LOCKDOWNS & INCARCERATION

People for the first time are getting a small glimpse into our reality. My name is John Bramble of the Vaughn 17 and I'm currently being held hostage at SCI Rockview in Pennsylvania for standing for what I believe in. I'd like to acknowledge all my comrades who know and understand what it's like to have to actually live their lives through involuntary social distancing and quarantine. Also known as incarceration and solitary confinement.

I know it's wild to compare the two to incarceration, but they're very similar, and the negative effects they have on the mind, body, and soul are similar as well. Depression, anxiety, and anger are just a few ways the mind is affected, and when the mind is affected in those ways it can very easily destroy you. I mean just getting out of bed could become a full-blown task.

But what I really want to talk about is, how is it that through all this the prison officials are still able to acknowledge incarceration and solitary confinement as a useful tool for rehabilitation? Now that everyone on some level has witnessed the effects of incarceration, I think we can all agree that it only makes people worse. Just look at the protests we've seen over the last few weeks, where protesters have been pushing to reopen the economy. Most of those protesters are middle-class citizens, so it's safe to say it's completely out of their norm to openly break laws or to stand against any form of authority. Now the argument could be made that they're acting that way out of fear of losing money, business, etc., which is probably true. But we could also argue that their behaviors and fears have been magnified because of the depression, anxiety, and anger caused by social distancing.

To support that claim, just look at the oppressed classes and how they're handling all this. We could say they're at an even greater risk of loss because the majority of them don't have much if anything to fall back on. But due to the system and how it's designed, they've been subject to these kinds of conditions before, either personally or through family and friends because of the institutions that continue to recycle them.

It's wild how I turn on the television and on every channel...
WHAT WENT DOWN

April 1 - West Shore Rent Strikers begin a rent strike against Constellation Corporation.

April 10 - Car caravan protests outside of City Hall demanding the release of people imprisoned in jails during the covid-19 pandemic.

April 11 - According to a police report, a man in a construction helmet got hit in the head at a construction site in Bridgeton, NJ and rode around the site, smashing an electric utility pole, breacher box, an office trailer and the barricade itself.

April 15 - Car caravan protests outside City Hall and Philadelphia House of Corrections demanding the release of prisoners.

April 15 - Hunt For The Wilderpeople is screened to raise money for Food Not Bombs Solidarity.

April 23 - A Citizens Bank is robbed by a masked individual using a demand note and a fake bomb.

Late April - An OCF car and a Comcast van have their tires slashed. “As what is ‘normal’ is changing rapidly, it’s important to think about how power will use our fear to keep us subdued. Shelter-in-place or not, are our lives really free?”

April 24 - RAM Philly hosts an online reading group of Bomani Shakur’s writings.

Late April - “Bingo Bandits” slash the tires of two school police cars and scratch their windows, the windows of an under-construction road, and a doorbell camera. “Did you know that school is mandatory in the United States of America? Will right? School here has a really nasty history if you think colonialism totally sucks.”

Late April - Anti-prison graffiti as a “humble nod to all prison rebels fighting for their lives. Not just the ‘innocent’ or ‘vulnerable’. Until all prisons are empty and destroyed!” “BURN THE PRISONS!”

April 27 - Philly ABC hosts an online letter writing session for political prisoner Joy Powell.

Late April - “Bingo Baller” slashes the tires of thirteen luxury cars in a rich neighborhood. “Tons of Meredith, BMWS and a brand new Range Rover (heart eyes). Cover up, use an awl for quiet flattening, and make sure to scan the surrounding cars, as people like to hang out in their cars these days.”

Late April - A banner is dropped over I-95 in solidarity with political prisoner Bomani Shakur. “No More Death By Incarceration Free Bomani FREEMAN THEM ALL.”

Late April - Anarchist slogans painted in Center City. “LOOT THE WHOLE FOODS FREE THE PRISONERS (A)” “DON’T COUNT ON THE STATE COUNT ON EACH OTHER (A)”

Late April - An anonymous group takes responsibility for sending letters to prisoners, stealing American flags, getting rid of ring cameras, moving a friend into a squat, and expropriating groceries from Amazon as “contributions we made toward our bingo card.”

May Day - Comcast cables outside the Real Time Crime Center are cut. “No way to confirm or deny the impact, but we hope it polarized them in the eyes and blinded them to the life-affirming actions that anarchists may or may not have taken that night.”

