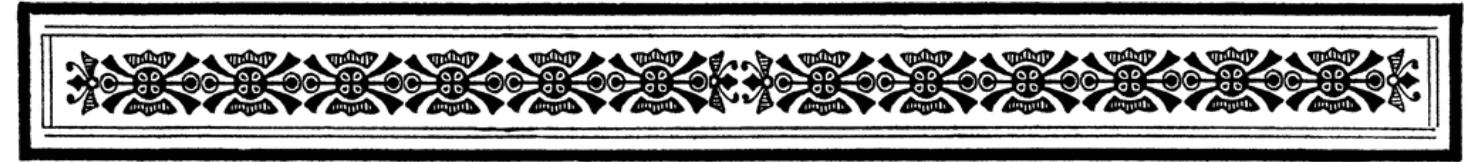


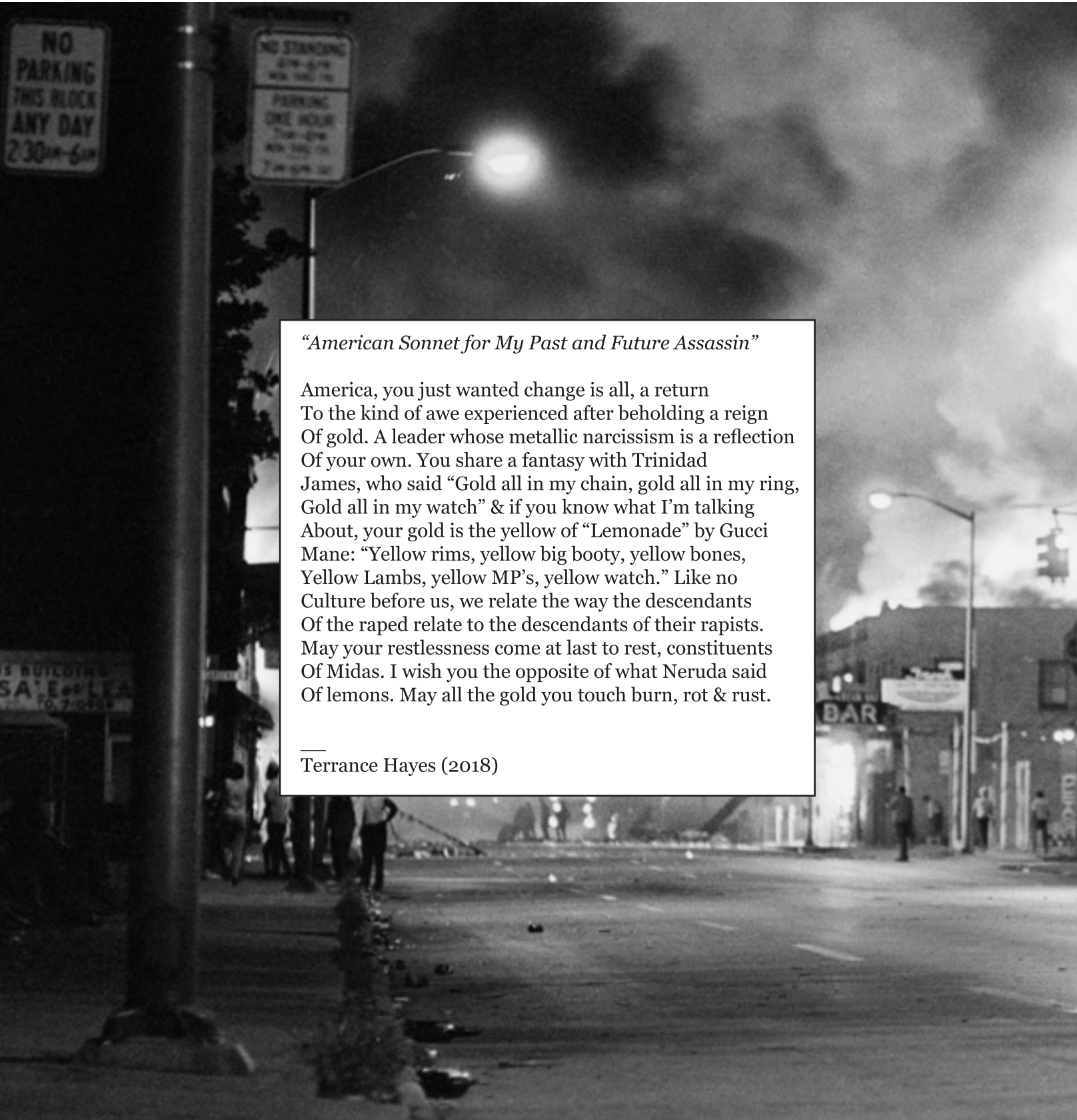
ANATHEMA



VOLUME V ISSUE III

FREE

JUNE 2019



“American Sonnet for My Past and Future Assassin”

America, you just wanted change is all, a return
To the kind of awe experienced after beholding a reign
Of gold. A leader whose metallic narcissism is a reflection
Of your own. You share a fantasy with Trinidad
James, who said “Gold all in my chain, gold all in my ring,
Gold all in my watch” & if you know what I’m talking
About, your gold is the yellow of “Lemonade” by Gucci
Mane: “Yellow rims, yellow big booty, yellow bones,
Yellow Lambs, yellow MP’s, yellow watch.” Like no
Culture before us, we relate the way the descendants
Of the raped relate to the descendants of their rapists.
May your restlessness come at last to rest, constituents
Of Midas. I wish you the opposite of what Neruda said
Of lemons. May all the gold you touch burn, rot & rust.

—
Terrance Hayes (2018)



PHILLY’S NEWEST POWERPLANT & THE GLOBAL WEB OF COLLABORATORS

Despite appeals to oppose childhood asthma, racial inequality, carcinogens, and climate change, a new liquified natural gas (LNG) plant was approved for South Philadelphia by City Council on Thursday, June 13th. In a vote of 13 to 4, Councilmembers Bass, Blackwell, Domb, Green, Greenlee, Henon, Johnson, O’neill, Oh, Squilla, Taubenberger, and Clarke all voted in favor.

Union Campaign Manager Danny Bauder of the AFL-CIO was also in attendance to express support for the \$60 million LNG plant, which is intended to be built on land already belonging to the city and the Philadelphia Gas Works utility company.

