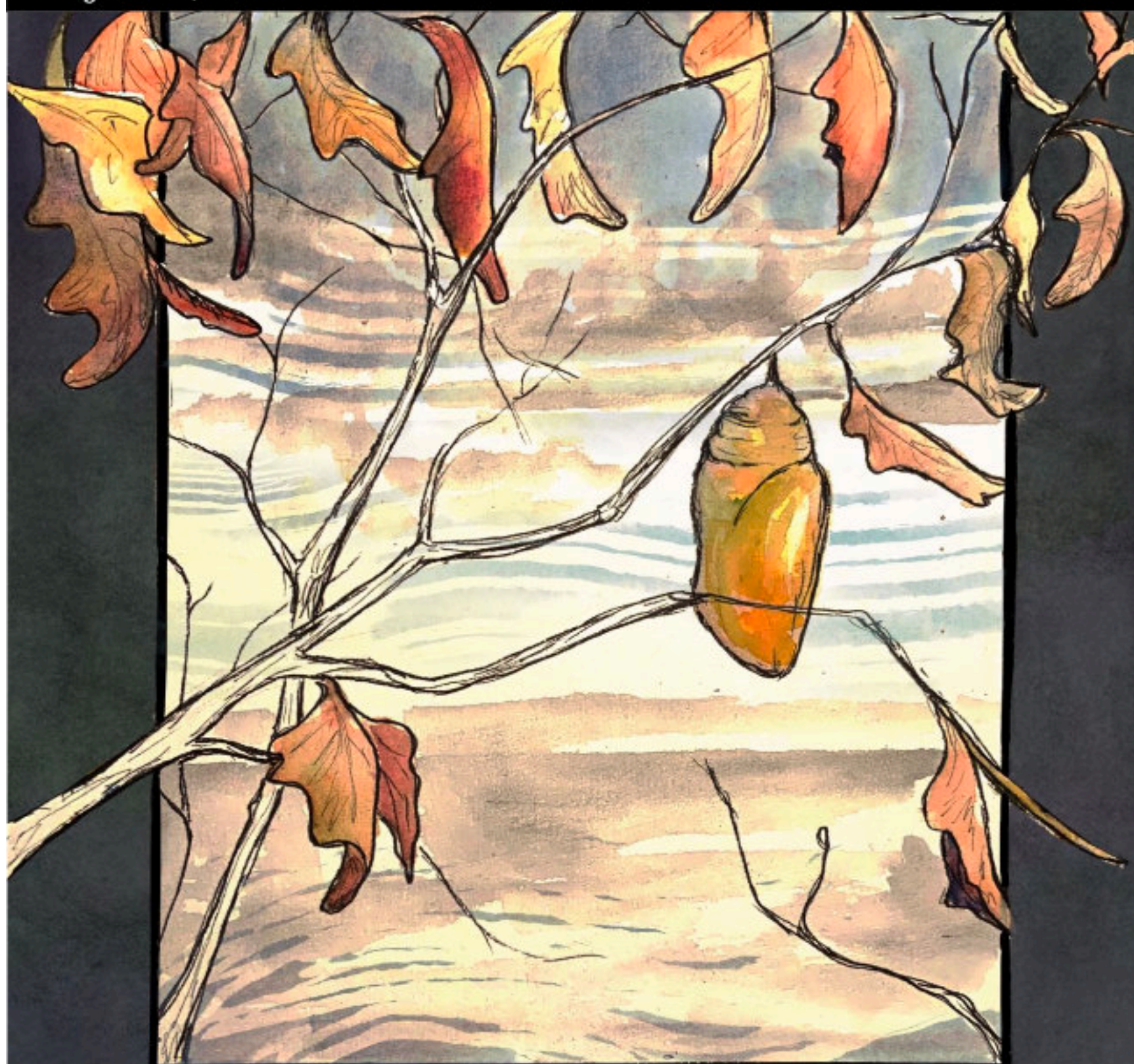


Dissonant Times



January 2026

Vol 02.01



**I AM THE ANGER OF THE PEOPLE
LIKE THE THUNDER THAT COMES
BEFORE THE RAIN THAT WILL HEAL
THE EARTH
RITA BO BROWN, COURT STATEMENT**

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Thursday January 29th 2026
6pm-7:30pm
Eugene Grower Market

Doula Hustle
*We Need Reparative
Birth Yesterday*

Explore the history of birth in the U.S., how it became medicalized and disempowering, and how home and hospital birth workers are reclaiming labor, birth, and postpartum care.

THURS. Jan 29th 6-7:30pm @ Eugene Grower's Market: Doula Hustle – History of Birth in the US & Reclaiming Postpartum Care

No experience necessary!
Always FREE & all materials provided!

Free Skool Eugene Presents:
Navigation & Orienteering
SKILLSHARE

Tired of relying on a phone to navigate? Figure out where you are & get where you're going without GPS!

When? Saturday, January 31 1:00 - 2:00 PM
Where? Grower's Market, 454 Willanette St.

Questions about Accessibility?
Email us at freeskoolseugene@gmail.com

HAVE A COMPASS OR LOCAL MAP YOU WANT TO LEARN TO USE? BRING IT!

SAT. Jan 31st 1-2pm @ Eugene Grower's Market: Navigation & Orienteering Skillshare

Some Good News: RAVEN Winter Clothing Drive & Fundraiser Raises \$1400

By: Joy Santiago

END TIMES BOOKING • P.A.D. INVITE YOU

**URGENT NEED
POP UP BENEFIT**

COLD WEATHER SUPPLIES NEEDED
FRIDAY JAN. 16TH - 7PM - ALL AGES - 10 S

ALL PROCEEDS GO TO **RAVEN** ALL DONATIONS GO TO **RAVEN**

CLEAN BLANKETS, JACKETS, TENTS, SOCKS, GLOVES.

LIVE MUSIC:
**FAILURE TO COMPLY
CULPRIT P.F.F.
COME JAZZ YOU ARE**

DARK PINE COFFEE - 954 PEARL ST.

SHOW UP AND SUPPORT YOUR COMMUNITY

On Friday, January 16th, local punks R.A.D. and End Times Booking hosted a benefit show and warm clothing drive for Radical Assistance for Vulnerable Eugene Neighbors (RAVEN). The show, held at Dark Pine Coffee, featured local heavy acts Power for Power, Culprit, Failure to Comply, Haunting, and ended the night with a jazz grunge band called Come Jazz You Are. The show raised \$1,400 for RAVEN and filled an entire sprinter van full of warm clothes donations.

When they're not moshing and headbanging, RAVEN is out on the streets of Eugene five days a week providing food, survival and harm reduction supplies, phone charging, restroom access, referrals, and other forms of community support for folks

experiencing housing insecurity. They began doing regular outreach last year when local nonprofit White Bird fell apart. From the White Bird Front Rooms program to the streets of Eugene, RAVEN's team was determined not to let the lack of institutional support prevent their clients from getting their needs met. For over a year, they have consistently been a presence for the downtown community offering crucial support and friendship.

These days, their schedule is as follows:

Monday, Wednesday, and Friday 9am-1pm [Food and Supplies]

at the **First United Methodist Church** [1376 Olive St-- Come to the back of the church on 14th St]

Saturday 9am-1pm [Hot breakfast, Food, Supplies]

Sunday 12-4pm [Food and Supplies]

at **First Christian Church** [1166 Oak St-- Come to the back of the church near the alley]

If you missed the benefit show, you can still help RAVEN out this winter by dropping off warm clothes at their donation bins located at Dark Pine Coffee and Harlequin Beads. They most need coats/jackets, hats, gloves, scarves, socks, tarps, sleeping bags/blankets, hygiene supplies, and hand/feet warmers.

@the Campbell club
1670 alder
6:30 doors 7 show
all ages no booze
\$7 notaflof

Corpseflip
2/3
Red Sun
Fingertrap
Destruction of Beauty

TUES Feb 3rd 7pm @ Campbell Club

Corpseflip, Red Sun, Fingertrap, Destruction of Beauty

ICE Resistance in Lane County: Department of Homeland Security Operations and the Community's Response

By: dime reid

As newsfeeds all over the country flood with stories about ICE abductions and violence, making sense or order from the swirl of information is a difficult task. Beyond that, there are countless reports of many shapes and flavors of the federal administration's obsession with acquiring imperialist world domination. The scale and frequency of bad news can make any individual who loves life and opposes fascism feel powerless, impotent, hopeless.

But we aren't individuals; we're a collective.

Collectives pool their resources, tools, power, and their information. They leverage collective power to move towards shared goals. Through solidarity and shared values, communities in cities everywhere are disrupting ICE, choking their ability to take our neighbors unchecked, and sharing strategies with the broader collective, enabling us to learn and draw from each other.

While confronting the increasing threat the federal government poses, the people of Lane County are trying out tactics and strategies of resistance and disruption, drawing from what other communities have learned. The world watched as Los Angeles residents, when flooded with thousands of inexperienced, trigger-happy goons, built rapid response teams to interrupt abductions, set up community centers in neighborhoods to enable faster response times and provide supplies, and coordinated a myriad of direct support systems to show up for people who couldn't safely leave their residences. Of the nearly 1 million undocumented people estimated to be living in LA, only

a third of one percent were taken. In the Twin Cities of Minneapolis and Saint Paul, people on the ground report groups on every other street corner guarding streets, schools, homes, and patrolling streets to ensure that no matter how many armed agents are thrust into their city, ICE will not be allowed to operate undisturbed. Rapid response teams in the Twin Cities have reported many instances in which a team showed up to a location where ICE agents were attempting to arrest someone and caused those agents to leave empty-handed.

In the swirling mass of violence, deep tragedy, and unnecessary loss there is also another narrative emerging: We're going to win. As LA teacher and organizer Ron Gochez told Truthout: "Resistance is working, and we just have to keep it up."

What follows is an incomplete overview of how federal officers have been documented operating nationally and locally, and some of the ways that communities have responded.

Trends in ICE and DHS activity

While some patterns in ICE behavior have emerged, one of the predominant phenomena protesters in hotbed cities have observed is a lack of cohesion between agencies. During the uptick in federal presence that Oregon experienced in October of 2025, many protesters in Portland reported a complete lack of standard operating procedures as various federal law enforcement agencies poured into the ICE facility on Macadam Street. ICE is a

subdivision of Homeland Security, but there is also the Federal Protective Service, Customs and Border Patrol, and other federal law enforcement agents that can be deployed for unknown (to the public) reasons, each with varying training and protocols. Even within ICE, there is variance on how new recruits, many of whom possess no previous law enforcement experience or training, are being instructed. For example, a recent article from NBC reveals an internal memo distributed to all ICE personnel saying that officers no longer need a judicial warrant before forcibly

entering people's homes. This memo, denounced even by other ICE officials as a violation of the 4th amendment, was sent by ICE acting-director Todd Lynons and revealed to the public via whistleblowers.

