

Dissonant Times



March 2026

Vol 02.03



Every bombed village is My hometown
- James Baldwin

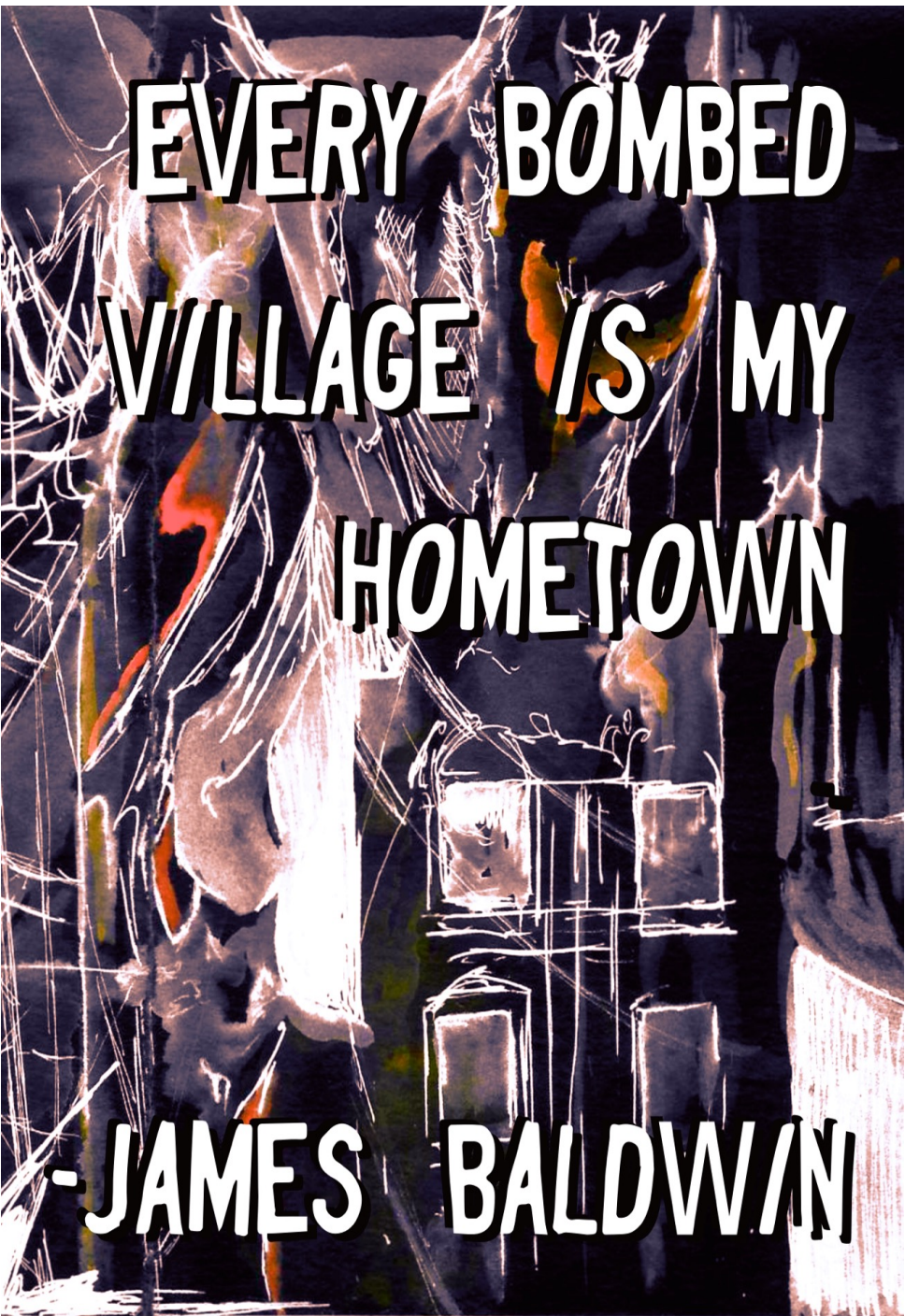
Letter from the Artist: About the Cover Art

By: Mica

I first read this quote when I saw it shared in reference to the u.s.-isreali war on iran. It put words to the growing, crushing feeling I'd been having of all my grief and rage colliding. The feeling I had when I heard about a member of our community being kidnapped was the feeling I had when I heard about a bomb striking my cousin's neighborhood was the feeling I had when I heard about a school being bombed in iran was the feeling I had when I heard someone was murdered while doing ice watch on my old block. While this is all a feeling, I hope it also speaks to the ways in which all of our struggles against empire are intertwined. I believe that was James Baldwin's sentiment when he first wrote these words voicing his opposition to the vietnam war, describing how his own experience as a Black man in america laid the white supremacist logic of the u.s. empire bare. Here is a more full version of the quote:

Let us attempt to face the fact that we are a racist society, racist to the very marrow, and we are fighting a racist war. No black man in chains in his own country, and watching the many deaths occurring around him every day, believes for a moment that America cares anything at all about the freedom of Asia. My own condition, as a black man in America, tells me what Americans really feel and really want, and tells me who they really are. And therefore, every bombed village is my home town.

All my love to those fighting this dying empire. In the same breath we pray for its end, I can hear a new world on the tips of our tongues.



It's Our One Year Anniversary!

Join us to celebrate one year of local, people-powered movement journalism.

We are throwing a benefit show to fundraise for newsprint and to launch our sister project radio station!

Come meet the crew, learn about organizations that will be tabling, write a birthday card for Mumia Abu Jamal, and stay for a comedy show / punk show double feature!

Comedy: 7-8pm

Music: 8:30pm

Dark Pine Coffee / April 18th

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Listen to the Nurses: *Understanding the PeaceHealth Transition from the Compassionate Voices at the Center of this Crisis*

By: Cypher

By now many have heard that PeaceHealth is not renewing its contract with the Eugene Emergency Physicians, who make up the staff of the ERs in three Lane County hospitals, including RiverBend. More difficult to parse out is why and how this is happening, and what defenses are available to the community. This requires a deeper look at corporations' profit incentives to leech off of healthcare systems, and a critical eye to understand exactly who will be losing the most in what is scheduled to be a major disturbance to the entire fabric of Willamette Valley's emergency medicine on July 1st.

What's happening?

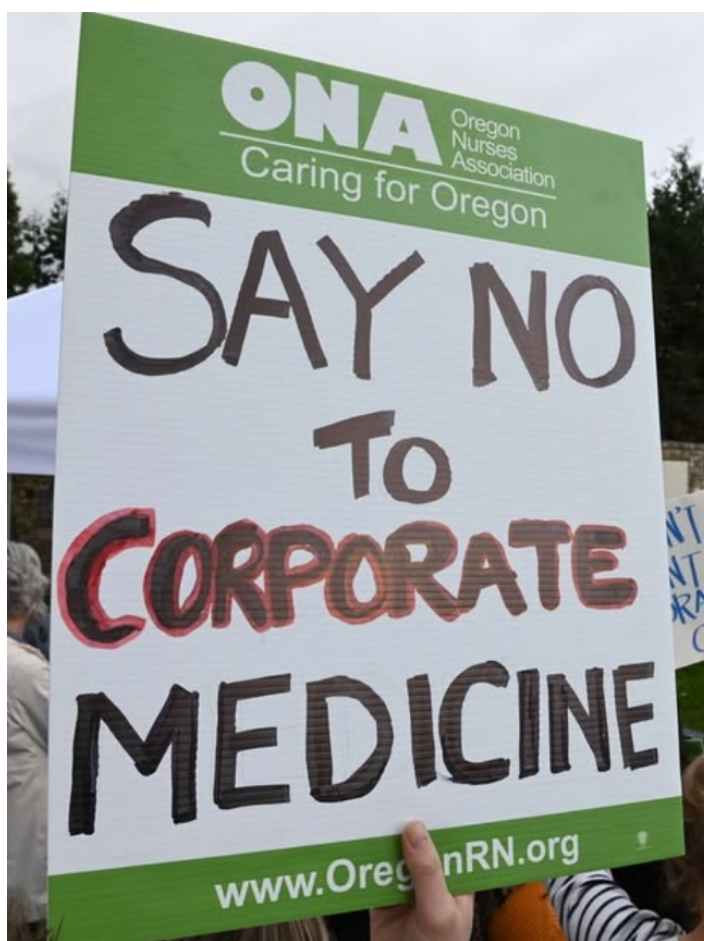
Over the last few decades, corporations have increasingly edged their way into profiting off of the sick and dying through contract management groups (CMGs) and management service organizations (MSOs), third-party companies that handle emergency room's 24/7 staffing, billing services, and business administration for a cut of the profits. Currently, more than half of all emergency physicians in the US are employed by these third-party companies; and many physicians report when these management groups signed contracts with hospitals that employ them, they lost autonomy and patient care declined. By design, these models introduce new greedy recipients of profit - CEOs, administrative staff, stockholders - without introducing new sources of revenue, which motivates them to cut costs, reduce physician pay, and pressure ERs to be more efficient (often sacrificing quality of patient care) in order to cut their own paychecks.