PGW currently liquefies natural gas at its Port Richmond plant and transports it to Passyunk for storage. The new plant will allow for everything to be done at the Passyunk plant, eliminating the need for transporting LNG from one plant to another.

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WHAT WENT DOWN

May 19 - Graffiti saying “You do not have the right to decide how others live #prochoice” was found on the entrance of a church in Swarthmore, PA.

May 20 - Philly cop Francis DiGiorgio shot 28 year old Joel Johnson who approached his unmarked car asking for change in Kensington. Joel Johnson was hit in the torso once and is in critical but stable condition at the time of this writing.

May 30 - Protesters with #OccupyPHA attempt to block construction of gates around lots near its headquarters that neighborhood children play in. Two protesters are arrested and then released on bail.

June 1 - Researchers with the Plain View Project out 328 Philadelphia police officers, including sergeants and lieutenants, for posting racist and violent content on social media. Posts also included sexism, bigotry, threats of violence and calls for executions of protesters, all written by active duty police officers. Protest followed the revelation.

June 3 - More than 20 cars are broken into and burglarized in West Deptford Township, New Jersey.

June 3 - Murals sponsored by Mural Arts Philadelphia along the bike trail in Manayunk are written over with graffiti including “Hipster yuppie scum” and “Share or else.” Manayunk is one of Philly’s rapidly gentrifying neighborhoods. Mural Arts director Jane Golden notes to reporters that graffiti is not art, but a crime. The Mural Arts program was established in 1984 to help criminalize graffiti.

June 3 - Philly is ranked the most bedbug-infested city in the country.

