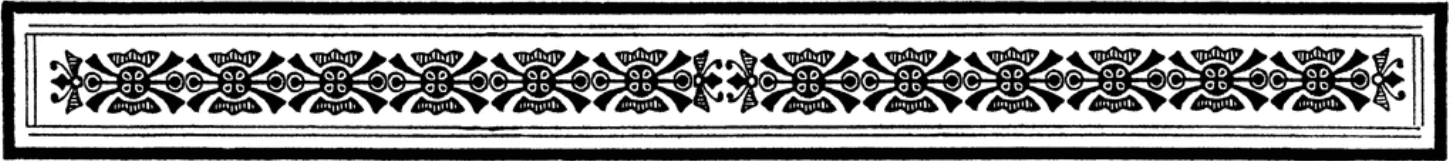


ANATHEMA



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2018: YEAR IN REVIEW

Most of 2018 was a disaster, as the Trump administration carried on with its daily diversions and atrocities against the backdrop of the rapid destruction of the earth, ever-worsening economic downturn and class stratification, and rampant white supremacy, border violence and fascism. Our efforts to fight these worsening conditions seem to us to be both extremely inadequate and to offer a glimpse of what might still be possible. Below we share some of our thoughts on changes in the local anarchist space, some of our critiques and disappointments, and some of our moments of joy and success. This article is written with the intention of initiating reflection and dialogue, and of furthering anarchist struggle; responses and critiques are welcome.

CHANGES

In 2018, we've seen the feeling of urgency about Trump's presidency die down. The rush to get active has slowed and radical struggles have changed as a result. It seems that many liberals have left the streets. At the demonstrations and public meetings, instead of a mix of restless liberals and radicals, we have seen that a diversity of radicals (communists, socialists, anarchists, and others) make up a large part of who is present. The major struggles of 2018 here — anti-fascist count-

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CHALLENGING INFRASTRUCTURE: BEYOND THE STATE

The U.S. energy industry has recently been suffering some losses, with oil prices losing more than a third of their value in the fourth quarter of 2018 as the stock market tanked, demand decreased, and fears of a renewed glut reemerged. The drop in oil prices may be due to investments being transferred to natural gases, which are by contrast doing well on the market. However, various energy corporations have also seen setbacks as regulatory agencies have denied permits for new pipeline and other natural gas infrastructure projects, making now potentially a good time for opponents to use a variety of tactics to intervene

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WHAT WENT DOWN

December 14 - A memorial bike ride for cyclists killed by cars takes place in Center City and surrounding neighborhoods. Flares are thrown and a condo is paint bombed. "Carrying the memory of the dead as a weapon Furthering anarchist dialogue and action"

Late December - 110 ATMs, and other symbols of capital and gentrification are sabotaged for Black December and in solidarity with people facing repression. "Happy Holidays Motherfuckers!"

Late December - 26 Indigo bikes have their tires slashed for Black December. "These vile blue beasts are a fine ride around town for the wealthy (unsurprisingly the most inept bike riders on the road), are consuming space and welcoming the rich into gentrifying neighborhoods; reminding us that leisure, technology and convenience are crafted for the elite, and always at our expense."

December 29 - A man arrested for allegedly shoplifting died in SEPTA police custody outside the 24th police district.

New Year's Eve - Two police cars have their tires slashed while parked outside of a precinct for Black December. "This attack was carried out in revenge, specifically for the police brutality against anarchists in Philly this summer, and in general for all the indignities, small and large, that police cause every time they do their jobs."

New Year's Eve - A rowdy noise demo makes noise outside of the federal detention center. "It's difficult to navigate how long to stick around while maintaining an intensity that feels honest and defiant without making it easier for the cops to arrest us."

January 1 - 132 tires on 48 cars reported slashed overnight in a well-to-do neighborhood in Tredyffrin Township, PA, totaling around \$40,000 in damage. One family reported that their five cars all had tires slashed, including a Jaguar and a Tesla.

