



A BRIGHT SHINING LIGHT

A WINTER SELF-HELP PUBLICATION FOR PRISONERS // DECEMBER 2015

*The things
they've tried
to kill,
we've found
a way
to grow.*

Unusual Friendship Between Wolf And Bear

A Finnish photographer came across an unlikely pair – a female grey wolf and a male brown bear were regularly hanging out together and even sharing food. As it is unusual to find a wolf and a bear cohabitating, it is fascinating to see these animals feeling safe together and aiding in each other's survival. Maybe they found each other because they were a bit unsure of how to survive alone, finding camaraderie or friendship in an unexpected place.





Well, the sun is setting earlier now, and we are slowly adjusting to more darkness. Even as the colder months bring us inward in some ways, we continue to feel energized by all the ways we are able to act and all the ways in which we hear of people acting. Those prison walls aren't keeping us from being a part of the same struggle.

Along with the usual included items, in this issue we feature an article titled *What We're About* in order to try to convey our thoughts about prisons and society in a detailed and nuanced way. Hopefully you'll find ways to relate to it. Feel free to let us know what you think. From time to time we choose particular words that we think help us better communicate with each other and so there is a definition of the word *generalize* in this issue.

Hundreds of people have been arrested over the past year and a half in the midst of the rebellions in Ferguson. As cases finally resolve and those who have received significant prison sentences are shipped off to serve their time, we have been trying to get in contact with these rebels and establish connection. If you know of anyone who got time for Ferguson-related charges, please encourage them to write us. Also, let us know if you want to link up with others locked up where you are who you may share like-mindedness with, and we will try to connect you with other subscribers in your vicinity.

We'd also like to give you all a heads up about a new free prison publication that's coming out soon called *Unstoppable*. It's an anti-authoritarian publication by and for prisoners who are women or transgendered. They will seek to blend radical political analyses with personal experiences to elevate the voices on the inside that are often excluded from political dialogues. Male prisoners are also welcomed to subscribe. Write to them: UNSTOPPABLE, PO BOX 11032, PUEBLO, CO 81001

As always, it is awesome to get your feedback. We got word back from folks in Nebraska who participated in the uprising there, as well as from folks in Illinois who were on hunger strike recently. It seems as though we didn't hear from as many folks in Missouri, and hope this publication is making it into your hands. If it is, please let us know. We have started again trying to put out an issue every other month. Keep letting us know if you get 'em and what you think.