June 5 - Philadelphia Housing Authority and City Police force #OccupyPHA move its encampment outside PHA’s headquarters. #OccupyPHA had been protesting PHA’s role in gentrification and displacement by camping outside its headquarters in Sharswood for 42 days. Protesters moved their encampment across the street.

June 7 - Two Philadelphia Police officers are injured in separate motorbike crashes within blocks of each other. One officer’s back wheel gave out and he was thrown from the bike. Another was hurt after the brakes on his bike suddenly gave out.

June 7 & 8 - PPD and SEPTA police cars have their tires slashed in broad daylight in Center City two days in a row by an unknown person.

Early June - Stickers and posters in solidarity with anarchist prisoners are put up around the city.

June 11 - Graffiti in solidarity with anarchist prisoners is seen on the Grays Ferry bridge. “FREE THE ANARCHIST PRISONERS”

June 11 - A vegan BBQ fundraiser for anarchist prisoners and local anti-repression efforts took place. “FREEDOM FOR THE ANARCHIST FIGHTERS”

June 12 - The state of Delaware drops the remaining charges against the Vaughn 17.

June 18 - Activists with Philly Thrive block entrance to PES oil refinery for 45 minutes on West Passyunk Avenue, announcing intentions to return every Tuesday, after city council approved permit for the construction of a liquified natural gas plant in South Philly. ★

YOUTH MIGRANT DETENTION CENTER TO REOPEN

Visionquest ran a detention center for migrant children near the northern city limits of Philadelphia that was shut down in 2017 when it was found that staff had punched and choked children. Since then, the federal government has kicked them more that \$5 million to reopen their jail on their Logan Plaza property at 5201 Old York Road.

In attempts to uphold their “Sanctuary City” status, Philadelphia attempted legal recourse to prevent Visionquest from reopening on zoning grounds – thus pushing for the children to be held somewhere else – but the judge ruled in favor of the detention center on June 20th. In fact, the federal government had responded in litigious kind and accused the city of preventing the housing of unaccompanied migrant children due to their ethnicity and language.

In spite of this, Visionquest is considering a move to nearby Norristown; however, they could begin moving children into their Logan Plaza facility as soon as early July. ★

After all, just 100 companies are responsible for 70% of the world’s greenhouse gases since 1988 – which is why Films for Action attempted to actually compile such a list just this past month. Houston is first on this list as the home of seven of the 100 top ecocidal planet killers.

Unfortunately, as you might note in the corresponding map, these addresses aren’t very specific and likely just specify the city in which their company is based – but that may still be useful information for motivated parties.

Very early on the morning of the Summer Solstice, the West Passyunk PES refinery exploded in flames. As the particularly dangerous unit ruptured, the neighborhood surrounding it risked exposure to Hydrogen Fluoride gas (which forms Hydrofluoric Acid when combined with water), leading the city to issue an emergency shelter-in-place announcement (stay inside, close your windows) for much of the morning. This particular gas (HF) can pass through flesh seeking Calcium, causing damage to bones, and there’s enough in use at the facility to form a cloud over South Philadelphia according to journalist Gwen Snyder. This is the second unintentional fire at the refinery in the last month, and its cause is unknown. One Derek Lowe, doctor of organic chemistry, attested in 2004 that he would pass on any reactions that require the gas since it is so dangerous to living flesh. “As soon as it hits anything moist – like your lungs – it dissolves in the water and turns into hydrofluoric acid again. And that soaks into tissue very readily, with the acid part doing its damage along the way, and the fluoride merrily poisoning enzymes and wreaking havoc. The damage isn’t immediately apparent, and there are terrible cases of people who’ve been exposed and didn’t realize it for hours – by which time a lot of irreversible damage had been done.”



