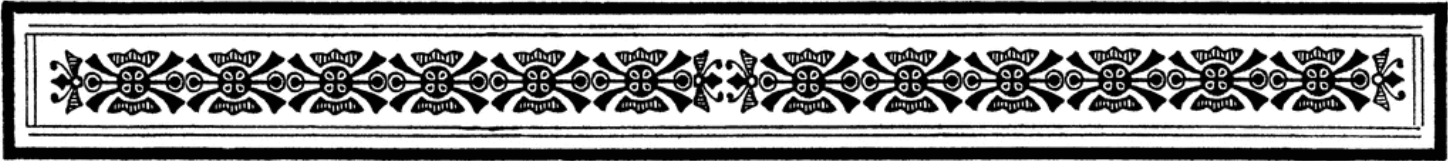


AN ANARCHIST PERIODICAL FROM THE OCCUPIED LENAPE TERRITORY KNOWN AS PHILADELPHIA

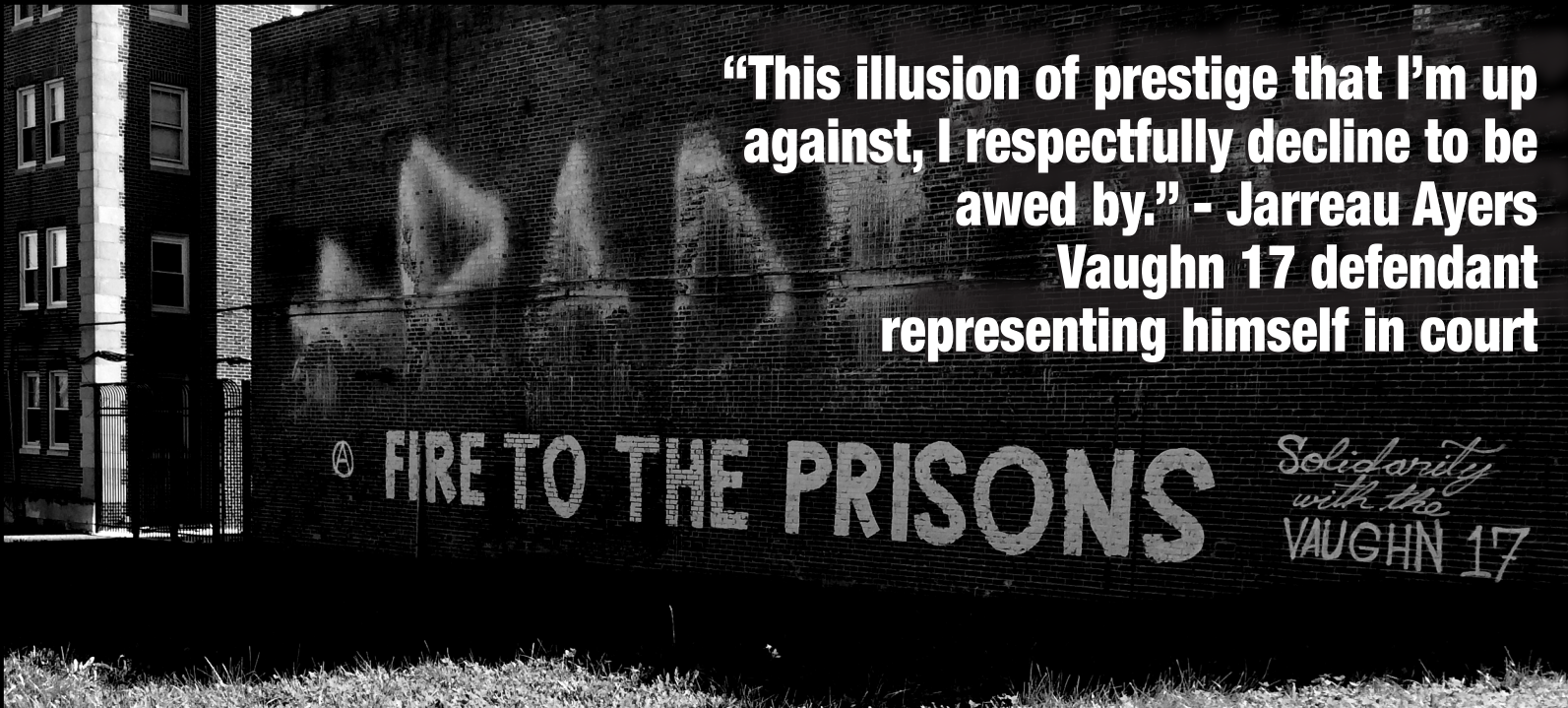
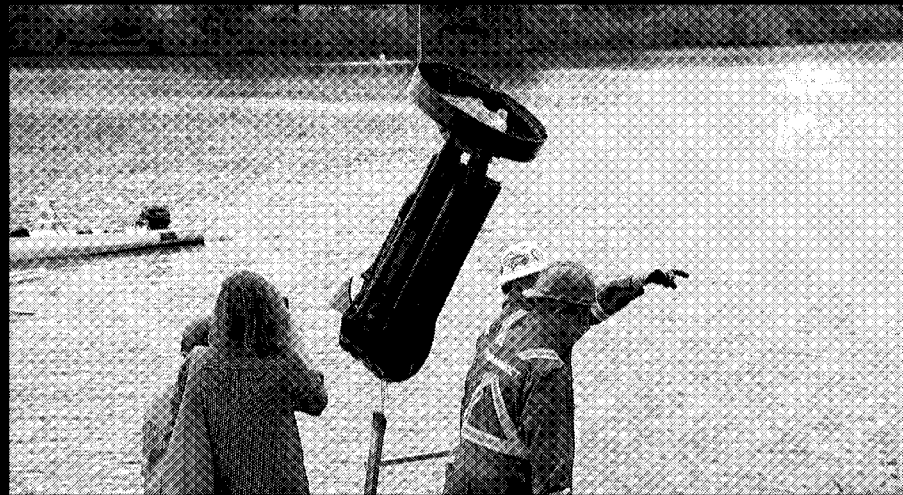
ANATHEMA



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INSIDE: DEFORESTATION, VAUGHN 17, PROUD BOYS, COP CARS, ATTACK, ANTI-COLONIAL OCTOBER, ITALIAN ANTI-RACISTS, ELECTION DAY, INVITATION TO DESERTION

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WHAT WENT DOWN

September 24 - South Street OCF coffee house window broken with brick.