January 7 - Jury selection begins for the second trial of Vaughn 17 prison rebels. ★



IT'S ROBBIN' SEASON

The holidays are a time when the iron is hot for thieves to strike. It's much more likely that the register is full at all the stores, the porches are adorned with cardboard boxes full of goodies, and many are carrying cash. This winter a few seasonally appropriate crimes took place that feel important to convey. In the Italian Market, a nativity scene was targeted by a thief who walked off with Jesus, Mary, and Joseph; unfortunately, police were able to recover and return the stolen pieces the next day. In the lead up to Christmas, a quick-thinking thief stole a car that was still running while the driver was inside his house in Lawncrest; the car had a trunk full of gifts as well - two for one deal. On the 21st of December, someone dressed as a delivery driver stole an Amazon package from the porch of a house in West Philly, clever. Two people held up a Dollar General in Port Richmond and made off with an undisclosed amount of cash, on Christmas Eve! On Christmas Day, a vandal dressed as Santa walked up to the same nativity scene in the Italian Market carrying a sack full of spray paint and defaced the scene. ★

SELLING OUT THE NEIGHBORHOOD

Councilman Kenyatta Johnson of Point Breeze has been on the defensive recently, after it's been suggested that he is intentionally kicking down houses in his district for far below market value through "councilman prerogative" to a childhood friend, who is then flipping them for a substantial profit.

In an op-ed penned for the South Philly Review, Johnson cited the bureaucracy and "dysfunction" of other city offices for the below-market price sales of three properties in his district, which he had pushed through (by way of that councilman's prerogative) to an alleged childhood friend named Felton Hayman.

The stalling of the sale to Hayman, first approved in 2014, which necessitated Johnson's prerogative, occurred because OCF Realty's infamous Ori Feibush (competitor to Hayman in real estate and, formerly, to Johnson in the city councilman's race) challenged the sale. Feibush's challenge was based on the city's failure to disclose that there were multiple interested parties willing to bid on the property - specifically Feibush, who elaborated that the property in question was sandwiched between multiple OCF properties. The city is supposed to enable such a bidding process, unless the property is for the "greater good." Johnson himself has said that he has continued to advocate for the bidding process in order to keep outsiders from developing the neighborhood apart from the community's wishes. Regardless, Feibush was awarded \$34,000 in 2016 after a jury found that Johnson had violated Feibush's constitutional rights.

It is quite possible to view Johnson's behavior as politician activism, since Johnson has been a standout critic of OCF's gentrification of his neighborhood, so much so that the (now seemingly defunct) anti-gentrification activist group Point Breeze Organizing Committee had vocally backed him in the past. But the personal ties to Hayman, Hayman's flipping of these properties to Baltimore-based developer DYS, and similar sales to Hayman for far below "fair market value" (as reported by the Inquirer in 2016) doesn't bode well.

Still, Johnson now vows to put up every property for competitive bid to avoid these scenarios.

Meanwhile, the District Attorney's office has been selling off homes seized in police raids, largely to cops and speculators, which in turn funded an unregulated budget that was split between the police department and the DA. That budget has bought everything from custom embroidery on uniforms to submachine guns.

PlanPhilly's analysis of 1,682 deed records linked to such sales between 1993 and 2018 also suggest that almost 20% of them are vacant.

It seems much of the problem lies in investing in authority figures and unnavigable bureaucracy to fix or maintain our own neighborhoods. Due to the impositions of industrialization, these neighborhoods, along with cities in general, inherently poison their residents and all forms of life. The real advantage of a more lenient District Attorney's office, if there is any, is that there may be reduced risk in taking direct action – from occupying vacant homes to attacking those that seek to displace us – even though the downward trend of such prosecutions predates Krasner's election to DA, and the quality of criminal defense in the city may be suffering as his office continues to recruit progressive and radically-minded defense attorneys to the prosecution's side. ★

CHALLENGING INFRASTRUCTURE CONTINUED

in these projects' construction. Legal strategies alone are not sufficient approaches to stopping ecological destruction, however, and decolonial struggles demonstrate that anti-infrastructure projects can also aim to damage settler colonial control itself.

