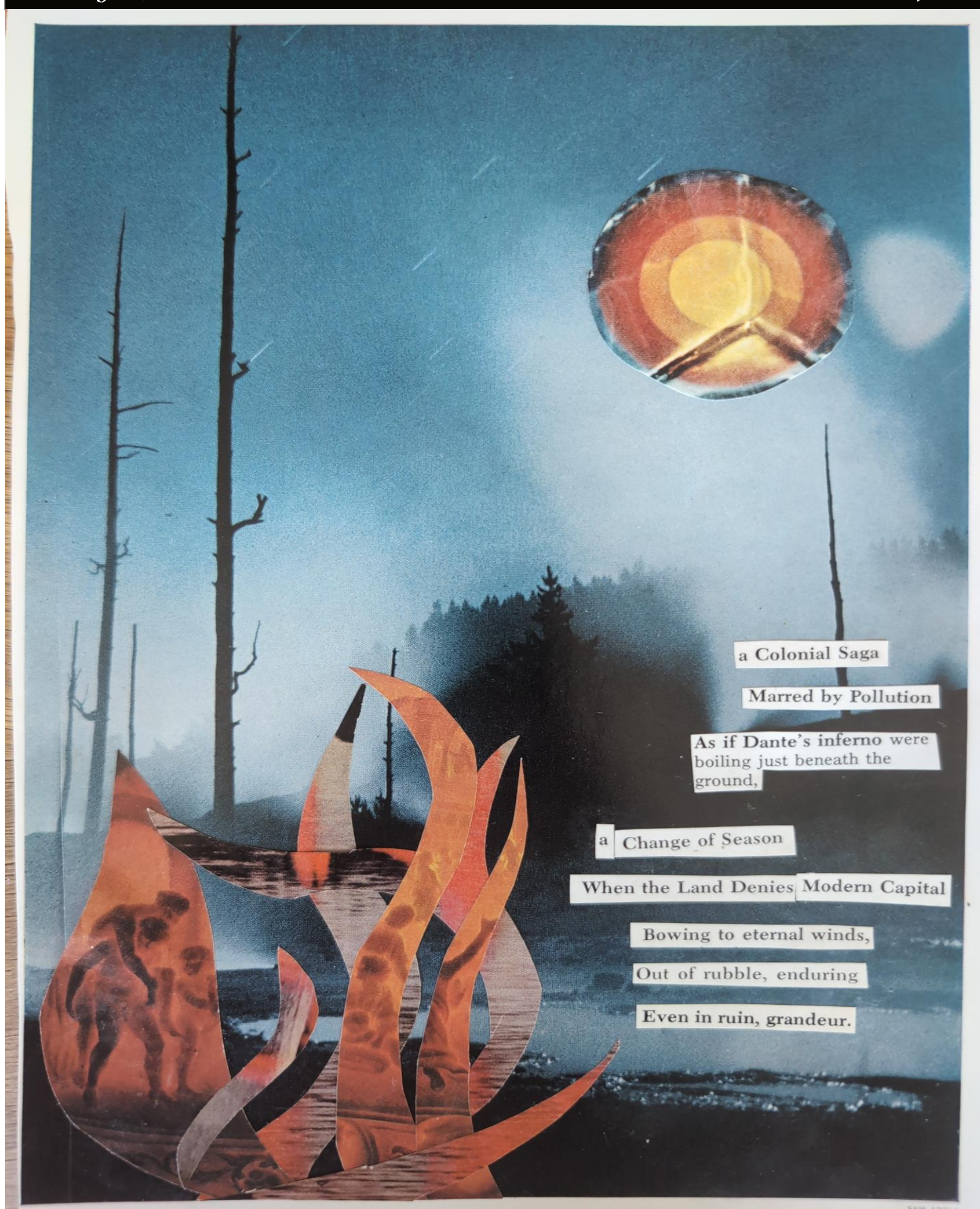


Dissonant Times



July 2026

Vol 02.07



a Colonial Saga

Marred by Pollution

As if Dante's inferno were
boiling just beneath the
ground,

a Change of Season

When the Land Denies Modern Capital

Bowing to eternal winds,

Out of rubble, enduring

Even in ruin, grandeur.

SAM ABELL

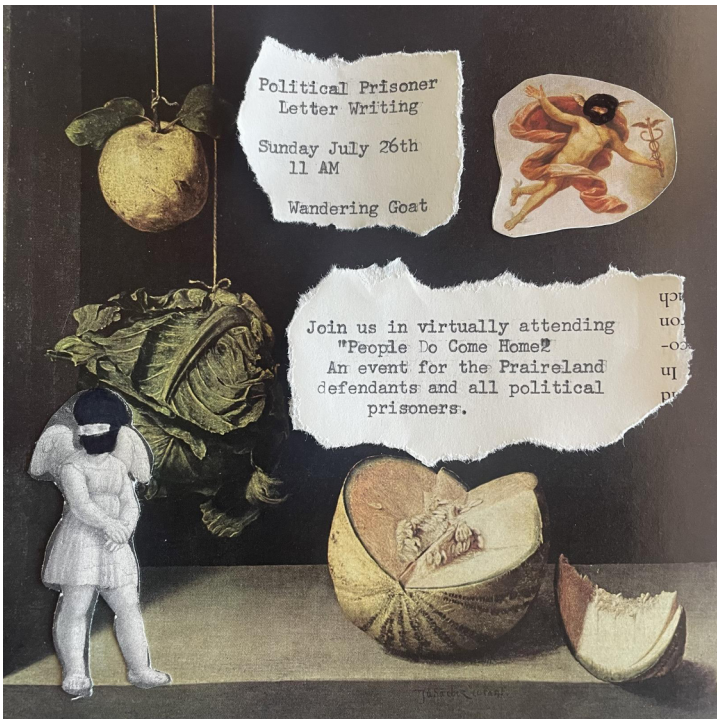
by: mica

serotinousart@protonmail.com

In this issue...

- Pg. 2: *The Forest Fights Back*
- Pg. 3: *PDX ICE Court Updates*
- Pg. 4: *The People's Blotter & The Riot: Rad Pride*
- Pg. 5: *1059 Willamette - Property Development*
- Pg. 6: *1059 Willamette continued*
- Pg. 7: *Jailbreak*
- Pg. 8: *Living Creatively*
- Pg. 9: *Living Creatively*
- Pg. 10: *Disabled Love*
- Pg. 11: *Dissonant Weather*