Early October - Philly Antifa dox one Keystone State Skinheads/Keystone United fascist every day for thirty days.

October 2 - Statue of failed colonizer Thorfinn Karlsefni decapitated and pushed into the Schuylkill River. The statue has been a rallying point for Keystone United every October for the last decade.

October 8 - "Italian Americans Against Racism" leave anti-Columbus and anti-colonial tags at the Italian Immigration Museum and on and around the Columbus statue in South Philly.

October 8 - Banner dropped over Columbus Blvd in support of Vaughn 17 prison rebels. Oct 8 is the first day of jury selection for the first trial of the Vaughn 17. "PHILLY SUPPORTS VAUGHN/SMYRNA 17"

October 12 - Multiple businesses around 44th St and Spruce St vandalized.

October 17 - Person dressed in black takes paper from a nearby trash can, inserts it into the gas tank of a Philadelphia police cruiser, and lights it in an attempt to ignite the gas tank near Pennsylvania University Hospital.

October 22 - Graffiti in solidarity with the Vaughn 17 prison rebels in West Philly, South Philly, and Center City. Oct 22 is the first day of trial for the Vaughn defendants. "Here is to those taking risks, inside the prison walls, and out!"

October 25 - Bank robbed at 6500 Castor Avenue using a demand note.

October 29 - Bank robbed at 8000 Verree Road using a demand note.

November 1 - A banner was dropped in Wilmington, DE in solidarity with the Vaughn 17. "PRISONS DON'T KEEP ANYONE SAFE! #VAUGHN17 (A)" ★

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NOTICE

A series of newer black Ford sedans have been patrolling the city with corresponding license plates. JZH 6462 has been spotted in parts of West Philly, with plainclothes officers cooperating directly with a uniformed Philadelphia Police Department patrol car; JZH 6457 was doing the same in Center City; and JZH 6451 and JZH 6450 were in South Philly, with what appeared to be uniformed PPD officers driving. They all had spotlights beside the driver-side mirror, and appear to have red and blue lights hidden in their grills, but were otherwise unremarkable beside being a fairly typical model of car driven by law enforcement officers.

The sequence of the plates suggests there are quite a few more, as the numbers are nearly sequential. The cars also seem similar to the rather vague description of "a black unmarked car driving around Point Breeze stopping people asking for proof of US citizenship" back in September. Anyone with details about these cars is encouraged to contact us, as we intend to follow up with the publication of any other details we can confirm. ★

THE PLAGUE OF WESTERN CHAUVINISM

The Proud Boys are a far-right faction founded by notorious racist and anti-Semite Gavin McInnes, who is also the co-founder of Vice News. They advocate for "western chauvinism," have offshoots like the Fraternal Order of the Alt-Knights, were violent participants in the Unite the Right rally in Charlottesville, and have recently continued their brawling tendencies in Providence, New York City, and Portland.

Proud Boys like to wear black and yellow Fred Perry polo shirts, despite the company having denounced Nazi Skinheads and other racists that sport its gear. They seem to be gaining adherents too, as we see folks from South American Nazi groups brawling on their side in the recent NYC outing. This also fits with some of the t-shirts Proud Boys have been wearing as of late declaring "Pinochet did nothing wrong," and other references to the Chilean dictator throwing leftists out of actively flying helicopters.

NYC Antifa recently doxxed members of the group who showed up to Gavin McInnes' talk at the GOP's Manhattan headquarters and Metropolitan Republican Club at 122 E. 83rd St. Following the event, Proud

Boys assaulted three activists who were there to oppose them, while shouting homophobic slurs, as cops predictably stood by. McInnes himself has been recorded saying such slurs, in addition to saying that blacks are “incompatible” with whites and listing off things he hates about “the Jews.” He also claims that the Proud Boys are not bigots and accept anyone.

The night before the NYC event, anarchists threw bricks through windows, poured glue on door locks and a keypad at the entrance, spray-painted circle-A’s, and “left a threatening note,” according to mainstream media. The Korryn Gaines Anarchist Attack Cell took credit for the attack on counter-information site Act For Freedom Now!.

Many media outlets have moved to call the Proud Boys a street gang acting on behalf of the GOP (they have served as security at Republican events) that set out to thrash protesters perceived as leftist. A recent report from Philly spoke of a group flying “Thin Blue Line” gear that appeared to be looking to get into altercations on South Broad Street in early October, with local Proud Boys Sonny Sullivan and Zack Rehl in attendance. The altercations in NYC, according to the Proud Boys, allegedly took off after a protester removed someone’s MAGA hat. Regardless, it follows that those who encounter the gang should anticipate violence.

The “We the People” rally, another attempt to garner support for the police in Philly, is scheduled for 11am-3pm at Independence Hall here in Philly on Saturday, November 17, and anticipates attendance from the Proud Boys and various other far right groups. As the participants in the NYC brawl live not too far away (mostly in New York and New Jersey), it might be useful for those planning to counter-protest to familiarize themselves with the gang’s pictures, which can be found at <https://archive.is/cKQz5>.