IN PRISON

Jean Valentine

**In prison
without being accused**

**or reach your family
or have a family**

**You have
conscience
heart trouble**

**asthma
manic-depressive**

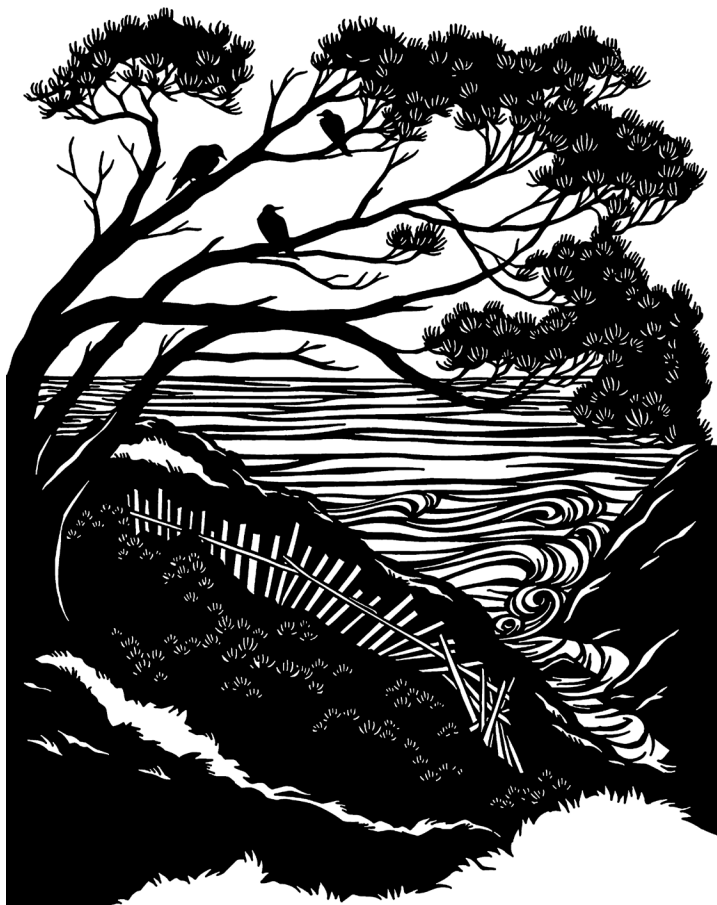
**(we lost the baby)
no meds**

**no one
no window**

**black water
nail-scratched walls**

**your pure face turned away
embarrassed**

**you
who the earth was for.**



WHAT WE'RE ABOUT

We are a group of friends. We think its important to have our shit together and get things done, but we're not an organization in the normal sense of the word. We have no love for prisons and all the structures of the State - courts, jails, police departments, politicians and political parties.

Some of us have friends or family in prison. While none of us have done time, most of us have been in jail and had to face the prospect of going to prison. Simply struggling to survive in a capitalist society brings us into conflict with the forces of law and order. When we engage in combative social movements in an attempt to change the conditions of our lives, we encounter state repression. From the riots and rebellions of the past to those of today, prison is the punishment for those who raise their heads in defiance.

Some of those who participated in recent rebellions are currently in prison or are awaiting sentencing or trial. Their charges range from parole and probation violations to armed criminal action, burglary and arson. We think it is important to support the rebels who are entering the prison system and we hope to create links between rebellious individuals on the inside and those who are being punished by the State for rebelling in the streets.

Our contempt for this society extends well beyond its

repressive nature. The current structure of society relies on hierarchy and domination. We think that this is a sad and shitty way to go through life. We want to live in a world where people can thrive without exploiting each other and in a society that does not create institutions which perpetuate domination.

Prison is simply an extreme version of the power dynamics which exist all around us and are fundamental to the structures which govern our lives. Inside prisons, the State can experiment with methods of control that are legitimized by the law. Outside prisons, the State is more limited in what it can do to control us, but the underlying need to discipline the population remains. Everywhere, there are limits to the power that the State actually has. At some point people will fight back.

Over time, we have noticed certain patterns in the way rebellions occur and spread. It seems like it takes someone or a bunch of us all together to take the first step. Then once the facade of control has been stripped away from the State, others gain the confidence to push back as well.¹ That's why we think it's important to look out for people struggling against the systems which uphold exploitation and domination. We want to make sure they know they're not in this fight by themselves, that other people have their backs.

Hunger strikes, work stoppages, and riots have become more commonplace in prisons throughout the country in the last five years. Some like those in Georgia and California reached a level of coordination that allowed the strikes to spread across the entire state. When there were hunger strikes in Menard, some friends organized noise demos outside the prison. That's a minor example of a struggle spreading beyond it's initial limitations, but in order to be really powerful, our efforts will have to go a lot further.

Struggles can spread from an individual or group of friends, to an entire cell block or prison wing; from one prison to others and out onto the streets. The same is true for rebellions that start on the streets. What might have happened if riots broke out in other cities during the rebellions in Ferguson and Baltimore or if people inside prisons had taken some action as well. The police and national guard could be stretched even thinner than they were, giving us more power and making it more likely that we can get what we're after.²

Just like the State has limits in how far it can exercise its control, we have limits too. As much as we'd like to see it, it's unrealistic to expect everyone to start fighting back all at once. We're still human and we shouldn't lose sight of that. We have to balance pushing ourselves and our struggles further with the violence that we expose ourselves to when we do. We don't want to jump out ahead of everyone else and be isolated, nor do we want to take on so much trauma that it makes us

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WHAT WE'RE ABOUT *Continued from page 3*

cruel and incapable of creating the world we dream of. We have to take steps together, building off the efforts and actions of others. The point is to fight for a world worth living in, not to get ourselves killed or burn out to the point where we can't fight anymore.

