

assess the ground of engagement will falter somewhat as a combination of planets are retrograde or otherwise in your relationship houses. Mercury's retrograde leads you to question issues of reciprocity in your social relations, while Venus's retrograde in Pisces bends the psychic aspects of Pisces towards paranoia and unclear thinking. Stay prepared for conflict, as this month especially will see you contending with specters from your past. Mars in your 9th house of sex and death at the end of the month will bring about powerful endings. Set it all aflame and renew yourself in the ashes.

Sagittarius: Master-teacher Saturn is on his third year in your sign, and you've learned to curb your impulsivity and develop wiser judgment in your struggle to be dangerous. On April 5th, Saturn will go into retrograde until August; you'll have more lessons to learn in patience and processing. Conditions held in common by you and yours for revolt will intensify around the Full Moon on the 11th. But this month will see you often rejecting sociality altogether and honing your ability to attack alone. Once Mars moves into Gemini and your relationship house on the 21st, you'll flirt once more with people on whom your sense of strategy will be lost. Stick with those immoralists who are willing to deepen the hostility.

Capricorn: Civil society is an external superviolence that seeks to capture its others and crush those who resist. Maintaining your psychic health this month involves staying pessimistic and self-contained, as Saturn goes into retrograde and the sun stays in your domestic house until the 19th. Your most daring moves against the system will come from within your home. You'll emerge from your cocoon somewhat later in the month, renewing your physical well-being and running around outside, mobilizing and organizing for what's to come.

Aquarius: In the twilight of a new zodiac season, the Aquarian is ensconced in a storm of activity, railing against the cadaverous Leviathan on several variegated fronts. Supposedly the Taurus sun starting on the 19th will instead slow you down, heighten stability in your life through friendship, community, home. You know the only way to stop Mankind from rendering the earth asunder is to force open the cages and cross the threshold. Garner strength for the task through those closest to you. Learn from birds and winds how to scatter seeds. Feel as the Earth feels, and defend against its devastation.

Pisces: You typically care nothing for the vulgar concerns and pious pursuits of the material world, but this is the month to practice care with money and reap its rewards. You'll further advance in your undertakings alongside other lovers of danger, as Mars sits in your cooperative 3rd house. The Full Moon heightens an inexorable yearning to merge with another, unhinging the door to new mysteries. Caution and retrospection for much of this month will put your affairs in order and reignite your journey of self-discovery. Release yourself from the moral prisons of your past; affirm your every passion and fantasy; reduce the old world to a heap of ruins!★

FASHION COLUMN

DRESS TO BLEND: From scamouflage to fitting in, conflictual demonstrations (and the times immediately before and after) are not really about standing out. And you never want to repeat an outfit at entirely different events; walking to the store in the same outfit that you maced a cop in is more than a faux pas. Anything else is the new black, until it's time to wear black.

HEADGEAR: Masks are cute, so long as they're added and removed to your wardrobe strategically – you know, not in view of the cops you were just antagonizing, for instance. And a t-shirt will do more for your features than a bandana. For other occasions, try a brimmed hat and sunglasses. Keep an eye out for innovations that will blind those paparazzi cameras coming down the runway next season.

BAGS: How will you pull off a glamorous outfit change out of view of the public unless you have something to carry spare outfits in? Something slender like a drawstring bag or thin canvas backpack that can be worn/concealed beneath your black hoody at the party is always acceptable.

SKIN CARE REGIMEN: Cover your tattoos, they're better than finger prints for identifying you. Hands tats? Wear gloves. Fuck it, wear gloves regardless.

TIMEPIECES: Watches are in, phones are out – and I'm not talking smart watches either. Seriously, who would ask that? Go drive your google bus into the Bay.

CONVERSATION: Face to face is the new social media. Burners are in, so long as they're thrown away after use or kept disassembled and only in use away from familiar spaces and electronics; Signal is in if you're using a smart phone (burner or otherwise). Generally not a wise choice to carry digital technology at meetings or demonstrations.

PUNCTUALITY: Don't be late to the party, you don't want to be the only one standing around in black after everyone already raged.★



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MAGA MARCH COUNTER-DEMO ACHIEVES PARTIAL SUCCESSES

On March 25, a Make America Great Again (MAGA) march, one of many across the country, convened in Philly at the Liberty Bell and was met with significant resistance by a large antifascist black bloc. The bloc attempted to block the march's route up Market St and the Ben Franklin Parkway to its preplanned rally outside the Philadelphia Art Museum.