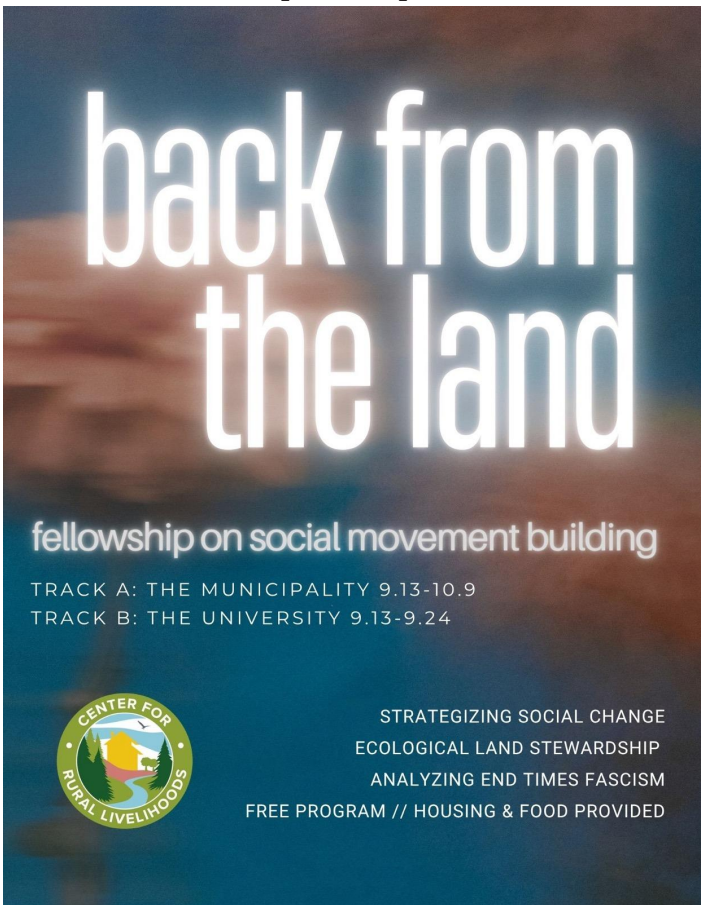
UPCOMING EVENTS



Political Prisoner Letter Writing

Sunday July 26th / 11 am / Wandering Goat

“Join us in virtually attending “People Do Come Home” An event for the Praireland Defendants and all political prisoners



The Center for Rural Livelihoods in Cottage Grove is now accepting applications for their fall program: Back from the Land. This free residential fellowship will include ecological skill building, group study of End Times Facism, and working on a local political research project situated around radical municipalism in cottage grove or transforming the university into something that works for people. This is an incredible opportunity to learn sought after skills and build community grounded in political analysis. You can learn more / apply at <https://www.rurallivelihoods.org>.

Some Good News — The Forest Fights Back

By: Sal Mander



On Tuesday, July 7th, the bimonthly meeting for the Washington State Board of Natural Resources began like every other. After a few formalities, Dave Upthegrove, State Commissioner of Public Lands, announced that a 60-minute comment period was about to begin. He carefully laid out the guidelines, inviting comments “in an orderly manner”, emphasizing that each public comment was only allotted two minutes, and threatening, “you will be muted” if the two minutes were exceeded. A variety of people utilized the public comment section to speak about the long-term impact of the Department of Natural Resources’ (DNR) logging and clear-cutting, and to challenge the DNR’s narrative that selling mature forests is the only way the state can fund schools, hospitals, and other vital public resources.

When the Board tried to formally close the public comment section and move on to other business, the public simply had more to say, refusing to be contained in neat, 2-minute soundbytes. A handful of meeting attendees rose together and began shouting, “Your legacy will be the destruction of these legacy forests!” “These forests are essential for the salamanders, the salmon!” “Fuck you, Dave Cut-the-Grove!” The Board scrambled to maintain their fragile shreds of control, telling the disrupters, “we have a process for that!” Yet the activists knew this process only ever upholds the authority that the DNR relies on to continue selling Washington’s old-growth and legacy forests.

These meeting disrupters are part of a long line of concerned community members, local tribes, conservation agencies, and forest lovers of all kinds that have been using every tool at their disposal to interrupt the DNR as it relentlessly auctions off old growth and legacy forests. According to the Legacy Forest Defense Coalition, over 20,800 acres are scheduled for commercial logging in Washington in the next five years alone.

The next piece of public land the DNR has scheduled to auction on July 30 is the More Gooder Timber Sale in the Upper Chahalis Watershed in southwestern Washington. Logging this area would destroy one of the most ecologically rich and biodiverse legacy forests in Lewis County. This forest’s complex understory and stream network offers crucial habitat for bigleaf maples, 130-year-old Douglas firs over five feet in diameter, and the Columbia torrent salamander, a globally imperiled species. There has been significant public opposition to this timber sale, including from local Cowlitz and Chehalis tribes.

To increase the profitability of the lands it continues to sell to logging companies, this spring the DNR released plans to aerially spray 2,257 acres of southwestern Washington with carcinogenic chemicals including glyphosate, imazapyr, sulfometuron methyl and metsulfuron methyl. The DNR’s stated goals are to eliminate the competing vegetation (alder, bigleaf maple, sword ferns, and vine maple) of the conifer trees ideal for timber plantations. Aerially applied herbicides have been documented to drift up to 8 miles from a target area via wind and fog, and when combined with the dissemination of these chemicals through waterways, they pose serious risks to the neighboring aquatic species and could significantly reduce the biodiversity and resiliency of these forests. On top of this, the World Health Organization has classified glyphosate as “probably carcinogenic to humans”, and a variety of research shows long-term exposure to glyphosate can cause liver and kidney damage, and interferes with human gut bacteria, which can exacerbate a cascade of other health problems, from food intolerances to heart diseases to infertility.

In February 2026, Washington courts ruled for the third consecutive time that the DNR has been violating the State Environmental Policy Act by refusing to consider alternatives to auctioning off legacy forests for timber sales. If considered, these alternatives could protect the biodiversity of these rare habitats and retain the forests as carbon reserves. Yet, since this ruling, the DNR has continued to pursue imminent sale and destruction of these lands.

In this era when President Trump is rapidly rescinding forest and environmental protections and ramping up the most aggressive logging policies the Pacific Northwest has seen in decades, we cannot rely on routine 60-minute comment periods and hard-fought legal rulings to save the forests on their own. This is a time for new action. Our only effective defense will be as diverse and wild as the forests we are fighting for.

During the disrupted meeting, lacking the power to maintain their “orderly manner”, the Board called for a temporary adjournment. The activists

paraded their voices out of the board room and into the lobby of the DNR building, while roughly 40 others entered the lobby from the street to reinforce their message. Demonstrating their coordination and prowess, the group quickly erected a 20ft-tall tripod, a three-legged structure that is sturdy enough for someone to be hoisted up into it, while creating a vulnerable perch that cannot be disturbed without risking the safety of the person suspended from it (this kind of tripod has historically been used to prevent logging equipment or other threats from accessing endangered land). There in the DNR lobby, in the midst of a cacophony of cheers, hollers, whistles, and footfalls, one activist ascended into the tripod, and atop it placed a sculpture constructed from cardboard and ferns and sticks that read, “The Forest Fights Back.” As the climber returned to the ground, a sort of whimsical chaos ensued – overlapping rhythms were stomped and beat as stringed instruments tried to keep up with the fast-paced galloping and whirling. Various decorations and items were scavenged from throughout the building and piled under the tripod as a sort of forest effigy. Elevators and escalators were blocked. Activists skidded and tumbled and crashed around the floor in games and jubilee. Voices lifted up through the din, singing of love for the forests and rivers and committing to their defense. Outside the lobby, an additional 20 or more people were gathered with colorful

salmon puppets, honky horns, and makeshift percussion instruments, capering about.