For the past 35 years, PeaceHealth has staffed the only Level II trauma center between Portland and Roseburg, RiverBend Hospital, by contracting with "Eugene Emergency Physicians" (EEP) a small physician-owned and self-managed group of local doctors. With EEP holding the contract, our physicians make their own informed decisions about our community's healthcare and they don't have to cater to external interests that inevitably result in the trends described above. Without explanation or warning, on February 3rd, PeaceHealth Chief Hospital Executive Jim McGovern announced he will not renew the contract with EEP when it ends on July 1st, and instead will replace it with a contract with an Atlanta-based MSO, ApolloMD.

Due to the 2023 closure of University District Hospital, combined with Eugene/Springfield's aging population, RiverBend's patient numbers are at a record high and ER wait times have been steadily increasing. But it seems only Jim McGovern and the corporate stakeholders who will profit off of this decision think a partnership with ApolloMD is the appropriate solution. PeaceHealth executives have insisted ApolloMD is not a private equity firm, despite records that show it was backed by private equity interest ValorBridge up until one year ago.

Although ApolloMD has obscured its financial profile, the available public record reveals a clear trend of cutting corners whenever possible to improve profits, to the detriment of its employees and patients. In 2016, the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission sued ApolloMD for the discriminatory firing of a doctor due to his disability. Shortly after, one doctor that had worked for ApolloMD for eight years brought a lawsuit against them for medicare fraud, accusing them of a pattern of intentionally misrepresenting the care patients had received in order to bill their insurance for more. A judge substantiated these claims in 2021 by denying ApolloMD's motion to dismiss.

ApolloMD's obsession with cutting costs has also drawn in AI technology ventures vying to profit off the sick and dying too. On its website, ApolloMD brags that its recent partnership with CleoHealth is "one of the largest deployments of AI-powered clinical documentation technology in emergency medicine". Yet Cleo Health's short track record reveals its own predatory nature, most notably through a court-ordered 17 million dollar payout to consumers who proved in federal court that Cleo Health was



"preying on the poor people that need a helping hand."

Will ApolloMD really be able to do this?

ApolloMD's entry into the community of Eugene Springfield is the perfect test for Oregon law SB 951, a law passed last year in order to prevent this exact kind of sudden corporate takeover. The president of the American Academy of Emergency Medicine, Robert Frolichstein, called on Oregon state officials to evaluate the contract with ApolloMD in the context of SB 951, explaining how the law was designed to "prohibit ownership of a medical practice by physicians with a significant stake in the management-services organizations (MSOs)."

Meanwhile, ApolloM has been emphasizing its image as a "physician-owned company", operating under CEO Yogin Patel who is a graduate of UO and has a license to practice in Oregon (along with 10 other states). ApolloMD went so far as to create a new "local" corporation, Lane Emergency Physicians LLC. In order to feign compliance with these Oregon state laws that protect against outside corporations pushing out physician-run medicine, ApolloMD established this LLC the same day the contract with ApolloMD was announced; arguing that this LLC, with an Atlanta-based physician as the sole owner, would serve as primary decision-maker on clinical matters, with ApolloMD simply offering administrative support. Former Oregon representative Marty Wile explains this structure is "commonly used in the industry to give a management company [like ApolloMD] effective operational control while maintaining the appearance of physician ownership."

Governor Tina Kotek has asked PeaceHealth and ApolloMD to delay the proposed transition by six months, and a group of other Oregon representatives published a letter asking PeaceHealth to submit the transition for review for compliance with SB 951.

The local government's response to ApolloMD's intrusion in our community follows PeaceHealth medical staff's prompt and coordinated resistance. In just a few weeks following McGovern's announcement, 93% of PeaceHealth medical staff voted "no confidence" in PeaceHealth executive leadership, and supported restoring the contract with EEP. On the same day, all 41 of the physicians and physician assistants of Eugene Emergency Physicians signed a pledge not to work for ApolloMD for 90 days.

Various medical staff at the RiverBend ER report that physicians and nurses have tried proposing their own innovative solutions to the ER overwhelm crisis to PeaceHealth management. Again and again, physicians have been dismissed or ignored. This decision to contract with ApolloMD - without any forewarning or opportunity to challenge that decision - is the final straw for most doctors. ApolloMD recruiters began calling the doctors working in the RiverBend ER to offer them the jobs they currently hold, with contracts for \$50/hr less than their current wages, but none of them have accepted an offer. Many are already finding other jobs, making it unlikely RiverBend ER will have any of its experienced physicians at any point in this transition.

What is PeaceHealth's incentive?

In the face of doctors, nurses, community members, representatives, and the governor all begging him to reconsider, Jim McGovern has refused to change his mind and failed to produce any reason for replacing EEP other than a vague gesture to ApolloMD having "more resources". Although PeaceHealth's decision to contract with ApolloMD is a new, distinctly horrifying level of misalignment with what our community needs, it has been foreshadowed by many profit-motivated decisions by PeaceHealth in the last handful of years. At the end of 2023 when PeaceHealth shut down University District, Eugene's only hospital, its defense was that it just couldn't make enough money with a patient population that was too poor and too uninsured. PeaceHealth

Photo courtesy of @oregonnurses on Instagram

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The Court That Left No Record

By: Jackson

Tell someone that a court in the United States of America conducted proceedings with no official record — no transcript, no documented findings, no preserved account of what the judge said or did— and watch their face.

They squint. They ask you to repeat it. Some of them laugh, the nervous kind, the laugh that means ‘that can’t be right.’ And then you explain it again. Same words. And they still look at you like you’re the one who’s confused.

You’re not missing something. The court was.

For as long as anyone can document— certainly for the duration of my time fighting the City of Eugene and its approach to the people it would rather not see— Eugene Municipal Court was what Oregon law calls a court of no record. No transcript. No preserved proceedings. If you wanted to appeal a decision, you didn’t appeal the decision. You started over. A de novo review in front of the circuit court, which retries the case from scratch as though whatever happened below never officially existed.

Which, legally, it didn’t.

Think about what that means. Not in the abstract. In the specific.

The specific is this: Eugene has a houseless population. Eugene also has a robust collection of ordinances designed to make houselessness as uncomfortable and legally precarious as possible: camping restrictions, park use rules, trespass citations, curfew violations at public plazas that the city designates as free speech zones with one hand and then puts a bedtime on with the other. The people swept up under these ordinances cycle through Eugene Municipal Court constantly. They arrive without lawyers, without resources, often without stable footing in any sense of the word. They face a judge. The judge rules. And then, regardless of what was said, what arguments were raised, what rights were invoked and dismissed, the record of that proceeding simply does not exist.