Assessments of the counter-demo's success have been mixed. While the demo proclaimed its own victory as soon as word came that police had decided to cancel the MAGA march for its own safety, the fact that the MAGA people did end up marching a few blocks to City Hall drew criticism from other organizers. Participants in the black bloc, which ended up running riot across Center City for hours attempting to head off the MAGA march, reported successfully and repeatedly evading police, who were scrambling to maintain order. Onlookers, however, described the riotous scene as highly controlled by police forces that were partially out of sight of the bloc. There were two arrests, which ended up only producing citations, though arguably no arrests should have been successfully made.

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QUEER SOLIDARITY AND RESISTANCE

There have always been queers* who fight the transphobic establishment and queers who choose to keep the peace, to ally themselves with those in power. The protest and disruptions on April 1 around the transphobic #freespeechbus visiting Philly are just another example of this age-old tension. While some of us proudly remember the Stonewall riots, others among us are quick to thank the police and call for an end to tension. It's important that we place the recent attacks against

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WHAT WENT DOWN

February 25th: Tags in Center City in solidarity with Anaheim, CA protests against police brutality.

March 24th: Anti-fascist posters, stickers, and graffiti go up on South Street and in South Philly; OCF banners are taken down.

March 25th: A Make America Great Again march is cut short by a rowdy black bloc.

March 29th: Anti-cop graffiti on Baltimore Ave. that reads "Liberation + Police cannot 'Coexist'" April Graffiti for Korryn Gaines, a black woman killed by police while defending herself and her son.

Early April: Antifascists caught wind of a meeting of MAGA March organizers to set up a round 2. The organizers were beaten, maced, and told to stay out of Philly.

April 1: Infamous anti-trans "Free Speech Bus" is completely unable to stop in Philadelphia. Protesters throw objects at the bus, cracking its windows, and use smoke bombs to drive the bus out of town.

April 3: A banner is dropped overlooking highway 76 reading "Solidarity Means Attack."

April 4: Anarchist posters are pasted against repression. ★

RECENT ACTION NEWS FROM AROUND THE GLOBE

One week before the opening of a new prison in Britain saboteurs announced that they had introduced a strong acidic powder into the excavations of the groundfloor slabs two years ago in order to destabilize the structural integrity of the concrete. "Given that the strength of these slabs has been greatly reduced, intrusive investigations and a full re-build of these houseblocks would be necessary before attempting to cage people in these buildings." This seems an escalation from

methods previously employed in earth liberation circles that involved household ingredient like salt being mixed directly into the concrete to interfere with the setting process. The action was dedicated to "every human being that has died in the prison system at the hands of the State."

Also in Britain, and drawing inspiration from a similar action that occurred recently in Italy, a Vodafone antenna was sabotaged in reaction to "the ever encroaching technological wing of capitalist infrastructure." This particular apparatus was targeted due to the company's contracts with police departments and its proximity to a particular police station.

In Greece, two police officers' homes were set alight by the Anarchist Action Organization in memory of Revolutionary Struggle member Lambros Foundas.

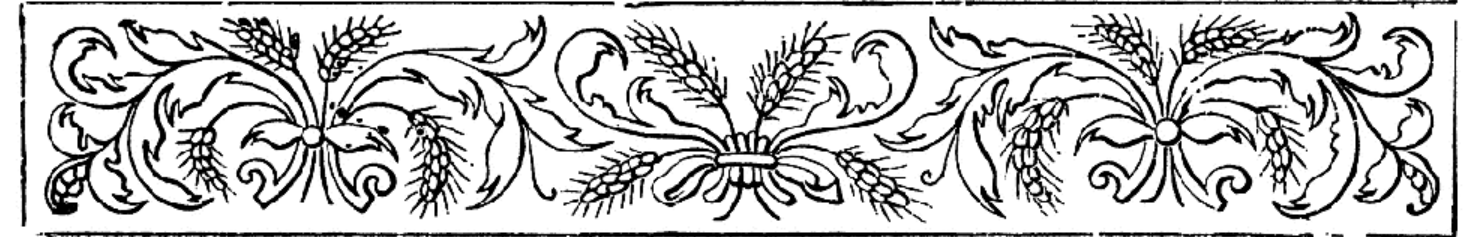
More arson in Germany, Britain, Spain targeted private security vehicles, largely for their operation of private prisons in each of the respective countries, while also calling attention to the upcoming G20 summit in Hamburg this July. Companies targeted included Securitas and G4S, both of whom operate in the United States.