Most of what gets called crime is what people do to survive under the tyranny of capitalism - it's about money and access to resources. Prison is not a solution to this problem. Prisons succeed in isolating people and maintaining social divisions, but they fail at addressing real problems like drug addiction, domestic violence, and sexual assault. These problems are made worse by prison, not better. Prisons also serve to reinforce the class divisions in society. Once you have a felony record, it's really difficult to escape the cycle of poverty, crime and imprisonment. Some people have proposed alternatives to prison like community based restorative justice, accountability processes or vigilante justice. While these alternatives may be deeply flawed, they are still better options than the systematic violence and abuse inherent in locking people in cages.

We think it's important to remember that systematic solutions always fail to address the problems they're supposed to solve. Every situation is different and therefore requires a unique solution tailored to the context from which it arises. The criminal justice system can't be flexible enough to think this way. For judges, police and politicians punishment is always the answer and the State is the only way to achieve justice or resolve conflict.

When we think about other ways of resolving conflicts that don't rely on police, courts or prisons, it's important that we remember that these models shouldn't become new laws to be applied across the board. Alternatives exist so that we know we can do something different, not because they're going to work in every situation.

We don't have one solution, no one does, and people who pretend to have the answer are probably just trying to get into a position of power. They're playing the game of politics. Real solutions to our problems can only come from ourselves.

There's more we could say, but we'll end here for now. Write us a letter if you have questions or disagreements and we'll try to address them in future issues.

¹ *Not all steps forward, though, create openings for others to follow. Lone wolf attacks on structures of power, especially those involving suicidal levels of risk, hyper violence and specialized equipment or skills, rarely result in others following suit. We must study those types of activity that have a tendency to spread, and attempt to encourage them.*

² *For more thoughts on rebellion spreading, see the "Definitions" section of this issue for an explanation of the term "generalize."*

WRITE TO US

IF YOU WANT TO RECEIVE A ZINE CATALOG / BE ADDED TO OR REMOVED FROM THE MAILING LIST / TELL US WHAT YOU THINK ABOUT WHAT YOU'VE READ IN A ZINE OR IN THIS PUBLICATION

OAK ROOT PRESS
PO BOX 775006
STL, MO 63177

We do not know anything about the law so we cannot help with legal support. We are also not a dating service. So please do not ask us for those kind of things. If you are a rapist of any kind, and you don't think that it's a problem, do not bother writing to us. We dream of a world where rapists along with prisons and all forms of power-over, do not exist.



DEFINITIONS

By defining the words we use to describe what we love and what we hate, we seek to build the common language we will need to communicate through struggle.

generalize [jen-er-uh-lahyz]

verb (used with object), generalized, generalizing.

1. to infer (a general principle, trend, etc.) from particular facts, statistics, or the like.
2. to give a general rather than a specific or special character or form to.
3. to make general; bring into general use or knowledge of the broader population—especially as it relates to a rebellious tactic, action, idea or moment of revolt.

In July, 1877, railroad workers in East St. Louis joined striking workers across the country in a strike that had begun in Baltimore and Pittsburgh and spread west with the railroad lines to St. Louis.

Upon hearing about the railroad workers' strike in East St. Louis, workers in St. Louis decided to leave their jobs as well and march, 500 deep, across the bridge to support people there in their efforts.

News of the strike spread, and what had begun as a strike at one particular industry, the railroad, spread to workplaces of all sorts. Workers joined the strike and supported each other regardless of race. People who previously had not seen themselves as part of the same struggle began to see that their efforts against the

world they hated were linked, and joined together in a strike that shut down commerce and the city's normal efforts to impose control upon the population.

The railroad worker's strike had generalized—it had spread from the confines of one particular industry throughout the workplaces of the city. This event is now referred to as the 1877 St. Louis General Strike. It is considered the first general strike in the country.