May Day - “Belligerent Badger Brigade” set a cell phone tower near the Navy Yard on fire in solidarity with Italian anarchists facing repression and UK fascist anarchist “Badger.” “It should also be a reminder that no one is untouchable if you have the appropriate determination. And this particular act was quite easy.”

May Day - A car caravan demonstration drives around for May Day.

May Day - An anti-prison banner is hung over I-76. “INCARCERATION IS MURDER EMPTY THE CAGES (A)”

Early May - A banner is hung from the viaduct of Spring Garden St in solidarity with prison rebels and Amazon workers. “OPEN SQUARES LOOT THE WHOLE FOODS FREE THE PRISONERS’ SMUTUALAT (A)”

May 5 - Housing activists protest the eviction of two people squatting Philadelphia Housing Authority property in Center City. “In our version of a ‘Service Day’, we showed to actually support the people that need it by standing up to the cops, gerritizing cop callers, and city workers who were about to forcibly evict our neighbor.”

May 8 - Heavy winds cause a new house under construction in Point Breeze to collapse into the street. :-(

May 9 - A Reopen Philly anti-quarantine protest is met by a counterprotest that blocks their way. Proud Boys who planned to hold their own Reopen Philly rally did not show up.

May 21 - Six fires were set along Broad St and Lehigh Ave in North Philly, including a burning dumpster and several piles of trash. Police later arrested someone at the 69th St train station who they allege set the fires. ★

The Motherfuckers traveled to SDS conventions to push SDS to declare themselves a mass organization to withstand the attack of affinity groups. They believed this destructuring could both resist police repression and authoritarianism within SDS. Rather than sincerely participate in SDS convention procedures, the Motherfuckers staged a series of disruptive and entertaining interventions: they demonstrated their karate skills by chopping a brick in half, announcing SDS must smash the State in addition to capitalism; they held a mock wedding between students and workers to ridicule SDS’s current objectives; and nominated a trashcan to run against

CHAPTER REPORT BACKGROUND

Up Against the Wall/Motherfucker aka the Motherfuckers were 1960s anarchists best known for popularizing the concept of the affinity group in North America. The Motherfuckers promoted the small, autonomous, affinity group as an alternative way to engage in demonstrations and occupations— independent of the leadership of the mass organizations like Students for a Democratic Society (SDS). At the same time, the Motherfuckers also became the first non-student chapter of SDS, entering into the organization to— in their words— destruct it.

The Motherfuckers traveled to SDS conventions to push SDS to declare themselves a mass organization to withstand the attack of affinity groups. They believed this destructuring could both resist police repression and authoritarianism within SDS. Rather than sincerely participate in SDS convention procedures, the Motherfuckers staged a series of disruptive and entertaining interventions: they demonstrated their karate skills by chopping a brick in half, announcing SDS must smash the State in addition to capitalism; they held a mock wedding between students and workers to ridicule SDS’s current objectives; and nominated a trashcan to run against

future Weather Underground leader Bernadine Dohrn. According to at least one former SDS member, the trashcan “did pretty well.” Their slogan “drink more wine and do less talking” in support of California grape strikers actually passed. But their main proposal to destruct the organization—a proposal that also advocated students destroy the university, “the buildings are yours for the burning”— was predictably not accepted by SDS.

The Chapter Report was a poem written in response to the Motherfuckers’ frustrating engagement with SDS. The report simultaneously parodies the bureaucratic procedure in verse, criticizes SDS’s intentions, and offers some instructions for future. The Motherfuckers’ attitude in this report brings them closer to their contemporaries in the Black Panther Party than SDS. In fact, you can hear the Panthers make the exact same contrast between a Molotov cocktail and white radicals in the film Zapruder Frames. The Motherfuckers turned down appearing in the film.

On the day-to-day, the Motherfuckers were far removed from mainstream pop culture and formal organizations like SDS or the Panthers. Based in New York’s Lower East Side, they focused mainly on building a mutual aid network with the growing number of dropouts, runaway hippies, and draft dodgers that were affectionately known as the “street people.” Their shared lifestyle involved regular small riots against the police. These demonstrations were codenamed “Henry” (which was also their mocking of the top-hatted, skel- eton now best known in the “Be Gay Do Crime” meme). Be- sides Henrys, they also frequently organized “light shows.” A former Motherfucker explained that a light show was their private name for a fake demonstration. The Motherfuckers would give the false impression they were holding a demonstra- tion and then watch the flashing lights of the police cars dispatched to the bogus location from nearby rooftops. The light show audience would throw bottles and other projectiles on the police cars below.