What the law does provide is a de novo retrial, your case heard fresh by a circuit court judge as though the proceeding below never occurred. That is a form of redress. It is not a review of what happened in the proceeding below. The judge’s conduct, the rulings on your objections, the specific way the law was applied to you on that day— none of it is documented. None of it exists to appeal. You cannot challenge a judge’s application of the law in your specific case if the law was applied in a room that left no official account of itself. The only available constitutional challenge was to the ordinance itself; not to how it was being used against you, in that room, on that day, in ways that may have had nothing to do with the law as written. That kind of accountability—

specific, documented, judicial accountability for what a judge actually did— did not exist in Eugene Municipal Court. The no-record status wasn’t incidental to how power operated in that courtroom. It was how power operated in that courtroom.



I accumulated over \$10,000 in fines finding this out. I stood before that court more times than I care to number. I stood before the Eugene City Council and asked, explicitly, for transparency at the municipal court. I worked with the Civil Liberties Defense Center to challenge the constitutionality of a curfew imposed at the Wayne Morse Free Speech Plaza, a name that deserves a long, slow read if the irony hasn’t landed yet. The Oregon Supreme Court declined to hear the case. My conviction stood. And the court I had stood in kept no record of any of it.

I am not telling you this for sympathy. I am telling you this because last week , February 24, 2026, the Eugene City Council voted to change it.

The city’s stated reason was administrative efficiency. Making the municipal court a court of record, they said, will reduce a backlog of misdemeanor cases before the Lane County Circuit Court. Too many people were exercising their right to de novo appeal, and the bottleneck upstream was getting unmanageable. The solution: give the municipal court an actual record so that appeals address what happened in the proceeding below, rather than bypassing it entirely.

That is a legitimate reason. It is also not the most important reason.

The most important reason is that a court which keeps no record of its proceedings is, by definition, a court that cannot be held accountable for them. In a country where equal protection under the law is the foundational promise, not the exception, running a court on the theory that its proceedings leave no official trace is not a technicality. It is a structural decision about who deserves accountability and who does not. The people who cycled through Eugene Municipal Court on camping citations and trespass tickets and curfew violations were not wealthy defendants with constitutional lawyers on retainer. They were, in the main, the people the city had decided it could afford not to

protect.

The court kept no record. The city retained no obligation to answer for what happened there. Oregon created the mechanism to change that in 2007. Eugene never filed.

One thing I want to be precise about. The February 24th vote does not undo what the court failed to preserve over the years it operated without a record. It does not restore the proceedings that evaporated. It does not reach back and give voice to the people who stood before a judge, made their arguments in good faith, and watched those arguments disappear into a room that left no official account of itself. That work, the people who showed up anyway, who fought the unconstitutional camping bans and the park suspensions and the curfews at the free speech plazas, who accumulated fines in five figures demanding that the rule of law apply to them as it applied to everyone else— that work happened without a record. It will not appear in any archive.

The vote came 27 months after I died. I did not see it. The arguments I made in that court still do not exist on paper. What I know is that the court had a chance to preserve them and chose, for its entire operational life, not to.

But the vote happened. And that matters, not because it vindicates anything, because accountability is not vindication— but because the city has now acknowledged, in the plainest possible bureaucratic terms, that the people who appear before its court deserve a record of what happens to them there. That is a low bar. It is also a bar that Eugene Municipal Court was not clearing before last Tuesday.

And Eugene is not the only place this is happening. Oregon has more than two hundred incorporated cities. Of those, exactly nine municipal courts have ever filed the declaration with the Oregon Supreme Court that makes them courts of record. Nine. The state capital, Salem, is not among them. Bend is not among them. Across Oregon, the default condition of a municipal court is no transcript, no preserved findings, no official account of what happened to the person who stood before the judge and tried to argue their rights. The people cycling through those courts on camping citations and park exclusions and trespass tickets are standing in the same room I stood in. Making the same arguments into the same absence. Eugene, until last Tuesday, was one of more than two hundred thirty Oregon cities where that absence was the rule. It is now, slowly, bureaucratically, for reasons of administrative efficiency the city found more compelling than the rights of defendants becoming the exception.

It is not enough.

Photo courtesy of Keven Salazar— published in the Eugene Weekly Feb 2024.

Story submitted by Eric Jackson’s son, writing from his father’s perspective and memory. Eric Jackson (1966-2023) was a local advocate for the unhoused.

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Minneapolis organizers started planning the Feb 25 - March 1 week of action, Bring the Heat, Melt the Ice, just three weeks before it began. They put out the call for people to come through, out-of-towners and locals alike, to learn together and keep up momentum in light of the so-called 'drawdown' (reduction in numbers) of ICE presence and the conclusion of Operation Metro Surge on Feb 12.

Bring the Heat, Melt the ICE

I was personally so grateful for what I learned during the week, particularly from trainings on patrolling (scouting for and tailing ICE agents by car, bike, or on foot), rides coordination, and How to Run a Rapid Response Communications System. There were also trainings and discussions on Tenant Organizing, Mutual Aid Practices from the Occupation, Block ICE Block Parties, Eviction Defense is Community Defense, Caring for Spontaneous Public Memorials After State Violence, Workplace Organizing, Patrolling to Support Restaurant Workers and Patrons, Wide Awakes (how to intervene where ICE sleeps), Schools & Mutual Aid, Free Palestine & Melt ICE, and so much more.

Ricardo Levins Morales led a session called "Two Rising Tides: a Movement Discussion" where he offered his brilliance and gave historical grounding for the moment, paying homage to the long legacy of Minneapolis movement-building, from the George Floyd Uprising and police abolition work to the American Indian Movement to farmworker and labor organizing. This, as well as a teach-in on the History of Chican@/x Struggle Against the Deportation Regime, offered important centering of historical

Another big focus of the week of action was to plug out-of-towners into local rapid response networks. Over a dozen neighborhood groups created infrastructure for welcoming us on ride-alongs and walking patrols, so that we could both learn from and support folks patrolling. In addition to coordinating ride-alongs, a group from NE/SE also offered trainings and more context on how they organize in their neighborhoods (more on that later). Once we got oriented, we could then continue patrolling throughout the week.

It was helpful to hear from a panel from the Bay, Chicago, and Southern MN, who spoke to their own experiences resisting ICE. They underlined the importance of sharing information across broader regions, especially in areas where ICE presence has been relatively more spread out than in Minneapolis. Organizers found it critical to work inter-regionally to map out ICE infrastructure, staging, and hot spots of activity. In Chicago, strategic mapping work led communities to establish community defense hubs (or centros) at day laborer corners and other locations that ICE agents target more frequently, where they could then build relationships and deter ICE proactively. In the Bay, people scouting for ICE vehicles in surrounding counties learned 4 days ahead of time that CBP agents were going to stage at the Coast Guard facilities in Alameda, which allowed protestors to be better prepared to show up and shut it down.

The (Building) Blocks

There are a number of write-ups describing the rapid response and mutual aid networks in the Twin Cities, as well as rent and general strike organizing, blockades and block parties, autonomous zones

Overall, one thing I really wanted to emphasize is the sheer scale of how many people are actively involved and out in the streets in Minneapolis. During the height of the surge, there were people at the ready to respond to ICE on nearly every block, in

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Anarchists from the Twin Cities share their experiences building rapid response networks, explore how Minnesota thwarted Operation Metro Surge, and draw out lessons about how to defeat fascism.



CrimethInc.



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!