Since the New York brawl, the Proud Boys have incurred additional online repercussions, like the banning of Proud Boys’ individual and group accounts on social media platforms – similar to Alex Jones’ projects before he launched his own mediums of communication. The bans are a cause for celebration for some, due to the resulting interference in Proud Boy recruitment, and disinterest from others who believe it will take more direct action to contend their platform and its resulting violence. The latter also suggest they would be unsurprised if our own projects suffer the same fate for being so far from center and sometimes associated with violence, the way It’s Going Down lost their Pa-

tron account after running no platform campaigns against white supremacists on the same funding application a few years back.

Regardless of their online presence, the Proud Boys are well-versed in the language of violence. Whether at the counter-protest on November 17 or in everyday life, those who might potentially escalate in their presence should be prepared for it to likely result in this type of communication. ★

VAUGHN 17 TRIAL BEGINS

“This illusion of prestige that I’m up against, I respectfully decline to be awed by.”

- Jarreau Ayers, Vaughn 17 defendant representing himself in court

As the author of “Lessons Regarding Warfare” wrote recently, “Liberation is a crime.” It involves destruction, major destruction of the exploitative infrastructure that keeps this society afloat, and not everyone will survive it. Some people have deliberately chosen careers securing this infrastructure against insurgent threats, and it cannot be our priority, ethically or strategically, to pursue freedom in a way that keeps them safe. The destructive tactics that move us towards freedom are criminalized by the state that manages our unfreedom, and those who use those tactics risk serious consequences and are worth considering for serious support.

On February 1, 2017, prisoners in the C-Building of the Vaughn Correctional Center in Smyrna, Delaware took over the building for more than 18 hours, holding the correctional officers on duty hostage, negotiating over walkie-talkies for their demands, and citing President Trump’s election and worsening prison conditions as reasons for the uprising. The state eventually ended the occupation by bulldozing through a wall of the prison. When the occupation ended, one C.O, Sergeant Steven Floyd, was found dead.

Sixteen of those prisoners are now being charged with multiple counts of murder, assault, kidnapping, riot, and conspiracy to riot. An additional two prisoners have been charged, but not with the murder; one of them, Royal “Diamond” Downs, recently flipped to become a witness for the prosecution. These prisoners have been divided up into five different trial groups. The first trial began last month on October 22 and is expected to last over four weeks.

The first day of trial showed how little of a real case the prosecution has. As defendants had already noted in their writings from prison, the state has no physical evidence against them — no video surveillance, DNA or forensic evidence, and is relying on snitch testimony and hardly audible recordings of the hostage negotiations. Roman Shankaras's attorney described the prosecution's case as "garbage evidence in, garbage evidence out."

Its case against these particular four defendants, at least, seems so far to have nothing that could demonstrate their guilt beyond a reasonable doubt. The prosecution identified defendants Jarreau Ayers and Dwayne Staats as two of the three voices on recordings negotiating with the state during the uprising, and alleged that Staats had been seen with a shank during the uprising (though many prisoners were holding shanks for self-protection). The state said of defendant Deric Forney only that he "assaulted officers," without indicating in any way how they would prove that.

The prisoner they call the "mastermind" and "shot-caller" of the uprising, Roman Shankaras, is alleged as such because of one (contested) letter he sent to now-state witness Royal Downs after the uprising. Shankaras was in his cell or the yard during the uprising, and the state admits he did not take part in any assaults. According to his attorney (who Shankaras has since fired; Shankaras is now awaiting being rescheduled to another trial date), Roman Shankaras is being charged because "he will not snitch but he is a witness."

According to the defense, Royal Downs, the state's "star witness," is at the top of the prison hierarchy, directs hits for several gangs, and himself ordered the killing of Sergeant Floyd during the uprising. Subsequent testimony has similarly suggested Downs' influence within the prison. Downs has repeatedly denied that he cooperated with the state in order to get parole from his life sentence. State investigators have denied that the state's miraculous failure to charge him with the murder (despite recordings of his voice saying, "Floyd's down. He about to be canceled") had anything to do with him having agreed to cooperate. During his testimony, Downs attempted to gain sympathy from the jury, saying that snitching was "the hardest thing I've ever had to do." However, as Ayers pointed out in cross-examination, Downs had already previously assisted federal prosecutors in his home state of Maryland years ago in order to get transferred to a better prison.

"I ain't passed the bar, but I know a little bit."

- Dwayne Staats, quoting Jay-Z in his opening statement

Dwayne Staats's cross-examination of Downs challenged Downs' story, which was that he had no role in the uprising and had only gotten on the walkie-talkie out of concern for everyone else's safety during the occupation. Staats played audio of a phone call from before the riot where Downs asks his daughter to retrieve an ounce of marijuana and bring it in; Downs responded that many other inmates also smuggle in contraband. Staats countered, "This is your daughter though. Don't you agree you are risking her freedom for your selfishness? If you do this about her, you don't care about an inmate or correctional officer."

None of this means that the state will not win its case. It has never been hard for the U.S. justice system, as part of a state apparatus that controls its citizens in part by making hatred of prisoners and criminality widespread, to manipulate a case to its advantage despite not having one. Since the Vaughn 17 were indicted, Delaware media's coverage of the defendants has almost exclusively consisted of showing their unflattering mug shots and listing their previous crimes. The whole case is based on witness statements that the judge agreed to withhold from the defense until the last minute. Meanwhile, the defendants have been forced to be locked down 23 hours a day since they were indicted and have been regularly attacked by corrections officers.

Perhaps most significantly, the state is underpaying the defense attorneys it appointed, so the defendants' counsel is at best overworked and in many cases unsympathetic to their clients and completely neglecting their cases. Many of the defendants are planning to represent themselves due to inadequate legal counsel. Commenting on this situation, defendant Kevin Berry writes: "Yes, this whole case is bullshit and they are really about to try to railroad us."