There has also been a week of solidarity called for those anarchists facing bank robbery charges in Aachen, Germany beginning April 17th. Previous actions in solidarity with the accused included attacks on ATMs, banks and police stations around the world.

Returning to the scene last month was both the Conspiracy Cells of Fire FAI-FRI and the letter bomb tactic; with 9 parcels suspected in the mail, one of which having exploded at an International Monetary Fund office in France.

Finally, another call for solidarity has sounded in Chile for Nataly, Juan and Enrique. All but convicted by the press for a trial that has only just begun, they are accused of detonating two explosive devices there. They remain resilient despite all the methods of isolation and persecution they have faced, unleashing their "anarchic spirit" from prison through writing, conflictual gestures, and hunger strike. ★

HOROSCOPES



Aries: The sun is shining down in your sign, the first in the zodiac, and as always the secret is to really begin. Because Mars is in Taurus, it's a good month for ruthless expropriation and illicitly accumulating resources that will help you fight unrestrained for your heart's desires. Make sure your criminal plans are solid so they don't get short-circuited by retrograde planets. Your new income or your equivalent of what most people call "a job" may solidify around the New Moon on the 26th. Your partnerships stay strong this month — forget accomplices from your past.

Taurus: There are many different kinds of power, and many of them are toying with you this month. Mars in your sign fuels your unspent passions, ambition, erotic drive. At the same time, Mercury retrogrades in your sign, with your cosmic mentor Venus likewise stationed retrograde, meeting you with complications and disappointments. But you too hold an immense reserve of power and purpose; you endure hardship and stay generous, even in times when no one can give your love back to you. Be patient, don't try to know everything now; stay attuned to your long game, not to shallow victories. Around the 19th, as the sun moves into Taurus, your trajectory turns again towards freedom.

Gemini: Everyone in the milieu seems to want your attention. Be discerning — as Mercury is in retrograde and Mars is in your 12th house of illusions until the 21st, look carefully beneath the facades before getting too entangled. Beware the deceivers, careerists and managers who populate the scene. As the month goes on, your desires will come increasingly into conflict with the apparatuses of your own domestication. Waiting only teaches waiting! Map out your escape and pursue the vital secret of your existence.

Cancer: Relinquish obedience and rise up against every social relationship that usurps your life and intends to destroy it. The Aries sun sparks your ability to reinvigorate activities and initiatives that have been floundering in the milieu, especially if you dare to discover new relations that will deepen your aspirations and capacities. Extend your relationships, but refuse to give up your power to others. The New Moon on April 26 will demand that you reassess the ways in which you face your life as part of an ongoing struggle to make your existence your own.

Leo: "The world in which we exist is a protracted death." We're allowed to stay alive so long as we remain productive in the monotonous machinery of capital's killing spree. This month, Aries in your 9th house will set off your desire to roam and wander, to escape the relentless limbo of sustaining an everyday life. While Venus simmers in retrograde in your 8th house of intensity and seduction, though, your resistance to docility may also make you reactive and petty, with a tendency to obsess and burn people. Focus instead on your projects and your projectuality towards freedom, which will be consolidated with your accomplices at the end of the month.

Virgo: All the pieces are now in place. With Mars in your 9th house of higher learning, you'll be motivated this month to deepen your analysis, though you will also make a lot of lists of books to read and reorganize your whole zine distro. Your studies will inspire you to take up open struggle against the unfolding crisis of capital, as Mars moves into your 10th house on the 21st and expands your ability to take initiative and influence others. Encourage your friends to get into one of those circulation struggles that are so hot these days. In the meantime, your amorous life waxes sultry and intense, and you run some risks of revisiting an ex or falling for a romantic revolutionary intent on seizing state power. Be empathic, but also remember that true love can come about only by means of a communist transcendence of capitalist social relations.

Libra: Much of this month finds you struggling to navigate the territoriality that patriarchy imposes on desire, care, solidarity and self-actualization. You love partnership and collectivity, but you'll be pushed to confront the ways in which you engage them. The sun in Aries and Mercury in retrograde will both be in your relationship house until the 19th, after which Mercury will be in Aries, moving you towards taking action, impulsiveness, and eventually some deep realizations about intimate relationships. You'll find that something like fighting in a black bloc, hanging out with plants, or immersing yourself in projects that advance the interests of the class will be erotically energizing and more satisfying than the empty promises of the couple.