ANARCHIST GIANNIS MICHAILIDIS ESCAPED FROM GREEK PRISON

via 325

The anarchist prisoner Giannis Michailidis [sometimes the name is reported as Yannis and the surname as Michailidis] escaped a few days ago from the so-called rural prison of Tyrintha, in Peloponnese. He was arrested on 1 February 2013 following the double robbery that took place in Velventos, along with the anarchists Nikos Romanos, Dimitris Politis and Andreas-Dimitris Bourzoukos (for the same facts on 30 April 2013 were also arrested the fugitives anarchists Argyris Dalios, Fivos Harisis, Giannis Naxakis and Grigoris Sarafoudis – not all of them were convicted of robberies). The comrade, before the escape, was serving a sentence of 16 years and 4 months, imposed with the sentence that followed the trial regarding the facts of Velventos. Furthermore, in 2015 he was sentenced to 15 years for charges linked to an attack on the police on May 18, 2011, in Pefki, during a police check (two policemen were wounded and the anarchist Theofilos Mavropoulos was arrested, wounded as well). Giannis is also known as “the archer of Syntagma” since, in February 2011, in the clashes during a general strike, he was arrested for hitting the riot police that protected the Greek parliament in Syntagma Square (Athens) with a bow and arrow.

The police, according to the press, are already investigating the incident.

Long flight for the anarchist Giannis Michailidis! ★



about what the state is up to. Here are some steps we can take to better deal with state repression.

*When we interact with the police, investigators, or others of the sort we should not only refuse to answer questions but also remember and write down as much about the encounter as we can: what questions are asked, what agency was involved, who they were looking for, when and where the encounter took place, etc.

*Contacting a lawyer and/or anti-repression group and letting them know what took place. Lawyers and anti-repression groups can help support us through these often stressful and confusing times. Anti-repression groups can potentially help write and publicize information about the situation.

*Sharing our experience with as many comrades as possible to avoid rumors and allow people to make informed choices. ★

POWERPLANTS & COLLABORATORS CONTINUED

Supporters argue that this method is less polluting than the use of diesel fuel or oil, but opponents argue that such a compromise is still an investment in fossil fuels that further the destruction of the earth and atmosphere.

The new plant, called the Passyunk Energy Center, will be a public-private partnership between city-owned Philadelphia Gas Works and Conshohocken-based Liberty Energy Trust [100 Front Street, Suite 900 West Conshohocken, PA 19428 Telephone: 1-610-941-5064 Email: info@libertyenergytrust.com].

A short foray into the biographies of the LET team illustrates the breadth of connections those involved have to the infrastructure of environmental degradation and elite businesses that further institutions of control. Whether it's Liqun Pan, who led the divestiture of the Ironwood, 705MW natural gas combined cycle power plant in PA to PPL Corporation; Mimi Drake, who studied finance at the elite local Wharton School (UPenn); Adam B. Landau running LET's investment firm, Permit Capital Advisors down the hall from LET (suite 940); Boris Brevnov, former Vice President of M&A at AES Corporation, a global power company with \$18 billion in revenue and energy businesses in 27 countries, where he led the acquisition of Dayton Power & Light Corporation; or local founder Charles E. Ryan, who chairs UFG (United Financial Group) Asset Management, which invests in debt and equity,

and was acquired by Deutsche Bank in 2006 – in turn, making Ryan the Chief Country Officer and CEO of Deutsche Bank in Russia.

Interestingly, Deutsche Bank is a German-based company with nearby locations in Wilmington, DE and Piscataway, NJ, and it has recently been a common target of action campaigns in solidarity with anarchists in Germany. The Informal Anarchist Federation (FAI) also sent a letter bomb to Deutsche Bank's executive director in 2011, which was discovered by the bank's security.

The Philadelphia Gas Commission had passed the proposal for the LNG plant late last year, but when activists began to draw attention to the issue, City Council pushed back their final vote until after the May 21st primary elections, so that their vote in favor of the plant would not affect their reelection campaigns.

Activists similarly lost their campaign against a SEPTA natural gas power plant in the Nicetown neighborhood of North Philadelphia by way of indirect action, such as appeals to authority figures, in 2017. There has been no recent reports on its progress, but Noresco LLC was chosen to design it and still shares offices in suite 3600 of One Liberty Place (1650 Market Street). Quebec's Consular Corp website reports that they are one of the simultaneous occupants of that suite, as one Andrea Townrow runs their trade office there.