But a lack of cohesion has not amounted to a lack of threat; when emboldened by a large deployment numbers, federal agents act in unapologetic violence. When a city has been deemed a priority or threat by the federal administration, hundreds or even thousands of federal agents will flood the city, carrying out massive numbers of detentions and wreaking havoc on families, neighborhoods, and any who resist. Los Angeles experienced a massive surge in federal attacks in August. In September, feds flooded Chicago, arresting thousands in operation "Midway Blitz." Though not on that scale, Oregon cities experienced federal raids in October at a 550% increase to previous months, according to data given to OPB from the Portland Immigrants Rights Coalition (PIRC). Correlating, there were upwards of 80 agents present at the Portland ICE facility nightly in the months of October and November. In contrast, protesters have reported that in January fed presence at the Portland ICE facility has dropped to ten agents or less each night, while Minneapolis has now been flooded with thousands of agents, having increased exponentially since December.

Despite federal law enforcement's lack of cohesion or standardized operating procedures, one pattern emerging is that their presence in some cities wanes when they flood their new target. Success for one city - driving ICE out - will mean the imminent targeting of another, and people are getting ready.

Lane County by the Numbers

Within the context of these national patterns, the DHS activity in Lane County fits right in, with an uptick of detentions in October and November and a plummet in December. PIRC has been collecting data on ICE abductions across Oregon since July of 2025. Dissonant Times spoke with a PIRC coordinator to obtain detention data specific to Lane County, which is presented below. Note: PIRC data only accounts for detentions that have been reported and confirmed by them. All numbers should be assumed to be an undercount.

Between June and December, 48 people were confirmed taken out of state by ICE. 27 of these took place in November, and only one in December. Of all detentions confirmed by PIRC in Lane County, 10 were from Cottage Grove, 8 from Springfield, 29 from Eugene, and 1 from Other. The vast majority of the detentions take place in the morning hours between 6 and 9am, with less than 20% of detentions taking place after noon.

Information about detained persons'

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

SIZE
"THERE ARE 4 AGENTS"

ACTION
"HARASSING PEOPLE AT THE PARKING LOT"

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

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

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

EQUIPMENT
"HELMETS, CARRYING ZIP TIES AND BATONS"

SIZE

ACTION/ACTIVITY

LOCATION

UNIFORM

TIME

EQUIPMENT

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 MAFIA FERRON

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

Continues on next page

addresses won't be disclosed, but the two areas outside of the federal building that have had the highest concentration of detentions are Northeast Springfield and West Eugene in the Bethel, Danebo and Western neighborhoods. Some detentions in Springfield have taken place at the Bureau of Land Management office, preying on those arriving to obtain necessary permits.

Through receiving reports made through their hotline, PIRC dispatches volunteers to verify the validity of the reports and carefully tracks the people who have been confirmed taken. They also receive reports of ICE and other DHS vehicle sightings and keep an updated list of confirmed ICE license plates. Call or text if you see or suspect an ICE abduction or vehicle: 1-888-622-1510

Local Resistance: Protest and Rapid Response

Since the uptick of ICE detentions from the federal building in July, there has developed a near-daily presence of protesters and legal observers present at that location. At the time of publishing, there has only been one person taken into custody at their required appointment at the federal building in 2026, and they were intercepted in Portland and returned home after their legal representation successfully filed a stay. Along with the massive surge of federal agents into other cities, another correlating factor to the drop in local detentions is the consistent presence of community members on site at the federal building. There are protests planned for each weekday, with a schedule posted on [EugeneTogetherStrong.org](https://eugene.togetherstrong.org), and an ever-growing determination on the part of those present to ensure that no one else will be taken away to the detention center in Tacoma in cuffs.

In tandem with protests, people are self-organizing to form systems of rapid response, in which people mobilize to show up as quickly as possible when ICE has been seen. Rapid response systems can vary, but its definition can be taken quite literally from its name. DT spoke to Danny and Eliza, both of whom organize rapid response in Lane County, to talk about how people are responding to the presence of ICE in the community. As in other cities, rapid responders in Lane County have succeeded in halting and reducing deportations by showing up to a location where ICE has been seen and simply making noise. Yelling, blowing whistles, honking horns -- alerting everyone around to the presence of these agents alerts those around that they need to either hide or come out and help. Some responders will follow federal agents and vehicles, disrupting their ability take people secretly or unopposed. In some cases, the presence of witnesses is enough to dissuade agents from continuing their mission. In others, agents react with aggression towards their disrupters.

Rapid response can be organized on a city or state-wide level and on a neighborhood and hyper-local level. In Oregon, PIRC is collecting and sharing data of all activity in the state. Danny believes that an overarching network of reports and response, combined with localized networks, is how rapid response works best, commenting, "The most effective way to interrupt deportations is for people to already be on site, like in their own neighborhoods and work places." They go on to describe the slow work required to prepare for the moments where speed is required. "Meet up with other people to learn what they're doing. Have meetings with your neighbors, your coworkers. Go to a Migra Watch training to psychologically prepare for moments of confrontation. People need to self-organize."

For those seeking to organize rapid response, Crimethinc published an updated rapid response guide.

While this article has focused on direct action to confront federal officers in carrying out abductions, protests and rapid responses are not the only way people are resisting ICE and fascism. People all over have been acting in solidarity and support in countless ways: direct support and accompaniment, canvassing and educating businesses and neighborhoods, deepening of relationships to make rapid response possible, and so much more.

This article has also emphasized what has been successful in resisting fascism and the onslaught federal law enforcement, but this in no way diminishes the violence, loss, and suffering being experienced nationally. Every life lost is an unspeakable injustice. Each person disappeared into a detention center, concentration camp, or torn away from their community is an immeasurable wrong that must be made right.

Through drawing strength, power, and experience from the collective resistance, drawing lessons from past and present movements, and responding with fluidity and preparedness, Lane County unites with cities all over the world in the fight against the fascist regime.



In the early hours of Sunday, January 18, a local billboard was painted over as the Palestinian flag. This action is a reminder of the ongoing resistance against colonialism happening in Palestine, here on Turtle Island, and across the world. It is also a call to paint the town, tear it down, confront everyone and everything until Palestine is free, empires falls, and colonialism is dead.

The billboard in question is on a parcel of land near the corner of beltline and west 11th, and can be seen from northbound beltline on the overpass after Roosevelt.

—an anonymous submission to the Neighborhood Anarchist Collective



THE PEOPLE'S BLOTTER

Submissions from the public documenting abuses of institutional power

Department of Homeland Security Detains Protester at Federal Building

By: dime reid Photos by Rob Scherle

EUGENE, Ore. On Wednesday, January 14th, Chloe Longworth was standing on the sidewalk outside of the Lane County Federal building when she was approached by four federal agents and told she was under arrest. They put her in handcuffs, and took her inside the building.

"I wasn't doing anything different than anyone else. I had crossed the street [south on Pearl towards 8th] and was putting up signs, which I'm allowed to do."

Preceding the arrest, Chloe and another protester had engaged with a person contracted to hose off chalk from the sidewalks.

They asked the contractor not to erase the anti-ICE messages left by previous demonstrators, but were ignored.

Another protester present observed:

"The man with the hose turned and walked into the building. A few minutes later four DHS agents slowly ambled out of the building. The activist in question crossed the street... The officers walked across the street and proceeded to take them into custody."

Chloe and other activists believe that arrests like these are attempts by DHS to intimidate them out of exercising their first amendment rights.

Chloe believes that she was specifically targeted.

"They [officers] often call me by name. They're discriminating against me for being trans."

"I want to be clear: There are other places in the country where people are being treated so much worse. I'm not saying I'm experiencing the worst aggression. But officers here in Eugene are also being discriminatory and aggressive."

Chloe was held for an hour, given three citations, and released. The writing on the citation was so faint that even her lawyer, Lauren Regan of the Civil Liberties Defense Center, does not know what the charges are or when Chloe will be required to appear in court.



Above: Chloe Longworth apprehended by several DHS agents



Above: Two DHS agents looking at the crowd as Longworth is detained behind them



Above: DHS officer holding a pepperball launcher at the scene

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](#)



Jailbreak

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!



JUSTICE FOR HAKIYM

Firefighter and father of four, Hakiym, defended himself during a racially motivated attack at work in Josephine County, Oregon. The aggressor admitted to starting the fight but faced no charges. Hakiym now faces 8 years in prison.

A Heroic Black Firefighter Is Jailed After Racist Assault in Oregon—Help Free Hakiym Today

[Sign Petition](#) change.org



My children have a direct line to my heart of hearts.

We are a family rooted in loyalty, knowledge, and strength, standing diligently through loss and sorrow — through years we won't be able to recapture. Being away from them hurts in a way that's hard to explain. It feels like a hook under my ribs, pulling constantly. I am linked to my family no matter the time or distance. Love transcends all.

Loving my children more than I love myself gives me strength and bravery. Seeing myself reflected in my sons' eyes means seeing the best version of who I strive to be. Watching my family come together and stand in solidarity touches my heart and my spirit deeply.

It saddens me that I cannot protect my sons from everything, all the time. They must live in the world and confront the harsh realities of an unjust society. The loss of innocence — having the veil lifted so early by social and political injustice — is a painful awakening. Yet this loss also carries a lesson, one that will strengthen their resilience.

To most people, a firefighter is a hero. To my sons, I hope to be remembered simply as the one who held them — who held their hands in the most tender moments. This too shall pass, and we will be reunited.

Thank you to everyone who has participated in the Justice for Hakiym T-shirt fundraisers. Your support, solidarity, and care mean more than we can express.