For those of us today who are working hyper-controlled prison jobs, precarious service industry or temp jobs or are unemployed in huge numbers, it can be hard to see how this history applies to our lives. In some ways it doesn't.

But while our revolt may not spread from workplace to workplace as it did in the past, it is still necessary for us to study the ways in which our revolt may generalize to as many parts of society as possible. In fact, without the limitations of seeing the workplace as the only place where rebellion can occur, our struggle against this society of domination can be much more powerful. Since there is no part of our lives that is not under the control of the state, capitalism, patriarchy and white supremacy, the targets of our rage are everywhere and all rebellions can be seen as potentially linked.

One way of imagining the total transformation of this society we hate into something better, is through the generalization of a moment of revolt from one realm of society to another, until the daily functioning of this sick world becomes impossible and we have some space to experiment with building something we like better.

The recent rebellions in the fall of 2014 in Ferguson, Missouri can offer a useful example, both in the ways the revolt there did and did not generalize. Police murder of young black men is fairly common, and is typically seen as only impacting the lives of the person killed and those who knew him. But in this situation, others who were not directly impacted by the immediate instance of police violence saw something of themselves in the murder of Mike Brown, and decided to join in the fight. Some knew someone who had been killed by the police, or had been beaten or harassed by the pigs themselves. Others (mostly black but also some white), saw an opportunity to fight with others against white supremacy as a daily reality in this society. Others were sick of living in a world where the stuff they want and need costs money and the daily struggle of working jobs to get it. Still others, pushing back against boredom and predictability, saw staying home from work and looting with friends, blaring Boosie and cruising down the block as a welcomed interruption to their miserable daily lives.

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DEFINITIONS *Continued from page 5*

The street battles in Ferguson spoke to people throughout the city and throughout the country, and they flooded into Ferguson to join the efforts, as well as acting in their own contexts. This influx of people, just like the 500 workers marching across the bridge to East St. Louis in 1877, added strength to the rebellion and helped it to deepen.

But there are many ways in which the battles in Ferguson failed to generalize. Although there were marches, actions and attacks in solidarity with Ferguson across the country, mass revolt did not spread geographically into the surrounding areas or to other parts of the U.S. Nor did it spread throughout the St. Louis area, except in isolated moments. Huge segments of the disenfranchised population for some reason did not see their misery as linked to the revolt in Ferguson. But that doesn't mean it's not possible.

Imagine, instead, a moment where a street battle against a racist police force spreads to the prisons and jails in the area. Where high school students walk out of school after hearing news of a collective rebellion at the prison where many of their family members are locked up. Where bored housewives, sex workers, survivors of sexual assault and those sick of being silenced and limited by the men in their lives see a rock thrown at a line of riot cops as a step toward their liberation. Where workers walk out of their jobs in support of those in their neighborhood or city refusing to pay rent to a slumlord who keeps them living in sub-human conditions. Where young poor people in white, rural areas decide the future society has planned for them of working as prison guards or joining the military doesn't sound too good and see those rebelling in the city as struggling against similar obstacles.

This is the vision we can hold when deciding where, how, and when to act. These are the questions we can ask ourselves: How can this action generalize? What are the roadblocks to it generalizing? How can I/we express our support (or solidarity) for those rebelling somewhere else and begin to show how our struggles are linked?

INCARCERATION NEWS DIGEST

INSIDE

On September 9, after days of lockdown and other restrictions on movement, inmates at Donaldson Correctional Facility in Bessemer, Alabama, rushed the unlocked door of the dining hall en-masse and occupied it before taking over the common area of the dormitory and refusing to lock down. One inmate reported: "Black, white, Blood, GD [Gangster Disciple], young, old, 205, 334, Mobile, Birmingham. None of the things that kept us divided seemed to matter anymore. Everyone had identified one common enemy."

-WBRC-Birmingham

On September 30, 16 prisoners at Surrey Pre-Trial Centre outside Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, launched a hunger strike because of building frustrations with overcrowding, poor ventilation, dirty bedding, overpriced canteen prices, and the lack of medical care, face-to-face family visits, and a weight-lifting gym.