In a relatively rare example of proposed projects being shut down before they begin, in early January the Maryland Board of Public Works denied Columbia Gas Transmission, a subsidiary of TransCanada, access for a gas pipeline proposed for construction under the Potomac River.

Meanwhile, opponents of Dominion Energy's Atlantic Coast Pipeline, slated to run through West Virginia, Virginia and North Carolina, have brought a temporary halt to construction through a string of legal victories. In mid-December, a federal court vacated another permit for the project, con-

cluding that the U.S. National Forest Service did not have the authority to allow the pipeline to cross the Appalachian Trail.

Most notable so far have been the setbacks to the Mountain Valley Pipeline, which is being built by EQT Corporation and also extends from West Virginia into Virginia and North Carolina. Federal agency FERC issued a stop work order on the pipeline in early August due to environmental concerns, which was then lifted in late August except for two stretches that cross federal lands, including the Jefferson National Forest. Ecodefenders' treesits on that federal land in the spring had delayed the pipeline's construction there; unless EQT can obtain a new permit from the Forest Service, those blockades likely will have been critical in protecting those forests.

In October, a court rescinded a federal stream-crossing permit for the MVP, and the State Water Control Board is now reconsidering a water quality permit it had granted the pipeline. In December, Virginia's Attorney General filed a lawsuit against the gas company due to the pipeline's over 300 environmental violations. Treesits blockading the pipeline's route have been running since September in Elliston, VA and a federal judge is currently considering a motion filed by MVP for an injunction that would force treesitters and their support people to move. Although the company claims that over 70% of the pipeline is already constructed, officials have pushed back completion to the last quarter of 2019, and a report filed in October showed the company noting that the pipeline's construction may never be finished.

As of this writing, the Gidimt'en access checkpoint to Wet'suwe'ten Nation land and the Unist'ot'en camp, on the other side of the border in so-called British Columbia, were recently been violently breached by the RCMP. The RCMP is attempting to enforce an injunction for access to the land for TransCanada's Coastal GasLink pipeline. The Unist'ot'en Camp has been directly blocking the path of three proposed pipelines, including Coastal Gaslink, for almost a decade. The Gidimt'en Camp was constructed last month closer to the entrance of the access road as the first blockade that the RCMP would have to breach in order to access the Wetsuwe'ten Nation's land. All five clans of the Wet'suwe'ten Nation are opposing the project.

Despite these seeming successes, relying on the decisions of federal agencies and courts to stop new infrastructure construction is not the most desirable strategy, not only because we prefer strategies that move towards our autonomy from state authority rather than improving the state's functioning, but also because those agencies are unreliable. Environmentalist campaigns, including some of the more radical, have consistently been derailed by official decisions in their favor, only to have those decisions reversed once the false sense of victory had sufficiently dulled opponents' sense of urgency and weakened their activity. We take note of these

YEAR IN REVIEW CONTINUED

recent legal decisions here because many of them do seem to be genuinely delaying construction and hurting the energy industry. We think that combining the threat of financial damage due to these official delays with timely extra-legal action — not only blockades, but more offensive action — might be one of the only possibilities for stopping a pipeline project altogether — an outcome with few precedents so far.

Though they are acting in a very different context, one group that has had moderate successes through offensive actions against this type of infrastructure is the armed Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta (MEND), who are said to have began sabotaging and destroying pipelines in the mid-2000's. Their tactics are not always environmentally friendly and thus not necessarily advisable, but it is worth nothing that their militancy (including dynamiting oil facilities and pipelines) has reduced oil flow by up to fifty percent. Their action most notably increased after Royal Dutch Shell had a pipeline spill millions of liters of crude oil into the Niger River Delta from 2008 to 2009.