This whimsical chaos contrasted sharply with the highly controlled board meeting that was ultimately moved to zoom as the activists continued their celebration. Through their loud and colorful opposition to the More Gooder Timber Sale and Aerial Herbicide Spraying, the activists’ redecoration of the DNR lobby left a message long after their shouts stopped echoing beneath the high ceilings: the forest will not be controlled, mutilated, and devastated. And we will not be muted in our defense of the forest.

According to a spokesperson from the Washington State Patrol, troopers remained outside the building, out of sight, helpless to intervene due to the large number of activists. When the entire group of activists decided to leave the building together on their own accord, law enforcement was still waiting on the Rapid Deployment Teams, which they had summoned to help them quell the protest. As the activists paraded down the streets as one, they shouted, “We love the forests! We love the trees! You don’t know when, but we’ll be back!”

Portland ICE Facility Protestors Return to Court Next Month

By: CIPHER

As we mourn the recent ICE murders of Lorenzo Salgado Araujo and Joan Sebastian Guerrero, we must continue to resist this fascist violence, and take inspiration from those who have been engaged in this battle with their full selves. This spring, ICE and police assaulted, injured, captured, and denied the rights of Dr. Catherine Esperanza for standing outside the Portland ICE facility, as she advocated for the safety of our immigrant community members. While ICE and the administration who is responsible for these harms continue to evade all accountability, Dr. Esperanza now faces trial to defend herself against the class A misdemeanor charge of “interfering with a peace officer” (IPO). Her supporters are calling all community members to attend her trial on August 10th, 11th and 12th at the Multnomah County Courthouse (1200 SW 1st Ave, Portland). A large community presence at the trial will show the circuit court that we stand with Dr. Esperanza against genocides overseas and here in the US, against the presence of ICE in our community, and against state repression. Can’t attend the trial? Send an email to the Portland City Government telling them to drop the charges.

On May 1, 2026, Dr. Esperanza stood outside the ICE facility in Portland as she had many days before, alongside other protesters advocating for immigrant rights. Despite Portland’s status as a sanctuary city, Portland city riot police and state troopers came to aggravate the crowd on ICE’s behalf, firing pepper balls at close range and hitting protestors with batons. At the time, Dr. Esperanza was wearing a medical boot because she was healing from a broken fibula (calf bone) caused by ICE munition just two months prior. Despite the obvious injury, two Portland Police Bureau (PPB) officers tackled Dr. Esperanza and pressed her into the ground, belly down - a position known to cause positional asphyxia. One officer held his knee on her neck in the same maneuver that killed George Floyd in 2020. Dr. Esperanza told the officers her leg was broken, told them repeatedly she couldn’t breathe, and begged for help for fear of losing her life. The officers then took Dr. Esperanza to jail, where she was told she would be held without bail for four days after refusing to speak with anyone in the absence of a lawyer. Jailers detained Dr. Esperanza in a cell the size of a parking spot and denied her out-of-cell time along with the other women in her unit. They also denied Dr. Esperanza her medication and interrupted communication sent to her containing contact numbers for her family

and legal defense.

Dr. Esperanza’s 24 hours of captivity was terrifying, cruel, and unjustified. It fuels her empathy and rage while advocating for people enduring solitary confinement and routine torture in ICE detention facilities throughout the country. The American Civil Liberties Union, Amnesty International, and Human Rights Watch have repeatedly documented instances of forced dehydration, sleep deprivation, medical neglect, physical abuse, sexual violence, stress positions, exposure, and solitary confinement in facilities across Florida and Texas.

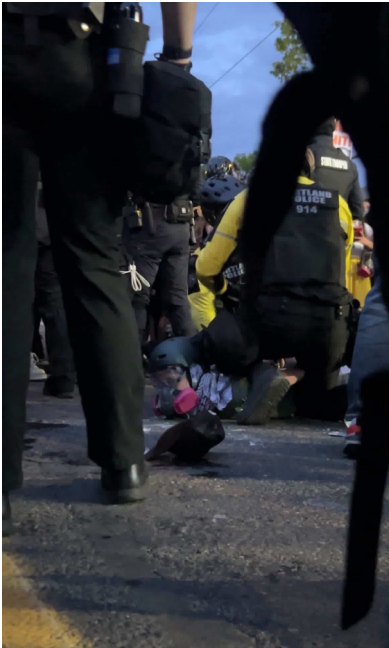
In Dr. Esperanza’s case, her allies at Doctors Against Genocide, Portland 4 Palestine, Portland Contra Las Deportaciones, and the Revoke the Permit Coalition organized a rapid phone zap and protest outside the jail to call attention to her denial of bail and medical neglect. Shortly after this pressure began to build, Dr. Esperanza was released from jail after 24 hours of captivity.

The IPO charge Dr. Esperanza faces has commonly been used to silence people speaking out against the state and to suppress Oregon’s most over-policed and vulnerable populations. As the Oregonian documented in 2020, IPO is the most common protest-related charge, used to criminalize and deter protestors exercising their First Amendment rights. Black people in Multnomah County are four times as likely to be charged with IPO as people who aren’t Black. Since 2014, IPO has been one of the top charges applied to unhoused people, and 52% of arrests in Multnomah County are of unhoused people. In 2017, the Oregon Supreme Court hearing determined passive resistance to a police officer’s orders wasn’t grounds for IPO conviction - someone would have to be violent or “actively” resist (like running away) in order to be convicted of IPO. However, this charge continues to be applied inappropriately for the kind of resistance Dr. Esperanza demonstrated at the federal building.

Further evidence of suppression lies in the way the state has been approaching this case. Thousands of ICE agents and US cops have trained with Israeli Occupying Forces since the early 2000s. In 1988, the Israeli Defense Minister at the time told his soldiers, “Go in and break their bones. If they will be beaten, hurt them, and the demonstrations will stop.” During Dr.

Esperanza’s arraignment, when Senior Deputy District Attorney Keven Demer evoked this same sentiment by asking, “What was she doing back at the ICE facility after ICE broke her leg?” As if implying that the power of the states’ repression had been so effective, the fact that she had not yet succumbed to state violence and repression was a subject of curiosity.

Dr. Esperanza is currently in her postdoctoral fellowship in Psychology, a career she has pursued with dreams of expanding healthcare access to those historically denied it. As a member of the Oregon chapter of Doctors Against Genocide, Dr. Esperanza has been outspoken on many US policies to fund genocide and warfare over healthcare, as well as to terrorize, deport, and murder marginalized and immigrant communities. She is spreading her story in the hopes that it will call attention to the litany of rights violations and abuses of power that are faced by so many people targeted by ICE and police for their citizenship status, appearance, or their activism. Dr. Esperanza says, “I am proud to say I have stood by my values in the face of government violence and repression, whether in a cast or in a cell. It is an honor and a privilege to continue the fight for justice, equity, and dignity for my loved ones, my clients, and my communities. And I will continue advocating until Portland revokes the ICE permit and protects our valued immigrant community from ICE terror. And I will continue advocating until all people can live with dignity and freedom from Portland to Palestine.”