Given all this, and some suspicious discrepancies that defendant Ayers has pointed out in court in how the state chose to charge these particular 18 defendants, it seems completely possible that these prisoners are innocent and that they have been targeted because they refused to snitch. For this in itself their situation warrants attention and support, given the pressure presumably put on prisoners after the uprising to cooperate with the state's investigation. Some of the defendants are more obviously "innocent" than others

COLUMBUS AND THE ITALIAN ANARCHISTS

(for example, hardly anyone has testified yet that they even saw Deric Forney during the uprising) and are either being tried alongside the others to incur convictions through guilt by association, or in order to make some of the defendants seem more guilty than reasonable doubt should technically assure.

Still: if all 17 Vaughn defendants were guilty of all the charges, if Vaughn Correctional Center had not been notoriously abusive (so much so that prisoners had already staged a violent uprising there back in 1973), if Sergeant Floyd had not been exceptionally abusive (even in the eyes of other correctional officers), if the state of Delaware had not stunningly mismanaged the hostage negotiations or the handling of evidence afterwards, these prisoners would still have done what needed to be done to fight for freedom and take down parts of the modern-day slave plantation that constitutes the U.S. prison system. Dignity is not won by waiting for better conditions or by begging our oppressors. We don't need to make excuses about an especially bad set of cages in order to justify someone trying to get free.

Maintaining prisons is critical in the ongoing war against Black people in America, and for this civilization's general ability to contain the backlash from increasingly immiserated people suffering from capitalism's inevitable downturn. Not only should we defend and support those who destroy property and hurt or kill their captors in the process of fighting for freedom, we should remember that similar action is necessary in our shared struggle against the violent resources of the state.

To learn more about the Vaughn 17 and keep track of their case, go to Vaughn17Support.org ★



Headless viking statue retrieved from Schuylkill River

The Christopher Columbus statue and the Italian Immigration Museum in Philly were recently vandalized by “Italian-Americans Against Racism.” One might be surprised to learn that the history of Italians assimilating into American whiteness was a rocky one, one that's less straight forward than one might think. Many Italian immigrants pushed back against their subsumption into whiteness, using solidarity with other oppressed people as a weapon against the slip into capitalist white normality. The stories taught about Columbus and Italian immigration are those most convenient to the status quo and the cohesion of whiteness. That Christopher Columbus was an Italian hero and Italian immigrants were “respectable” and “good immigrants” who pulled themselves up by their bootstraps are two myths that deserve to be examined more closely.

First, Columbus. It might be a bit hard to even call him Italian; during his life, Italy was a collection of city-states in the north that were engaged in trade around the Mediterranean; the south was a war-torn feudal landscape. What we know as Italy would not exist for another 350 years. But whether he was Italian or not is less troubling than how he chose to live his life. At the young age of 19, Columbus took part in his first conquest, that of Naples. Later he went into trade and business, moving around Europe and asking royalty to pay for his trip to Asia.

Once he finally set off for what he never stopped believing was Asia, he landed in the Bahamas. Here he entered into predatory relations with the locals. He kidnapped some locals to try to force them to tell him where gold was, and to bring them back to Spain; he would continue kidnapping people during the rest of his first journey and on subsequent ones as well. He was forward about his desire to colonize and enslave the indigenous people and was the kind of man to “give” kidnapped women to his friends. He expressed interest in spreading Christianity, but was careful not to baptize the indigenous people he ran into to ensure they could still be enslaved.

For those who have no bad feelings about colonialism, slavery, and rape culture, rest assured that Columbus was also terrible to his fellow shipmates and settlers as well. During his first trip west, he took credit for sighting land on the horizon despite a lookout on a different ship (three were going west together) alerting him

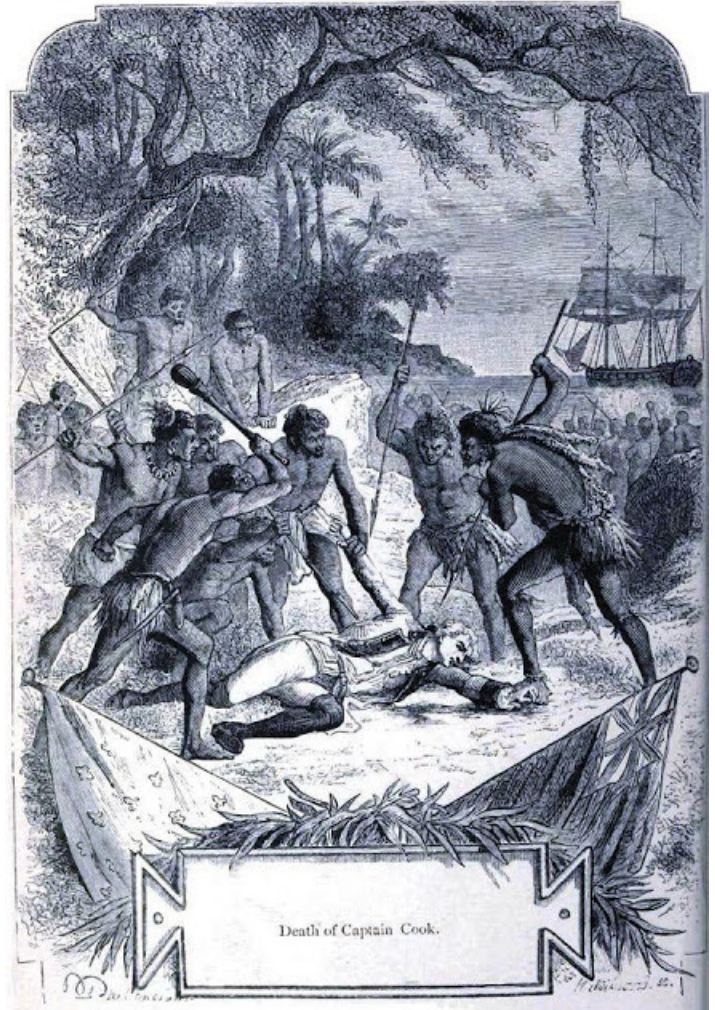
about land on the horizon. Those around Columbus say he was a tyrant. He had Spain's permission to rule "the Indies," but had it revoked in 1499. When his replacement ruler arrived, he was bombarded with complaints of Columbus' use of torture, slavery, execution, and brutality toward settlers and indigenous people.