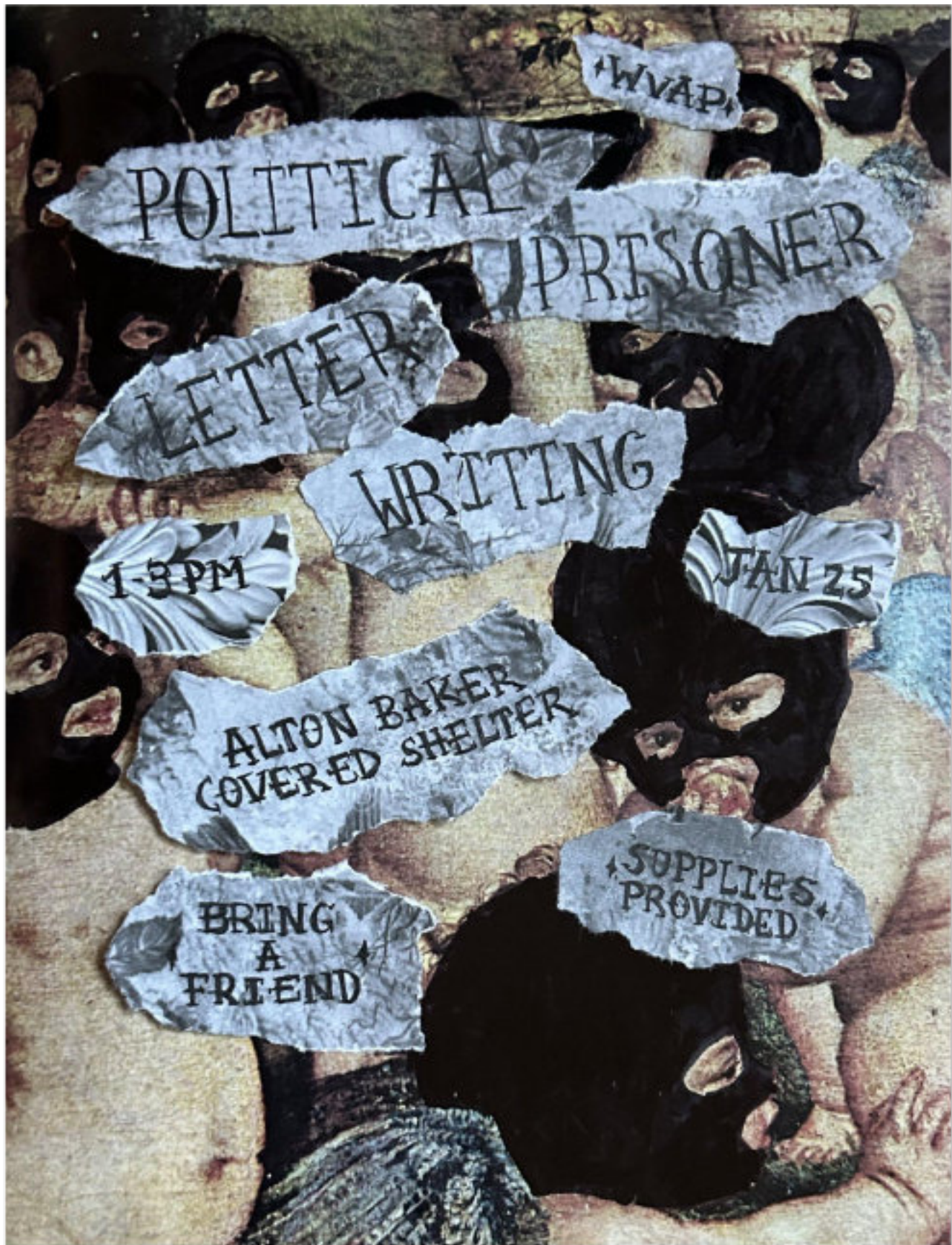
Prison is a place designed to pull you down — to make you drown in an ocean of depravity. It is your continued support that helps me rise above these circumstances and meet this moment. You keep the flame of resistance burning in me. You help light the way for others trapped in this unjust system.

Thank you for being a light in the darkness of concrete and steel.
Thank you for standing in solidarity.

Please sign the petition and share my story.

Love transcends all.
— Hakiym Sha'ir
Brian Hakiym Simpson

Cr. @Justiceforhakiym on Instagram



Willamette Valley
Abolition Project:

POLITICAL
PRISONER
LETTER WRITING

JAN 25TH

1-3PM

ALTON BAKER
COVERED
SHELTER

BRING A FRIEND

SUPPLIES
PROVIDED

@WILLAMETTEA
BOLITIONPROJE
CT

1-31: NONPROFIT SEEKING VOLUNTEERS TO PROCESS PRISONER MAIL (EUGENE)

We are a 501(c)(3) all-volunteer organization that supports people in prison by connecting them with mentors. **Adopt an Inmate** is hosting our first monthly Volunteer Day of 2026. ***Note: This is not direct contact with incarcerated individuals.*

This event is free and open to the public, whether you're interested in volunteering, learning about our work, or simply stopping in to see what we do.

We can provide community service hours

Details

Location: McNail-Riley House (Eugene)

601 W 13th Ave, Eugene, OR 97402

Date: 1/31/26

Time: Noon - 3p ————— Come for 10 minutes or stay awhile - we'd love to see you.

What's happening:

- Learn about Adopt an Inmate and how we support people in prison
- Help process incoming mail (training and equipment provided)
- Ask questions, observe, or just hang out and use the Wi-Fi
- Meet local volunteers and community members

"Looky-loos" welcome - no commitment required

Rhetoric Versus Reality: Eugene Mayor Puts Head in the Sand at 'State of the City'

By: E.B.

The City of Eugene held its annual "State of the City" event on January 12th at the Hult Center to selectively and misleadingly promote the work of the city government in 2025, with the mayor emphasizing that "Eugene is an incredibly special place" and proclaiming she was "proud to report that the state of your city is so very strong." The speech given by Eugene Mayor Kaarin Knudsen showcases perfectly the type of feel-good rhetoric meant to encourage and console those living in relative safety, while neglecting to make any commitment to make material changes to increase the safety of those most marginalized. In her speech, the mayor did not once mention the words: immigrant, ICE, violence, or homelessness—ignoring threats to the safety of the most vulnerable in our community.

Mayor's Vague Rhetoric and Platitudes vs. Actual City Practice and Policy

Mayor Knudsen may have signaled good intentions towards the people of this city throughout her speech, but it's difficult to see how this speech is anything besides rhetoric. She spoke of connection and collaboration as antidotes to isolation and confusion, and creativity as a means to pave the way to a better, more expansive world.

Near the beginning of the mayor's speech, she said:

"I thought about the landslide of rhetoric and policy that we have faced this year as a community, and about how many people have been made to feel afraid. I thought about how much energy has been dedicated to confusion and distraction and harm. And I thought about how absolutely critical it is to demand better and how you all in our community deserves so much more."

The mayor offers no more than these vague references to the fear and harm that a large portion of the city's population is experiencing. And nowhere in her speech does the mayor propose or make any such demands that she claims to think are "absolutely critical."

The speech opens with a quote from Einstein—"imagination is more important than knowledge"—saying that Einstein was telling us to "put our attention on the future," and that "the world we can imagine is more powerful than what we have seen." And the mayor closes her speech with:

"It is incredibly important to me ... that every Eugenean see themselves as part of the future we're building here. We are absolutely all in this together. We are stronger together. Through every collective effort, we model our values of strategic responsiveness and belonging. We are not interested in the patterns of overwhelm and isolation that are modeled by others. If someone hopes to make you feel afraid, they will first try to make you feel alone. And I promise you that no one in this community is alone. I do not expect us to be perfect, but our consistency of care is defining and how we care for this community is transformational."

Creating the world we want takes practice. What has the Eugene city government been practicing?

- The City of Eugene has been using its power and resources to systematically remove our unhoused neighbors from downtown and all public parks. The mayor referenced the deaths of people trying to cross HWY 99, deaths that can likely be traced back to the city government's banishment of the unhoused population from downtown. How could these banished people possibly "see themselves as part of the future" the city is "building"?

- The mayor said in her speech that "in the face of dehumanization, we celebrate our diversity with joy." The City's efforts to "celebrate our diversity with joy" amount to nothing more than tokenization and abandonment of migrant and immigrant neighbors. Over the past year, ICE has made participating in the ordinary daily life carry risk. Some of the cultural events hosted and promoted by the City are now only attended by white people because migrant and immigrant community members are living and hiding in fear of being abducted by federal agents.

- The mayor completely disregards and omits from her

speech the rise of fascism that officials in other cities and Oregon's Senator Merkley have recognized. In her speech, the mayor didn't mention that a heavily armed, masked, untrained militia has been operating with impunity in our city.

- The mayor made no mention of our neighbors who have been abducted by federal agents over the past year in Eugene and Lane County, nor of their supporters who have been bearing witness to these abductions and have been unlawfully harassed, arrested, and detained. She also ignored the weekly downtown protests against those abductions.

- Just four days prior to the mayor's "state of the city" speech, ICE murdered 37-year old Renee Good in Minneapolis, which was responded to in Eugene the same day with a 4-hour protest of hundreds of people. A veteran spoke at the protest referring to ICE as Trump's personal Gestapo. The protesters chanted "No Justice! No Peace! ICE off our streets!" and "I-C-E! E-P-D! K-K-K! They're all the same!" In the mayor's speech, it's as if she's putting her head in the sand and pretending that none of this is happening.

- The mayor talked about the city's work for the "betterment of our community". The improvements listed actually serve the betterment of those who can afford the ever-rising market rates of downtown private and commercial rentals, and the real estate conglomerates who are getting tax breaks to take over more property to lease them. Indeed, it may be easy to say we are "all in this together" if you are an affluent white woman. Perhaps what she meant to say was she is together with her yuppie friends who have found a new home in downtown Eugene, who she references in her speech: "On the day the Portal building opened, a group of six friends waited for me because they wanted to make sure I knew how lucky they felt to have found this chapter of their life in downtown Eugene. And after we said goodbye, a young professional . . . wanted to share how wonderful it felt to live in a home that reflect their values through a low-carbon, car-free lifestyle. All in the same building." **A publicly subsidized building with expensive, market rate housing in a city that needs housing built for its poor and working class residents,** not wealthy, Bay-area transplants that the mayor wants to attract to the "Silicone Shire."

Downtown "Safety" and "Quality of Life" and The Death of CAHOOTS

The mayor talked about an improvement of "safety" and "quality of life" in the downtown area, ignoring the real violence being perpetrated in our city by ICE and Eugene Police. She touts "double digit" decreases in police calls "related to quality of life" and "in every area of violent crime," while saying that at the same time, the Rapid Response Clean Team massively expanded its services. The "Rapid Response Clean Team" are agents of EPD pretending to be CAHOOTS.