A PPB officer kneels on Dr. Esperanza’s neck on May 1, 2026

THE KOT! THE KOT! THE KOT! THE KOT! THE KOT! THE KOT! THE KOT!

Reflections on Rad Pride 2026

By: Mx Rahi Tea

Mx Rahi Tea: This year, the Eugene Pride organizing body was informed by a city liaison that they should not file for a march and rally permit, and that if an un-permitted march were to happen, EPD would be there to cite people for engaging in disorderly conduct. Luckily, nobody tells these queers where to go and what to do! Folx mobilized for a Rad Pride March & Rally anyhow: No permits! No cops! You were among the queers who threw down for this to happen!

Cassie: There were a handful of us who heard in late May or early June that there wasn't going to be a Rad Pride this year. That was really disappointing because Rad Pride has a long history—not just in Eugene, but as part of Pride's broader tradition of resistance.

At first, we assumed there just wasn't capacity to organize it. Then things changed. It became clear that Eugene/ Springfield's nonprofit Pride organization wasn't going to hold the traditional march and rally. That announcement came out only five days before Pride. A friend and I saw the news at almost the same time. We started texting each other and our reactions were basically, "This is an incredible opportunity!"

Obviously, the circumstances that led to the cancellation were frustrating, but it also created space for the community to reclaim Pride and return it to its roots.

Mx Rahi Tea: What does "returning Pride to its roots" mean to you?

Cassie: Eugene hadn't had an unpermitted, explicitly radical Pride march in at least five years, maybe longer. There had been Pride events, but not marches organized around that history of direct action.

Previous Pride rallies at Kesey Square brought together a mix of people. There were certainly radical voices, but there was also a more assimilationist vision of queerness—the idea that liberation looks like queer people joining institutions like the police or the military.

For us, radical queerness means something different. It asks bigger questions about systems of power. It's rooted in abolition rather than inclusion within oppressive institutions.

So this became an opportunity not only to organize an unpermitted march, but to build a rally where speakers could talk about the interconnected struggles affecting queer communities.

We wanted speakers who could talk about Black, Brown, and Indigenous liberation. We wanted Palestine and the genocide in Gaza to be front and center because these struggles aren't separate from queer liberation—they're connected.

We didn't want the conversation to stop at, "Donald Trump is bad." That's true, but queer people weren't safe before Trump, either. The problems run much deeper...

One of the things that made it possible was that there had already been so much momentum around unpermitted marches over the past year. No Kings II in October was unpermitted. The May Day march and rally were unpermitted. The October 7 commemoration for Gaza was unpermitted. There had also been that Charlie Kirk march the previous September. Seeing white supremacists march without permits while EPD blocked intersections for them, shook their hands, and treated them respectfully made the double standard impossible to ignore.

It created a clear contrast: if they could march freely and police accommodated them, then any attempt to suppress an unpermitted Pride march would expose that double standard. All of those events laid the groundwork. They demonstrated that unpermitted marches have happened, can happen, and should continue to happen. We don't need permission from the people or institutions that oppress us in order to march, take the streets, and exercise our rights.

Mx Rahi Tea: That's goddamn right. I know Rad Pride in Eugene has historically been organized by RWC baddies, so props to those folx holding down that legacy. Stonewall didn't have a permit. Compton's Cafeteria riots didn't have a permit. Just like our queer ancestors, ain't out here asking for permission to exist.

Cassie: Exactly. It's especially important right now because many people are reconnecting with traditions of struggle that exist outside established systems. They're realizing those traditions are still necessary.

The intersectionality of Rad Pride extended beyond the issues we talked about—it shaped who we invited to speak.

Mx Rahi Tea: Oh, love that.

Cassie: We didn't want to legitimize state systems by presenting EPD as a partner.

What often happens when organizations work closely with law enforcement is that the police can later point to those relationships and tell the broader community, "We're good partners. We worked with Pride. The queer community trusts us."

That does real harm. When those same departments later brutalize, assault, or wrongfully arrest queer people, that narrative becomes easier for them to deny. They can say, "No, we're friends with the queer community. We worked with Pride. We supported their march."

That kind of relationship lends legitimacy to institutions that continue to harm our communities. So we wanted to be intentional about not contributing to that. We also wanted people to understand that partnering with those systems inevitably legitimizes them.

Our politics are rooted in abolition. We navigate existing systems when necessary for harm reduction, but we don't celebrate them or build our movements around them.

Mx Rahi Tea: Respect for that. Real Time! Who ended up coming? Was it the same kind of crowd that would normally show up at Kesey Square, or did it feel different?

Cassie: It was actually a really good mix. There were families with young kids. There were older folks I'd previously seen at more liberal or Democratic Party– aligned events who came out as allies. There were people reconnecting with a more radical queer identity who hadn't attended an event like this in years but were genuinely excited to be there.

I heard several people thank the speakers afterward. One person told us, "I used to march in events like this thirty years ago in the Bay Area. I didn't think people did this anymore." Having the opportunity to participate again meant a lot to them.

Of course, there were also people you might expect to see—folks who are already involved in liberation work, mutual aid, harm reduction, community distribution projects, direct action, and protest organizing. They were excited because this march aligned with their politics and values.

But what was especially meaningful was seeing so many younger queer and trans people who had never attended an unpermitted march or public demonstration before. For many of them, this was their first experience. They told us they felt genuinely safe.

THE PEOPLE'S BLOTTER

Submissions from the public documenting abuses of institutional power

ICE Vehicles active in Eugene/Springfield As of: 6/16/26 If seen, call PIRC at: 1-888-622-1510 and note: Count Location Equipment Activity Report time	Black Chevy Tahoe   WA: BIS0171	Light Blue Ford Taurus   OR: 747 FJX
	Silver Ford Expedition   OR: 670 MLA	Silver Dodge Grand Caravan   *previously seen w/o plates* WA: BJE9682
	Black Dodge Durango   OR: 143 JJH	

If you see ICE, call PIRC
1-888-622-1510

They felt surrounded by community. They said the event was eye-opening and gave them a stronger sense of identity and belonging.

Several people reflected on the history of queer liberation, recognizing that public expressions of queerness weren't something society simply granted permission for. They came from people organizing themselves, taking direct action, making themselves visible, and creating safety through collective struggle. Hearing younger queer people make those connections was incredibly moving.

Overall, it was a wonderful mix of people. I'd estimate there were around 150 to 200 participants at the height of the march, with roughly 100 people at the rally itself. More people joined as the march got underway, and others stepped in from Saturday Market as we passed by. It felt joyful.

Mx Rahi Tea: Ugh, LOVE this. That's so wonderful. Were the pigs following or monitoring the march in any way?

Cassie: Yes. EPD's Mobile Response Team—their bike and protest unit—was monitoring the event. They're the officers who regularly police demonstrations. The lieutenant for that unit was parked about a block away, watching the march through binoculars from his truck. At one point a drone flew overhead, and throughout the march people spotted bike officers moving parallel to us a block or two away. As far as I could tell, though, they didn't provide traffic control. One reason the march was able to operate safely was because of the bike brigade.