The Chapter Report reproduced on the next page was written in this broader context of rebellion. On the one hand, it represents the Motherfuckers’ confrontational—if ulti- mately failed—attempt to engage with and transform the Left. For us, it could conceivably be taken as a model—one option or way to creatively respond to Leftist organizations, without falling into their bureaucratic routines. On the other hand, it should be taken as a warning or reminder not to do so. Instead of engaging contemporary equivalents of the SDS (like the DSA or, more locally, the Philly Socialists), the Chapter Report marks out a point of departure. This poem is an artifact taken from a caress.
with each other (you know, non-essential, like work). Yes, if you’re feeling sick don’t get in a subway (it’s strange that only now new symptoms are coming into question?). No, not me nor you but rather the current manifestation of society. Civilization and its ent pulse have created a Petri dish that context ripe for a pandemic and any critique or analysis that does not question cities themselves (and all that is necessary to sustain them) is extremely lacking. The state deems certain jobs essential and others non-essential and somehow people just blindly buy into it? Grocery store workers are not heroes; they’re there to support us by their praise but by breaking them the fuck out.

We cannot forget the importance of our own and our loved ones’ mental and emotional health – isolation is devastating! And let’s not kid ourselves in thinking that “sheltering in place” and “isolating” are for the self (any self) at all but rather understand them as ways to continue society. And I am going to lose my damn shit if I or a friend gets scolded again for hanging out while you order food to go, go grocery shopping, get gas and eat...&&$##@, it’s in our nature to think that hanging out with a few friends around a fire is somehow more irresponsible or dangerous than going into a store! More importantly, voluntary self-isolation is only possible because other people – often already marginalized folks – are putting their own health at risk. I understand that we are all inconsistent and I always think it’s worthwhile to explore our contradictions (especially as anarchists, who inhabit a space of contradiction) because it’s fucking infuriating. These are scary times and I am in no way attempting to invalid all my feelings of fear. That’s real. But we can’t control the world and let everyone become police who, with paranoia, fear each individual as a possible suspect - which is exactly the state’s logic. That’s terrifying. Let’s get together, and respect each other’s boundaries. It’s a great way to check in with each other about comfort and needs – something we should all practice getting better at anyway? And no, don’t give me this rhetoric of personal responsibility of protecting the vulnerable. Society has never given a shit about the most vulnerable. If this was really your concern, then how about turning your attention to prisons, jails, and detention camps right now? How about you help create a strike at your local grocery store? How about you break a squat with some folks who currently need housing? The truth is that you just don’t want to get sick. And that’s perfectly fine. I don’t either. But don’t hide behind the ideology. This shit is scary and I would be hard pressed to find someone who isn’t deeply concerned about someone who is sick or has succumbed to the disease. But can we be honest with ourselves and our fears? Oh yeah, and it’s not like any of us really have an understanding of what’s going on – and clearly some so-called experts don’t either. It’s disturbing to see, in this very real and scary time nonetheless, anarchists swallowing the whole state’s rhetoric. Don’t wear a mask; wear personal hygiene. We’re not in Jersey, it’s not Covid-19. 12, 8, positive! How can you look at us with a straight face and say there’s nothing to be concerned about? If we do not understand the coronavirus and that’s really not different from everyday, so let’s not lose our ability to be critical. And for the love of fuck, no! We don’t have to “trust” the system. We’ve already forgot what it’s like to be treated fairly, or they’re so fearful of what might happen they’d rather put up with the abuse than stand against it. The issue with people being institutionalized is that we don’t see anything wrong with the treat- ment inside these places. It’s sad, I’ve seen grown men that consider themselves successful because they become lead

EXPROPRIATION ANARCHY IN CRISES TIMES RANSOMWARE “COVID-19”

Call for action: Attack the Covid 19 Expropriation anarchy in crises times Strike capital in cyberspace, where it is structured Panic surrounding Covid-19 has created ghost towns, empty streets, and a piles of closed shops. Production and reproduction of capital... more than any strike ever managed to do. Within the psychopaths being stuck between 4 walls most of capital flows are moved to cyberspace. Cyberspace is not par- allel or outside of this world, it is an extension of this world. Capital which is circulating and accumulated in cyberspace is an extension of its capital. Expropriations are made very difficult during lockdown. Most of the shops are closed, most of the cash registers are empty and order from Amazon is the only thing that anyone who is walking outside is automatically suspicious, there is not enough people to run and blend in to the masses...