Scorpio: April is a good month for you to question everything and experiment with the results, taking risks in the process. This will move you towards mastery of certain techniques. In the meantime, your ability to

FUNDING A WAR ECONOMY

From vagabonds robbing the tax collector, to Steal Something From Work Day accounts of workplace expropriation on tax day, to the War Resisters League opting out of paying taxes, to Mexican Revolutionaries burning tax and property records in the name of Land & Liberty, to a man flying a plane into an IRS building in Austin, Texas some years ago, there are innumerable stories of resistance to government money collectors. The reality of our situation is far more hum-drum, however, and our economics often inconsistent.

Anarchism is largely touted through relatively juvenile economic incentives, often while still promising the world as we know it. But those anarchists typically fail to offer any creative or effective economic strategies, and their desire to preserve many aspects of our current society after the revolution involves, ironically enough, ignoring many of the economic realities that undergird it. In reality, any sort of revolutionary success would at least diminish our current technologies, if not destroy the grid system that enables them in the first place. Mass society would necessarily cease to exist for those of us trying to live anarchy - any anarchist structures intended to maintain mass society would inevitably recreate representative models of governance in order to reduce the intolerable bureaucratic methods of consensus-based organizing in multiple city-size communities. And that would all be for the sake of a directly democratic "anarchist" method of governing that some of us find an intolerable state minimalism in the first place. Never mind self-styled anarchist solutions that rework civilized infrastructure, which has always necessitated mass slavery to compel the necessary workforce in the first place. We cannot expect to anticipate the desires of communities that are not our own, and can at best only produce recommendations for the ways they might (dis)organize themselves. This fact itself, in a way, necessitates a simplified economic model.

Red anarchism - with its socialist, communist or syndicalist associations pointing toward "class struggle" as the means to liberation - has for some reason become the predominant historical tendency among anarchists, and seems to remain relatively popular among anarchists from Baltimore to Boston. Even though they embrace economic theory and a class struggle perspective, contemporary red anarchists obtusely ignore the way growing production levels for a growing populace devastate and desertify the landscape, ignore the ability of previous peoples to comfortably produce their own necessities, and reinvest in a production/consumer dichotomy that has no critique of the consumer class.

Some also advocate maintaining the current infrastructure, though by decentralized means. This reminds me of commentary I once saw concerning collective operation

of nuclear energy facilities - if you've ever tried to come to conclusions among a large population through consensus, you're likely to understand how bad an idea this can be. Even if instituted, though, these ideas are likely to fail so quickly in our current technological age that people would return to authority for guidance or else abandon the infrastructures entirely. Abandonment, unfortunately, is as unlikely as the masses being convinced that it would be the right course of action in the first place. After all, when discussing the thousands involved in the production of a certain item - from materials, to machinery, to transportation, and beyond - these radicals fail to acknowledge that much of that work is done overseas. The complicated inter-reliant means and methods involved would be mostly lost on the domestic population, which is increasingly white collar, pink collar, or service industry. It would likely be easier to revert to pre-industrial means entirely, as the learning curve is a bit more forgiving and at least more immediately satisfying in some capacity - that is, even a poorly constructed bit of clothing made by hand will do more for you than poorly constructing a sewing machine. You can wear a poorly constructed shirt, but you probably won't be able to sew with a poorly constructed sewing machine, and more people will be let down by your lack of a means of production.

So while many of us may have a limited understanding of the more advanced functions of the economy, one benefit of simplified and/or gift economies is that they don't necessitate that level of understanding in the first place, negating the elitist ostracization incurred by such expertise.