The bike brigade was incredible. There were probably twenty to thirty cyclists: experienced Critical Mass riders, people who regularly support demonstrations, Dykes on Bikes, and other community members who simply showed up ready to help. They

kept the march moving safely and did an amazing job protecting participants. I honestly don't think a radical, unpermitted Pride march would've been as safe—or perhaps even possible—without a strong bike brigade. Ours emerged somewhat organically, and it made an enormous difference.

Given the rise in vehicle attacks against protesters over the past decade, that's become increasingly important. Since the attack that killed Heather Heyer in Charlottesville, people driving vehicles into demonstrations has become an all-too-familiar tactic. We experienced that here in Eugene as well. On February 28, two motorists drove into protesters downtown, sending one person to the hospital. That's the reality we're organizing within. Having a well-organized bike brigade dramatically reduces that risk. Huge credit goes to everyone who showed up on bikes. For anyone organizing these kinds of events in the future, building relationships with bike brigades and cycling communities is incredibly important. They're an invaluable community resource, and when those relationships exist, people show up for each other.

Mx Rahi Tea: Is there anything else you'd like to add?

Cassie: I do want to acknowledge something. For all of its limitations, I think the nonprofit Corporate Pride organizers made a good decision when they stepped away from organizing the march and rally, opened that space to the community, and shared the autonomous flyers afterward. That was meaningful. I don't think every nonprofit Pride organization around the country would have done that, and I think it showed a willingness to support community organizing even when they weren't leading it. I actually think both spaces are important.

Read the full interview at dissonanttimes.org/rad-pride-2026

Private Stake in Public Land on 1059 Willamette: MUPTES, Opportunity Zones, and More Tax Exemptions for Developers

By: Joy Santiago & Dime Reid

Across states and spanning decades, the allowance of federal and state tax breaks for property developers has been a hotbed of debate. Numbers are crunched, independent consultants are acquired, and communities provide private and public comments regarding their elected officials' plans to allocate public money to property developers to, presumably, increase the availability of housing. In Eugene, these debates have centered largely around the MUPTE program (Multi Unit Property Tax Exemptions), with yet another development team being granted ten years of tax exemption, in addition to other public funds, to build in the downtown.

BACKGROUND ON 1059 WILLAMETTE

Over the last five years, the City of Eugene has collaborated with developers deChase Miksis and Edlen & Company to turn the former Lane Community College (LCC) building at 1059 Willamette into a six story mixed-income and mixed-use housing project. The project, slated to begin construction in the coming months, will also include ground-floor commercial space, a public art gallery, and 10 income-qualified units for survivors of domestic violence via the Hope and Safety Alliance.

The apartment complex will bring 133 new apartments to Downtown Eugene with 68 "affordable" units with an income limit of 80% of the Area Median Income (AMI) and the remaining 65 apartments to be rented out at market-rates, with no income limits. The affordable units consist only of studio apartments that will cost tenants \$1,284/mo. The market-rate studios, 1-bedroom, and 2-bedroom apartments will cost renters \$1,500, \$1,850, and \$2,600 respectively.

The 1059 Willamette project gained momentum in 2020, when the City purchased the property from LCC using federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds, and shortly thereafter began accepting requests for proposals (RFPs) from real estate developers. Per the requirements of CDBG funds, projects must be used for housing projects wherein **at least 51% of the units are affordable to households earning 80% of AMI**, meaning households annually earning no more than \$55,100 for a single person and \$78,700 for a family of four. Any prospective applicants earning no greater than this amount will qualify for the 68 income-restricted studio apartments.

The only developers who submitted an RFP were deChase

Miksis and Edlen & Company, along with their team of property management companies Cornerstone Community Housing and Affinity Property Management, as well as the architecture firm Rowell Brokaw. Rowell Brokaw, notably, previously employed Eugene Mayor Kaarin Knudson and continues to employ her spouse, Patrick Hannah.

The City has so far invested \$10.5 million of Downtown Urban Renewal District funds in addition to donating the land to the developers for \$1. Urban Renewal funds are legally restricted towards solely downtown development projects such as housing, and cannot be redirected towards other public services. In addition to the nearly 1/3 of the project paid for by public funds, the project qualified for a Multi-Unit Property Tax Exemption, where multi-family real estate developments are exempt from paying property taxes for ten years following construction. Tax breaks such as MUPTEs and Trump Opportunity Zones incentivize developers to pursue mixed-rate real estate projects in areas with a high need for affordable housing.

UNDERSTANDING TAX BREAKS: OPPORTUNITY ZONES & MULTI UNIT PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTIONS (MUPTE)

Trump Opportunity Zones & 1059 Willamette

1059 Willamette sits in a Trump Opportunity Zone. Opportunity Zones (OZs) are the result of a federal tax plan signed into law by Donald Trump in 2017 by which investors, like Mark Miksis and Mark Edlen of the deChase Miksis/Edlen, don't have to pay capital gains. OZs are purportedly meant to bring economic opportunity to impoverished areas, but as noted in a report by the Center for American Progress, the Opportunity Zone "incentive is finally being recognized for what it truly is: government-sanctioned gentrification driven by the capital gains of America's wealthiest investors."

While Opportunity Zone funds have thus far not been allocated to the 1059 Willamette project, the developers expressed their desire to secure potential Opportunity Zone resources in their RFP. Since the onset of this program, experts in economics have criticized Opportunity Zones as easily exploitable by investors, alleging OZs operate as a gentrifying force more than a way to lift a preexisting community out of economic disenfranchisement. With the cheapest available units at 1059 Willamette set at rates meant for residents at 80% of the AMI, it appears that investors are exploiting the bare minimum requirements of affordable

housing subsidies in order to earn the most profits possible against the cheapest up-front costs of construction.

History and Examples of MUPTE Utilization in Eugene

With access to housing being one of the most pressing issues for Eugene and broader Oregon residents, it is no surprise that city leaders are prioritizing housing density through multi-unit property developments. In order to incentivize and enable developers to build, the Multi-Unit Property Tax Exemption was developed. The MUPTE grants **ten year tax exemptions** through subsidies to developers of housing units that meet a specific set of criteria, justifying that their construction will be of "public benefit." As per the city website, "the intent of MUPTE is to lower operating costs in the early years of a housing development so that it becomes financially feasible."

The defining idea behind the MUPTE program is that developing housing that Eugene desperately needs is not financially viable, and in order to enable property developers to do so, they must receive massive tax breaks. MUPTE applicants are required to prove that building the developments would not be financially viable without the tax exemption.

While there is widespread support for initiatives to provide subsidies for more housing options, there are hefty criticisms that have been repeatedly raised by the community in public meetings concerning the ways MUPTEs have been implemented. Primarily, that MUPTEs are designed more around developers' interests than affordability for renters. Most "affordable" housing units built by MUPTE recipients require at least 60% of the municipality's median income (1059 Willamette will require 80%), with most of them being market-rate or unrestricted.