On the other hand everyone is online now. Ransomware is malware (computer virus) which compresses and locks all of the user files and is asking for ransom in bitcoin. In order to get them unlock. Famous examples of ransomware are Petya, NotPetya, WannaCry. Basically all the user’s files are kidnapped, and the user has a time limit until when they need to pay in order to get their data back. This is the way they do in bitcoins. Ransomware “Covid-19”

We have a list of 90+ addresses where to receive ransom funds. From each victim $2000 will be demanded and 35% will be given to anarchist political prisoners.

We can supply you with ransomware. With raw.exe files and the executable files which are hidden (full) inside of Pdf files and doc files. Also we can supply you with stuff needed for opsec like Vnus, sockeys, proxy, ssh botsnet and we will explain to you basic fnux opsec.

Your chosen enemy targets yourself. Whether you want to do small spamming, putting drive by exploits in backdoor sites, spamming fascist forums...

be creative

You can upload the ransomware p2p to your local fascist forums, you can spam on social media your local fascists, cops, pimps or other enemies.

You can pretend to be a serious reporter and send it to official mailboxes of companies and media.

If you need as middleman device some stolen social media ac- counts, only as medium to reach enemies, we will supply you with spoofing.twitter.com or opsec explanation.

Subquotes flows of capital, both online and offline.

Steal ruthlessly, share selfishly.

Death to all which stands in the way of freedom.

For contact information and PGP encryption key visit: https://actforfree.nostate.net/?p=37094

there’s something about the negative effects that this lock- down is having on people. Mostly about the psychological toll that is close people and having to live in such close quarters like this is some new discovery. This isn’t something new; for over a decade, I’ve witnessed firsthand people los- ing their minds because of being locked down. At the beginning of this, I said people are getting a small glimpse into our reality. I called it a small glimpse because our reality is much more severe. Not only does the incarcer- ation of the masses give people no other choice. Life in the world is now experiencing, but we also undergo all forms of torture, whether it’s physical, emotional, or mental, and it’s because we have to do away with these institutions and plants.

Legally a person is considered insane if he repeats the same action and expects a different consequence. But isn’t that exactly what this system does? It represses people over and over again through the same institutions with the expecta- tion that it will change. Why should we accept what are their true intentions? Because I personally refuse to believe that the whole recycling process isn’t intentional. To me it seems as capitalism at its best.

Day in and day out, our captors do everything in their pow- er to break us down and force us into submission. Those of us that refuse to submit are isolated and subjected to all sorts of torture because they refuse to work. They are the worst. The state can’t function without it. When you combine the laws and how they’re designed with that depression, it doesn’t take a smart person to break the recycling process I referred to earlier. It’s because of com- binations like this that doing away with just one part isn’t enough. Everything must go!

Now I’d like to share with you a little about my own per- sonal experience with incarceration. I’ve been in and out of institutions for the majority of my teenage and adult life. I’ve seen it all and been a part of most of it. These plac- es do whatever they want, whenever they want, however they want to, to whoever they want. Everyone here has either witnessed someone being victimized or been vic- tim themselves. Truthfully most people don’t even know they’re being victimized because they’ve uncom- mitted to it. It’s so aggravating because I have to listen to people try to explain to me why our captors are doing this. Honestly, the complaining is just annoying, the aggravating part is witnessing and knowing the power to change everything is ours.

Now I understand being naive to what’s happening, but from my experience most of the time that’s not the case. People think驱 if it hadn’t been for this, then I’d have never forgotten what it’s like to be treated fairly, or they’re so fearful of what might happen they’d rather put up with the abuse than stand against it. The issue with people being institu- tionalized is that we don’t see anything wrong with the treat- ment inside these places. It’s sad, I’ve seen grown men that consider themselves successful because they become lead

ROUGH SLEEPERS

Philadelphia city officials and police collaborated in forcing homeless people out of an encampment at the Convention Center and into shelters in late March. Acting directly against the protocols of the Centers for Disease Control, it’s said that they contributed to Covid-19 outbreaks in eight of the forty-one city shelters. There has also been one casualty reported about a month after his death, but only ten days after the order to keep the “squat” – a forty-year-old man died from Covid after 36 people developed symptoms in his shelter.

Since then, many without shelter have also been forced to the periphery of the city. Whether they came from closer to the city center or were “dumped” there by suburban county departments, as one city official phrased it, the mostly va- cant airport has served as a shelter for an increasing number of homeless folks. One man, originally from Kentucky, was even found aboard a parked airplane without a ticket when the crew boarded to prepare for a flight. Unfortu- nately he was arrested and charged with criminal trespass- ing. As of May 22nd, only passengers and employees will be allowed in the terminals, forcing approximately 150 people out.