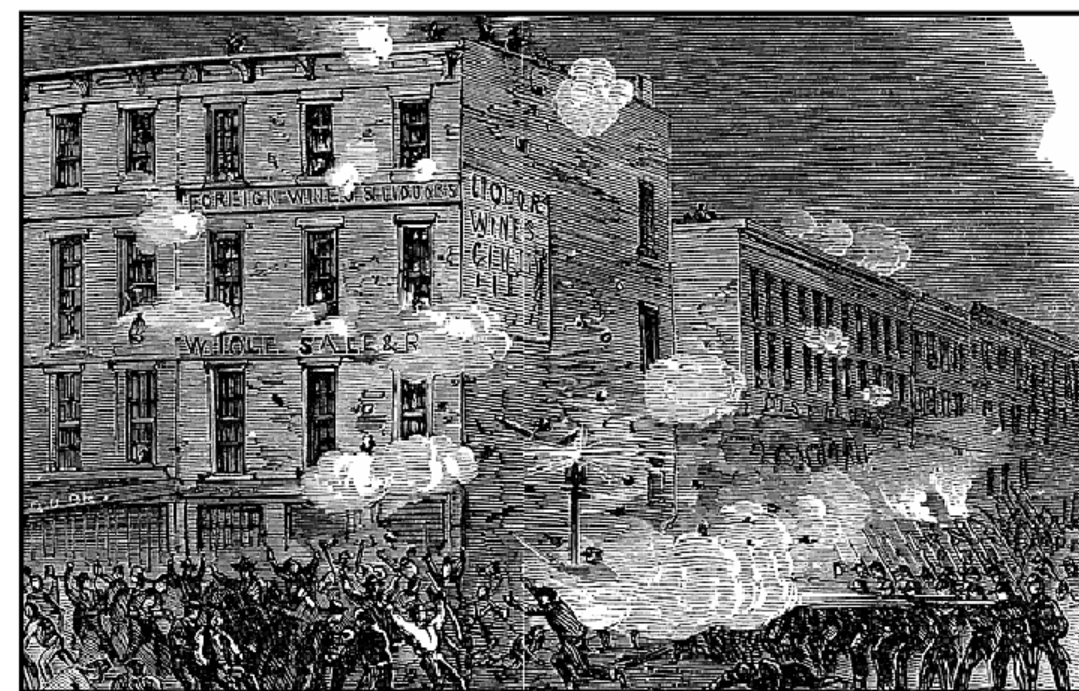
We could try to wade through the muck and bureaucracy of our taxes or we could opt out if and when we fill out a W-4, or similar forms, upon being hired somewhere. We could exaggerate our dependents or just fill out the form as exempt so nothing will be taken out of our paychecks. If you continue with filing at the end of the year to get your money back, keep in mind that all the money the government takes out of your check initially is being used by them - interest-free no less. This anti-tax tactic is not without legal risks, but neither is any authentically anarchist pursuit. Additionally, what's more likely to get people on your side: advocating a syndicalist reorganization or unionization of your work place with more meetings and more work, or advocating for more money in their pocket in the immediate at the expense of the government and employer?

And for those so vocally critical of Steal Something From Work Day because of the social service-based positions they hold, remember that government aid encourages reliance on the government, for-profit hospitals still make the rich richer, non-profit groups use your principles against you in order to exploit your labor further for their own bottom line, and most jobs do not provide that sort of aid in the first place. It is unlikely that anyone's personal choices will actually impact any government or large business, anyway. ★

INTRODUCING MAY DAY

What began as a celebration of spring became a feral renunciation of work as the world around our predecessors became increasingly domesticated. As classes became further established, May 1st became a day about the empowerment of workers over bosses that was largely celebrated by anarchists and socialists. Brought to this nation by immigrant radicals, some of the largest celebrations continue as celebrations by and for immigrant populations and raucous anarchist blocs. But the most infamous occasion came out of the year 1886, when a bomb exploded in Haymarket Square, Chicago during a workers' demonstration.

What had begun as a general strike for an eight hour work day on May Day proper, turned into a police shooting of striking workers in Chicago two days later. The following day, on May 4th, another demonstration was called for at Haymarket Square in opposition to the police violence. It was little more than a rally with speakers until police marched on the workers, calling for their dispersal, and then a bomb exploded. This combined with gunfire killed several police, some workers and wounded many. It was also reported that the police wounded each other with their gunfire.



The repression that followed scapegoated eight anarchists for the deed, four of whom were hanged, one Louis Lingg killed himself rather than let the state dictate his life and death, and three others had sentences that were eventually commuted when the state acknowledged its wrongdoing.

People the world over were appalled at the actions of the state, being that they had no evidence with which to impose much of any sentence. Many were famously inspired toward anarchism after learning how events transpired, and the Haymarket tragedy is credited with cementing May Day as a time for protest here.