Ask An Abolitionist

dissonanttimes.org/ask-an-abolitionist/



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.



Amber Fitts: Request for Continued Support

By: dime reid

Amber Fitts, longtime resident of Eugene, Oregon, and advocate for the unhoused, is being held in Idaho. She was arrested in June of 2025 and is seeking support. Amber would love to receive letters, and funds for commissary and legal fees.

Amber 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."

Personal Update:
More than anything, Amber misses Eugene and her community. And she is bored! The cell block she is on does not have a functioning remote for the TV, and there is very little entertainment. She attends an optional class once per week, and is otherwise mostly unoccupied. She is eager to return 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.

Legal Update:
On October 10-27-25, Amber received a seven-month sentence. On May 22nd, she will appear before a judge to be evaluated and sentenced. They will determine if she can be released on parole, transferred to an Oregon prison, or remain in Idaho.

Financial Support: If you're able to help her out with commissary funds and legal fees, venmo Dissonant times: @dissonanttimes, and put "Amber" in the description.

Letters: Write to Amber about what's going on in town - she loves stories, gossip and news! If possible, include something entertaining, such as comics, a crossword, etc.

Address mail to:
Amber Fitts 163517
South Idaho Correctional Institute
PO Box 8509
Boise Idaho 83707

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



"Oregon Burning" State of Oregon vs Brian "Hakiym" Simpson



attempted to strip it away. Those who have worked alongside me who have already spoken out about the deeper issues surrounding this case, including a culture where racism, and discrimination were present [and?] tolerated. This context matters because it shows that what happened to me did not occur in isolation. In many ways I have become an ember in the darkness. An ember does not look like much at first glance. Give it oxygen, truth and collective action it can ignite transformation.

Through my writing and poetry I am doing exactly that, keeping the spirit of resistance against oppression alive. The fire in my soul refuses to be extinguished. This case is a call to look closer, to ask the harder questions. To refuse complacency. If justice can falter here, it can falter anywhere. If one voice from behind prison walls, one ember in the darkness can spark transformative change, then what can you achieve with the fire inside of you?

All power to the people! for the people are power.

By Hakiym Sha'ir

Needs:

- 1.) Money donated for legal fees, commissary
- 2.) Books: *Shattered Sea* trilogy by Joe Abercrombie and/or books about Sufism
- 3.) Letters & pictures to combat the isolation prison is designed for
- 4.) Spread the word about this case to media outlets and local politicians / state reps
- 5.) Write directly to the governor for clemency
- 6.) Sign the petition: change.org/p/a-heroic-black-firefighter-is-jailed-after-racist-assault-in-oregon-help-free-hakiym-today

Brian “Hakiym” Simpson (ODOC #27433390)

Snake River Correctional Institution

777 Stanton Blvd.

Ontario, OR 97914

No Years in Prison for Broken Windows

A statement by Eugene Jail Support to all members of the ICE OUT protest community:

Spurred on by ICE's increasing activity, including the state sanctioned murders of Renee Good and Alex Pretti, Eugene has given nearly 2 months of sustained resistance against the surge of Trumps fascist government. We have protested in solidarity with all those at risk of being targeted by ICE, those resisting in Minneapolis, those sentenced to prison for resisting in Prairieland, Texas, and especially those who have been kidnapped and imprisoned in detention centers. We have confronted the federal forces (ICE, DHS, Border Patrol and BORTAC) that are occupying our town locally. We applaud the multitudes of people from all sectors of society that have come out to the streets. Healthcare workers, labor unions, students, youth, raging grannies, singers, musicians, anarchists, communists, socialists and all kinds of everyday anti-fascists have given their contribution to the struggle. This is what the beginnings of a thriving community of resistance looks like. We must continue and grow in this way, pushing through discomfort and embracing bravery and action in the face of state repression.

After more than 2 months of protest, our community is now under investigation by both the FBI and EPD. Repression is an expected consequence of powerful social movements, but it means we must learn new behaviors and practices to keep every member of our movement safe. Every bit of information the police learn about who or how someone was involved, who dislikes who, or what happened at the protest last week will be used against the entire movement, and that makes the situation more dangerous for everyone. A culture of non-cooperation with law enforcement across the board is an absolute necessity that we will need now, and in the years to come. This means many things, but the most important one is making a commitment to yourself and to all of the other people in this movement that you will not share any information with local police or the FBI under any circumstances. Remember that speaking to law enforcement, even if it appears to be a friendly chat, gives them more information, evidence, and gossip that can hurt all of our communities. It is best to simply not speak to them.



It is important to remember that standing against ICE and federal fascism also means standing against the FBI. The FBI works for the Trump administration as their investigative arm, and exists to achieve its goal of suppressing resistance to the federal government. Equally as harmful to our movement, EPD and other local police collaborate with the FBI and dedicate their efforts to suppressing protest, which inevitably helps the government quash dissent. Whatever your thoughts about law enforcement generally, if you oppose fascism in the government, these law enforcement agencies are not on your team. They exist to slow you down, stamp you out, scare you and possibly imprison you or your comrades.

Though we may not always agree with each others tactics, it is important that we embrace a diversity of tactics and understand that we will only win if we use every tool and tactic at our disposal. What could we accomplish if we all channeled our fight towards those creating these atrocities, instead of others who prefer to contribute to the resistance in a different way? Across the world and across time, movements for liberation have marched peacefully in the streets, and they also have all had factions who take more direct, militant and confrontational actions. Labor unions burnt down factories to get us the 8 hour workday, anti fascist youth destroyed Gestapo stations during the rise of Nazi Germany, Black led riots against the police and racist laws dominated the Long Hot Summer of 1967 during the civil rights movement. The examples are endless and they are global, and they prove that resistance movements don't win if we stop each other from trying everything. As Diane DiPrima said, "No one way works, it will take all of us shoving from all sides to bring it down."

On a practical level, what is being asked of you is that you do not talk to law enforcement of any kind about protests. Do not call in information to FBI tip lines, do not accept cash bribes as snitch money, do not answer questions if you are called, door knocked, interrogated or arrested. Do not let them into your home. Speak with your friends about how you can keep each other safe through non-cooperation. Develop non-cooperation policies/expectations within your organizations. The choice to remain silent and not cooperate is a constitutionally protected choice. You have the right to refuse to answer any question posed to you by law enforcement. It is perfectly legal to say "I don't want to talk to you" or "I am going to remain silent" if you are questioned. Perfectly normal to walk away.

Remember when someone breaks a window, or when someone waves a sign on the street corner, they are protesting the severe state violence of ICE detentions, family separation, murder of protesters in the street, and deportations. Remember that's what you are protesting too. Stay on the same team. Work together. Don't cooperate with law enforcement.

XOXO, Eugene Jail Support

You can reach Eugene Jail Support at 541-515-5721

POLITICAL PRISONER LETTER

WRITING

WANDERING GOAT

1-3pm

Sunday
March 29th

Jail Sit
Supply
Drive

Bring:

- Tobacco/
Cigs
- Socks
- Bags/Backpacks
- non-perishable
snacks/drinks
- Hygiene/first aid
items
- Shoes
- lighters
- Bus Passes

@the dissonant
times Benefit
Show

April 18th

Dark Pine
Coffee, 7pm

Jail Sit Supply Drive

Bring: tobacco, socks,
bags/backpacks, non-
perishable snacks/drinks,
hygiene/first aid items,
shoes, lighters, bus passes

Where: Dissonant Times
Benefit Show / Dark Pine
Coffee

When: April 18th, 7pm



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.

Mutual Aid Classifieds

The Mutual Aid Classifieds is a compilation of requests from local groups that provide material aid and support throughout town. Read about how people are taking care of each other, and how you could participate!