Advocates for houseless populations have been busy, with some nonprofit organizations opening places like the I-95 Cafe in historic South Street neighborhood in Philadelphia, colleagues in the Supply chain on 15 Street in West Philadelphia, and food carts were opened in East Phila. for those in shelters. So many threatened with sanctions and eviction.

Meanwhile, off-duty 7th District police officer Jason San- tiago shot a sixty-year-old homeless man for allegedly threatening him with scissors on the 2500 block of South 7th Street this month. The man was shot four times and was later brought in critical condition, while Santiago has been taken off of active duty pending an Internal Affairs review.
RESOURCE EXTRACTION UPDATES

Last month Judge Paul Diamond ruled that Sunoco had not violated the Clean Water Act in their construction of the Mariner East 2 pipeline, contrary to the claims of a lawsuit by the Delaware River Keeper Network. The judge elaborated that the pipeline had “been subject to the fullest regulation.”

We also reported last month on the resumption of that pipeline’s construction near Philadelphia prior to this ruling, as leaks and fines related to the project seem to play an everlasting game of leapfrog. Relatively, a record $30 million fine was just issued to ETP Northeast Pipeline LLC, a subsidiary of Energy Transfer/Sunoco, for the 2018 explosion of the Revolution Pipeline in Beaver County. This particular 40 mile pipeline has recorded 680 violations since the beginning of this year alone, and has only been in operation since 2018.

Meanwhile, the Environmental Defense Fund released a report by scientists that the Pennsylvania shale gas industry has leaked seven times more methane than the state had reported in 2017. The same group released a report in 2018 similarly stating that PA had leaked five times the amount of the same greenhouse gas as was reported in 2015. The newest report also found that even larger amounts of methane were leaked by non-fracking natural gas industries, “despite producing a mere 2% of the state’s gas.” PA is the second largest natural gas producer after Texas in the country.

Air pollution, such as this, has been linked to human life spans being shortened by an average of three years, according to an Oxford Academic report—surpassing the impact of smoking, HIV/AIDS, and some other diseases such as malaria, and physical violence. The study focused on air pollution’s contribution to cardiovascular disease, specifically, and does not factor in related industrial pollutions (i.e. water).

In related air quality news, Scientific American printed pro-

jections that the worldwide pandemic-related lockdowns will only reduce global climate emissions by 5% this year. A reduction of 7.6% is widely considered to be necessary by 2030 (and for the next ten years) to stem severe climate catastrophe. These paltry projections are partially because shipping and manufacturing by the largest companies has mostly been maintained during these lockdowns, and economies are expected to rebound before year’s end, despite personal transportation by car and airplane having declined signifi-

THE STATE OF SURVEILLANCE

Some anonymous source located the Eye of Sauron for us in nearby South Philly. I attempted to temporarily poke it blind for May Day. Having cut Comcast (TV/Internet pro-

vider) cables outside the Real Time Crime Center (RTCC), located with the Delaware Valley Intelligence Center (DVIC) at Quartermaster Plaza, they appear to have tried cutting off some flow of information into the city. For many of us this is the first we’ve heard of that facility—so we may begin to wonder, what is the state of surveillance in the city?

The expansive Quartermaster Plaza, featuring two different concentrations of retail commerce straddling Oregon Avenue — many failing, or otherwise recently moved due to renovations and new condo construction—also has a gated section of government facilities south of Oregon Ave, between 20th Street and the retail stores beginning at approx.

imately 22nd Street.

Presumably it is within these gates that the DVIC is located, serving as a regional fusion center for federal, state, and local authorities—intending to predict, prevent and re-

spond to criminal and terrorist threats. Their “community engagement strategies are designed to serve as a clearinghouse for information-sharing, situational awareness, cri-

tical infrastructure protection, topical briefings and sector specific support” — and is responsible for twelve counties across four states. The fusion center is supposed to allow for a faster sharing of information between the agencies within, in addition to the local business community.

Also within the DVIC is the local police’s Real Time Crime Center, in which they monitor city. SEPTA (city transit), and independent business cameras, scan license plates, and process tips. A photo on the RTCC’s website reveals a large multi-screen display, with additional computers set before it, that resembles a similar monitoring system that was located in the Philadelphia Housing Authority’s Police Headquarters just across I-76 from the more western part of the Quartermaster retail plaza (3100 Pennsylvania Ferry Road).