-Vancouver Sun

On October 5, prisoners at Juneau, Alaska's Lemon Creek Correctional Center rioted against prison staff leaving their dorm uninhabitable. Prisoners were furious over the expensive phone system they say was designed "clearly so somebody can get rich." Sometime that evening calls were abruptly stopped, and inmates became agitated that they would be paying for those disrupted calls. The prisoners gathered and organized in their dorm, and some wrapped towels with eyeholes in them around their faces. They covered the dorm's cameras and uprooted a table bolted to the dorm's concrete floor. The table was wedged against the door into the dorm, and a window into the dorm was broken. Bathroom partitions and bunk mattresses were ripped from their places and shoved against the broken window to prevent corrections officers from flooding the dorm with pepper spray.

-The Juneau Empire

On October 14, 82 immigrants from Bangladesh being held at the El Paso County Detention Facility in Texas launched a hunger strike to protest their possible deportation. They were later joined by fellow immigrant detainees from India, Afghanistan, and Pakistan at the same facility. Five days after the start of the hunger strike in El Paso, detainees at Lasalle Detention Center in Jena, Louisiana, begin a solidarity hunger strike there.

-Dhaka Tribune

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WE HEARD FROM YOU

Letter excerpt from a prisoner in GA

I am sharing the newsletter with any brother, white or black, that shows any sign of interest in reading it. I will be putting together a study group/think tank and will be networking to shed light upon the corruptness of man oppressing man in the guise of what is called public safety. I am stranded in the land of the walking dead and something is needed to revive these zombies.

I like the way the comrades are breaking down and exposing the Illuminati theory in how it tricks or hypnotizes said theorists into focusing on the misdirection, instead of focusing on the tangible revolution. I have seen, heard and even debated this in my younger years and upon reflection I can recall how comrades were so caught up in the mystic aspect of a small group controlling the world through banking and religion that we failed to even consider whether this was a ploy of propaganda unleashed with the intent to mislead our so-called theorists at that moment in time.

Even though race issues rise at times, everybody knows that this system is based and operated on economical and social control. Both black, latino and poor whites are basically treated the same. All are here crying and complaining about the mistreatment we are all suffering! So I be stressing it's time to empower self in order to start the wheels of resisting and defying the system.

Letter excerpt from a prisoner in NE

Allow me the opportunity to shout out my brothers/comrades at MCC, aka the pit, down in Chester, IL. I'm from Chicago, and I've put in work at that spot. I was giving those pigs the business back in 2000! Seems like too much hasn't changed there. Keep y'all heads up and don't fold to their tactics. Shut that joint down just like we did Tamms. You got nothing to lose. Once you done hit rock bottom, ain't nowhere to go but up. You all have to stand strong and united against the pigs that oppress you. Look at what we did here in Nebraska! We shut this shit down, and now change in our favor is slowly coming. The director heard us and he has started the policy changes that he said would come. It may not be coming as fast as we might have wanted it, but it's coming.

Our uprising/operation is starting to bear fruit. The pigs just recently gave us who were identified as being "active participants" our tv's and canteen privileges back. They also put out a memo detailing other changes which are coming.

Letter excerpt from a prisoner in IL

Revolutionary greetings comrade! I heard from you today so let me holla back and fill you in on what's happening inside this camp. The hunger strike came to an end on the evening of September 26th. In exchange for calling off the hunger strike, the [new] warden conceded to some of the issues, giving her word that conditions would change for the better, a better communication line to her would be established and she also agreed to accept proposals for education programming. Her message was that the hunger strike got her attention and that things would get better. The real victory is in the affirmation of our humanity. Our refusal to submit forced her to see us. For whatever reason, she chose not to deal with us with a heavy hand. It's a small chance no one will get shipped out of state.

We heard and saw the rebel protesters bringing the noise! That was love and most definitely an affirmation of our humanity and may have even helped the warden to see us more clearer – as human beings.