The five that died in the hands of the state were commemorated as martyrs, and we continue to remember their persecution of all that were put on trial. We remember the further criminalization of radicals and immigrants, with more executions of railroaded anarchists, and moments of inspired resistance. We remember the mail bombs in April 1919 that targeted state and corporate officials, including two Pennsylvania politicians. We remember Louis Lingg's alibi that he couldn't have thrown the bomb at Haymarket because he was at home making bombs, and his utter contempt for the courts and all they carried out: "I despise you. I despise your order, your laws, your force-propped authority. Hang me for it!"

Most of all we remember disappointment in every May Day since that did not entirely destabilize this society. May that never happen again. Here's to our deep-seeded scorn rupturing this false quietude. ★

SACRIFICE FOR NAUGHT

Here we are in the end days of arguably the biggest Christian season from a religious perspective: Lent. The ritual sacrifices associated with this scene have dissipated somewhat, but their influence on innumerable radicals persists. Is sacrifice revolutionary? Do we care?

What once involved eating no meat (aside from fish) for the entirety of the time from Ash Wednesday until Easter, and on Fridays through the rest of the year, now involves that ritual abstention only on Fridays during Lent. There are still those out there who call themselves Christian Anarchists, who have sometimes been described as the harder, “more down” among us based on the sacrifices that they have been willing to make. But to imply this is a path worth imitating, and with a few communiques in recent months concerning the actions of folks identifying with this strand of anarchist thought, I can’t help but question the liberatory abilities of anyone who is in the service of any lord.

Self-sacrifice may be a means to accomplish a short-term goal, but it will never be a means to liberation. It is a cage that may serve as armor momentarily, but like the armor of the zeks in Fredy Perlman’s *Against History*, *Against Leviathan*, it becomes adhered to the skin over time, serving as a moralizing prison.

Morality, of course, is a larger concept that seeks to impose religious-level rules over a populace, instituting law and punishment. It elevates ideas, people and other things out of the common reach by decreeing them sacred. Much as we wouldn’t want even our own precepts (e.g. solidarity, mutual aid, socialism) to become sacred and beyond reproach, we certainly wouldn’t want ideas we more strictly oppose (e.g. leadership, property, capitalism) to become exactly that.

I remember a journal of Anarcho-Primitivism and Christianity called *In the Land of the Living* saying, “If Christ is your slave master, kill him!

If Christ is your liberator, Liberate!” Such a methodology continues to perplex me, so long as it involves calling oneself a Christian. Of course, the self-important, sacrificial attitude that sometimes degrades primitivist thought could very well compliment Christianity, among the most ascetic religions at the time of its origin according to Arthur Evans. In his book *Witchcraft & the Gay Counterculture*, Evans speaks of how “government was well-disposed to ascetic religion because it kept the people quiet and obedient.” Eventually, though, Christianity’s highly “corporate organization” led the Roman Empire to consider it a threat. Emperor Constantine eventually brought Christianity’s corporatism to powerful new heights, lending Christianity abilities that facilitated slavery, developed the nation-state, and decimated other religious practices due to its intolerance, while it eventually rode the rising tide of feudalism into a position where it could institute patriarchal oppression over vast populations.

Simplicity can be liberating, but asceticism negates some of the most joyful impulses and practices that many pre-civilized peoples enjoyed, and does so as a rule. Ascetic attitudes also instill severe guilt within their practitioners whenever they pursue their desires, contradicting anti-authoritarian concepts like the liberation of desire and joy. It may be hard to identify the impulses of a religion that is suggested to be sloping toward the lite side by many of its adherents, but today’s Christianity is still that very same religion used to imperialize and industrialize the landscape for most of the modern era. Yes, Christianity bloodied landscapes the world over while othering people and other aspects of nature that we are now so distant from; hence my doubt as to the intent and effects of Christian anarchists. The more common form of Christianity, anyway, resides in the two-party system in this nation-state, with the Christian Left attempting to make itself a more powerful force in the political arena in response to the new presidential administration.

Sacrifice as radical praxis shares with the Left a historical wellspring of neo-puritan

several designated scouts as well as sympathetic onlookers who were in communication with the demo, the scouting at the MAGA march and/or the communication techniques between scouts and the bloc were not strong enough to prevent misinformation about the MAGA rally’s intentions to march, or to allow the bloc to find the MAGA march once it had started. On the other hand, coordination between crews within the bloc itself saw significant improvement, with occasional spokescouncils to make spontaneous decisions during the march, and a lack of timidity amongst organizers about directing the march and widely communicating within the bloc.