In a February editorial for a noteworthy Philly rag, Christine Speer Lejeune tells us there are around 800 city-owned cameras, more than 27,000 SEPTA cameras (of which 2,000 are actively monitored), and many thousands of pri-

and thusly accelerating the destruction of those lives.

In between those acts, in December 2022, when we see a little action in Philly— the claim attributed to the ELF based on the graffiti left behind at a luxury home construction site on Rhawn Street in Northeast Philly. “Middle-aged, long-time residents of Philadelphia/suburbs,” according to their commune, thoroughly trashed construction vehi-

cles and a model home in defense of the earth and its inhab-

itants — particularly those which once lived on the site that had since become little more than a mud pit.

Combating this kind of sprawl in defense of the earth was a prevalent strategy of East Coast cells around that time, from Charlottesville to Long Island. We can certainly see echoes of that sentiment in actions against development here (and pipelines) in more recent years, too, however inadvertent that might be. Known or not, we have a heritage that isn’t long gone. We should consider this when evaluating our actions, particularly in potential efficacy and repression. There isn’t enough people for many during the Great Scare to roll over on our co-defendants, and we should really evaluate our rigor under duress for the sake of our co-conspirators and ourselves. That being said, those who maintained a principled stance are all the more heroic. If we had an authentic community, I would like to think we would hear more of these stories from people active in those eras — strength before persecution — and the principled re-

solve necessary for weathering repression would be better ingrained in each of us.

On a related note, we cannot attribute alleged declines in this level of action to the strictness of prosecution alone. Heavy sentences may have dissuaded some but, as recent years in Philly alone have demonstrated, unrepentant attacks con-

tinued. While repressive regimes from Germany to Nicaragu-

gua once threatened death for something as small as graffiti, resistance maintained. The ongoing struggles by comrades despite being disappeared by the Russian state, the increas-

ingly draconian sentences for minor offenses from Greece to China, or the ever-ongoing-round-ups and incarcerations in Italy, demonstrate anarchist strength worth emulating —
taking care to prepare ourselves and consider our actions as carefully as possible, without dissuading ourselves from acting entirely.

If we are to bear witness to indigenous groups that contin-

ue to fight while their kin are straight-up assassinated for opposing logging operations throughout South America, for that matter, we should consider inaction a non-option. Our situation that climate the ELF previously cited in their reas-

ons for action, has not improved. In fact it has only gotten worse.

LOVING ANARCHY (LA)

Anarchists in Los Angeles have been becoming up this year and we love it!

In January, the Northeast Militia spread menacing anti-gen-

eration graffiti all over the Highland Park neighborhood. In February, the Anarchist Insurgency Cell of theInformal Anarchist Federation vandalized the seating area of a Whole Foods and disabled an Amazon locker due to the parent company’s government contracts with surveillance agencies and ICE, as well as the grocer’s greenwashed capitalist agen-

da. In March, the Anarchist Water Polo Club flooded the offices of Northrop Grumman Sperry Marine due to their government contract to develop military-grade biometric technology to be used by various agencies. They did so by putting a garden hose through their mail slot following the previous example of a similar action in Portland, OR. And this month:

For autonomous, decentralized May Day, we torched an Amazon van in Los Angeles County.

We could not sit idly by and watch the spread of COVID-19 turn ICS detention centers into full blown death camps Am-

azon provides the cloud servers that hosts the Investigative Case Management system, the database utilized by ICE and criminal agencies to compile public and private data to track and deport immigrants. Amazon plays a role in every raid; every family separation; and every death at the hands of ICE. An action of this action to raise the stakes for companies like Amazon that provide critical bor-

der enforcement infrastructure.

In solidarity with with migrants currently on hunger strike in ICE facilities throughout the country. In solidarity with warehouse and grocery workers engaging in wildcat strikes on May Day.

Against the imposition of borders and the proliferation of the surveillance state

Anarchist Fire★★★★

A QUICK RANT ON COVID

Is it not possible for me to take the Coronavirus and its nega-

tive impacts seriously while criticizing the state’s response to it? (but in “the state’s not doing enough” kind of way – fuck that disturbing to see.) Is it not possible for me to understand the threat of COVID and continue to spend time with loved ones responsibly? Is the current anarchist imagination too deprived of creativity that it’s either a “libenz” the states or a full lock-

down situation? My ire is mostly directed towards the everyday policing of other people’s behavior as potential disease vectors.