Fast forward to 1792, where in New York the Tammany Society organize a banquet to celebrate the arrival of Columbus in the Bahamas on October 12. A century later, American capitalists are falling over themselves to invest in the growing annual celebration. At the same time, some Italian immigrants begin identifying with a national Italian identity (as opposed to regional or family loyalties) and take up the celebration of Columbus to both affirm a sense of belonging within U.S. culture and to move away from their perception as dangerous radicals and gangsters with racial similarity to black people. At the turn of the nineteenth century, Italian immigrants were seen as racially inferior to Europeans from further north and were demonized for their connection to the mafia; Italians were second most common targets for lynchings after black people.

Not all Italian immigrants were on board with this step toward assimilation. The then-vibrant anarchist movement included many Italians who denounced Columbus Day as a racist, oppressive holiday. Some Italian anarchists and radicals -- placed in a context where bosses tried to pit these potentially white workers against black and other dark-skinned workers -- understood that assimilation into American culture meant disavowing the struggles against racism. Italian immigrants were involved in worker strikes, radical publications, discussion and study circles, an astounding number of bombings, and the murder of the king of Italy. Columbus Day celebrations within immigrant communities were sporadically disrupted by Italian radicals. Also of note is that FBI surveillance of Italian radicals was especially heavy for those who made connections with black workers and attempted to build cross-racial solidarity.

The anarchist movement was increasingly being seen by the government as a threat to the economic and racial order of the country, and repression hit hard. The FBI was formed in response to anarchists, hundreds of immigrants were deported, and anarchists and radicals were demonized in propaganda. Thousands of people were arrested. The Italian-American anarchist movement continued after the repression, but never returned to its previous ferocity and size.

Nonetheless, the graffiti earlier this October shows that there are still Italians who are pushing against the oppressive colonial and racist pillars of this society. ★



ANTI-COLONIAL OCTOBER

These past years, October in Philly has been a time when people re-paint the colonial history of the city, so to speak. Instead of Columbus Day, people have taken to degrading Columbus' legacy, as well as going after other symbols of colonialism and genocide.

Going back for a decade, local fascists Keystone State Skinheads/Keystone United have chosen the statue of would-be viking settler Thorfinn Karlsefni as a rallying point to promote white supremacy, usually around the first weekend of October. After facing opposition by anti-fascists, KSS/KU went underground with the event, but continued to deal with opposition protests. On top of protests at their annual racist celebration, KSS/KU often found themselves rallying around a defaced statue. In 2008, 2015, and 2017 the statue was vandalized, mostly with paint, but also once with tar and glitter.

This year has surpassed all others; vandals managed to send the 1000 pound statue into the nearby Schuylkill river and separated its body from its head! Fascist rallies and viking colonizers, however, aren't the only ones feeling the anti-colonial rage in Philly.

Columbus, notoriously disoriented explorer, has endured a great deal of put downs from Philadelphians. In October of 2015, the Columbus statue in South Philly was tagged "fuck white power", only to be tagged again this year with anti-colonial messages on Columbus Day. Posters and a banner stating that "Columbus didn't discover shit" and "Columbus did not find shit" respectively adorned the city in October 2017, responding to a call for anti-Columbus actions across the country. In nearby Camden, NJ, two statues of the colonizer had red paint thrown on them, along with three other Columbus statues in Atlantic and Bergen counties, NJ, this year, although those incidents took place in January.

This year, the History of Italian Immigration Museum was tagged by "Italian Americans Against Racism" on Columbus Day. Messages against Columbus Day and colonialism were left on the sidewalk around the museum. And so the history of an anti-colonial Philadelphia continues to develop. ★

WHAT FOREST REMAINS

"The world's forests, along with its oceans, absorb enormous amounts of the carbon dioxide that circulates in the atmosphere. They are, effectively, the Earth's lungs, and protecting those lungs is crucial if we are to defend the planet's biodiversity and fight global warming.

But, between 1990 and 2015, the world lost 129 million hectares of forests, destroyed by chainsaws, fire and cement. Deforestation is advancing at an alarming pace: about 10 hectares of forest – the equivalent of 14 football fields – disappear every minute, the result mainly of human activities such as agriculture, the extraction of raw materials and urbanisation."

- "The Lungs of the Earth," via Al Jazeera

Although the rate of deforestation has reportedly slightly decreased in the past few years, global deforestation remains one of the major crises underwriting the mass extinction event that is currently underway. In addition to hastening the extinction of countless species, changes in the use of land are estimated to cause 10 to 15% of current greenhouse gas emissions, furthering the massive accumulation of deaths

and violations of the earth that our leaders have opted to name "climate change."

Some nations have begun cultivating more tree growth, but given that many of these nations are among the progenitors of the civilization that began deforestation on a massive scale, and provide markets for products being manufactured in the other nations with disappearing forests, there is not a single possible state-led trajectory that bodes well for the lungs of the earth.

This is especially relevant now given the election in October of Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro, who came into power condemning marginalized people, praising dictatorship while condemning democracy, and promising to open up the Amazon rainforest and indigenous lands to economic development, specifically to mining. The Amazon is often referred to as the major source of breathable air on earth, and lauded for its biodiversity. Biodiversity is important in the currently cascading collapse of ecosystems, as the extinction of species leads to negative effects on the many necessarily interdependent species that remain. If opened up to development, there will be no way for us to prevent the most catastrophic forms of climate change.