Legal strategies seem more pertinent when they are part of a wide range of tactics taken up by long-term indigenous blockades like the Unistot'en camp, which is on unceded First Nations territory. This gives the blockade a legal advantage, though only so long as the colonizing nation respects their borders enough to not overtake them with force — a seemingly unlikely outcome. As Sioux Chief Red Cloud once said of white people, "They made us many promises, more than I can remember, but they never kept but one: they promised to take our land, and they took it." We know governments eventually renege on every treaty with indigenous populations when they decide they need to exploit that land, and we have seen over and over again in the context of resource extraction.

Keeping First Nations struggles and decolonial aims in mind can also help non-native ecodefense projects make sure they're moving towards something like decolonization and anarchy. Otherwise, those projects can easily become just the more militant arm of reformist strategy, which ends up just moving land and water destruction around elsewhere. How can non-native projects, like treesits and encampments in this region, not only acknowledge First Nations' struggles and prevent environmental destruction, but also move towards liberating land from all colonial authority?

New energy projects like pipelines are some of the most obvious targets for those attempting to stop further desecration of the earth and climate catastrophe, but they are also an integral part of the infrastructure that maintains settler colonialism, nationalism and capitalism. It is important not only to defend against new impositions on land and water, but to think logistically about how to eventually do away with the general infrastructure that sustains this already deadly civilization. ★

er-demonstrations, Occupy ICE, the prison strike — were spaces opened up by and filled with many different radical actors.

As always, 2018 brought with it social shifts in the anarchist space. Friendships forming and ending, new groups coming together and coming apart, individuals taking on more and less active roles. Some organizational projects are finished, like RAM Philly and Love City Antifa; others have sprouted up (Liberation Project, Friendly Fire, the latest incarnation of the Philadelphia IWW, and the informal pseudo-organization Summer of Rage). Other projects have stayed put, continuing and even expanding their activity during 2018: the North, West, and Solidarity chapters of Philly Food Not Bombs; Radical Education Department; the Philly Anti-Repression Fund; Philly Antifa; as well as this publication, *Anathema*.

One difference between 2018 and the year before has been that things have felt less frantic -- the need to respond to Trump's election by "doing something" has slipped away like so many liberals from the street. This is not to say that anarchist activity has slowed or stopped; anarchists are still doing their thing, this time with an energy that feels more unhurried.

STRENGTHS

The anarchist space has proved itself to be consistent, communicative, and intense in 2018. Through the major struggles of the year, a range of tactics and approaches were put forth. From doxxing fascists to knocking on doors to spread information in neighborhoods, from sabotage and attack to squatting and occupation, the methods used in the last year have been much more varied than in 2017. This may be due to the diversity of radicals present in and around the anarchist space.

The diversity of tactics and actors has led to a need for communication and clarification, which, although sometimes in an abrasive manner, has been met with publications, conversations, and communiques. The most notable example is the conflict between some anarchists and others at Philly's Occupy ICE. This feud led to the clarification of anarchists' positions within the larger radical space, via participation in assemblies, the publication of a controversial zine, the distribution of anarchist literature, and countless face-to-face conversations. Tensions along lines of class, race, and comfort were addressed by anonymous writer(s) Philly Anarchy Jawn, and texts were written by a heterogeneous group that emphasized the role of homeless comrades in the struggle against ICE and policing in general.

This kind of clarification between radicals is important to understanding each other's struggles. It's clear that ideas of left unity are not appealing or relevant to all anarchists in Philadelphia, but it seems that mutual understanding and

the possibility of collaboration (when our goals line up) is still very much on the table. What will it look like to continue putting forward our analysis and positions? Is it really so bad if we're not all on the same page about everything? Can we re-imagine discord between radicals as a multiplication of fronts on which to fight the social war? How can we use the diversity of ideas and approaches to struggle as a strength, and work together when our projectualities align?