But you better believe it that there will be officers that will have a deep resentment toward prisoners over the warden's decision to make these changes – as small as they are. They hate it when our humanity is affirmed in any way. It disturbs their superiority complexes.

The struggle won't stop until all prison walls are brought down. Solidarity across the walls that divide!

Letter excerpt from a prisoner in IL

The protesters solidarity was activity that demonstrated (taught) the lesson that prisoners were not to be objectified/thingified, and that "all that remain of our humanity" is no longer lodged in the officers, or the Warden. Our supporters came and re-claimed us – our humanity – and inspired some to forge a new one. I saw the most pessimistic and suicidal person I ever met outlook transform after the protesters gave us back our humanity. With his eyes beaming, he stated to me, "Man, the protesters inspired me!" Later that night, he took up the activity that's essential to the new community – communication – he sent out 6 letters! After the strike, I was escorted to the barber for a haircut. He asked, "So you made it through the hunger strike?" I answered, "Yeah." Then he said, "I see that you guys have fans out there," in reference to the protesters. With that, I knew we had regained our humanity, that the new humanity had reclaimed us – beyond these walls. I know who is truly on "our side!"

Letter excerpt from a prisoner in NE

It's so important that those of us behind the wall see that it's going down all over! It can be easy to lose focus while isolated. We may be isolated but we are not few! The front line is a tough place to be and even tougher to stay. No one person can do it alone. So it is necessary that unity be our foundation.



We chose to excerpt this letter in order to further share some thoughts and experiences regarding race tensions in the street over the past year and to pose alternatives to the opinion reflected in the letter about how to interact with the race dynamics that are always at play.

A LETTER FROM OCTOBER 2015

Oak Root Press,

This is in response to an article in the October newsletter about a young white person and her experience in the protest immediately following the killing of Brother Mansur Ball-Bey.

First off let me explain the meaning of the name “Bey.” The names Bey and El are the African tribal names taken by members of the Moorish Science Temple of America (M.S.T.A.), an Islamic Black Nationalist organization. According to their teachings they are instructed not to amalgamate into the pale skin nations of Europe. The suspicions and hatred that the “Moors” feel for white America is due to 400 years of white terror and oppression.

Racial tension between blacks and whites is very real and very dangerous. For a moment the young lady felt like she didn’t belong there. This was soon followed by a black man shouting, “What are y’all crackers doing here?” Fortunately some sisters were there to defend the white people’s presence at the protest. This scenario could have easily led to a division amongst the blacks and destroyed the spirit of unity which is what the protest was all about, unity and strength against injustice from a common enemy, the police.

Yes, I agree, the young lady and her friends had the right to be there and their hearts were in the right place. But it’s not always a matter of doing what is right and what is good. Sometimes we have to make the wise decision, one that is good for the overall cause. This situation could have very well turned into a “Reginald Denny” moment (for those who don’t know Reginald Denny was a white motorist who got caught up in traffic in the neighborhood where the 1992 L.A. riots began. He was snatched out of his truck and was beaten and stomped unmercifully by angry blacks). She and her friends could have organized a multi-ethnic protest nearby in order to show their unity with the blacks and their anti-police stand.

“A combination of perfect love and perfect hate.”
Peace, Love, Unity

A RESPONSE

We are very appreciative of the author’s willingness to share his thoughts and to challenge us on our ideas. We can’t build anything if we’re not real with each other, and we can’t build a common language and understanding without disagreement. Thanks for that.

We found quite a bit that we agreed with as well as quite a bit that we disagreed with in his letter. We appreciated hearing his perspective on the reality of racial tension from one who has lived and suffered as a black man in America, as well as an explanation of the centuries of white terror and oppression that are at its root.