While undeniable that Eugene residents of varying socioeconomic statuses are suffering from a housing shortage, the housing units under development are mostly studios and one-bedroom apartments, with a small percentage having two bedrooms. This is not housing for families and communities, but rather for single residents. Another developer that received a ten-year tax exemption through the MUPTE program just in April of 2026 is Obie Companies --which controls the majority of the 5th Street Market, the Gordon Lofts, and many other properties across multiple states. Obie seeks to build a multi-unit complex on 5th Street and Oak called Station House, replacing a parking lot and the former home to the second-hand art supply store Mecca next to the train station. It will consist of 71 one-bedroom apartments, 41 studios, and 12 two-bedroom apartments. On top of being designed primarily for single occupants, the Station House and 1059 Willamette development teams have something else in common: They are the first two MUPTE recipients granted tax exemption for their retail spaces as well as their housing units.

City council member Alan Zelenka, who voted against the allocation of MUPTEs for 1059 Willamette and Station House, has repeatedly voiced doubt that the developers who have been awarded with exemptions have real need, stating in an April 2025 work session (1:43), "I still remain unconvinced that these projects would not be built without a MUPTE. We've never had one apply that was denied... Especially with so many examples of buildings nearby that were built without MUPTEs."

It is difficult to understand how developers such as deChase Miksis and Edlen & Company and Obie Companies could successfully convince our city leaders that not only will \$1200+ studio apartments contribute to public benefit, but that building without a ten-year property tax exemption wouldn't be financially viable. Notably, Obie also received a MUPTE for its development of the Gordon Lofts luxury apartments.

RESISTANCE TO 1059 WILLAMETTE

For these reasons, in 2021 community members repeatedly appealed City Council to resist the use of public funds to subsidize the construction of 1059 Willamette and other similar projects. In the wake of the instability wrought by the COVID-19 lockdown and the George Floyd Uprising in 2020, community members expressed concern over the city's investment into a real estate project that would not meaningfully create affordable, equitable housing. Grassroots organizers called instead for an approach to downtown urban renewal that supports innovative land projects and housing

initiatives such as a community land trust, rather than yet another private development project.

Quoting the article *The Enduring Fiction of Affordable*

Housing, community members urged City Council, then-mayor Lucy Vinis, and the city manager that, "the central beneficiaries of Affordable Housing policy are not tenants but developers and investors—a dynamic affirmed by the revolving door between policy benefits and real estate lobbying efforts."

In its justification for subsidizing 1059 Willamette, the City insisted that there are few housing options for households earning 60-80% AMI; yet, this development's minimum prices for the "affordable" units are set at the upper margin, with studios affordable only to those earning 80% AMI-- therefore failing to serve those earning 60-75% (and below) AMI who have a greater need for rental rates within their means.

Worse yet, critics point out, is not only did developers for 1059 Willamette receive millions in government handouts, the City of Eugene gave away the land to these powerful stakeholders for only \$1. Despite an open letter signed on by more than a dozen local nonprofits, City Council ignored constituents' concerns and continued to pursue 1059 Willamette; convinced that an apartment complex charging rents set relative to 80-100% AMI could adequately address Eugene's affordable housing crisis.

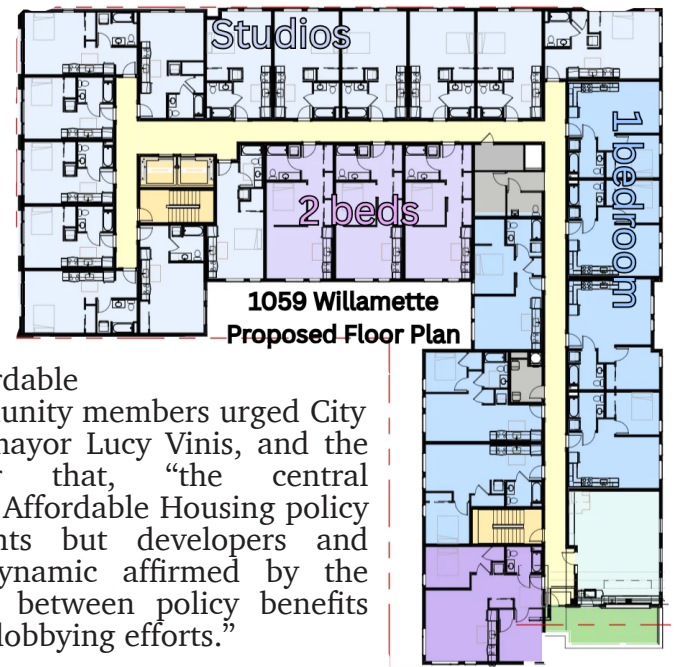
Scrutiny towards 1059 Willamette has gained renewed fervor amidst the increasingly obvious conflicts of interest concerning Mayor Kaarin Knudson's role as a public official and her position as an architect at Rowell-Brokaw. The \$10.5 million in taxpayer dollars donated directly from the city, including the \$8.66 million newly approved in June 2026, come from the City Council and Mayor-controlled Downtown Urban Renewal District funds. **This self-serving donation --along with the Mayor's own recent admission to community member and organizer Zondie Zinke that she expects to make partner at Rowell-Brokaw after her mayoral term is complete-- demonstrate nothing less than textbook conflict of interest.**

A CALL FOR REAL AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Some of our city councilors' clear desire for more housing in the downtown is admirable, as are the goals of sustainability outlined in the MUPTE criteria. But, as some city councilors will admit, despite its potential contributions MUPTEs are not a perfect solution for the housing challenges Eugene faces. Councilor Jennifer Yeh has gone on record questioning the public benefit in granting retail spaces tax exemption status; and similarly Councilor Lyndsie Leech has asked who specifically in the neighborhood would benefit from incoming retail space occupants. Additionally, Councilor Matt Keating considered the disruption to the ecosystem and bird migration patterns near outdoor spaces that further developments could risk. Finally, Councilor Alan Zelenka has continually questioned why none of the MUPTE applicants are ever turned down.

This imminent development project fails to serve everyone other than developers and individuals or pairs of professionals earning upwards of 78,700 per year. These units are not for poor and working class people. They are not for families, or those seeking to live in community groups. Instead of handing over the land to private interests for \$1, it could have been donated to an organization that could create a temporary shelter in downtown, a community land trust or a limited-equity cooperative building, or some other kind of low-income housing.

As city leaders seek to heed the call for legitimately affordable housing, we urge them to apply serious scrutiny to the stakeholders and beneficiaries, and to listen to grassroots proposals for real solutions.





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!



Meet Sofia (she/they): a nonbinary femme who describes herself as likely autistic, though is diagnosed with ADHD currently. Sofia loves math, poetry, music, lyrics and is a creator and composer. She also loves philosophy and her current fascination is Foucault– his collected works on "power" sits on her shelf along with Graeber, new AK Press releases, and her annotated copy of The Prince. Sofia is a lesbian and her favorite color is pink. She believes in the possibility of a world without hierarchy and oppression. In her utopia, society benefits individuals, not reversed.

She writes a lot of music on her fantam and schecter. Her days look like: exercise, cooking (vegetarian food! rice and lots of nuts.), socializing, and reading. Since transitioning, she's become a(n) (socially anxious) extrovert! You can find her music on Soundcloud, and pictures of her prison make-up on Insta.

Sofia De Ferrari, #23976151
Coffee Creek Correctional Facility
24499 SW Grahams Ferry Rd.
Wilsonville, OR 97070

Sofia de Ferrari - Get that Girl a Mic!