Already the round-up of political "dissidents" has begun in Brazil, in addition to violent attacks on indigenous people, whom farmers sometimes demonize due to what remains of the protections against development on indigenous lands. This echoes the indigenous experience in this nation, as colonial progress marches on, still revoking treaties with indigenous nations for the sake of new pipelines and other atrocities. Recent local news also warns of threats to one of the last big open spaces remaining in neighboring Delaware County, Pennsylvania, as the Catholic Archdiocese nearly sold 213 acres for commercial development before community members stormed a meeting about it. It is unclear at this point how much of the land will be developed on. In addition to being one of the most rapidly gentrifying cities in the country, Philadelphia is also seeing significant suburban development.

Even without active state interference, the tropical forests may not survive the accelerating pace of climate change, and those catastrophic consequences will still ensue. A recent study surveying the Amazon over the past 30 years found that the rainforest's trees were adapting to rising carbon dioxide and worsening drought, but not fast enough. The point is not just that Bolsonaro must be stopped from developing those forests, but that the roots of deforestation must be stopped altogether, including every aspect of agriculture, resource extraction, and urbanization. Solidarity with those who will be impacted by potential events in Brazil means discussing and taking action against the multinationals, government officials and genocidal projects that are similarly complicit on our side of the border.★

WHAT IS ATTACK?

Following up on last month's discussion of direct action, it seems relevant and helpful to put out some thoughts on what attack is. Attack is an idea that is important to anarchists of many stripes, especially insurrectionary anarchists. Attacks are the offensive moves made by anarchists and other rebels in the social war. Social war is the conflict between those who hold and support authority and those who are trying to tear authority down. One might rightfully ask, why would someone attack? What is the point? The way things are going, an attack might not change much of anything. The idea of attacking will be explored here from both an individualist and a social perspective.

For the individuals who attack, the attack can be a healing moment. It is a short time when anarchist sentiments can be directly and honestly expressed. Instead of feeling frustrated after a boring demonstration or holding back grief after another round of terrible events, someone can take responsibility for their own feelings and emotional well-being, and be honest with themselves and society, by attacking something they want to destroy. Going after something that helps manage oppression is a healthy release in a world that fills everyone up with emotions that have very few beneficial outlets.

Most attacks do not completely destroy their targets, let alone the institutions they are part of. Punching a nazi or smashing a window won't get rid of white supremacy and capital. They do, however, cause damage and disrupt business as usual. Each attack leaves behind a scar that affects how things work. A nazi with a black eye will have trouble seeing for a few days; a store will need to clean up glass and buy another window, etc. For many who attack, causing damage is enough; they live their hostility openly. For others, attacks are part of a longer trajectory they imagine can destroy the whole system.

The skills one learns and practices during attacks that might not be able to bring the system down in moments of relative social peace can serve as an example for more revolutionary times (if they ever come around) and leave the attackers more ready, should they find themselves in moments of social upheaval. Those who witness or learn about attacks will carry with them the possibility of acting offensively if they ever feel so inclined. Anarchists should not imagine they will set THE example for a population that will most likely never rise



up to throw off the yoke of oppression, but they can set AN example. In Greece in 2008 and in France in 2016, anarchist attacks set an example many took up when popular rage boiled over (alongside the spontaneous organization of combative new approaches).

Because anarchists understand attacks as acts in a larger war - acts demanding nothing, seeking to damage or disrupt, to help satisfy personal and collective needs autonomously - they are difficult for the state to recuperate. Since attackers relate to authority as enemies, there are less avenues for the state or liberals to push reformist agendas. A feeling of disappointment or frustration with authority is easily soothed with reforms; a feeling of antagonism or opposition is more difficult to tame.

For some anarchists, attacking authority and its mechanisms is part of a broader strategy to help build up social energy toward an insurrectionary or revolutionary situation. Other anarchists understand attacking to be a joyful and worthwhile activity in itself, without investing themselves in whether it spreads to other people. ★



“Coup des Lumières”

a tree shivers shade
to protect the thief, the wolf
from the prying sun

it is no coincidence that
the gods of the forest
are the patrons

are the patrons of
witches, slaves, outcasts,
are the patrons of outlaws

for the earth was a sanctuary
before a mortar-mediated sky
imposed survival on the living

before dogma demanded
allegiance for safety;
a time before time

a time before parking structures
spewed their corpse breath
on the seething summer asphalt

a time before existence was mitigated
by screens, by false illuminations
that prevent or pacify rest

for authentic sleep
would spawn snarling fangs
that respect no border

so fear not the wild wood,
the shadow, the other.
fear not the patronage of criminals

embrace squatted sanctuary
and sip freely from any stream
not yet poisoned

be that impossible
strike down the polluter
and take his means to drink

have you noticed?
we speak our secrets
in the dark

have you noticed?
we only really begin
to dream without light ★

AN INVITATION TO DESERTION

abridged excerpt from *Backwoods* #1

The vast majority of human beings living on Earth today have extremely little control over their lives and shared world. The ways in which we eat, gain shelter, and make a living are largely decided for us, overdetermined by existing social norms that we can influence only minutely, allowing us only a little room to maneuver in decisions about how we want to live and what values we want to pursue. Most of us eat food from grocery stores or restaurants, grown in distant places we will never see under unknown and uncontrollable conditions. We rent or take out a mortgage to find a home we did not build with neighbors we did not choose and must labor immediately and continually to pay for it. After going from place to place to beg for the opportunity to sell our time, touting our value with a piece of paper that summarizes how compliant and productive we are, we are rewarded by surrendering what is produced with our labor, how our labor is performed, and what is done with the product afterward.