Beyond Occupy ICE, counter-information initiatives continue to provide a space to encounter and deepen anarchist and anti-authoritarian ideas. The walls in 2018 were not kept blank, and anarchist zine distros, social media accounts, this newspaper, the PHL AntiCap website, conversations more and less public, and the publication of the book *Movement for No Society* by local anarchists have helped spread and deepen anarchist ideas. What messages are we interested in spreading, and to whom? How can we articulate our ideas in ways that are accessible to our intended audience? How can inter-anarchist communication better sharpen and solidify our ideas?

Public social space was opened up for benefit events more often this year, including for a J20 brunch, a J20 benefit at LAVA, the annual June 11th barbecue, and Running Down the Walls. If these events continued or happened more often, it could serve a number of purposes in building a stronger radical milieu.

Relatedly, anti-repression efforts among anti-authoritarians were strong: J20 resistance defense successfully drew to a close in the spring; the Anti-Repression Fund and other individuals conducted a campaign against the Mural Arts Program's Frank Rizzo mural that succeeded in driving down the plea deal for a friend who had been charged with most recently vandalizing it; and a coalition of Philly anti-authoritarians got together to help coordinate support for the Vaughn 17 prison rebels as their trials began in the fall in Wilmington, DE.

Philadelphia ABC has been a consistent project that aims to support political prisoners, but has made efforts to do much more. Monthly letter-writing nights not only open space to communicate with prisoners, but also for anarchists, new or not, to run into each other and share a meal. ABC organized Running Down the Walls in August to uplift the struggle of political prisoners, and has also been focused on freeing the Virgin Island 3 by organizing a call-in and write-in campaign. What other long-term anti-prison projects are we interested in creating? How can we bridge the gap between so-called political and social prisoners?

As anarchists face a society whose notion of time matches the speed and amnesia of scrolling through a smartphone feed, memory and remembrance begin to feel more and more important. Timelines and chronologies have been published online and as zines, specifically a text on the unfolding of the anti-ICE camps and a zine recording the struggle against gentrification over the last five years. This year saw the death of Pablo Avendano, which had a powerful impact

on many radicals. People wrote graffiti, dropped a banner, and organized two bicycle rides to commemorate his life and keep his name in the street and in struggle. Some attacks during Black December (an international call for action and communication in remembrance of dead anarchists) were accompanied by communiqués that explicitly reference anarchists internationally who have passed away. How can our sense of memory and time be used to further struggle? How can we avoid the trap of longing for the past while remaining immobilized in the present?

Like 2017, 2018 saw consistent clandestine attacks and sabotage throughout the year, reminding us that breaking the social peace is still possible. Attacks were one way that people were able to practice and deepen their skills, experiment with what does or does not work, and figure out what it will take to fight against domination as this global shitshow gets even worse.

This year, the timing of various attacks has been more lined up with the directions of local events and social struggles. During Occupy ICE, attacks took place against collaborating companies and banks; during the prison strike, prison profiteers like Starbucks and UPS were struck; and in the lead-up to fascist and far-right gatherings, symbols and people involved were attacked.

In the spring, an underground campaign against Amazon, during which most notably an Amazon Treasure Truck was set on fire overnight in the parking lot of a West Philly Amazon warehouse, was probably a major reason that the corporation ultimately decided to place its second headquarters elsewhere. Prior to the campaign, Philadelphia had been within Amazon's top three choices for HQ2.

In the fall, anti-fascists waged a concerted campaign to stop Keystone United (a state-wide white supremacist bonehead crew) from holding its annual Leif Erikson Day celebration at the Thorfinn Karlsefni statue in Philadelphia. After 30 days of impressively doxxing seemingly everyone who has ever purposely hung out with KU members, including detailed information on the housing, employment and cars of some key regional members, KU members and associates were scared and panicking. When vandals in the night took down the Thorfinn statue itself and threw it in the Schuylkill River, the conditions for KU's event were completely destroyed. This is the first time in recent memory that anti-authoritarians have succeeded in completely preventing a fascist or far-right event from occurring here, rather than from simply disrupting it — this can point us in the direction of further success.