The spread of COVID is NOT my fucking fault - nor is it yours. Yes, we should all do our best in avoiding unnecessary contact
A SHORT TIMELINE OF PÅ ELF ACTION C. 2002-03

Unrepentant conflict with the powers that be is often written in history as it's neither safe nor recuperable (terms often inclusive of each other). Activists attempt to delegitimize such acts, and those most successful clandestine actions have no known personalities to gather around (which is for the better, of course). That said, the mere existence of such actions are often imprisoned or harassed (i.e. by grand juries and federal monitoring) into their corners. Post-Green Scare, there are significantly fewer claims made by Earth Liberation Front cell in the United States, even compared to the Animal Liberation Front – the ELF being a sort of parent to the ELF, as well as sometimes co-conspirator/crossover group that has suffered similar levels of repression (i.e. terrorist enhancements). This has not stopped small, diffuse ELF cells from proliferating across the globe, however. Some ELF cells under the aegis of the Animal Anarchist Federation – and neither does it mean that such actions have not continued to be carried out in the United States. While today we mostly remember such epic configurations as the Vail Ski Resort arson, there was a great deal of smaller actions happening in various bioregions across the continent (from the late ’90s through the early 00s) that bear resemblance to actions that continue today.

While arson as an anarchist-associated tactic has only seemed to be reoccurring in Philadelphia since maybe 2017, there was a similar reoccurrence of it across the state little more than a decade earlier.

The ELF made its presence known within PA state lines in March 2002 when it burned down a sixty-ton crane worth half a million dollars in the city of Erie, in opposition to a highway project there. "We are not just making a stand against ecocide and developers, but the growth of civiliza- tion, as well as the demise of our existence and the biodi- versity that comes with it," the communiqué read. What fol- lowed the big debut was a similar caliber of actions, mostly around the same area.

In August 2002 a U.S. Forest Service research station was torched in Warren County, PA, due to ongoing timber sales, stall-digging, and "green-drivened manipulation of nature." Hav- ing caused $700,000 worth of damage in this fire alone, this particular ELF cell went on in their communiqué to claim that "we’ll no longer hesitate to pick up the gun."

In November 2002, the ELF claimed responsibility for de- stroying some genetically modified crops in the same area and, in a joint action with the ALF, “a series of powerful and effective actions against the fur industry,” according to Green Anarchy magazine. Following that, the ELF brought in the new year with the popular tactic at the time of torch- ing new cars at a dealership, again in Erie. In their commu- niqué, they note how dire the situation is for most life on the planet, and condemn activist strategies for compromising vate CCTV cameras (of which 11,000 are registered with the PPD SafCam program). Despite acknowledged allusions to 1964, The Patriot Act, data that is admittedly inconfu- sive (at best) as to whether cameras prevent or deter crime, and a stated opposition to facial-recognition software, she uses her platform to advocate for even more cameras throughout the city. Her stated reason is that privacy is dead anyway, so we should embrace the surveillance state for our safety, if only outlawing the facial recognition soft- ware that is already in use by state and corporate entities.

To some degree Lejune is right about our lack of priva- cy, even as most anarchists carry a combination wire-tap/ tracking device that is the camera-equipped smart phone in their pockets. We know from many an exposed that nearly every smart device is actively listening to us, sharing our conversations with advertisers so that they may better tar- get us, without beginning to address the National Security Agency and warranted wire-taps — or even what we willingly post on corporate-owned social media accounts. Of course, Lejune might not mind her Alexa device talking. Living on her, her husband, and her two kids in her 1,200 square foot porch-front property at 860 N. Woodstock (or maybe even that we can share her home address as a result of the state of things), but some of us are trying to opt out. Still, her position on surveillance is not even terribly uncommon.

Meanwhile, every cell phone is more or less constantly screaming in radio waves. Every time a phone gets within range of a carrier’s antennae it connects — and when there’s a call, text, or opening of an app, it sends that connection down the fiber-optic line to the corresponding relay and returns with the requested information. As 5G begins to be installed around the city, with more numerous antennae closer to the ground (largely on top of telephone poles throughout our neighborhoods (thus far), it’s not hard to imagine how easy it is to triangulate a cell-user’s position and accurately track their movement — even if their “loca- tion services” were turned off to thwart GPS tracking.