The cycle of life seems to confront us like a blurred, harried race. From childhood, most of us are indoctrinated in compulsory government- or corporate-run schools where we are taught false or misleading histories, trained to be obedient to closely measured linear time, and inured to peer competition in the performance of duties issued by authority. In adolescence, through schooling, socializing, and propaganda, most of us adopt the religious, secular, and/or political ideologies with which we are bombarded that make our reality seem desirable, appropriate, or at least inevitable. Besides the jockeying for selling one's labor mentioned above, what is called success in adulthood for many is vying to exchange the terror of being alone for the sanctioned isolation of the nuclear family, that reproductive unit that allows the cycle to begin anew. Elderhood completes this humiliation, as one's inability or unwillingness to continue laboring often means increasing social irrelevance and impotence that commonly ends in being tended to like an invalid by hired strangers.

What is commonly called our freedom consists of only the most trivial and useless forms of freedom: the freedom to vote for some of one's rulers among predetermined and highly similar political candidates, the freedom to choose among commodities that shriek at us with their labels and advertisements, the freedom to escape presence in one's own life through a vast menagerie of pornography, television series, films, and —

most recently, at the furthest outposts of moronizing innovation — virtual reality and sex robots.

Our ecological crisis is one of accelerating biocide that nearly defies imagination. Because of our technopathological culture of agriculture, urbanicity, and industrialism, species are going extinct at a rate one thousand times faster than the normal, background rate (De Vos et al.). Forebodingly, only the great mass extinctions in the history of the Earth compare to this rate of death, and the signs of its severity surround us. The soils are becoming lifeless (Moss and Scheer) and washing into the sea (World Economic Forum), when they are not being entombed beneath pavement (Brown). The oceans are becoming acidic (NOAA), devoid of coral (Eyre et al.), and emptied of fish (Tanzer, et al.). The air is becoming increasingly carcinogenic (WHO) and extinguished of insects (Hallmann et al.). The more pessimistic of climatologists are currently suggesting that we may be very near or past the point of setting off positive feedback loops that, once triggered, will unavoidably bring about dramatic temperature rises within the next few decades (Hall), and even the minimal goals of the more optimistic are not being met (Shibli).

As without, so within the human psyche is collapsing as surely as the biosphere by which it is nourished. Depression, “the number one psychological disorder in the western world”, abounds, afflicting more than 17% of Americans. Since the inception of unmitigated consumerism in the mid20th century, there are an estimated ten times as many people suffering from depression, with the incidence more than doubling in the past twenty years (Pietrangelo, Elliott and Tyrrell), leading some psychologists to bluntly acknowledge depression as the quintessential “disease of modernity,” as “humans have dragged a body with a long hominid history into an overfed, malnourished, sedentary, sunlight-deficient, sleep-deprived, competitive, inequitable, and socially-isolating environment with dire consequences.” (Hidaka). Fewer than one in five sufferers even seek help or acknowledge their condition — misery, perhaps, is seen as the norm as we expect less and less from life (Real).

Suicide, depression's catastrophic end, is the eighth-highest cause of death and also on the rise — among the middle-aged, it rose thirty percent from 1999 to 2010 (Elliott and Tyrrell). Undoubtedly, one of the most appropriate symbols of our time is the presence of nets below bridges and windows that cannot be opened on tall office buildings and hotels: the social planners anticipate the broken, hollowed-out worker

or customer who decides one lonely night to finally end their existence, and they deny them even that freedom.

Meanwhile, empathy, that essentially human capacity to feel what others feel, has fallen at an accelerating rate in recent decades, while narcissism, the defensive enclosure of the self by a false persona (Vaknin), has increased during the same period. This psychic bleaching is attributed by researchers to widespread social changes: an increased interest in accruing wealth, decreased frequency of reading, increased social isolation, fewer friendships, and, of course, a greatly increased use of technological gadgets (Konrath et al, Kristol, Zaki). ★

WORLD NEWS

Atacado Repeater set on fire in solidarity with Paska, Ghespe and Giova, and all anarchist prisoners (Italy)

On a September afternoon, we mobilized to set fire to a telephone repeater. We had in our eyes and in our hearts anger for the death of a person in the forest of Hambach, during the resistance to the eviction of the police. Telecommunications infrastructures are today one of the strategic points of the modern technological domain, functional to the development of other devices and technological structures that are also part of a complex network, in which each element depends on the other. The authoritarian essence of the system is clearly expressed in this technological interdependence. Despite the current tendency to create increasingly autonomous systems, it is still possible to hit an element by putting the whole network out of use with a cascade effect.

With this action we want to launch an invitation to hit the telecommunications networks as an act of solidarity for the anarchist prisoners Paska, Ghespe and Giova, still in prison.

The collaboration of companies that provide telephone services in police investigations was what we know to have been essential for the imprisonment of these comrades, as well as being essential for the constant control of the individual. It's time to make them pay! We invite all action groups and individuals to increase attacks on these infrastructures in a greater way. There is no need to express oneself beyond the urgency of the attack on these infrastructures of domination, others have already been expressing themselves with sufficient clarity in the past.

With this fire we want to send a greeting to the French incendiaries, whose actions and dialogues through their actions have been a source of inspiration for us.

THERE IS NO JUSTICE ONLY REVENGE FOR OUR ASSASSINATED COMRADES!

FIRE AND FLAMES TO REMEMBER STEFFEN, ALSO FOR COMRADE KEVIN RECENTLY KILLED IN THE PRISONS OF THE CHILEAN STATE!

SOLIDARITY TO PASKA, GHESPE AND GIOVA!

SOLIDARITY WITH ALL ANARCHIST PRISONERS!