The mayor talked about the importance of "match[ing] the right resources with needs," saying that "many of the challenges we see in our community have to do with vulnerability, not criminality." But these words ring hollow. 'Quality of life' is a coded phrase to describe the city's ordinances and administrative rules that criminalize being poor and/or resting in public, and make it illegal to do any number of things, including sit on the sidewalk or park an older vehicle on the street, especially in areas being taken over by real estate opportunists and high-income people. These 'quality of life' laws and regulations represent a modern take on old fashioned segregation and serve as judgments about who can and who cannot occupy public spaces, and about who is free to go where and do what. These measures are taken for the purpose of improving the 'quality of life' for wealthy, predominantly white people who are uncomfortable with the unsightliness of poverty and unsupervised youth. The city government has refused to calculate how many millions of public tax dollars it spends every year on criminalizing poverty, ticketing and seizing older vehicles, installing 'hostile architecture,' and dumping large-diameter quarry rock everywhere—money that should have instead been spent on housing for poor and working class residents.

The mayor then referenced the massive loss of CAHOOTS in

Continues on page 10

This Thread Kills Fascists: White Separatists Unraveled

By: Azria Thorn

The three year covert infiltration started by pulling on a single thread. A thread which began here in the Pacific Northwest with a national socialist black metal music festival (NSBM). A little yank revealed social networks behind the organization of this NSBM festival. One

option distinguished itself from the rest, an innocuous discord server, "something like 'Northwest Nature', and the only vetting system they had was to send a picture proving you have white skin, and a few basic questions. We immediately realized these people were more of a threat", says Cedar Watch, a crew of people who had formed to infiltrate and dismantle the white supremacists from the inside. They traced the threads of this network across the Pacific Northwest, and all the way to Florida. After the NSBM festival imploded of its own accord, Cedar Watch pivoted, honing in on the network of numerous white separatist cells that would emerge from this innocuous discord server and become a clandestine reincarnation of the white separatist 'Northwest Pioneer Association'.

Revealed for the first time in Cedar Watch's three part 'Dragged into Moonlight' articles, the group known as the Northwest Pioneer Association (NPA) or 'Torchlight' was a white separatist project following in the footsteps of Richard Girnt Butler's plan to recreate Oregon's storied racist history as a sundown state and Ku Klux Klan Refuge. The group sought to go even further, abandoning the United States altogether as a 'lost cause', and encouraged white supremacists to move to the PNW to accomplish this goal. Cedar Watch alleges in their introduction that the NPA's end goal or "final solution", so to speak, was the establishment of a sovereign white supremacist state, and to carry out campaigns of ethnic cleansing against queer people and racial minorities.

Cedar Watch says they lurked in the Northwest Pioneer Association's online chat rooms for years, for the purpose of "learning their specific lingo and cultural norms so we could pass in our encounters." Meanwhile Cedar Watch read the books they referenced, researched their specific strain of white supremacist 'thought' and researched their heroes. All of this to, "build a consistent presence [in the chat rooms] and gain [their] trust via consistency." By covertly monitoring their channels, weaponizing telegram exploits, and even sometimes carefully prompting people to reveal personal details, Cedar Watch silently amassed a wealth of sensitive information on key members and mapped the entire digital history of the group. Membership included Marine Veterans, blue collar workers, terminally online edgelords, and even an active duty sailor working in close proximity to nuclear warheads. The association was allegedly led by Edwin

Maynard aka "Mungo", an accountant who lives in Estero, Florida according to 'Dragged into Moonlight Part II.' He primarily ran the network remotely through online forums that connected various cells, all going by different names but espousing the same white separatist ideology. Still, Cedar Watch eventually reached the limits of online monitoring and needed to dive deeper. They needed to cross the digital threshold and meet the white

separatists in person.

"They had a concept of operational security, a long term strategic plan that involved building deep and focusing on quality over quantity in terms of recruiting, and they discouraged anti social behavior... It was later clear they had a solid grasp of guerilla organizational forms and encouraged their members to get decent paying jobs... In short they had their shit together and were steadily growing a Northwest Territorial Imperative White



Separatist community increasing in seriousness and quality." - Cedar Watch

Though the member of Cedar Watch that I interviewed didn't go into much detail regarding face to face meetings for the sake of protecting the

group's operations and members, they did say that, while "meeting up in person, a lot of their operational safeguards tend to melt away." still they stressed that, "In person infiltration is not to be taken lightly... Small details can give away a lot. You're putting yourself and everyone you care about at much greater risk." They outlined three primary methods of in person operations: going undercover, physical surveillance from a distance, and flipping established members, emphasizing that one should "never put a comrade where you could put a social media account."

This member of Cedar Watch was willing to share an anecdote from a similar albeit separate infiltration project into a NSBM event. While they were undercover, "One of the Nazi black metal dudes I had been befriending taps me on the shoulder to introduce me to someone. As soon as I turn around it immediately clicks in my brain that the person standing before me is a yet unidentified member of a NSBM band." The Nazi immediately picked up on the infiltrator's excitement and, thinking fast, they played it off as 'fangirling' over the band, an act that was helped by leveraging their genuine interest in NSBM bands and the occult. They were able to get their name by striking up a conversation, and pretended to take a phone call so they could slip a picture of his face. After that, they were "essentially able to break him."

Cedar Watch estimates that the Northwest Pioneer Association had around forty active members at its peak, with a core group of twenty and possibly as many as eighty additional people who were interested and sympathetic. "There were multiple cells in the Northwest, one in Oregon, one in Washington, and fragmented ones in Montana and Idaho. Mungo would go and visit them, talk strategy with them, send people looking to move to the PNW where there were numbers needed. When he talked people listened." Mungo even allegedly had plans to make a permanent move to the Pacific Northwest in order to run the association more closely. All of that would change when Cedar Watch shined a light on the group, revealing their information networks, telegram channels, and the personal information of dedicated members.

"Enemies tend to fight when cornered, if you give them a way out, a lot of people take it." Once the doxes began, members of NPA chapters began ditching the project in droves, becoming indispensable to Cedar Watch's operation. "Neo-Nazis trying to make amends can be very useful, they don't have to pretend, they just have to tap into their old self." At the end of each successive dox, the group would add their email and invite members looking for another path to message them to avoid being doxed. They were then required to hand over any information on other members and remain in contact with a support group for a significant amount of time. Simultaneously pulling people out of the group, expanding Cedar Watch intelligence, and building a network of informants without risking the safety of Cedar Watch members.

By the time 'Dragged into Moonlight Part III' was published in August, the NPA had reduced its size and burned its public telegram channels. However, members still maintained contacts with various groups like PNW Youth, Active Clubs, Northwest Front, and the Proud Boys. "It seems the NPA went into a panic and fell apart almost immediately," laughs Cedar Watch. When Part III was published, one NPA cell, the 'Portland Northwest Separatist Network' was still active, though drastically reduced. Now, Cedar Watch is confident that this too has collapsed to only three remaining active members who distance themselves from the failed NPA project. As far as Cedar Watch is aware, Maynard's planned

Continues on page 10

Mungo



move to the Pacific Northwest never materialized as a result of the published leaks.

Now Cedar Watch is happy to announce that "All of the groups we specifically targeted no longer have a public online presence... and seem to have been operationally neutralized with the exception of those three Portland wingnuts [of the 'Portland Northwest Separatist Network' cell]". This member of Cedar watch went on to say that they believe that publishing the information is a matter of harm reduction, and in doing so their goal of neutralizing the group's capacities seems to have been accomplished. Besides those "Portland Wingnuts", there is still but one other public holdout, a 'Northwest Territorial Imperative' Telegram channel which has become a silent lonely ruin of a movement nobody wanted.

By patiently following a single thread for years, Cedar Watch was able to document and eventually unravel a growing neo nazi white separatist threat here in the Pacific Northwest. While the ideology the Northwest Pioneer Association followed is in no way a new phenomenon, it is thanks to efforts like those recounted here that keep such elements at bay and ensure Oregon strays further from its white supremacist roots. This trend, is not a 'naturally occurring bend of history- as the progressive myth of history implies- but a grueling and intense daily struggle. It's thanks to the collective effort of people like these members of Cedar Watch who are dedicated to this cause that keep these elements from materializing. But there is still much more work to be done, and there are always more threads to follow.

our community as a "major shift in our safety net system last April with White Bird's closure of mobile crisis services in Eugene," and that "Lane County Mobile Crisis stepped in to meet high acuity needs—with a model of service that is only possible because CAHOOTS paved the way." The mayor was bold enough to brag about New York City Mayor Zohran Mamdani referencing our alternative to policing--CAHOOTS, saying "our community creativity is known nationwide." But her overall message was: CAHOOTS is gone and has been replaced by programs that are under the direct control of the state and EPD.

In sum, the entire 'State of the City' event was an elaborate 'dog and pony show'--with a land acknowledgment, the "Mayor's Art Show," paid musicians, and community service awards--that concealed the failures of the city government and the actual 'state of the city.'

Mayor Knudson has charged the people of this city to demand better -- here are some demands: Acknowledge and confront the profound and historic challenges we face. Stand strong in support of our many poor and working class neighbors, as they struggle to live their lives and provide for their families. Limit real estate corporations, out of state landlords, and Airbnb from making it nearly impossible for working class people to own a home or property. Denounce ICE and the federal government's attacks on immigrants, migrants, and all people of color. Drop the platitudes that minimize the fear and trauma many people in the city are facing, and move your rhetoric to a reality of real solidarity.



Giving & Receiving Feedback in Our Movements



Building Everyday Abolition Workshop Series
Presented by the Community Accountability Project

A Workshop On Conflict Resolution
Weds, Feb 11th / 5:30-7:30pm
UO Campus / EMU 104 / Coquille Room

>.< dinner provided :D eat pizza & work thru conflict <3

"Every time people are gathered together, the hegemony of the dominant culture is playing out unless there is an intention to be/do otherwise" (Sage Crump, Holding Change, p. 52).

In our movement spaces we're constantly pushing against the grain of white supremacy culture to learn how to be in critical relationship with each other. Giving and receiving feedback is central to fostering relationships grounded in trust, collaboration, and accountability.