In related news, companies linked to one Wesley R. Edens, the co-founder of New York-based Fortress Investments groups, have recently been suspected of secretly initiating attempts to revive an old (and still contaminated) DuPont dynamite factory along the Delaware River in nearby Greenwich Township in order to export LNG. A company called New Fortress Energy, also founded by Edens, is slated to build an \$800 million plant in northern Pennsylvania's Bradford County for producing LNG from Marcellus Shale gas producers. The LNG produced at that plant would then likely be shipped out from the repurposed dynamite factory.

Public disillusionment with the continued collaboration between government and energy companies on this front must pose the threat of some sort of instability – whether it be popular uprisings in opposition, or the more likely accelerating climate catastrophe – since even popular satire news site The Onion is now publishing articles with titles like “Last-Ditch Climate Change Report Provides Locations of Weapons, Whereabouts of Oil Executives.”

Members of White Supremacist Institution Also Bigots Themselves, Study Shows

Philadelphia residents were outraged this month after a report by the Plain View Project revealed that police officers who work every day to enforce a racially and economically unequal social order have also been expressing violent and racist views in their spare time. The report, which looks at the social media accounts of 2,900 officers from eight different police departments, indicates that there might be a system-wide pattern of violent racism amongst state law enforcement, an institution that was originally created in the U.S. in part to ensure that the nation's large populations of black people who had been kidnapped and enslaved as free laborers did not rebel or otherwise endanger the nation's economy.

The report only looks at posts by officers who were especially carefree with their security practices, using their legal names and choosing to keep their accounts public.

The implicated officers' employer, the U.S. government, has depended since its inception on subjugating black and brown people here and abroad in order to accrue wealth and to control potential threats to its facade of social peace. In order to do so, police departments have historically recruited from and collaborated with active white supremacist organizations, most notoriously the Ku Klux Klan. In Philadelphia, a police officer who was recently revealed to be a Nazi was removed from the force only to be reinstated to a civilian police force last year.

With these new revelations, many Philadelphians have been questioning whether laws should be enforced by individuals who openly hate the people they patrol. Still others have been questioning whether a system in which we deal with interpersonal harm by calling on an organized gang of violent and dehumanized individuals to hurt people then throw them in cages is an ethical or functional way to resolve conflict. Additional others have questioned whether we should have a legal system at all, since it appears to have been designed to favor the needs of capital and the state rather than everyday people's basic needs. It's almost like there is an unacknowledged war being waged every day on poor and marginalized populations, and that anyone who chooses a job as a police officer has knowingly chosen a side in that war.

The Philadelphia Police department has addressed the issue so far by temporarily suspending 72 of its hundreds of officers implicated by the report and pledging to investigate itself. ★

Nature's Revenge: The West Philly Sinkhole

In early June, a large void opened up in the intersection of Baltimore Ave and 43rd Street in West Philly. The enormous sinkhole has been blockading transportation and circulation along the Baltimore Ave corridor for over three weeks as of this writing and may last into July.

Initially a small hole in the street, the sinkhole turned out to be a 20-by-20 foot chasm beneath the concrete that is at least 12 feet deep. The void was formed by erosion caused by the deterioration of an underground sewer.

The city of Philadelphia is notorious for its potholes, sinkholes, and other signs of deteriorating infrastructure. But it's rarely acknowledged that the problem is not just the city's lack of maintenance, but the existence of the city and its infrastructure itself.

The real cause of the sinkhole has to do with colonization and the city's impositions on the geology of Lenapehoking, the traditional homelands of the Lenni Lenape. The sinkhole sits atop the floodplains of what was once called Mill Creek, one of many waterways that was covered over when Philadelphia's colonizers reorganized its rolling hills, valleys, and creeks into a rectilinear grid of streets that would suit industrial trade. Creeks – which had already been trashed by early settlers who used them as dump sites – were channeled into sewage pipes and their valleys filled with dirt to accommodate construction.