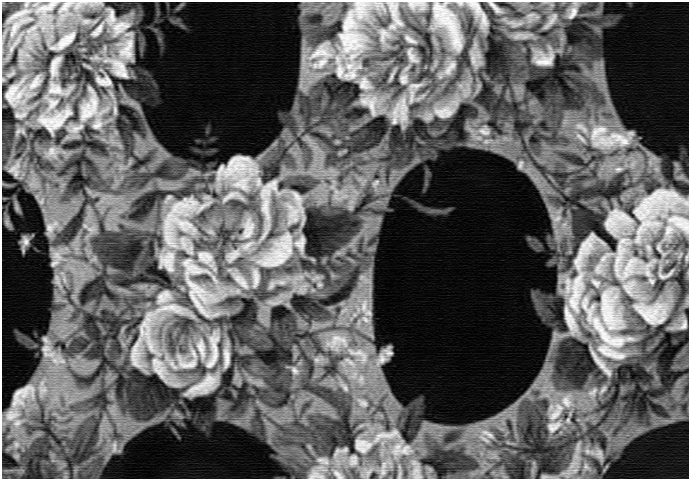
While it’s true that these racial tensions can be dangerous (as in the case of Reginald Denny), it is also true in our experience that such tensions are often broken by obvious demonstrations of solidarity or hatred of a common enemy on the part of non-black fighters. When a white person confronts a cop, throws a brick or reaches out to snatch a black person back from the grip of the police, we can feel the very real sense of connection and shared struggle that is built.

Not only that, but it’s possible that such moments are the best chance we’ve got for destroying the racial tensions we are drowning in every day. In the recent book *Dixie Be Damned*, the authors reflect:

It is at this intersection of violence and race that we really get to the heart of the matter. In its genesis, white supremacy imposed divisions of labor and social alienation upon nonwhite subjects with a brutality of biblical proportions... Those who would risk extending solidarity across racial boundaries would find themselves the recipient of exemplary violence in order to instill fear of constant consequence for this treason. Ever after, *meaningful cross-racial affinity can only be found in moments of revolutionary violence*. This is not a new idea nor is it a proposal: it has simply always required a violent rupture for white, Black, Brown, and Native rebels to actually find themselves side by side in true affinity.

Speaking both historically and from our lived experience, moments that involve a sudden break (or rupture) from the norm and a direct confrontation with power

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A RESPONSE *Continued from page 8*

hold the most potential for breaking down barriers of all sorts. In short, they're worth the risk.

Further, what good does it do the black rebels facing off with a line of armed and bloodthirsty riot cops for us to be miles away, holding signs and marching in circles? If we are to really consider the possibility that these moments of collective revolt could spread, could liberate and hold territory (a block, a neighborhood, a city...) in which we could experiment with taking care of each other without the forces of control, we cannot allow them to remain isolated to a single group. We need everyone.

There were nights in Ferguson during August, 2014, when we saw white kids in beater trucks wearing camo cruising the streets, screaming at the cops, joining in the street battles with a passion and fury that was welcomed by those around them. In this small example of race treason we see both the possibility of overcoming racial barriers as well as the makings of a revolt that could decimate the ruling order. In moments of rebellion that remain racially segregated, we see the potential for the race war that, while possibly inevitable, we would like to work very hard to avoid.

Also, while the author of the original article was not gendered, the tone of the response in moments felt paternalistic, gendering the author as a "lady" and implying that she was young and that the account was the author's first experience of tensions around race that arise in the street. It is curious to consider what the reader's response would have been if he had assumed the author was male. There were moments in the streets when female combatants were told to go home or move to the back. These moments of fighting the police in the street are no exception to the gender dynamics and sexist tendencies that exist in society as a whole. There were also moments wherein like race, gender dissolved and both those who are female and

male-assigned fought side by side, where what gender you were didn't matter when breaking up paving stones to throw or trying to flip a cop car. It is crucial that we work against the societal tendency to take away the agency and voice of those who get treated as "women" and "girls," and to instead give space to everyone's capacity to contribute to this fight, regardless of what gender they were assigned at birth.

In closing, we want to express our solidarity with the author in his efforts over the years against white supremacy and to thank him again for having this conversation with us. From here we will continue this conversation with him privately, but we encourage others reading this exchange to talk to those around you and let us know what you think.