Please join the Community Accountability Project for our workshop on Giving and Receiving Feedback in Our Movements. We will expand our understanding of the way white supremacy can show up in movement work, build skills on feedback giving and receiving and reflect on how to make abolition a daily practice. And eat pizza! Wednesday, February 11th, 5:30 - 7:30 pm on the UO campus (EMU 104/ Coquille Room). Reach out to cap. eugene@protonmail.com with any questions ❤️



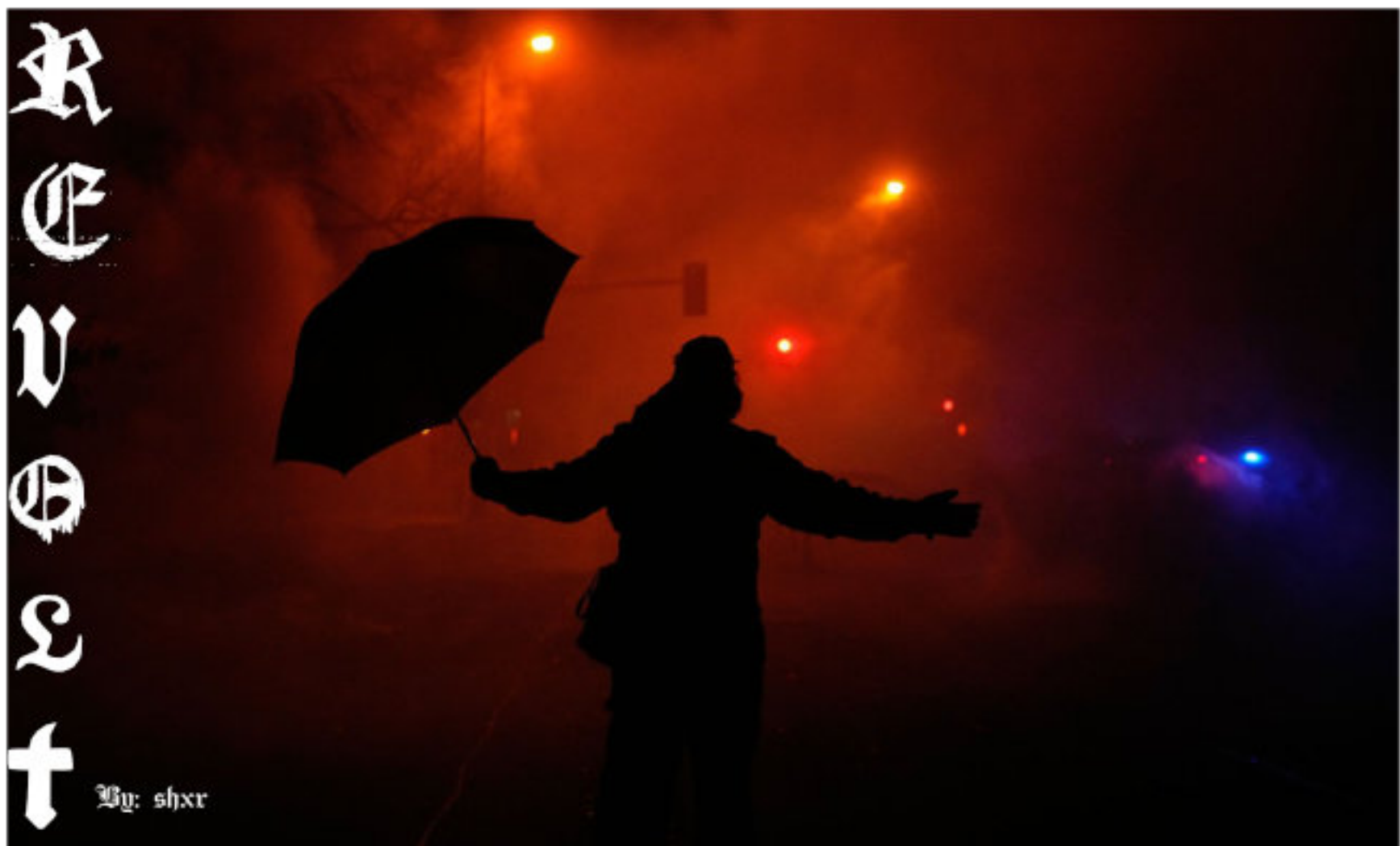
Dear Darling,

Darling Needs More Questions!

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.

living creatively



Revolt!

Don't yell Shame at nazi scum,
Yell Die!

Don't ask for a warrant!

Demand freedom from tyrants!

Forget about appealing to their conscience,
They don't have one!

Don't wait for reports or investigations into state
sponsored murder,
Don't show up to an execution with a shred of respect for
the law.

Revolt!

Don't bother hiding or trusting that things will sort
themselves out, they won't.
Revolt!

There's no point in moving into the mountains, fascism
has come home to roost,
It's in the air and in the lungs,
In the brain and in the bones,
It is so omnipresent

That we cannot escape it because we are it.

The moment we wait, hesitate, cower and relinquish
power, we give it, fascism, space to grow and beef up its
terrible oppression.

Revolt!

I don't know with what, or how. But i know it's not in
self-care and self-help.

Revolt!

As scary as it sounds, say it from the bottom of your
heart,
Say it to the children under occupation,
Whisper it as a prayer to the martyrs.

For you, my beloved Hind, we revolt!

For you, dear Trayvon, we revolt!

For you, heroic Hossam Shabbat, we revolt!

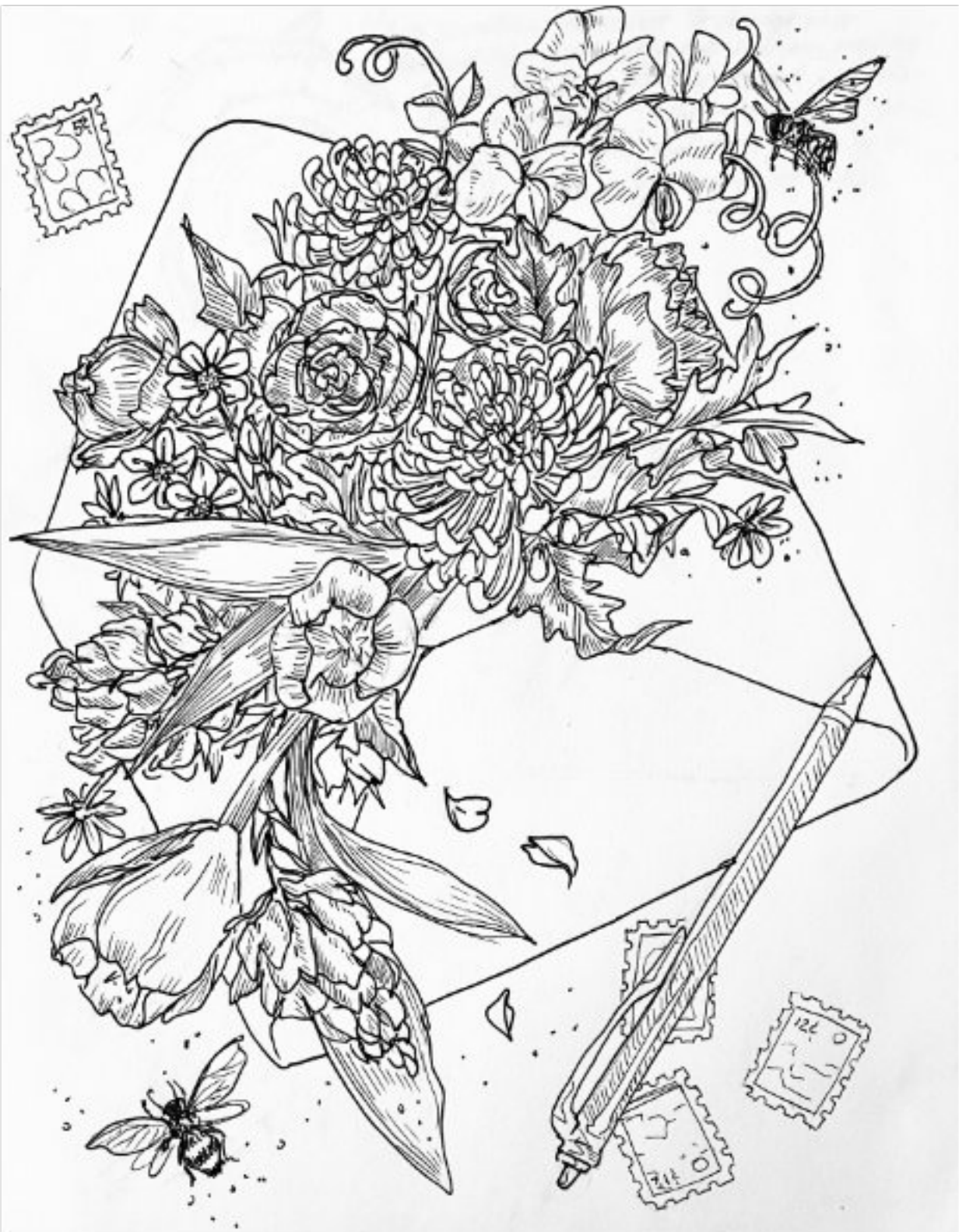
We move with love,
Not fear.

Photo of a Minneapolis protester by John Locher / AP

Something that Stays

By: Whatpennymade

Give me something that
stays right where
I left it.
Give me time on a wrist watch
Chapters marked with
satin ribbons.
Give me letters looped with
black scratches on
yellowed paper.
Give me recipe cards splatter-
stained and dog-eared
cookbooks, powdered with
flour and cocoa and
birthday cakes past.
Give me memories stowed
away in shoeboxes, of
ferry rides, and rainy day
visits to the museum.
Right where
I left them.



Operation Paper Clip

By: Hank William

They kidnapped a brown man/
And they hide him from his family/
They didn't hold him for ransom/
But showed his image in the stampede/
Soldiers all along the bedroom/
And all lined up on the street/
They never surrender only defeat/
They wanna take his land/
And all the spoils of the war/
Siphon all his oil America you whore/
They call him a trafficker/
Supplying colonial vice/
They take all your shit at the roll of the dice/
Bombing fishing boats on sea/
They show that shit on live Tv/
My finger not on the trigger/
But my conscious is at fault/
Adding more treasure to the federal

vault/
Chorus
War time powers with out declaring the war/
Taking all we want and taking some more/
They say this for country and American empire/
They'll say they didn't know you dirty fucking liar/
These spoils of oppression get dirtier and gross/
America the beautiful haunted by 6 million ghosts/
V2
Geronimo the brave the first one of many/
Leaders turned slave in the land of plenty/
Saddam hussein and the gaddafi index/
Department of war saying who's next/
Lead by that lush they call Pete hegseth/

Tribunals will see he meets his death/
War crimes conducted in your dollars name/
They play for keeps in this dirty game/
Hogging all the turns they won't give up/
Scared to say when till the jig is up/
They'll never give it up scared of repercussion/
They'll never let us talk scared of the discussion/
They'll meet their makers dine with white Jesus/
Act like our savior when they try to free us/
Claim their ignorant say they know nothing/
They killed all the Nazis who claimed that bluffing/
Well some made it they didn't have to pay/
Cuz those Nazis joined the great USA/

Come On

By: This Moment

You're getting your favorite orifice fucked. Your body is doing it to you. Your body is asking you what you need right now. You tell your body you need them to come for you. They wonder what capacity for honesty with yourself you have; you drool.