What is Mutual Aid? Mutual Aid is, simply put, neighbors taking care of neighbors, founded on the principle that "We take Care of Us". Those best positioned to support each other are the ones close by. We exchange resources and services for collective benefit to overcome social, economic, and political barriers to meeting our most essential needs. Mutual aid can include physical resources like food, clothing, or medicine, as well as emotional and mental health care and skills and education.

By taking responsibility for caring for one another, we all become safer and happier, changing political conditions through inter-reliance.

Here are the descriptions of the organizations, how to get involved, and the ways they could use more support:

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! 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, 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. They try to be out there Fridays from 2-5pm, and Mondays 2-5pm, but it depends on who's available. They could use in-kind donations of snacks, cigarettes, hygiene supplies, bags/backpacks and bottled water. Cold weather clothes and supplies welcome! Email Dissonant Times to get connected.

Free Skool Eugene: A group coordinating free classes

and skill shares by and for the community! (Read More). Free Skool activities are always free and everyone is welcome to join! They would love to have more instructors willing to share their knowledge and skills by teaching a FreeSkool class! They are also looking for locations to host a class. Upcoming class: Build a Feminist Toolkit, April 18th at 11am @ the Growers Market. Contact via email or instagram. freeskooleugene@gmail.com or on Instagram @eugenefreeskool.

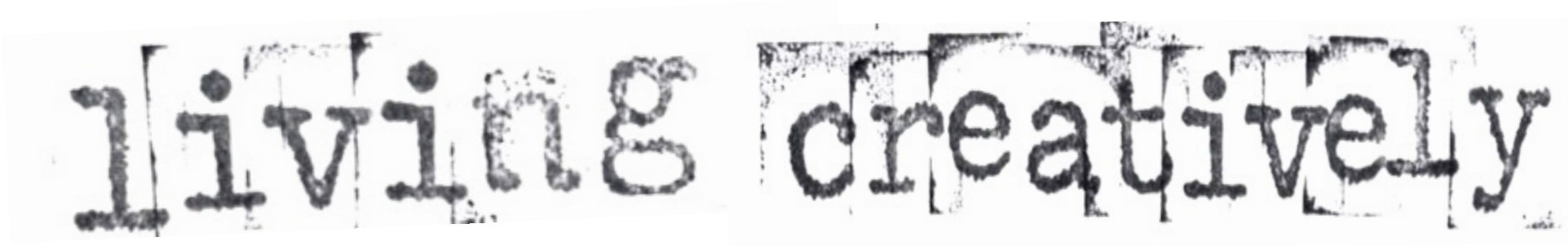
Barefoot Defenders: BFD distributes food directly to where people are staying outside. They can use blankets, tents, propane tanks, tarps, and canned food. These can be delivered to 4446 Cascade Ct. For questions or to join distribution : Reach out on facebook or instagram: @barefoodefenders

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

Solidarity Garden: A guerilla garden on the corner of 15th and Washington, near the rear gate to the fairgrounds. Food and flowers planted by neighbors, and available to all! Join a garden work party on Sunday 10-12am, or just come to harvest and say hi. Gardeners would also welcome a musician to play tunes while they work. Reach out by coming by!

Food Not Bombs: A group that feeds people at the Park blocks on Fridays starting at 4pm. FNB is looking for financial donations to purchase food and survival supplies. Donate on Venmo: @fnbeugene - Reach out via IG or email: eugenefoodnotbombs@proton.me

To have your own project or support request featured in future issues, email: editor@dissonanttimes.org



On The Usefulness of Poetry

By: shxr

If gaza is the soul of Palestine,The west bank is the heart,
And both are bleeding,
Both are in a state of shock,
Tractors across their veins,
Their arteries poisoned,
Their airwaves struggling for life.

Maybe the time for poetry is dead,
Buried in a mass grave
Along with the doctors and ambulances,
I can't keep up with the slaughters
And the evil of zionist cowards
Hiding behind their military power.

A poem cannot supply the resistance
With equal might, with a navy, an army,
Bombs to retaliate,
To shake the fuckers off the land,
A poem can't do most things
Like land a stone right between the eyes
Of an arrogant Brooklyn settler,

(((Oh no, not another headline of the barbarity of the arab,
here come the blood thirsty victims raping children)))

In the name of jewish safety,
And national security-

A poem is not a tank,
Nor is it a victim,
It is not a baby miraculously pulled
From the rubble,
Because that cry,
That shriek in the face of erasure
Is why we gather,
Why we fight

And why you can never tell me that
There is nothing to fight for.
A poem cannot resuscitate
The martyrs,
It cannot build a world
Where all children are playing in the sun,
Not under rockets and snipers,
But under the caring gaze of elders,
It cannot do a lot of things,
But it can imagine in a time
When even to imagine is an act of resistance.
It can say for all with ears to hear,

"I will not remain silent.
I will not obey or comply.

I will witness and I will not forget the crimes and i will haunt
zionists - as long as I live, and as long as a poem has wings -
I will traverse time."

That, dear friends, is what a poem can do.

Hole-y Socks

By: M.W. Farnsworth

I feel worn out;
Like a holey sock,
Sunday's best, never fails the test,
May expose some toe, or flash some heel,
If you don't like it;
Then you gotta learn to deal!

I'll never throw out my worn out foot sweaters,
I'll wear them in the rain;
And while I stomp through the gutters,
Yelling guttural-ly
About how good it feels;
To feel like me!



every neighborhood. While it's hard to quantify, roughly 30,000 people were plugged into mutual aid and rapid response, particularly in hyperlocal contexts, organizing with neighbors living within just a few blocks of them.

Before the surge, the Twin Cities had set up a relatively centralized system where people would report ICE sightings to a hotline, and the hotline would disseminate that information out to rapid responders nearby. When the surge began in early December and ICE switched from large-scale raids to snatch-and-grabs that would take just a few minutes, this system was simply too slow and rigid. So people adapted. They created large Signal chats to coordinate neighborhood-level rapid response, and those chats then splintered off into coordinating people in smaller and smaller areas, down to the scale of a city block. More groups formed around protecting schools, places of worship, cultural centers, businesses, and other places ICE was targeting. Patrollers went out by car, bike, and on foot. A group maintained a presence at the federal building and reported to the community what ICE vehicles were coming in and out each day.

Eyes were everywhere, and people were interconnected and active on such a scale that their response time to active ICE presence is under 2 minutes.

Organizing on a smaller scale in autonomous, de-centralized groups naturally allows for more trust-building, a critical component for organizing mutual aid when the surge forced many to shelter in place. This smaller scale model also allows for different groups to form sets of agreements and systems that are unique to their specific contexts and desires, which helps engage more people while shoring up the community as a whole against repression and infiltration. That underlying principle of valuing diversity of organizing styles and tactics (while not policing each other) comes in handy on a number of fronts, allowing people to be more nimble, keep ICE agents on their toes, and escalate effectively (check out They Escalate, We Escalate).

The Neighborhoods (Communication)

So how does everyone stay in communication with each other? It's time to give some love to the neighborhood dispatchers. Dispatchers fill a number of roles, from coordinating ICE sighting verifications, to relaying information on sightings to all the relevant chats, to coordinating daily neighborhood Signal calls with patrollers (by car, bike, and on foot). On those daily Signal calls (in chats that were created anew every day), dispatchers provide guidance and information to patrollers, help with plate checks in the ICE plate database, manage information flow, and overall try to be a grounded, calming presence to help people through traumatizing situations (and coordinate aftercare).

A team of folks put together much of this dispatch system, building off what they'd learned from comrades in Chicago. They trained and vetted over 1000 people on their Dispatchers Handbook over the course of the surge. They updated the handbook as they went, and adapted constantly in real time. One adaptation was establishing a "Relay" chat, where dispatchers from different neighborhoods could be in easier contact with each other. When an ICE vehicle drives through different neighborhoods, the Relay chat can coordinate hand offs between patrollers following them. They use the "CSALUTER" acronym — a variation on SALUTE, where the "C" stands for "Concerned Community" and the "R" stands for "Response Requested" — to share reports with each other in Relay and other chats.