The march also provoked questions about antifascist strategy. The organizers of the counter-demo had explicitly chosen to physically block and intimidate the fascists from marching, as opposed to a more

demo’s strategy probably allowed for more people to participate, especially people who had been previously exposed to black bloc tactics. The black bloc approach took advantage of and furthered the crossover we’ve already been seeing in Philly since Trump’s inauguration between autonomous anarchists and antifascists.

Philly’s approach to fighting fascism will likely continue to be influenced by its context of insurrectionary anarchism, which tends towards autonomous action, anonymous fashion, high mobility, and indirect but antagonistic styles of fighting — that is, fewer instances of beating up fascists, and more attacks that make their gatherings and marches impossible. That is, conflict may be less pointal, and more rhizomatic and sneaky. Instances of white supremacist organizers getting beaten up have also increased recently, however.

The escalation of radical activity that we’ve seen in Philly and nationwide since Trump’s election has been exciting, but also arguably insufficient. Other local mass actions, like attempts to shut down the National Socialist Movement’s rally in Harrisburg in November, or to shut down Trump’s Republican retreat in Philly in February, have also only seen relative success, in that those in the black bloc was



traditional Antifa approach of directly fighting the fascists. This plan made sense given the likelihood, and reality, of the Philadelphia Police strongly guarding the MAGA participants and preventing direct conflict between the two groups. At one point early on, however, when the bloc was still circling the MAGA rally on Independence Mall, at least one opportunity presented itself for the counter-demo to run across the mall and charge the MAGA gathering. This opportunity wasn’t taken, whether because people hadn’t made contingency plans for that option, or because they weren’t prepared to physically attack fascists, or because there was no time to coordinate a proposal to do so in that moment.

While less directly confrontational, the counter-

willing to escalate their tactics against fascists and/or police, or that there was a black bloc at all. They were not actually successful in their basic goal of stopping fascists from gathering in public. For mass counter-demonstrations to achieve this goal, there will have to be much more effective scouting and coordination, crews will have to come prepared for both physically attacking fascists/police and for messing up their surroundings, and generally have more experience and skills, which can only be acquired by taking riskier actions. We need to encourage and support people in building crucial skills in assessing a terrain of conflict, keeping friends from being snatched up and put in cages, physically confronting fascists, and making it impossible for fascists to rally or recruit.★

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The likelihood of arrest seemed high going in. Some seemed to be deterred from joining the black bloc, which had a public meetup nearby and then quickly marched over to the Independence Mall and was immediately surrounded by the police. Police never successfully kettled the counter-demo, however, nor seemed to be attempting to do so, at least in its early stages.

As the hour that the MAGA rally was supposed to begin marching drew near, the bloc started marching around the Independence Mall, circling the fascists like prey. They stopped occasionally to set off smoke bombs or burn a flag, fight off photographers and regroup. The bloc's banner, which also served as a barrier between the bloc and the cops, read "doing being totally out of control @ :)," an exciting throwback to 2009 when a police officer originally used the phrase to describe a black bloc at the Republican National Convention in St. Paul.

At some point during this stage, a fight broke out when a MAGA participant adorned with confederate flags came out onto the street to antagonize the antifascists. An antifascist was hurled to the ground by police and arrested, while only a few people from the bloc stayed behind to watch what happened. The bloc certainly had the capacity to snatch this person back from the pigs instead of moving on, and should have done so. At least one person was dearrested the first time the bloc broke through a police barricade, though, as antagonism and tensions heightened.

After the bloc had already started running through streets and breaking through or evading police lines, attempting to head off the MAGA march from starting to march at 1:30pm, the bloc received a report that the MAGA march had been canceled because of the police's concerns for its safety. The black bloc's organizers declared victory and decided to "do their march for them," effectively walking away from the scene, which ended up being a strategic misstep.

Some in the bloc had come prepared to attack the MAGA demo, but it seemed like no one had brought additional resources that could have escalated the bloc's march, so the space created by the wide-open

and relatively less policed march through Center City that the bloc then embarked upon was not taken advantage of. There was at least one "Fuck Trump" and "Circle A" tag and distribution of anarchist fliers to onlookers, though, and a general feeling of empowerment among participants. The bloc ended up at Logan Circle near the Art Museum, picnicking in the shade.