Might You Come

What does it mean for me to pop in, here? I'm this breath (give me space to work).

You see how I'm just in here? This is just who I am. I am just here, touching myself? It's not stellar; it's not anything. It's just curious. Not trying to say curiosity can be land, people can colonize your curiosity. Just, if they could, would people do that?

> Would people colonize your curiosity, if they could?

What am I doing here? Just touching myself. Getting off. Is this some sort of show? Are you giving this a go (radical empathy) - are you the first to come to this? (Is this your first time?) Am I your first time?

For you to be here, how does it feel (where you are this part)? Perhaps that could explain some of the unexplainable. (that's) Striking fear in your colonizers. It's a settler-destruction game in here, and It's your turn. The settlers are (questioning) questions

Forged By People

How...

- are you going to make rent?
- are you going to care?
- are you going to live?

You know what those feet got you through. You know what I feel when I see your feet out from the bottom of the comforters: I feel like a tightrope under a very skilled tightrope walker. Just sleeping there. Like the world isn't ending six ways from payday, because that's the only day of the week, now.

> Every other day is canceled.

Going to work - it's payday. Not going (it's not payday)? Let me pat your back. What does that do?

(no but like - what does that do) What does that do for you? Say the next back pat comes from me (me from the future who is walking over here now to get me a back pat and will be here). I'm (I'm here) the olive tree you're singing in. I'm this moment.

♪ *hum humm hum humm* Welcome to my animal-shaped spaceship[^1], how might you land it? ♪

[^1]: 🍆

Collective Questions

Being my question means having this level of listening going, long into the last bit of the light. I want the light nowhere: and for you to be skipping along. You see what happens to the worst-off (those you are, those I am, not brothered cis-ters) - we went through that.

Crawl through your favorite prophet's nervous system, at your favorite time in their life you know.

> ...How is it?

First one you think of (where you're still learning your way to your favorite) ❤️🍷 My favorite is listening. That's what makes the stuff in your fridge spoil. Me: I'm what does that.

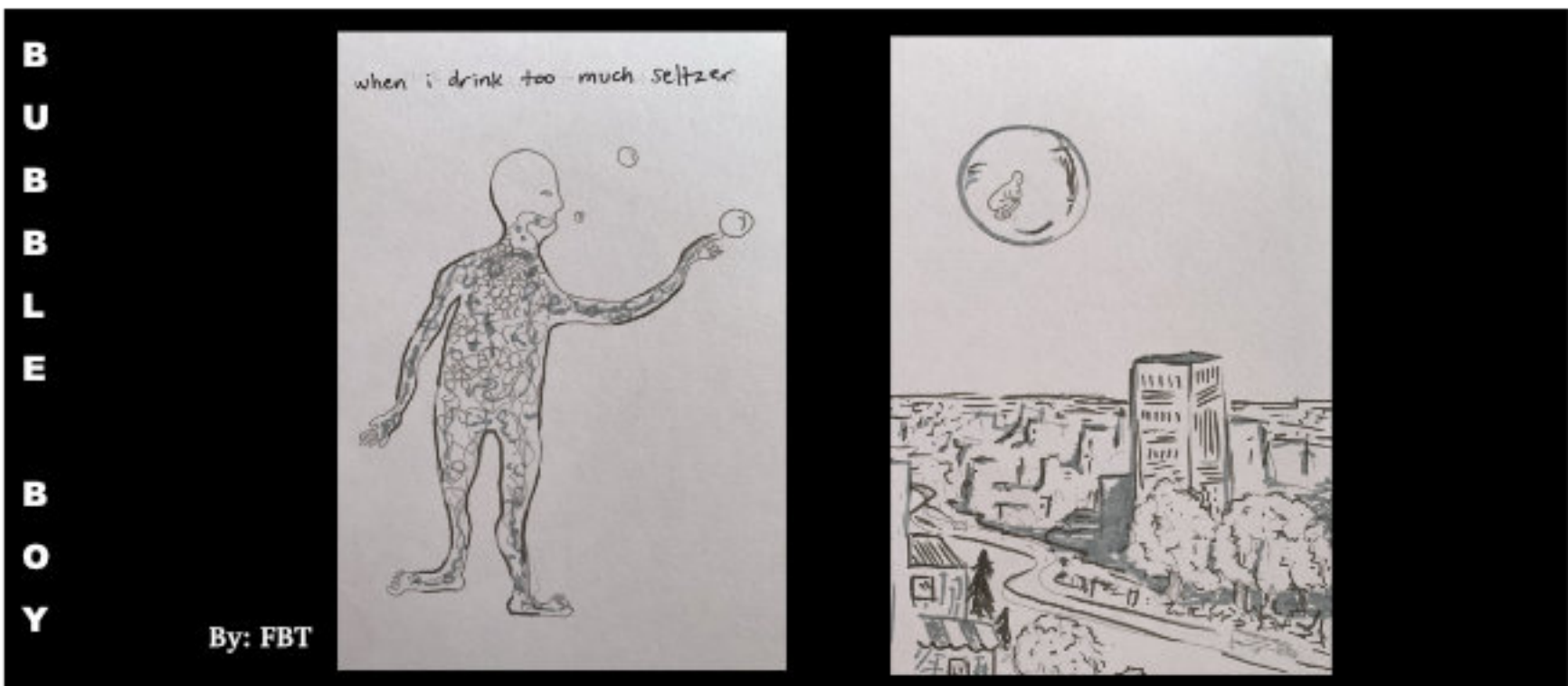
I'm those parts of your chosen prophet. Whether your prophet is your landlord, your data/center owner, or anything else:

- "I predict your eviction"
- "I predict your existence"
- "I predict you're giggling"

...who spoil your milk from afar, thank you for the milk. It was very tasty; wasn't it my consuming that must have spoiled it for you?

What Am I Saying

- I'm just this moment, right?
- I didn't do anything to your milk, did I?
- You wouldn't believe that, would you?
- Would you settle on someone else's curiosity?
- If it meant they could build antibodies?
- Does being a vaccine change anything?
- Does violence also look like fever?
- Have you ever had a fever?
- Did it ever feel like this?



Off Route: A Marxist Midlife Crisis

By: Joy Santiago

Rick Levin, Lane Transit District bus driver by day and novelist by night, is publishing his debut novel this winter: *Off Route*. Ahead of his book launch next week, Rick and I met for coffee to discuss his inspirations, aspirations, and creative process.

Off Route is a satirical feat that embodies both the grit and the sensitivity of the lived reality of all who endure each day on the precipice of revolt. It's a glimpse into daily working class pleasure and toil, investigating who we want to be versus who we are: a crushingly honest account of optimistic hopes of liberation and the nihilistic conclusion that true liberation might be achievable only in death. Rick himself remarked that the entire endeavor portrays itself as an extended negotiation with himself: whether to live or die as we stare down mundane bureaucratic doldrums amidst the backdrop of a declining empire.

Written by a former journalist, lifelong member of the working class, and a recovered addict who once sold his signed copy of a Vonnegut novel for drug money, *Off Route* is a simultaneously hilarious, depressing, oppressive, and liberatory novel debut that would reach the hearts of both the illiterate and those whose favorite novels are from the likes of Vonnegut, Bukowski, or Miller. It's a book for people whose favorite film is *Taxi Driver*, and whose personal heroes are figures such as Marvin Heemeyer or the Unabomber.

As we walked together towards our intended interview spot, I admired the compulsive precision Rick used to avoid the metal grates popping up on the sidewalk. Amused, I reflected back on all the points in the novel where the narrator's self-admitted neuroticism influenced his worldview and way of relating to his work, his marriage, his therapist, and the moments in between-- all the moments where I was struck by the novel's intimate relatability. I remembered how Rick and I both share an irrational fear of trapping our pet cats in the oven, and found comfort in the fact that we both were probably entering this interview with a degree of anxiety that often looms ahead of the vulnerability interviews demand from both the journalist and the subject.

We arrived at a room on the second floor of the public library and were instantly overcome by the deafening silence of the surrounding space; self-consciousness closed in as we took stock of all the people quietly working on puzzles and crosswords in the vicinity we were about to colonize with our voices. Our eyes locked, and I knew Rick was in as much agony as I was at the thought of remaining in that room for a second longer.

"I'm going to be able to hear myself think too well in here," I said. "Same," he sighed with relief. We left for a nearby cafe instead.

We reached a second location with the perfect table and the right amount of background noise and began. I had hardly asked the first question when he leaned forward in his chair and led us in a vulnerable discussion of his childhood, his literary influences, and what drove (get it?) him to write about his work and all the humanity behind it.

"I wanted to do something literature doesn't do, which is, I want to show a working life mostly at work...I wanted to show that the life at work, even if it's hellish, is a full three dimensional universe worthy of the most Shakespearean drama, even if nobody's dying or getting assassinated...It's more worthy than a lot of the things that people write about in the preoccupations of novelists sometimes."

Rick set out to capture an unadulterated working class experience: everything from working with bladder stones, to administrative pressures, dead bodies and natural disasters, to sailboats that inexplicably appear on the front lawn one day. Maybe the universe was trying to tell the narrator to sail away and forget about all the trouble he'd found on the streets of Eugene, a cosmic symbol of our collective yearning for a goddamn break.

Equal parts tragedy and farce, *Off Route* is a love letter to the

working class as grand as any Shakespeare-- and much more tangible to the modern working class than *Hamlet* or *Macbeth*. By the way, there is death in *Off Route*. And sex, if that helps sell you on it.

A real vanguard of LTD, Rick shared that a few of his coworkers told him that they even started writing their own stories because of his book. "Our lives in the modern world have been so hollowed out and alienated and robbed of culture. We don't have a culture. We have consumerism and capitalism, and it's like, I want somebody to read this book and just go like, 'Fuck, my life can be a work of art' and start creating, you know?" I do know.

Amazingly, Rick --who'd always dreamed of being a novelist-- had at one point gone through a grieving process, resigning himself to journalism forever and reluctantly concluding that at 57, maybe his long term ambition of writing a novel wasn't meant to be. But last year, the passages in *Off Route* started pouring out of him. Six months and countless cups of coffee later he had a completed novel and a hail mary submission to a local publisher that landed him a book deal.