DEATH TO THE STATE AND ITS SERVERS!

Russia : In Arkhangelsk anarchist Misha Zhlobitsky explodes FSB reception via actforfreedom

October 31, 2018 8:52 local time in the city of Arkhangelsk at the entrance to the reception room of the Regional Directorate of the FSB (the modern KGB) of the Russian Federation in the Arkhangelsk Region an explosion was heard. The rebel anarchist Mikhail Vasilievich Zhlobitsky, also known in the Telegram channel as Valerian Panov, blew himself up. This is the first case of anarchists undermining the FSB in 19 years – the previous attack was organized in 1999 against the reception office of the FSB in Moscow by the New Revolutionary Alternative organization.

Mikhail Zhlobitsky died as a result of a self-detonation, causing injuries of varying severity to three FSB officers. He was 17 years old.

A few minutes before the explosion, the anarchist left a message in the chat group under the nickname Valerian Panov. Here is what he wrote:

“Comrades, now in the FSB building in Arkhangelsk there will be a terrorist attack, the responsibility for which I claim. The reasons are clear to you. Since FSB fabricates cases and tortures people, I decided to go for it. Most likely, I will die because of the explosion, because I initiate the bomb directly by pressing the button attached to the bomb cover. Therefore, you are requested to spread information about the terrorist attack: who committed it and the reasons.

Well, that seems to be all. I wish you to go towards our goal unswervingly and uncompromisingly. I am wishing you the future of anarchist communism!”

We bow our heads before the heroism of our comrade. We were not acquainted live, but through communication he left an impression of himself as an intelligent

and well-prepared person who is not indifferent and aspires to go beyond the swamp of the official opposition struggle, which is now mainstream.

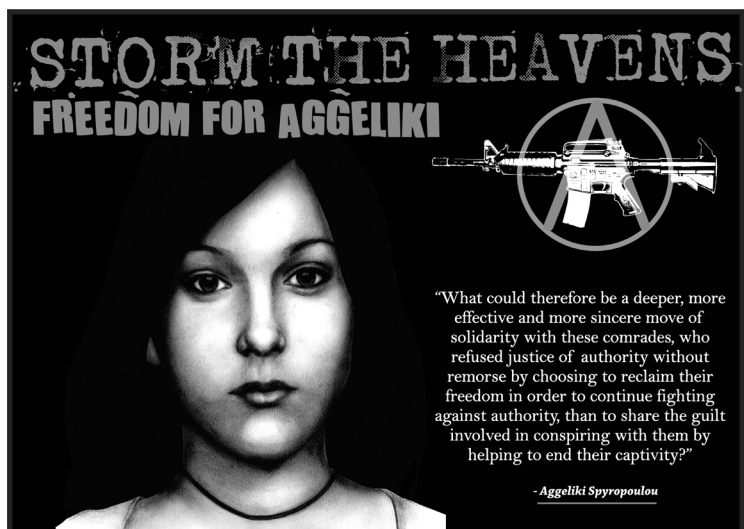
There is no doubt that Mikhail acted purposefully, understood his motives clearly, and consciously sacrificed himself during the action. It is impossible to read the stories of our comrades about the nightmarish torture in the dungeons of the Gestapo-FSB without the heart bleeding and without being overwhelmed with a thirst for revenge for sadists in uniform. When a feeling of indignation and a desire for justice fills up the cup of patience, when internal moral conflict becomes intolerable for an honest person, then concern for their own welfare retreats before deciding to call the scoundrels to account. Anarchists often did this in the past, rushing into a suicide attack on a tyrant and executioner.

Mikhail showed composure and endurance of a true revolutionary. We are deeply shocked, full of grief from the heroic death of Mikhail and deeply saddened that he did not leave any hope for himself.

We accept Mikhail as he is, and express our full solidarity and respect for his Act. He lived as he thought was right, and died, like a hero, in the struggle for the ideals of Freedom and Justice.

Death to the Federal Collision of the Infinites!
Long live the Anarchy!

Eternal memory to Mikhail Zhlobitsky! Rest in peace, dear comrade.



Solidarity flyer for Aggeliki Spyropoulou, imprisoned anarchist comrade in the CCF Escape case. The comrade was sentenced to 28 years in prison for her involvement in the 2015 escape attempt to blow up part of Korydallos Prison and free the imprisoned members of the Conspiracy of Cells of Fire. ★

WHAT DID YOU DO INSTEAD OF VOTING?

- I walked in the woods.
- I spent time with a loved one.
- I did something nice/helpful for a sick friend.
- I was emotionally vulnerable with someone I care about.
- I orgasmed.
- I expressed solidarity with a persecuted comrade.
- I poked the surveillance-society in the eyes.
- I practiced shooting.
- I worked on infrastructure or skills that decrease dependence on state apparatuses.
- I prepared safe housing or other resources for those in need of sanctuary.
- I worked on reestablishing forest where there was once pavement or farmland.
- I vandalized/sabotaged/destroyed a business/government entity to inhibit/prevent its operation.
- I assassinated a politician or other state official.
- I liberated an imprisoned being.
- I did something else that brought me joy.
- I didn't legitimize the white settler-colonial state or continue in the cycle of my own oppression.
- All of the above. ★

“Without our own projects – our own projectuality and a sense of the direction we want to move in – there is no such thing as “support.” To be supported, first of all, we need to want someone’s help. From there we can ask ourselves what that help needs to look like and we can communicate that to our friends. If this isn’t the case then we’re not being supported, we are being managed. Part of liberation is that we can’t be told what to want, or how to be, or what to do: we have to take the responsibility to look at the situation ourselves, figure out what we want, and then do what needs to be done. Our supporters can’t do this for us. I don’t need people to fight for me, I need people to fight with me. There’s a big difference.”

from LESSONS REGARDING WARFARE