The script:

Phone zap support request from one DT's contributors on the inside

"The musician known as Sofia De Ferrari is currently in Oregon Department of Corrections custody. I love her music and would love to continue listening to her music. She has been dropping new tracks during her current prison sentence. She needs to keep dropping tracks, as less than half her new album has been dropped.

Dissonant Times contributor Sofia de Ferrari, whom we interviewed for our April article "Federal Policy Attempts to Forcefully Detransition Trans Prisoners" has two very special support requests from all her friends, fans and ... fun lovers?.... across the Oregon state and beyond.

One! Come September, mail received at Coffee Creek Correctional Facility will soon be digitized. So before then, while she is still receiving her physical mail and not just scans of them, Sofia would love to get some art. Send your sketches, clippings, and other beautiful things to look at to her before September. No card stock, just regular paper weight - color is okay, and she loves PINK.

Sofia needs more equipment to continue her music production. She has submitted requests for her needed equipment and meticulously outlined the rules and regulations which support her request. Give her the equipment she has requested. I need to hear the rest of her album.

There is no defensible reason to deny her equipment. Men in all Oregon prisons has comparable equipment, why not a woman? Other women at 3CF have received comparable equipment, why not Sofia? Sofia has as much of a need for her requested equipment as any man or woman. Denying her equipment is inequitable.

Address:

Coffee Creek Correctional Facility #23976151
Sofia De Ferrari
24499 SW Grahams Ferry Rd
Wilsonville, OR 97070

Give her the equipment."

Oregon DoC phone number: 541-945-9090

The referenced rule is Oregon Administrative Rule 291-119:

Purpose: To support and encourage inmate efforts to patent, copyright, publish, exhibit and sell products which are constructive and contribute positively to the quality of life. Other efforts by the inmate which involve profit from criminal activity will neither be supported nor encouraged.

Policy: the Department of Corrections shall facilitate, if requested to do so, and in no way inhibit, if assistance is not requested, an inmate's efforts to patent, copyright, publish, exhibit, sell, or otherwise dispose of his/her invention(s), manuscript(s), and/or composition(s) or any rights thereto.

Ask An Abolitionist

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

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

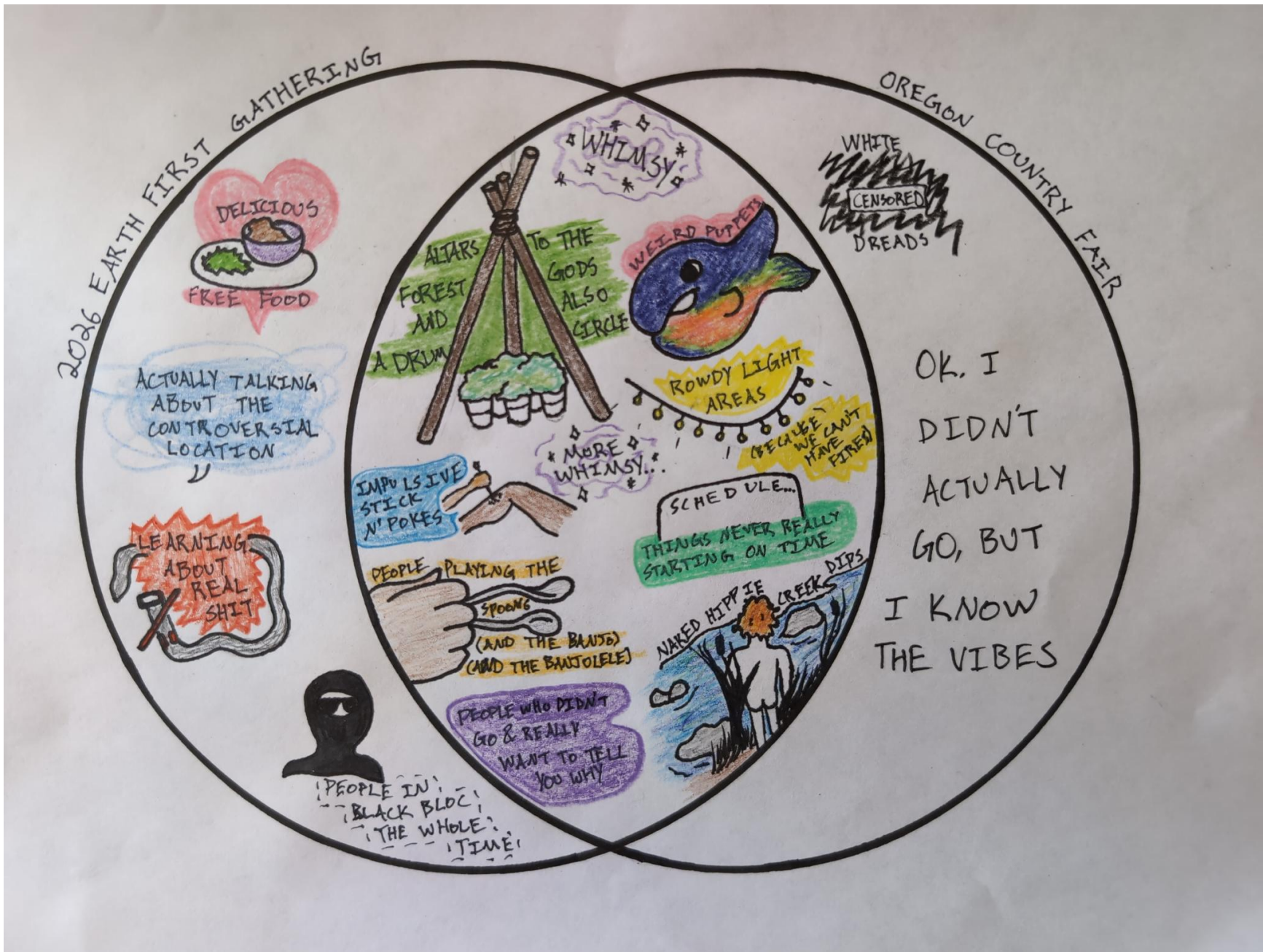
Fill out the form at <https://dissonanttimes.org/columns/jailbreak/>

to submit your question!



living creatively

Whimsical Common Ground



Works in Progress





CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

SOLIDARITY ART SHOW

FRIDAY, AUGUST 7TH
DARK PINE

6-8PM

954 PEARL ST.

Celebrating the many talents of the individuals that make up our community. Whether you participated in a share fair workshop or want to submit art that you have created on your own time, all are welcome to be displayed at the Solidarity Art Show!

If making art isn't your thing, come enjoy, admire, and buy a piece to support the cause!

100% of the proceeds from art sales at this event will go to the Solidarity Share Fair, allowing us to buy food and survival gear to distribute.

Learn more about the Solidarity Share Fair: neighborhoodanarchists.org/sharefair

Questions about the Solidarity Share Fair, the Solidarity Art Show, or about how to submit a piece, please email: sam@neighborhoodanarchists.org

Donate directly to Share Fair:

CALL FOR ART DONATIONS!

Solidarity Share Fair is hosting a fundraiser art show. All art sale proceeds will go directly to the Share Fair.