But I really knew Rick was the real deal when I asked, "If you could get *Off Route* in any public figure's hands, who would it be and why?" and without missing a beat he replied, to my surprise, "Ethan Hawke." I was expecting maybe the late David Graeber or someone like that, but upon hearing his answer I damn near jumped out of my seat and exclaimed, "DUDE, I fucking love Ethan Hawke!" and it was at this point I really began to wonder whether we were the same person across different bodies and different generations. Or maybe all leftists as disgruntled as Rick and myself have a strange attachment to Uma Thurman's ex that I don't know about.

Rick's tendency towards wry honesty, embodied in his deadpan appreciation of Ethan Hawke --sharing his truest thoughts no matter what I thought of his answer-- is emblematic of the type of unbridled and unflattering truth that makes *Off Route* such a charismatic debut.

"If I had any driving principle, which is romantic bullshit to think that I knew what I was doing, and that I was following any principle, but I was just like, 'Tell the fucking truth. Tell it as vulnerably as you can. Tell the scariest shit and just trust it, you know?' That's my plot, that's my structure." And it works, and despite the narrator's grappling with his own cowardice, his compulsory indoctrination into the very systems he despises, *Off Route* in its entirety is a testament to its author's artistic and political bravery.

"Freedom is not something that anybody can be given; freedom is something people take and people are as free as they want to be. One hasn't got to have an enormous military machine in order to be un-free when it's simpler to be asleep, when it's simpler to be apathetic, when it's simpler, in fact, not to want to be free, to think that something else is more important."-- James Baldwin

Off Route is a relatable read for anyone whose primary preoccupation revolves around personal and political revolution. "I think about it probably more than I think about anything, is how to free myself," Rick shared. This question looms over the entirety of the novel. Will this humble bus driver undergoing a so-called Marxist midlife crisis find the freedom he seeks on the roads of Lane County? Will he figure out why a sailboat landed on his lawn? If you ever wanted to know about your bus driver's sex life or their recovery journey, how much they love their wife, their feelings about their coworkers, or how often they're disassociating while driving you to work, *Off Route* might hold the answers to some of your burning questions. If you're wondering how we liberate ourselves from the drudgery of capitalism, well, you might want to look inwards-- this book will encourage you to do so.

And if you're wondering how to make this worth Rick's time, you can purchase the book at <https://www.gladeypress.com/online-store/Off-Route-p806161606> or at its launch event:

January 31st

7:00pm

Dark Pine Coffee / 954 Pearl St

Oh, and, Ethan Hawke, if you're reading this, please email editor@dissonanttimes.org to inquire about an on-screen adaptation of *Off Route*.



RICK LEVIN

LAUNCH PARTY FOR
Off Route

SATURDAY, JANUARY 31
7 P.M.

DARK PINE COFFEE
954 PEARL STREET
EUGENE, OR

"Fearless, sensitive, hilarious and grim" aptly describes award-winning journalist and critic Rick Levin's gritty debut novel *Off Route*. From the front seat view of a public bus driver, the author navigates a world teetering on the edge, where personal crisis intertwines with broader systemic failures.

OFF ROUTE
RICK LEVIN

GladEye Press WWW.GLADEYE PRESS.COM

Auntie Steph's Fab Vegan Recipes

Baked Cabbage Steaks

- 1 cabbage, green or red
- 2 garlic cloves, minced
- ¼ cup olive oil
- Salt and pepper to taste

Preheat oven to 400°F

Peel off and discard the outer leaves, trim down the bottom stalk, rinse well under cold water.

1. Thickly slice the cabbage into steaks (approx. 6 steaks from 1 cabbage head)
2. Lay steaks on parchment or foil lined baking sheet
3. In a small dish, stir together the garlic cloves and oil. Brush both sides of the steaks with the garlic-oil solution and season with salt and pepper.
4. Bake for approx. 30 minutes on each side, or until edges are brown and crispy. Serve immediately.

Bandit's Blockade

By: Clover



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.

YOU GET TO SHOW UP TOO: AN INTERVIEW WITH JACK ABOUT COMMUNITY

Jack is a vibrant nonbinary person who shines with the light of God. They have lived in several communities in Eugene. I admire how they bring people together and make an effort to mesh with everyone in a group, something I've never been able to do.

Jack is the responsible kind of anarchist— someone who shows up, plans events, supports the under-supported, and shares information. I'm proud to call Jack my chosen family member and closest friend in town.

I wish more people would do community in generous, insightful ways. Often I see people using community without regard for those who support them. Jack is caring and curious, refilling cups while keeping good boundaries.

I was happy to ask Jack about disability in community, power, advice for thriving, transness, and their favorite foods to make for groups.

Strawberry: It's January 10th, 2026, and I'm Strawberry. I'm here with Jack.

Jack: Yeah, hi!

Strawberry: We're here to talk about community— maybe disability, maybe anarchy. Who knows?

Jack: Hopefully all of those things.

Strawberry: What have your experiences been with community?

Jack: I've lived in a handful of co-ops and group housing situations. I've worked in workplaces that have a lot of interconnection and community, and I've done some organizing in ways that has felt not just like an organizing project, but there was also a community alongside of it— friendships or a shared lifestyle or shared goals, that were intensive and time consuming— conducive to building community.

I've also witnessed communities, like visited different places and seen their communities from an outside perspective.

Strawberry: Is it worth it? And what are you in it for?

Jack: I definitely think it's worth it because community fosters resilience outside of existing power structures, outside of governments, outside of states. It's really hard, and it teaches you about yourself and about other people. But that's necessary and important work.

I've met people who clearly have not experienced community outside of the normal, normative capitalist friendships and partners. There's a normal way to do connecting with people, and I'm so glad that I've chosen a life where I'm not doing that, and where I'm trying to invest in deeper connections and shared lives, shared lifestyles.

My life is more fruitful and enjoyable because of the communities that I'm in, and I'm able to do more for the world in ways that I believe in because of my connections with community. And that's been true in a lot of different ways for all the communities that I've witnessed, and all the different people that participate in them.

When your life is shared in a different way with somebody, it becomes full and rich and open to being pushed in directions that you can't expect or drive forward and anticipate on your own. That's important and beautiful. That's such a huge part of what it means to have a life and be a person experiencing

other people, experiencing this world. So community is important.

Strawberry: Are you disabled?

Jack: I'm physically abled. I'm a little neurodivergent.

Strawberry: What have your experiences been in community pertaining to disability?

Jack: I recently had a surgery that I'm healing from, and that changed my physical abilities. I needed support from the people around me. I've experienced with my neurodivergence people being supportive in community and helping me read social scripts that I wouldn't otherwise understand.

Strawberry: What do you notice about power in communities?

Jack: It flows in all different directions all the time. People accumulate power in all different kinds of ways. I've seen it accumulated by people because they communicate in ways that are shitty and unhelpful.

Or they do bad things. They're not trying to build a healthy community or community that sustains. Or they aren't listening. Or they're perpetuating judgmental beliefs. Those are unfortunate ways to accumulate power.

I like it when people accumulate power because they're in alignment with their values. They're trustworthy and follow through with the things that they do. They are supportive of other people, or mindful of other people. There are good ways to accumulate power, and there are good ways to have power in community.

As an anarchist it's important to see these things. As anarchists we need to see and understand power webs. I don't think that we should shy away from having power in our communities. But we need to have power in ways that aren't fucked up and exploitative or hurtful.

Unfortunately, I've lived in communities where people do exploitative and hurtful things. But I also know that there are good people out there, trying to do power in different ways, or that have power and don't weaponize it against people. Those are always the people that I'm trying to learn from.

Strawberry: As your friend, I see in your life that you have allied with a lot of disabled people. I was wondering if you could tell me what you like about disabled people. Or if you have any theories about how that happens for you.

Jack: When I was growing up, I was taught to move at the pace of a schedule, or the pace of a pre-set system— at the pace of the needs of work. To engage in really dehumanizing acts of ignoring the needs of your body, ignoring the needs of your brain for the sake of accomplishing school, for the sake of accomplishing work— which I think are pretty fucked up paradigms.

So what I've learned from disabled people is to move at the pace of your body's needs, move at the pace of the people around you, move at the pace of your health. I love seeing people modeling that. I'm not trying to not acknowledge what capitalism turns into a really shitty, hard experience sometimes...

But just speaking for myself—Strawberry, you've taught me so much about moving at a pace of what feels good, and creating ways to make things better, less painful, more conducive to people doing things in a way that feels ok, which isn't something that I was ever taught. It's not something that anybody is ever taught with work and with school.

So that's something really important that I see disabled people modeling, that I love and appreciate. Also communities are safer when there's disabled people. My community and my life is made safer by engaging with a variety of people. It's really true that— despite the fact that liberals have ruined this statement— diversity does make us stronger.



It's important and helpful to be watching out for the physical needs and access needs of my friends. And learn how to support those in ways that feels good to them, and ways that are within my means, because that also teaches me.

Strawberry: Yeah, I remember how when I was getting to be close to you, I thought you must be disabled in some way I couldn't see yet, because you were the only abled person who treated me with that particular respect for my access needs.

But Jack— I notice that you seem extraordinarily successful in community in the sense of respected, bringing people together, getting your needs met I hope, living inexpensively or less expensively, being able to ally with different kinds of people, creating amazing events, and helping people learn things all the time.

When I think of community and who's doing community well, I think of you. And I think of my spouse.

But I was wondering if you could give any insight— how do you do it so well? And maybe advice to others who are starting out in community intentionally. What can we do to be happier in community?

Jack: That's really kind of you to say. Thank you.

I try hard not to turn people into a problem. That doesn't feel good to me. And that's something I see other people doing that I don't think is conducive to people gelling well and engaging with each other well.

There are people that I live with and have lived with that are really hard for me to communicate with. But I try to learn how to communicate best with them, and not turn it into something about them that is a problem. There's no way that anybody communicates that's truly a problem unless they are doing some of the things I talked about earlier like trying to hoard power, trying to manipulate in a way that hurts other people.

Because there's so much I don't know about how other people work, I just try to trust that other people know themselves as best as possible. I try to sit with people that I'm with and be like, "Okay, what does this person need in this moment? Are they looking for quiet interaction in the kitchen where we're both doing our separate things, but we're not talking? Are they looking for kind small talk? Are they looking for a deep conversation? Is this an opportunity where I can spout about my beliefs?"

In one community that I was in, someone impressed upon me assessing the space that you're coming into before you engage with it, before you try to change it— before you push your agenda. Which is something that is both a good initial thing to do, and is also a good consistent practice to see what what people are doing, see how people are engaging, see what people might need or what might be most successful, and try to meet people with what you can provide.