2018 saw some escalation in terms of attacks. Attacks aimed at individuals responsible for domination (a prison guard's car and a far-right organizers home), attacks using fire (the burning of a cell phone tower and an Amazon truck), and attacks during Black December (against police cars and ATMs) indicated more frequent use of more intense methods than in previous years.

The last year has seen the continuation of many anarchist practices based in time and continuity. May Day, June 11th, International Week of Solidarity with Anarchist Prisoners in August, the days surrounding Thanksgiving and Columbus Day, Black December, and New Year's Eve have all been accompanied by intentional anarchic activities. What would it look like to extend this calendar to encompass the whole year? What can we do in the time in between these rituals? How can we continue to maintain them and also extend our activity beyond them?

LESS GOOD STUFF

We still haven't figured out how to completely prevent or even disrupt major public fascist and far-right demos in Philly. A major effort was made to push back against the Proud Boys' rally here on November 17th, which got a great turnout for the opposition, but the rally itself still happened as planned. As with the protest against the MAGA march in 2017, counter-demonstrations this year like the anti-Blue Lives Matter march in August have been confrontational, but not pointed. They gave us some valuable practice acting together in the streets, but did not complete their original goal of stopping the right-wing from marching. If we want to make sure the far right does not assert themselves in the streets, we need more people to show up to counter their street presence, and we also need to experiment with new strategies to prevent them from getting there in the first place.

Aside from some Philly anarchists' ongoing support of local political prisoners and recent support of the Vaughn 17, anarchists still mostly don't have connections with prisoners in the region. Developing better connections to prisoners would help us have an ear to what's happening inside, and would enable us to intervene more directly in prison struggles, in addition to supporting actions like the prison strike through outside solidarity actions.

As with almost everything else, we are generally nowhere near in skills, resources, or capacity to effectively take on the energy industry's ever-growing encroachments on the region's land and water, much less to move towards destroying forever the infrastructure that makes global capitalism and American settler civilization possible. Daily news reminds us of the massive extinction events, climate catastrophes, and human migration and suffering that is already resulting from climate change. We were glad to see people take up sabotage tactics against pipeline construction this year, as well as blockades against the Mariner East 2 and other pipelines, and we encourage more imagination and exploration of concerted action this year as new infrastructure continues to be built. For more socially oriented anarchists, imagining and spreading resources that could provide new means of survival, to show what else is possible as well as provide in case others do succeed in destroying the current infrastructure, could be a crucial contribution.

The insurrectionary milieu still experiences people moving relatively quickly in and out of activity, as people figure out what they are or are not into, and struggle with fear, life un-

der capitalism, and feelings of exclusion. We would welcome more initiatives that create the feelings of community and acceptance that many of us are looking for. The lack of it is an ongoing issue for people trying to remain active in the scene, and as usual we encourage people who perceive a problem to offer their critique through action - in this case, this could look like helping correct the problem by organizing a potluck, a game, a demo, etc.

Death, illness, and sadness have weighed heavily on the anarchist space this year, and we have found friendship and care to be ever more important, and at times life-saving.★

FROM CYNTOIA TO BOLSONARO

Violence becomes logical when it is a matter of survival. From feeding yourself (whether through the taking of plant or animal life) to resisting the control of an authority through equal means, it can even be a strategic and necessary option.

Cyntoia Brown was granted clemency this month. She had been imprisoned by the state since she was 16 for killing a "john" when she thought he was going to pull a gun on her. Convicted of murder in 2006, she was given a life sentence after being tried as an adult (as the prosecution argued that she had allegedly attempted to rob the man), which notably ignored her youth and that she had been forced into prostitution by an older, violently-abusive boyfriend (i.e. pimp, i.e. rapist). That is to say, she was imprisoned by this relationship before she was sent to prison, and the killing of that "john" appears to have been a step toward her liberation.

Now 30, she has been freed by the governor of Tennessee, who cited the "steps Ms. Brown has taken to rebuild her life," after an incredibly massive and longterm campaign for her release.