The bloc then received word around 2pm that the MAGA march was happening after all, and that they had made it a few blocks to City Hall. This inaugurated a whole new phase of the day, as the bloc spent over an hour running around Center City attempting to reach the fascists while evading police kettles. The bloc ran straight through or around at least 10 police lines during this time, often moving through traffic or making barricades in the street in order to do so. One notable instance of evading police was when the bloc attempted to escape a kettle by going into the walled-in parking lot of the Friends Select School, which then itself became a kettle that everyone had to escape over a kind of large wall. Though ridiculous, this was one of the many heartwarming parts of the day, as the more mobile members of the bloc stayed behind to help and make sure everyone got over the wall. Blocked-up medics treated some participants who had sustained minor injuries from climbing over a fenced part of the wall. Lessons were learned about examining and adapting to terrain.

The bloc was never able to reach the fascists, who, again for "safety reasons," didn't venture beyond City Hall on their little march. The bloc also missed opportunities to attack the bourgeois infrastructure surrounding it, which often seemed to present wide-open targets, though a few businesses got tagged. At one point, the bloc ran back onto the Parkway, down which hundreds of wheelie kids were riding their bikes, and the two groups teamed up in running down the Parkway for an especially inspiring moment. Once the fascists had gone back to the Liberty Bell, the bloc eventually returned to Logan Circle and then dispersed, surveilled all the while by police helicopters from above.

The MAGA counter-demo highlighted recurring problems with communication and coordination at autonomous demos in Philly. While there were

fundamentalism and moralistic reaction that directly opposes liberation and would likely impose itself on any that choose that or any relatively hedonistic praxis. The tolerant Left cares not for the celebration of difference, advocating only that difference not be so openly repressed by law, and imposing its guilt-ridden sacrificial attitudes on any that express themselves so openly. In the absence of state-level power, the Left will "peace police" us and take the form of activist groups - like those at the LGBT "Pop Up Love Party" recently in Philly - that feign tolerance while controlling our outpourings. The meek shall not inherit the earth with their sacrifice, for no one owns the earth and we will only obtain what we take for ourselves. ★



[Cont. from pg. 1]

the transphobic bus tour within the legacy of queer criminality that has and continues to keep us alive. As for the queers who align themselves with the establishment, their idea of solidarity and resistance actively put the rest of us in danger. It is clear to us whose side you have chosen.

Since the first queers were oppressed, there has always been resistance. The history is hundreds of years old, but the image that captured the world's attention most recently was the nights of rioting that took place in New York City in the summer of 1969 at the Stonewall Inn. Police regularly harassed queers at the Stonewall, making arrests, confiscating alcohol, and beating people. June 28th was different: fed-up people drove police away by throwing rocks, bottles, and whatever was around. The streets erupted in a violent celebration of queer life. The neighborhood was filled with queers dancing, kissing, fighting police, and living out loud. This was the birth of the modern LGBT movement as it exists today.

It seems that many establishment queers have turned their back on this history. As the #freespeechbus passed through Center City this month, it was confronted and blocked by angry queers and their accomplices. Even though Sharron Cooks (chair of the Mayor's Commission on LGBT Affairs) claimed that the bus driving away was a positive outcome, she completely ignored why exactly those in the bus felt they needed to leave. Joseph Grabowski, a spokesman for the tour who was on the bus, told a reporter that they decided to leave for safety reasons. A reasonable decision considering that protesters were filling the streets with smoke, pelting the bus with eggs, and cracking its windows! Cooks, who was busy trying to herd the crowd to let the bus continue unchallenged, seems to overlook the fact that the bus didn't stop in Philadelphia precisely because people actually fought. Instead she drives a wedge between peaceful queers and "anarchists". Others thanked the police for arresting a protester wearing all black. These kinds of actions endanger queers willing to fight for dignity and make us targets that the police and the media know liberal queers are ready to throw under the bus when things get hairy.

Solidarity in the struggle against transphobia means making space for all queers to find dignity how they see fit so long as they are not oppressing others. Resistance can take so many different shapes, not all of which look like holding a sign and hoping that someone decides you have a right to exist. Instead of encouraging us to clear a path for the transphobes who want us to not exist, or applauding our arrests by the police whose job it is to protect the very people we are protesting, let's encourage each other to use whatever means we have to find dignity and freedom in a transphobic world.

*By queer I mean anyone who is not cisgender and/or not heterosexual. ★