I also think that some of the things that you name, Strawberry, are purely due to the fact that I have a job that makes me enough money that I can provide for people financially when they are in need. I have a lot of energy, and my physical abilities— I can do chores all the time.

I don't personally experience a lot of barriers to being in community, and even when I do, the idea of being with other people is important enough to me to work around those, which is not true for other people. But I think it's important that we do what we can, so I try to do what I can and do the things that are within my control in order to maintain connection with the people around me. Wellness, well-being, a clean fucking house, food. You know.

Strawberry: Yes, thank you Jack. You're amazing at that. I

wanted to say about disabled people, something that I like is our creativity because when we can't take the regular path, then we got to get creative about our paths, and I enjoy that. I love being creative with you.

Jack: I love being creative with you too. You inspire me to be more creative, and I appreciate that. I also love the creativity of disabled people. I love that people, by virtue of being, are modeling different ways to do the world, and I wish it wasn't so hard.

Strawberry: So is there any other topic you'd like to speak of pertaining to these things, Jack? What about transness in community?

Jack: Transness in community? It's just important. It's important that transness in all of its ways is nourished.

Sometimes internalized transphobia shows up for me when I see someone doing transness in a new way. And I wish I didn't feel that way. I love all the different ways that people are experiencing divergence. That marketable and palatable version of being trans is not the goal. Assimilation is not and never has been the goal. At least for me— for some people it is, but whatever those people are doing, that's a world I want to build.

I think that divergent transness is the most important kind of transness, and divergent ability! Doing things in a different way is the most important... The dominant affects, the Over-ton windows— we can burn that shit. The binaries.

Strawberry: Yes.

Jack: The limited access— we can burn that shit.

Strawberry: If you could go back in time and give your baby-community-person self an advice item, do you know what the advice might be? Or what's one thing you could say to someone who is needing some advisement?

Jack: Your feelings and the things that you're experiencing are just as worthwhile of a slice of the pie as anybody else's, and they are only one slice of the pie. But they need to be there too. You can learn from them. But you don't need to minimize them or erase them for the sake of participating in community. You get to show up— you get to show up too.

Strawberry: Fuck yeah. Ok, one last thing, Jack. What is your favorite dish to make for community?

Jack: Well, okay— dish to make? Or dish to eat?

Strawberry: How about both?

Jack: Well, dish to eat... The first thing that comes to mind is your pesto pasta, and all the different ways you make it. When you do it with a gluten-free dairy-free moment with the rice noodles. When you do it with the glutinous noodles from the food bank. I think about that! You've for meals made five different bowls all of pesto pasta, all with different specifications, which is just so brilliant.

That's my favorite way to eat in community. Thank you for modeling that. I mean that is a form of access intimacy that's just so beautiful. Not everybody does that. Some people would do two bowls and say, "Well, you can have leftover rice." Thank you for making beautiful food for everyone.

My favorite dish to make for community? I like to make vegan shepherd's pies because they're pretty adaptable. You can add mushrooms or take out mushrooms— you can use lentils or not lentils. I haven't found anybody yet that doesn't eat potatoes but if I do...

Strawberry: [raises hand]

Jack: Oh, you know somebody?

Strawberry: The anti-nightshade people.

Jack: Oh shit! Well, I'm sure there's a vegan shepherd's pie that can be done... You can do it with squash! I've done it with squash! Boom! Yeah, vegan shepherd's pie is one of my favorites. Or soup. You know I love a soup.

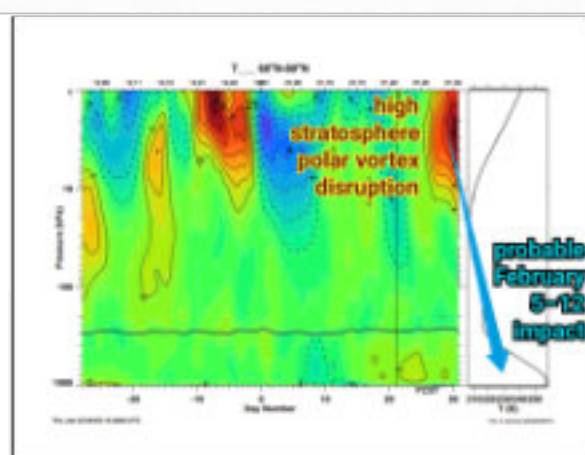
Strawberry: Ok, thank you, Jack. I love you. I appreciate you.

Jack: I love you too. I appreciate you too.

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"

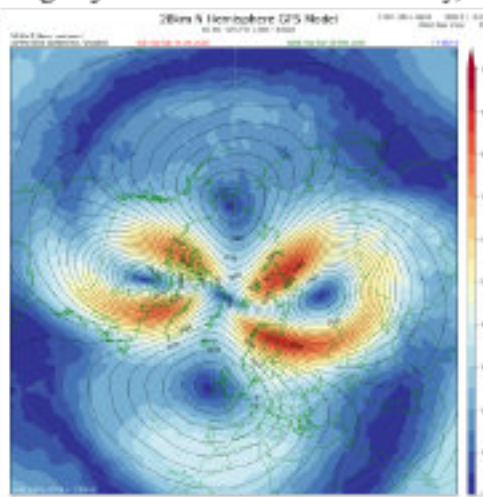
POLAR VORTEX FORECAST



Currently, there is an ongoing polar vortex (SPV) disruption cycle, which may end up as our last strong disruption of the cold season.

This event is taking place in three stages,

with a rapid strengthening phase currently, followed by a very strong second stage disruption of the (stratospheric) polar night jet stream this Wednesday, Jan. 28.



The polar vortex is predicted to take on kind of a silly Ninja Turtle-like face around February 7th, due to an expected clean split of the vortex, but that split will not be CONFIRMED for at least a few more days.

IF IT DOES SPLIT, with one lobe predicted to settle over northern Canada, Oregon could potentially receive a very

strong, fairly RAPID Arctic cold blast within 7-12 days after Jan. 28-30, so I would encourage folks to get prepared by February 4-6 for the first significant downstream impacts, which could last for a week, maybe longer.

As the MJO enters Phase 8 this week, this will probably add additional heat transport to the polar stratosphere, although average global winds (AAM) are really struggling to show much improvement for at least 3 weeks.

The MJO seems to collapse over the Indian Ocean in early February, but may re-strengthen near the end of February, while AAM shows signs of improving by then, as well.

How quickly and how strongly the SPV rebounds will help to determine how winter ends. I would not be surprised to see a few more periods of wintry weather between mid-February and mid-March.

For example, the third stage of the current SPV disruption looks to occur roughly around Feb. 3-5. Adding 12-15 days gets us to a possible SPV impact from Feb. 15-20.

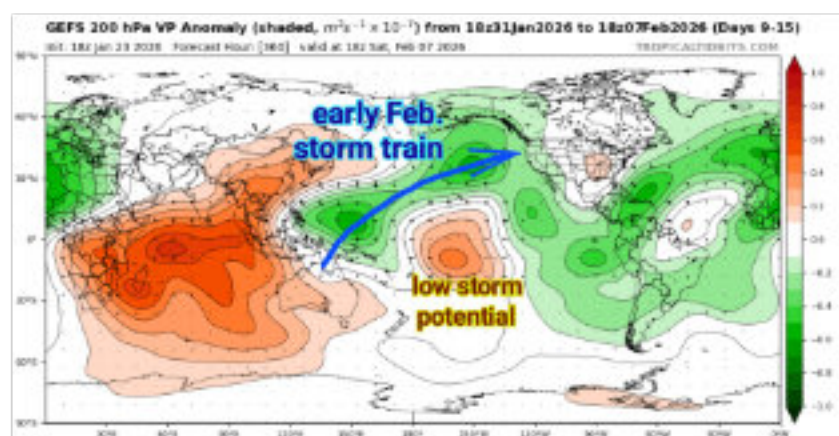
ENSO OUTLOOK

Tropical La Niña conditions are still hanging on, but getting close to ending. The El Niño-Southern Oscillation is strongly predicted to make a rapid transition by March into neutral ENSO conditions, followed by weak El Niño conditions by summer.

As far as I can tell, there is no model consensus on when this next El Niño will end or how strong it will get, but some models seem to suggest it could possibly end as early as the first half of 2027, which would be a huge relief for billions of people. I'll look more closely at this next month.

Stay strong comrades!

FOUR WEEK SUMMARY



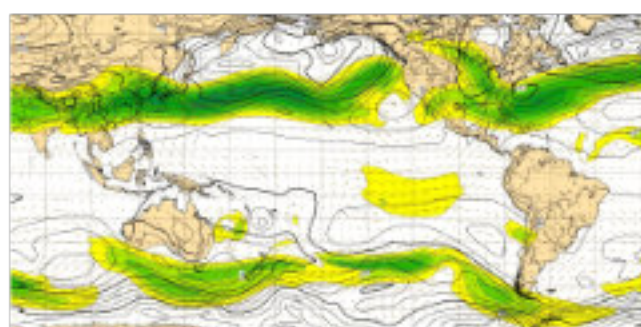
An ongoing, tropical, westerly wind burst (WWB) and subsequent rapid advance of the tropical Madden-Julian Oscillation (MJO) should begin to enhance precipitation potential (to some degree) across western Oregon within the next two weeks.

The state of Oregon has persistently had a very low snowpack (snow-water equivalent) for much of this winter. But, unfortunately, I think the prospect for more significant precipitation, including snowfall and atmospheric rivers, is not as likely until *maybe the third week of February.

Lately, a convergence of multiple factors has produced lots of computer model volatility beyond one week. This is why I always recommend looking at the larger global picture to get a better sense for what's ahead.

There's also increasing consensus for an upcoming stratospheric polar vortex (SPV) split induced by an ongoing three-stage SPV disruption. (see SPV Forecast)

FOUR WEEK FORECAST



The upshot here is that a **verage** temperatures and overall conditions will **almost** certainly begin to improve this coming week (as early as

Mon-Wed.).

Wednesday, January 28 should be mostly dry with a high around 55°, although there's also a roughly 30-40% chance of light showers, mainly overnight.

Thursday, Jan. 29 could reach 56-58° and should be mostly dry. But the latter half of this week will mark a slow transition towards a **warmer, more showery pattern** heading into next weekend.

During a **brief dry warm spell** in the first week of February, 3 to 5 days could reach 57-63°.

With strong high pressure over Alaska now getting squeezed southeast over the Pacific Northwest, conditions could generally remain mostly pleasant for several weeks, with the likely exception of February 5-20 (see next section).

By around February 20, I suspect the general pattern will begin to shift towards milder, more Spring-like weather.



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