In disrespecting the region's underlying geology, early colonizers sowed the seeds of physical decay in the city. In the twentieth century, contradictions between the topography and hydrological systems of the Delaware Valley and the industrial city's planning began to surface, although they are rarely publicly discussed as such.

The area that was once Mill Creek has already swallowed cars, houses, and people in collapses during the 1930s, 1950s, and 1960s. In 1959, another buried creek – Gunner's Run – swallowed up and drowned a police officer, Joseph Reiss, at Fifth and Clearfield Streets in North Philadelphia. Swaths of vacancy and low-income housing follow the path of what was formerly Mill Creek in West Philly.

Even modern science confirms something that seems

relatively intuitive, which is that everything in this world is interdependent. When human intervention disturbs the natural balance of an ecosystem, it eventually corrects itself. This can manifest in ways that are mysterious, inconvenient, or even deadly for the sector of humans who had attempted to force their will where they shouldn't have. Sinkholes, along with other symptoms of the catastrophic natural imbalance that has spread across the globe, will persist as long as the exploitative scourge we call "civilization" attempts to violently impose its order on the world. In the long battle between colonial developers and Mill Creek, Mill Creek is still fighting. ★

THE WORDS WE USE

On the recent conflict around the A-Space

The recent outcry against the A-Space collective is part of a larger trend to speak in a language that has become nearly meaningless. Often the words "community" and "accountability" are thrown around without explanation; things get muddled as a result. Who do people mean when they talk about "the community"? What do people mean when they talk about "accountability"? Without a grounding in anarchist principles, these words can be used to hold power over individuals and groups.

As anarchists we hold free association and mutual aid to be important principles. We can use these principles to begin to craft anti-authoritarian notions of community and accountability. It feels more reasonable to hold someone to account (accountability) if both you and them have agreed to a relationship based in understanding and helping each other (free association). On the other hand to expect someone to be accountable to you when they have never agreed to such a relationship is presumptuous. The same can be said of how we use the word community; when it is based in a shared desire to help one another and be around one another, it makes sense to speak of community as something one can expect something from.

What has been happening around the A-Space is an attempt to coerce an autonomous group to act how some people want them to, through a misguided understanding of community, accountability and direct action. The A-Space is an anarchist space; one would think that the A-Space would be used to further anarchist projects and struggle. This has not always been the case, yet the problem people have taken up with the A-Space is not that there are too many art events with little connection

to anarchy; their problem is that the A-Space collective is not responsive to a vague and undefined community. A "community" that to the author's knowledge has expressed very little interest in holding anarchist events at the space. If these people had similar interests and stated intentions as the A-Space, one could say they were all part of an anarchist community and it would be reasonable to want an account from the A-Space if it strayed from its stated and shared intention. This isn't the case; the people upset with the decisions made by the A-Space have assumed that the space is something that should cater to their desires, regardless of a lack of shared intention, agreed-upon association, or stated decision to help each other. In short, it's the use of the ambiguous ideas of community and accountability without the anarchist principles of free association and mutual aid to hold anything together.

On the other hand, these people's use of direct action is confused. Direct action is the unmediated solving of problems by those affected; it is not about negotiation or convincing others. The "direct action" seen coming from those unsatisfied with the A-Space has been holding meetings, attempting conversation, and spreading propaganda. There is nothing wrong with these tactics, but they are not direct action by any means; they are about dialogue and informing people.