Overall, the goal is not to have dispatchers calling the shots. Although of course some people police each other or try to take control. Nothing about this system is perfect, and I feel like that's kinda the point. That's what really inspired me, actually. That it seemed to be just a lot of dedicated, smart people with a variety of skills making mistakes and learning together, imperfectly.

Another big part of the birds-eye-view communication structure is the data collection team, a group who collects and aggregates city-wide data about ICE abductions and interactions. It's this same data gathering work, alongside a culture of having frequent, in-person gatherings and trainings throughout the surge, that helps people continue to learn from each other, crowd source information, try new things, make mistakes, deepen trust, and adapt more quickly.

A key ingredient in how this scaled up so quickly is how, in general, people were welcomed in. That's not to say that every group chat is open to everyone. Different groups have different vetting and onboarding practices, especially in mutual aid and ride-sharing groups, and among dispatchers. But the larger neighborhood groups (one neighborhood had thousands of people spread out over multiple chats, what they estimated was 5% of the population

there) tends to be pretty open to new people while having more vetting for working groups or specific roles. Overall the movement represents a lot of people coming together across political difference. There are still plenty of folks in different chats and community spaces keeping an eye out for infiltrators, chuds, and the like, and looking out for patterns of bad behavior. And when more people knew their neighbors, and more people were paying attention, this work became easier.

Finally, whistles! Whistles were another gift from Chicago, which people started using during Operation Midway Blitz. These are an excellent form of communication. You can use them to Stay Loud, Form a Crowd, alert people around you to different kinds of ICE activity, and intimidate agents while you're at it. Plus you look like you're a cool person with cool values when you wear one, and they help create a deeper sense of city-wide unity. I heard so many stories of people using whistles to stop ICE abductions. Whistles are highly effective at drawing people together for power in numbers, while building a deeper sense of community belonging and inspiring courageous action.

The 'Drawdown' & What Comes Next

One of the main messages I heard again and again was that the 'drawdown' is a misnomer, a messaging tactic designed to outmaneuver the resistance. For some context — the end of Metro Surge came just days after Alex Pretti's murder, coinciding with Bovino (mostly likely) being fired as head of ICE leadership in Minneapolis and Homan stepping in. Homan has been switching out the self-described 'turn and burn' tactics Bovino used in Los Angeles, Chicago, and Minneapolis for a strategy that is just as cruel, but with different optics: secrecy, and reliance on institutional cooperation (such as with local jails).

Since early Dec, the surge had brought thousands of federal agents to the Twin Cities, at times upwards of 4000, operating at a scale and magnitude unlike anywhere in the country. ICE had kidnapped thousands of people, snatching black and brown people off the street, shooting Julio Sosa-Celis and murdering Renée Good and Alex Pretti in broad daylight, and using every intimidation tactic in the playbook. While they are operating somewhat more under cover and moving outward from the core metro to the surrounding suburbs, there are still around 2000 agents in the region. They are continuing to act as a blatantly racist, occupying force. They are continuing this country's legacy of slave-catchers, now with fancy tech, surveillance, and the bloated 21st-century apparatus of the prison, police, and military industrial complex at their backs.

Many in the Twin Cities took the end of Metro Surge as a win, as a testament to the power they'd built together. At the same time, many I talked to were worried about ICE watch and mutual aid networks losing momentum and getting less national support. And people will never forget that their friends, family, and neighbors are still being held in cages, and that the kidnapping hasn't stopped.

While numbers are shifting with the 'drawdown,' the networks and connections folks have built seem to remain strong. People remain courageous, and determined to watch each other's backs. Many are focusing on building out labor organizing and eviction defense work, expanding networks of care beyond this moment, and tactics like filing habeas petitions to get people out of deportation holding. I have no idea what's going to happen next in Minneapolis, but something has fundamentally shifted in the political landscape there, and I doubt there's any going back.

Further Reading

- Dispatch, Please Advise! from the Red-Winged Blackbird collective
- Rapid Response Networks in the Twin Cities and From Rapid Response to Revolutionary Social Change
- Defend 612 - Resources
- Filter Blockades & Proliferation of Tactics in the Twin Cities: An Interview
- Rapid Response Networks (Live Like the World is Dying)
- Letter From Alex Pretti's Dispatcher
- "We Belong to Each Other Now": Lessons from Minneapolis - Kelly Hayes
- Minneapolis Responds to the Murder of Alex Pretti
- An Emergency Dispatch from Occupied Minneapolis: "Intense, Frightening, Surreal and Inspiring." (from How to Survive the End of the World)
- Our Neighbors in Minneapolis - Margaret Killjoy
- How to Set Up a Filter Blockade
- Confidence. Courage. Connection. Trust.
- How It Might Should Be Done - Idris Robinson
- <https://www.ice-map.org/>
- List of New and Proposed ICE Detention Centers Across the US

management told its staff the RiverBend patient load would increase 15-20% following the closure - in reality, nurses report it's been a 30-40% increase in patients.

Nurses explain that this surge in patients, especially in the wake of the provider crisis following the early years of the COVID pandemic, resulted in two primary factors responsible for the declining RiverBend ER: shortage of beds and a shortage of staff. Nurses report the provider-to-patient ratio is most often 4:1, even though due to recent Oregon laws that protect healthcare workers and patients, the ratio should be half as much for patients who need more intensive care. The 57 ER beds are almost always full, and it has become normalized to have 12-16 hall beds full of patients. This hallway bed set-up is precarious - there aren't enough monitors for the hallway, so these patients can't be synced up with the central system, so unless a nurse is standing right next to a patient, they won't know whose condition is worsening and who needs immediate care. Despite this dangerous set-up, McGovern has insisted the use of hallway beds can be depended on as a typical use of space and resources. As if this wasn't enough, McGovern's policies have also mandated the automatic receipt of all cardio and stroke patient transfers from surrounding facilities, regardless of RiverBend's ability to bed them. There's no contingency plan, no option for RiverBend staff to refuse these transfers - even if accepting them into the already-overwhelmed ER may pull nurses and resources away from other critical patients needing care.

Instead of an influx of beds and staff, which would address the true root cause in this crisis, RiverBend nurses have witnessed an escalating trend of cost-cutting measures that continue to compromise their quality of employment and patient care. Within the last six months, PeaceHealth has laid off 3% of its staff, including all overnight social workers and crisis workers, and all distribution staff, who managed and stocked equipment.

RiverBend admin has put increasing pressure on doctors to go faster and to see more patients, somehow twisting the culpability of a failing, commodified healthcare system onto the shoulders of the only people who directly provide the humanistic care. This is profit-driven medicine at its most dangerous. One experienced nurse explains, "kindness, compassion, and time to connect with a patient could be the difference between life & death."

How will this affect the community?

Many ER nurses are on the path to retirement or finding another job before all hell breaks loose in this transition. One nurse tells us to expect the ER to start "hemorrhaging nurses." When questioned about a plan to retain nurses in the ensuing chaos that his decision has caused, McGovern didn't have a response. But truly, the ER nurses are the only thing standing between us and total chaos. The emergency room requires a high level of collaboration and trust among doctors and nurses. Of course it's not perfect, but "it's a well-oiled machine", one nurse explains. It has taken decades to build up this kind of experience and cohesion in this high-paced environment.

Furthermore, emergency rooms are embedded in an ecosystem much broader than themselves - EMS, CAHOOTS, shelters and social service providers, memory care facilities, and more. Good patient care depends on knowledge of and relationships with local resources. Ignorance of these will impede this new wave of doctors' ability to transition care and support of their patients outside the ER.