Since her life, that her freedom, was taken and withheld from her at such a young age, the governor's statement seems inaccurate. Perhaps what the governor meant was that she has taken steps to accrue skills that would enable her to legally survive in the larger (prison) society. All this also happened while, almost simultaneously, state powers increasingly criminalize and burden independent people who choose to do sex work with bills like SESTA-FOSTA, which may only drive those legitimate workers back toward certain contacts to make client introductions for them - contacts that then have the opportunity to take advantage of that arrangement.

Prostitution is commonly referred to as the oldest profession. As such, it seems unlikely that any capitalist entity could ever do away with it. Moreover, all kinds of sex work will continue so long as currency is exchanged, and to further criminalize it is to make it more difficult to do safely.

The revolutionary perspective of 1930s Spain lends us some lessons in this regard - in liberating sex workers (in addition to prisoners), burning tax and property records (in addition to churches), and executing the most unapologetic of ex-

plotters (generally the most ruthless and wealthiest of bosses and land owners), anarchist-liberated towns experienced a period of freedom before being betrayed by portions of the left and then reconquered by Franco's dictatorial forces. This is not just to say that all those tactics are immediately transferable to our situation (most notably, digital records are more difficult to destroy), but that exploitation can only cease with the destruction of hierarchies – not limited to, but including, capital.

Civility is a means to maintain that control, as the left and center most often tell us to abide by that principle, appealing to the authorities that maintain relationships of control to bring about resolution – or more accurately, compromise within the status quo so as to maintain its systems of control. A violent lashing out will not necessarily procure the intended result in every disagreement, but those most imposing authorities can be destabilized by it when applied correctly.

One such example is the increasing violence against the land and people of Brazil since the election of their new president Jair Bolsonaro, which one man (a religious zealot) attempted to prevent by making an attempt on Bolsonaro's life during his electoral campaign. Bolsonaro is a political figure considered so extreme that he had great difficulty finding a running mate. It is true that the violence emboldened by his election could have been temporarily augmented by his assassination. But if the attempted stabbing had been more exacting, it would have also prevented the policies he has yet to enact, policies that will put a great deal more lives in grave danger now that he wields the power of an entire government.

The intent of authority to control, manipulate and exploit denies us our ability to live – and how we you choose to resist that force is up to each of us, individually. But given the increasingly dire predictions for a world being run by intersecting manners of authority and corresponding indoctrination, the need for grander schemes for liberation seem increasingly necessary.

Even as we are going to print, there is breaking news of an "assassination attempt" – by way of a severe beating – on a far-right politician in German, whose party gained seats in government after an anti-Muslim and anti-migrant campaign in 2017. It's almost as if German anti-fascists remember the government-sanctioned extermination of racialized and resistant populations in their own region; as if they know they are fighting for their very survival. ★



Monkey wrenches and black banners.
Smoking dragons and petrol bombs.

Gears of destruction,
meet the wrenches
of revolution.

We,
the small cells
of one life,
fighting to save
the existence of another

Individuals,
there are none here,
on these woven webs
of affinity,
Because what is
Collective Liberation
without you,
standing next to me?

Lock boxes and occupations
Sacred lands and broken promises

What we wonder for wildly,
we struggle for endlessly.
& when tomorrow has been stolen
for dividends and board rooms,
paper treaties and criminal complaints
mean nothing,
In our fight,
against an illegitimate State.

—
MouseMouse



#16

A border, like race, is a cruel fiction
Maintained by constant policing, violence
Always threatening a new map. It takes
Time, lots of people's time, to organize
The world this way. & violence. It takes more
Violence. Violence no one can confuse for
Anything but violence. So much violence
Changes relationships, births a people
They can reason with. These people are not
Us. They underestimate the violence.
It's been awhile. We are who we are
To them, even when we don't know who we
Are to each other & culture is a
Record of us figuring that out.

Wendy Tevino