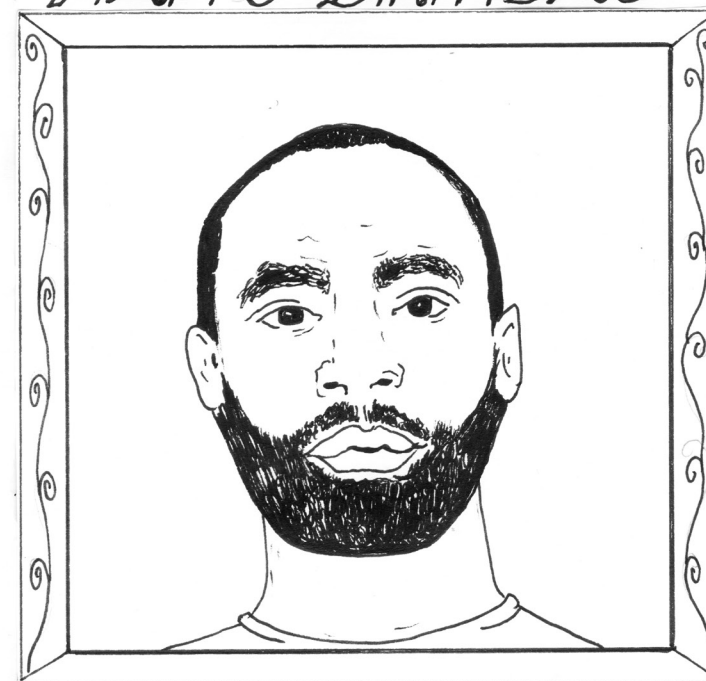
The misuse of the term direct action, alongside the clumsy use of accountability and community, point to a difference between the A-Space and those unhappy with its decisions. This is normal since people with different desires will do different things. People who are basing their decisions on anarchist principles will make different choices than people who do not hold and/or understand these principles. Not everyone is an anarchist (and not everyone should be for that matter) and it's reasonable that people who aren't will use notions like community or accountability to hold power over others. That said, it's also reasonable that anarchists would reject attempts to impose choices on them as well. ★

TALKING ABOUT REPRESSION

There's no point in keeping the state's activity a secret from each other. When the cops visit one of our homes, when a rebel is arrested, when an investigator asks us questions, these things are worth sharing. Although it's scary to talk about, the fact is the state already knows its own agenda and sharing what we know about it will strengthen our security and allow us all to make better choices by being as informed as possible.

SOLIDARITY
WITH THE
VAUGHN 17!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY



JARREAU AYERS!

JUNE 15TH

WRITE JARREAU A LETTER!

Smart Communications/PADOC
Jarreau Ayers - NS 9994
SCI Huntington
PO Box 33028
ST Petersburg, FL 33733

When we keep each other in the dark instead of the state we do ourselves and our comrades a disservice. We don't need to feel embarrassed or ashamed to have faced repression (nor should we be proud to have drawn the state's attention). Our misplaced desire to keep secrets leaves room for the spread of rumors and speculation, leading to a climate of uninformed paranoia and anxiety. When we know and share what we know about the state we can develop a better understanding of what the state might be trying to do. It's in all of our interest to know what the government is trying to do. Keeping quiet about things like home visits, interrogations and questioning, arrests, and intimidation leave us closed to receiving support and solidarity from concerned comrades.

In the Pacific Northwest it has become partially normalized to publicly report any visits from the FBI or other law enforcement. These reports detail who came around, which agency they worked for, what questions they asked, when they came, and how the occupants of a house responded to the visit. This kind of write-up lets everyone know what the state is up to: what they might be trying to find out, who they want to learn more about, what they seem to already know. It also lets us know that our comrades are remaining uncooperative and not snitching. Making this kind of reporting normal also lets the state know that we pay attention and respond to repression rather than isolating ourselves.

Recently anti-fascists in the South been facing repression from the state and white supremacists. Their response has been to publish and share their experiences online. They have detailed the dates, activities, and locations of encounters with law enforcement and white supremacists. They did all this without naming or publicizing personal information of those targeted.

During the grand jury targeting anarchists in the Pacific Northwest, anarchists not only refused to snitch but also made efforts to record and share what they could about the investigation. They wrote down what questions were being asked to the grand jury resisters, spread information about who was being sought for questioning, shared court dates, and the resisters made public statements about being targeted and their intention to resist. This broke the isolation that the state tried to impose and made the entire ordeal that much more clear and less confusing.

When we are open and upfront about how the state tries to suppress our struggle, we build trust, reduce unnecessary paranoia, and better inform ourselves