Just three months before this massive transition, McGovern has not shared any plans with the ER staff as to how it is supposed to take place. Scheduled for July, one of the busiest months of the year, this transition will undoubtedly increase the staff's workload and ER wait times. Experienced nurses who are preparing to remain through this transition fear the higher risk of injuries and mistakes given the impossible pace and lack of resources, which they will likely be blamed for, and patients will likely suffer for.

What can we do?

The nurses who will be shouldering this transition encourage all community members to use their voices to speak out against PeaceHealth's contract change, and to keep the spotlight on these injustices. They ask the public to continue writing letters to representatives at state and national levels, and email Jim McGovern. Sign this petition, circulated by the Oregon Nurses Association (ONA): <https://fs22.formsite.com/nAjztM/thhpknqu2o/index> and follow the ONA nurses at RiverBend on instagram for continued ways to support them: <https://www.instagram.com/sacredheartnurses/>.

Have confidence in the doctors and nurses of the RiverBend ER. In the coming months, compassion and a little understanding for the hell that our nurses are about to endure will go a long way. While mismanagement and a lack of institutional support are usually driving causes of provider burnout, patients who fail to show their caretakers patience and humanity can also take a huge hit to morale. More than ever, our nurses need to know that we see them, we want them here, and we want them to have the support they need to succeed. Nurses and doctors say they are seeing their colleagues continue to give the best care they can, in spite of the policies and politics that are handed down to them. "If nursing is anything, it is overcoming obstacles. We are good at what we do, and we love each other and what we do."

Auntie Steph's Fab Vegan Recipes

Gazpacho

- 6 ripe tomatos (about 3lbs), chopped small
- 1 red onion, finely chopped
- 1 cucumber, peeled and chopped small
- 2 celery stalks, chopped small
- 3 cloves garlic, minced
- 2 cups tomato juice
- 1 15-oz can crushed tomatoes
- ¼ cup red wine vinegar
- ¼ cup olive oil
- 1 tablespoon lemon juice
- 1 tablespoon lime juice
- 1 teaspoon Worcestershire sauce
- 2 teaspoons sugar
- 1 jalapeno, chopped small
- Salt, pepper and Tabasco sauce to taste

1. Place all ingredients in a large bowl. Blend in processor or hand blender to desired smoothness (I prefer it chunky)

2. Adjust seasonings to taste with salt, pepper or Tabasco sauce.

3. Place in glass or other non-reactive containers (tomatoes are acidic). Chill at least 6 hours for flavors to blend.

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.

LOVE IS A CHALLENGE: WHAT I'VE LEARNED IN COMMUNITY

I believe in supportive community and want it, but community is one of the hardest things I've ever done. I'm going to come out and say that community is how people are supposed to live, and most "mental illnesses" are not diseases, but are actually the fruition of abuse and isolation.

I've lived in four different communities over the past ten years with my disabled spouse Ming. This is what I've learned.

needs

When I first show up in a community, it's important to look around and understand a place—I like to observe. But if I observe for too long without asserting my needs, some people will treat me like I'm a non-person. There's a window of time when I need to start speaking up.

Living in community, sharing a kitchen with brilliant, creative cooks, I learned how to make marinades for tofu and tempeh. In the oven right now I'm baking tofu direct from Eugene's local tofu factory. The marinade I stirred up is olive oil, sesame oil, quince jam that my spouse Ming and I made last year, lime juice, garlic, miso, tamari, and brown mustard. So divine!

Living in community has helped me connect with other communities nearby. It's fascinating to compare how each handles food, race, power, gender, queerness, money, decision making, germs and illness, sexual assault, and disability. I look at a place and ask, "How did it get this way?"

I'd love a master's degree in intentional communities. My thesis would be What We Say We Do vs What We Actually Do: Words That Hide Behavior in Community.

Also I love seeing all the gardens— we have such sprawling, lush, gorgeous gardens— and how Willamette Valley communities share resources and form alliances. I'd love more alliances.

roles

Tyrants are terrible, and I don't consider communities controlled by one or two people as actual communities. They're more like hobby farms or little kingdoms. But at least decisions get made!

It's a different kind of terrible trying to make fair decisions as a non-hierarchical group. Anxious, intelligent people who want to consider all the information can get so muddled in options that months down the line, they're further from a decision than ever. Sometimes the final decision is made in a rash way that no one is satisfied by, just to end the process which has become painful evidence of failure.

Some common roles in community are energetic positive youth, alcoholic artist, confident founder, den parent kitchen witch, overly employed person who's never home, long winded white guy, math person who controls the money, disabled activist, and generous baker.

Every community has bullies, or at least entitled people who grab power for their own benefit. There's no community I've ever lived in without bullies. The solution is not to give up on community; it's to learn how to interact with bullies in a way that defuses their harm. I try different strategies considering my own temperament, and it's difficult— a life-long experiment.

disability and shame

Living in community I've learned that many people who are disabled don't identify as disabled. They've been told all their lives, "You're just a fuckup," and believe that. Add substance abuse and

possible jail time to that mix, and many people give up on their own worth.

It's sad because they could use a reframe of, "Hey, you're not a fuckup— you're just different and have different needs, which is ok." But by the time someone is an adult, they might not be in a place to consider they're a valid person.

Others who are disabled don't identify because they associate disability with weakness. They think of blindness and mobility issues as "real disabilities." They believe culture's lie of disabled people as lesser than; they have no desire to identify with a group they consider unworthy. By not identifying as disabled, they miss out on resources that could improve their lives.

They might even oppose people like me who identify as disabled, shaming us with, "Why are you focusing on the negative?" They're hurting about their own struggle to appear abled. They work hard to pass as "normal" and think I should do the same.

wounds and conflict

Kind of how thin people who've starved themselves notice me loving myself and my fat body unconditionally, and might hate me for that. The feeling is, "How dare you love yourself, when I've spent my whole life trying not to look like you."

People get upset by an empowered world view when they're invested in their own shame. Or invested in their own supremacy, which is often shame turned on its head.

It scares me, how death transforms relationships. People who are complicated and difficult to support in community are easier to love once they die and don't need anything. It's heartbreaking to watch an outpouring of grief for someone when they die, and know that person needed that love when they were alive.

Living in community, we bring our wounds with us, including wounds from our families of origin. We replay old dramas with new people. Conflict is hell: few people are going to be fair, respectful, and considerate. It brings out the worst in us, but we have to try. Assault, noise, bathrooms, pets, children, and weed are hot topics for conflict.

love

Living in community I've learned how support can flow in any direction, and young people can mentor older people, especially around queerness and transness. I'll always be grateful to the youth I lived with at Walnut Street Cooperative for smiling at me as they saw my mustache grow, excited for me as I explored trans identities.

Celebrating winter holidays, making an ofrenda for Dia De Los Muertos, and Passover Seder together... Sharing special foods like quail eggs, amaranth, and a pretty vegan cake decorated with rosemary flower petals. Kind little jokes we repeat over the years, early morning kitchen moments, and irreverent drawings on the refrigerator white board.

Harvesting flowers from the garden summer mornings and arranging them in jars for the dining room table. Backyard bonfires, delicious cookies, divorce ritual, a beautiful ax, a strange basement with rocks in the floor and a seasonal creek... In community I've lived facts that are stranger than fiction.

As society further stratifies and safety nets shred, we need community in order to survive. We haven't been handed templates, but we can write our own. I'm bitter about the ways I've been hurt, but at least in community we're trying. I prefer the struggle of togetherness to the hell of isolation. Love is a challenge, but it's worth the work.