MARCH 1980

The newsclip below was originally published in the St. Louis Post Dispatch. Although we have no idea what those who took part in this moment of rebellion were thinking or feeling, nor do we know whether they were rebelling against something specific or against imprisonment in general, we can look back at this brief snapshot of history and be reminded that the effort to subdue, govern and incarcerate us has always been a bloody battle. We have not gone quietly.

A week later, at least 200 prisoners at the now-defunct Missouri State Penitentiary in Jefferson City staged a work and hunger strike.

ST. LOUIS (AP) — Police used dogs and tear gas to quell a riot by prisoners who set their mattresses on fire at the City Workhouse in north St. Louis Saturday afternoon, authorities said.

"We now have them under control," said Maj. Joseph Craft of the St. Louis Police Department.

At least two officers were treated for inhalation of smoke or tear gas after prisoners housed on the second floor of the facility rioted, officials said. The fires were controlled although city firefighters initially refused to enter the building until the prisoners were subdued, officials said.

The disturbance, which lasted about an hour, broke out after a routine search, said Edward F. Tripp, commissioner of adult services in the St. Louis Department of Welfare, which operates the workhouse.

Tripp said no hostages were taken and that there was no possibility of escapes during the disturbance. Officials were concerned about property destruction, he said.

About 240 pre-trial and post-trial prisoners were housed on the second floor of the city facility, Tripp said.



On October 14, inmates at Troup County Jail in LaGrange, Georgia, banded together and fought with guards. One detention officer was choked and another received a sprained wrist during what jail officials called a "large disturbance" in one of the housing units.

-LaGrange Daily News

On October 28, 27 women detained at Hutto Detention Center in Taylor, Texas, launched a hunger strike demanding their release. Five days into the strike reports emerged that almost all of the facility's 500 prisoners had joined the hunger strike.

-KXAN-Austin

On October 30, around 90 inmates at Adelanto Detention Center (California's largest immigrant detention facility) launched a hunger strike (the fourth immigrant detention facility to strike within the last month) demanding better conditions and their immediate release.

-LA Times

On November 1, a dozen or more youth inmates at Copper Hills Youth Center in West Jordan, Utah, destroyed roof tiles, doors and other components of the building, and assaulted staff members in what police called "a coordinated wave of flare-ups."

-The Salt Lake Tribune

On November 7, more than 40 inmates in a wing at Calgary Correctional Centre in Alberta, Canada, jammed toilets in their cells causing flooding in the wing. They also destroyed mattresses and caused thousands of dollars in other damages causing the wing to be being shut down until repairs could be made. Meanwhile across town, inmates at the maximum security Calgary Remand Centre, engaged

in a hunger strike complaining about food quantity and the prices for canteen, prison attire, and general privileges.

-Calgary Sun

On November 10, four inmates at Ohio's highest security prison, Ohio State Penitentiary in Youngstown, went on hunger strike protesting the seizure of their property and poor living conditions.

-WKBN-Youngstown

OUTSIDE

On September 21, a couple dozen people, holding banners reading "Not 1 More Deportation," "The Struggle Continues!" and "No Borders, No Prisons," chained themselves together and blocked three roads leading from the Northwest Detention Center in Tacoma, Washington, in order to prevent any possible deportations from taking place on that day.

-Seattle Times

On September 23, protesters gathered outside Pelican Bay State Prison in Crescent City, California, furious about the continued use of solitary confinement to punish their friends and family members locked up inside the state's supermax prison.

-The Del Norte TriPLICATE

On October 3, several dozen demonstrators blocked the street at the entrance to Rikers Island, New York City's main jail complex, demanding that the facility be shut down.

-New York Times

On November 7, 70 people gather outside the Hutto Detention Center in Taylor, Texas, where women inside were on hunger strike. The supporters played music and held a large banner reading, "No Life Without Freedom." The women inside heard and saw them from their windows, and they gained strength noticing how nervous the guards were acting.

-The Austin Chronicle