The immensity of the surveillance state should begin to illustrate the benefits of larger targets and the need for a cultural shift at the anarchist circumspect. Leaving your phone at home more often, creating prece- dents of unplugged times beyond action times, and games of Camover are immediately beneficial to many aspects of our lives. Yet if we have any interest in changing the terrain in which we live and fight, we have to recognize the severe limits of what amounts to personal, almost lifestyle, choic- es as well.

INTERVIEW WITH A WEST PHILLY RENT STRIKER

What was your housing/work situation coming into the pandemic and what led you to go on rent strike?

I was living in a West Philly house with two other people and doing okay financially. I think altogether we were probably bringing in just a bit more income over the level of “rent burdened”, meaning 1/3 of a household’s income goes to rent. Over half of Philly renters are rent burdened. Once the pandemic came to Philly and non-essential businesses were shut down, nearly all the renters that we’ve been in touch with in our neighborhood saw severe reduc- tions in income. For some of us that meant getting outright laid off or fired, for some people it was reduced working hours or trouble maintaining freelance work. But an over- whelming majority of us very quickly found ourselves in worse financial situations. This was before stimulus money or unemployment were getting to anyone.

When did you begin to take steps to strike?

Our neighborhood was fairly uniquely situated to start co- ordinating a strike for a few reasons. It’s fairly dense as far as West Philly goes and is geographically discrete, about four or five residential blocks boxed in by thoroughfares and railroads. The neighborhood is more or less split be- tween homeowners who’ve lived there their entire lives or most of their lives and renters, some of whom are students but I think slightly more skewed toward working class adult households. So, these things together made for a sit- uation where there are a lot of relationships that go back a long time and many more that go back at least a handful of years.

So, when the virus hit, there were existing networks and relationships in place for people to start figuring out what mutual aid would look like. One neighbor got a contact list together so that we’d all have each other’s phone numbers, people worked in grocery runs, making sure that elderly neighbors especially would have whatever they needed. And out of that came conversations specifically between renters about the poten- tial for coordinated activity on our part.

Did you organize your strike with neighbors?

Give flowers to the BRICK CAGED JUNE11.ORG
WHEN THINGS GET ROUGH
WE RIDE TOGETHER

Abandoning the streets would be a huge mistake if we don’t want the new normal to be more authoritarian and passive than before. What can we do in light of the fact that walking along crowded streets isn’t a viable option anymore? I’ll be happy to hear your thoughts on this as well.

With our health to worry about, and our struggles to continue, we will have to innovate. Across the continent, people are experimenting with rallies where people stand six feet apart and demonstrate with participants moving around in cars. Each of these approaches has its strengths and weaknesses.

Here’s an experiment that hasn’t been tried many times by anarchists recently: bicycle demonstrations. In the ’gos and zoomos, Critical Mass rides were common, but these well-attended group rides have since fallen out of style. Twice during 2018, anarchists and their fellow travelers held demonstrations on bikes. Both times were memorial rides for Pablo Avendano, an anarchist cyclist killed by a car while working at delivery. Each of these rides were far more effective. Neither had any arrests, both were able to disrupt traffic, open space for direct action, and let the city know that Pablo mattered to his friends and companions.

In a time where any gathering of people can have a ripple effect on the health of our friends and families, we can envision new ways to be together socially while keeping our distance physically. Gathering and moving together on bicycles leaves us able to go places together while allowing us enough room to lessen the spread of the virus among each other. This compatibility with our new collective practices makes bicycles together more suitable than large crowds would be in this strange time. While socially distant rallies have trouble moving many people, bike caravans can organize a certain kind of time to experiment with coordination and communication, bicycle demonstrations allow for the spontaneity and impromptu decision-making of marching without needing to give up mobility or communication.

The benefits of gathering on bicycles to demonstrate are numerous. A mass of bikes is mobile and can move around the city quickly, but maintain a social and mobile distance from each other. Car traffic can go through spaces that many cars cannot: parks, paths, up curbs, and potentially even up or down stairs. This combined with the fact that bikes can be slow moving means our bike caravans can have a difficult time keeping up with and keeping track of a biking demonstration. Talking to each other while riding bikes is a lot easier than trying the same while driving, since bikes can ride quiet and at low volume. Let’s see each other a lot more easily when we aren’t enclosed in a metal and glass box. Bicycles, unlike cars, do not have license plates, there have carried out in other times and places. Practice jogging while carrying two pallets at a time. Go ahead and change the load around. It’s not a bad thing to worry about later. Be humble while trusting and believing in yourself and those you have affinity with. Spread anarchy, live anarchism.

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