I'm grateful I've tried out new ways of being—community has transformed me. I'm grateful to love people I never would have chosen to be close to. But here we find ourselves thrown together, washing dishes, doing life, changing the world.



DISSONANT WEATHER

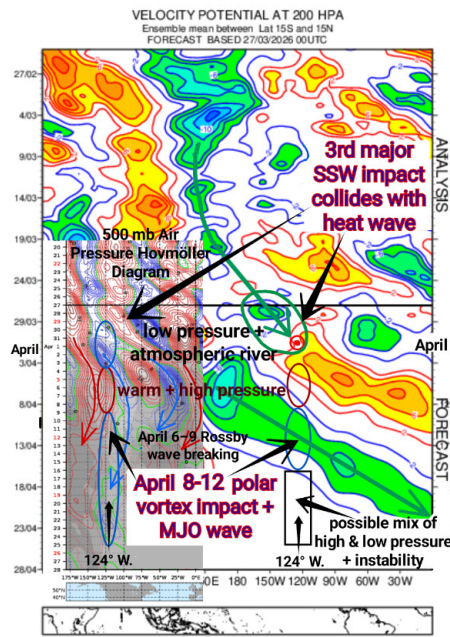
Meet our resident dissident meteorologist, Práise: “I bring a raised-poor, working class, and Native raised-white perspective to this work. I am Chickasaw and Cherokee and feel a deep love for animals, plants, trees, clouds, the night sky, gurgling brooks, the ocean, and our exquisite, unique, precious,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

QUICK SUMMARY

Temperatures will begin to drop this weekend. A strong atmospheric river arrives Tuesday night, March 31. Every other night this coming week could reach 29–38°, with patchy fog and frost on some nights.

The first half of April will probably be noticeably more rainy than the second half, but uncertainty increases by mid-April, partly because of an uncertain forecast of average global wind speeds.

FOUR WEEK FORECAST



A March 16–20 stratospheric polar vortex (SPV) disruption will begin to impact western Oregon by Sunday evening, March 29, accompanied by a very weak frontal system. I'm giving Sunday evening a ~25% chance of brief light showers, but we might not get ANY precipitation.

That same polar vortex impact has the potential to maintain generally colder than average temperatures through the coming week, possibly keeping temperatures subdued through next Friday, maybe

even Saturday, April 4. *Every other night for the next week could reach 29–38°. Patchy fog and frost are likely on the coldest nights, especially on Monday night.

Similar to last time, this SPV disruption will also be interrupted by a robust atmospheric river expected to arrive late Tuesday night, March 31. Total 60-hour rainfall could range from 1.00–1.35 inches.

20–25+ mph wind gusts are likely across parts of the south Willamette Valley on Wednesday, April 1st. And the high central Oregon Cascades could receive around 12 inches of SNOW, maybe more, with at least 6 inches at the pass levels.

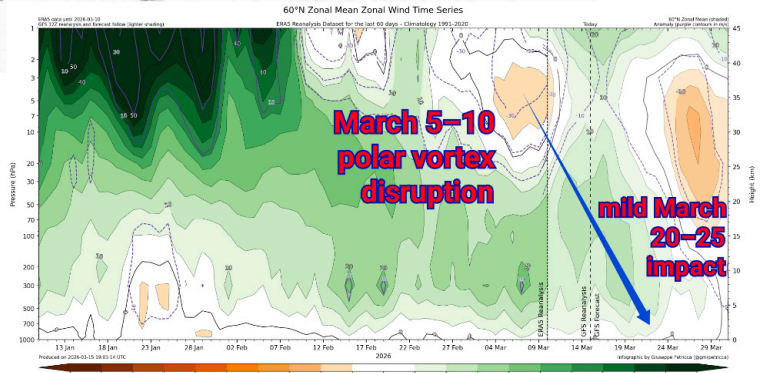
Post-frontal showers could linger through Thursday evening as the atmospheric river drops southeast, maintaining a colder, unsettled pattern overnight. Widely scattered showers should decrease late Thursday night into Friday morning, April 3, as high pressure and gradual clearing ensue.

A brief period of warmer, drier weather should begin next weekend, followed by Rossby wavebreaking and possibly quite a substantial period of colder, rainier weather.

Conditions will hopefully improve after April 15.

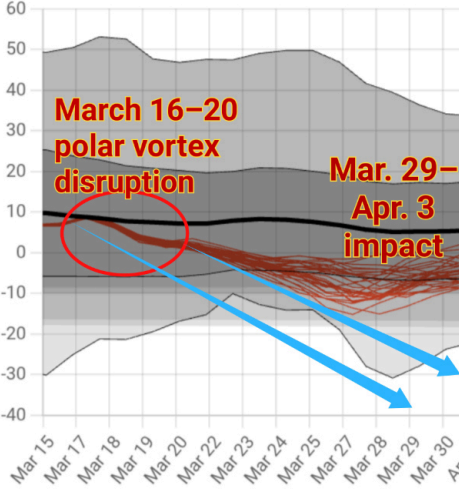
POLAR VORTEX FORECAST

A March 5–12 polar vortex (SPV) disruption almost blended into the most recent SPV disruption from March 16–20—BOTH of which combined to produce our THIRD major

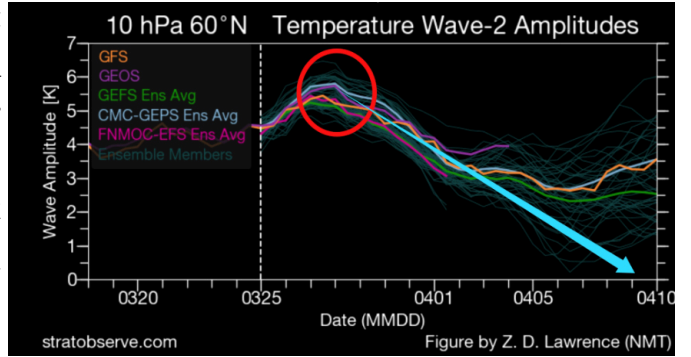


sudden stratospheric warming (SSW) of the season around March 23.

But, the SSW was/is mainly centered on March 26–29 as the polar night jet stream has reversed direction in the polar stratosphere (see 2nd chart). The high amplitude Wave-2 (meaning two waves) aspect is an indication that the SSW is also splitting the vortex.



Adding 13–14 days to March 26–29 gets us to April 8–12, which will almost certainly be unusually cold for early April. But, the polar vortex is also getting weaker and smaller, and will



probably undergo a Final Warming (warm season wind reversal) from April 4–10 (starting next weekend).

Any impacts on western Oregon would probably occur roughly in the April 16–25 timeframe and this could dovetail with a Pacific Jet Stream extension enhanced by east Asian mountain torque. My hunch is that period will see a mix of rain and sunny days, possibly with a chance for thunderstorms.

SEASONAL MJO and EL NIÑO FORECAST

The signal for yet another strong El Niño (possibly a Super El Niño) continues to grow. El Niños typically depress rainfall over the Pacific Northwest, as can be seen in the monthly April and April-May-June C3S seasonal precipitation forecast.

The Madden-Julian Oscillation and associated equatorial Rossby wave pulse are expected to cause a “Westerly Wind Burst” (WWB) soon which will help push the tropical Pacific towards strong El Niño conditions this summer. Dual tropical cyclones are predicted to develop, thereby enhancing the upcoming WWB, which will also help strengthen the upcoming El Niño.

Lastly, as I discussed last month, the potential for a resurging El Niño is still being predicted for winter and early Spring 2027.

Sources

- (Chart #1) Center For Western Weather and Water Extremes (CW3E)
- (#2) European Center for Medium-Range Weather Forecasting
- (#3) Guiseppe Petricca at hebweather.net
- (#4) Guiseppe Petricca at hebweather.net
- (#5) stratobserve.com



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