We want to showcase outsider art, created by those of us pushed out of dominant society in some way. If you have art you want to donate for this event, please bring it to Dark Pine Coffee by August 1. See attached flyer for art show details.

For more information, email sam@neighborhoodanarchists.org

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.

DISABLED SEX IS A HUMAN RIGHT

Sex is a human right, and all people deserve access, including disabled people and elders. Sex is a human right like the right to food, shelter, clothing, medicine, care, spirituality, and consent.

Sex as a human right means

- privacy to masturbate at home, including assisted living facilities and hospitals
- access to erotic art and privacy to enjoy it
- the freedom to date and attempt all kinds of relationships, including privacy for touch intimacy
- access to online sexual activity
- accurate sex ed
- harm reduction supplies like barriers

Definitely it's more work for caregivers who are underpaid and overworked, to respect privacy and pick up wet tissues afterward with a gloved hand. But consider quality of life. Sexuality for many people is a huge part of what it means to be an embodied being. Sexual pleasure and exploration are a reason to stay alive.

Cutting off access to sex is like taking away a fourth of life, for some people. The fire of sexual desire burns bright. We evolved to want it and do it; reward pathways are real. Appetites and hormones are real. Sex is powerful.

Deny healthy sexuality to millions of people and see what happens. Those fires will burn in other ways.

disabled sex in community

The longest I ever lived in a community is seven years. When I explain why my spouse Ming and I left, I almost never say that sex is a human right, and access to sex was denied to the elders and disabled people we lived with. They were the "guests," formerly homeless men, mostly POC, who were chosen to live in community for the trait of being easy and keeping their heads down.

When I realized they were smoking cigarettes, watching tv, and playing video games until they died, I was disturbed. Dating was a non-issue. Not sure if they had been specifically instructed not to bring anyone home as a condition of their housing, or if the culture of the community was enough to show them that having lovers around was a no-no. But one day I realized that I was participating in a sick oppression, and I couldn't do that anymore.

I had arrived in that community sedated on a bipolar cocktail and slept 11 hours at night. A few years in, I tapered off my psych meds one by one, curious to see who I was without medication. Definitely I became more difficult, telling the truth as an alert, feisty person.

Sedated on psych meds, I went with the flow. Un-medicated—sleeping less and wanting more—I realized that in that community, I was more like the "guests" than the people with power.

respect

I don't enjoy casual sex. It's not well negotiated—often it's not actually casual for at least one of the participants, and it's the less powerful person who gets hurt.

Likewise I don't enjoy sex with cis-het men. The sexualities of cis-het men are not my business.

But just like I don't eat meat like beef or pork, I see that's part of culture for many. I wouldn't say, "That's gross," so I will take away your right to eat mammals.

Please respect the sexualities of all people, including disabled people and elders. Please admit that every human is a full person. If someone doesn't want sex, that's fine. But the people who do want sex deserve access.

thank you

Consent is vital; being free to say no is a human right, like being free to say yes. These days the community I most identify with is radical faeries who are doing sexual liberation in ways that thrill me and at times make me blush. Thank you to everyone who makes me blush.

Please do not infantilize anyone: disabled people, elders, sick people, dying people. We're not here to be cute for you. We're not here to be easy. Our lives are rich and wild—at least our inner lives and dream lives, if that's all we get.

Please respect disabled people as you respect yourself. Please respect yourself also.





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.*





FREE!

NURSING AT THE PARK

with Empowered Lactation!

Friday 7/31 at Island Park in Springfield

FROM 10 AM TO 12 PM

Follow us on Instagram and Facebook

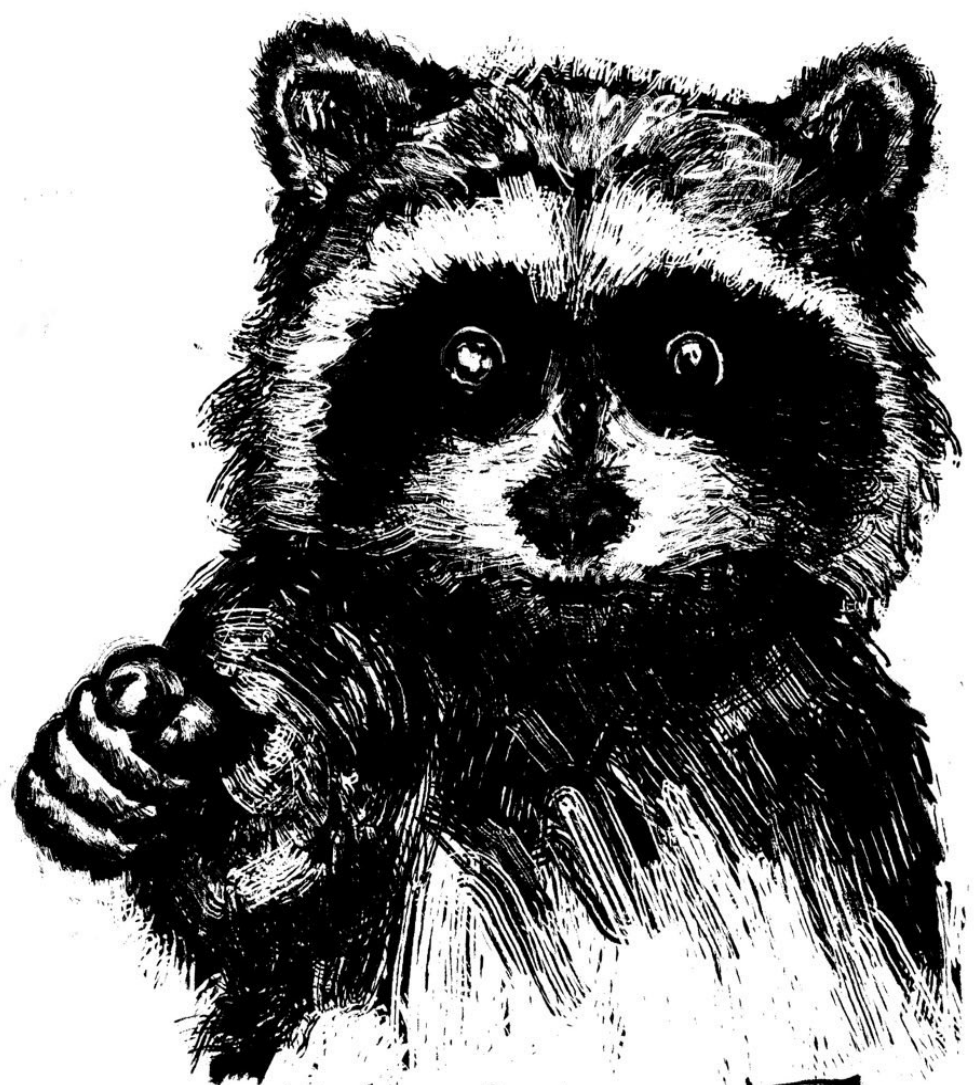
Hosted by a Lactation Consultant

Weight checks

Discuss challenges common to feeding infants

Be part of a community

DONATIONS WELCOME FOR OUR BUSINESS START UP COSTS
For questions please feel free to message us at info@empoweredlactation.org



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