

ANATHEMA

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ACAB: A NURSERY RHYME

for “I love you” say fuck the police / for
“the fires of heaven” say fuck the police, don’t say
“recruitment” don’t say “trotsky” say fuck the police
for “alarm clock” say fuck the police

for “my morning commute” for
“electoral system” for “endless solar wind” say fuck the police
don’t say “I have lost understanding of my visions” don’t say
“that much maligned human faculty” don’t say
“suicided by society” say fuck the police / for “the movement
of the heavenly spheres” say fuck the police / for
“the moon’s bright globe” for “the fairy mab” say
fuck the police / don’t say “direct debit” don’t say “join the party”
say “you are sleeping for the boss” and then say fuck the police
don’t say “evening rush-hour” say fuck the police / don’t say
“here are the steps I’ve taken to find work” say fuck the police
don’t say “tall skinny latté” say fuck the police / for
“the earth’s gravitational pull” say fuck the police / for
“make it new” say fuck the police

all other words are buried there
all other words are spoken there / don’t say “spare change”
say fuck the police / don’t say “happy new year” say fuck the police
perhaps say “rewrite the calendar” but after that, immediately
after that say fuck the police / for “philosopher’s stone” for
“royal wedding” for “the work of transmutation” for “love
of beauty” say fuck the police / don’t say “here is my new poem”
say fuck the police

say no justice no peace and then say fuck the police

—
Sean Bonney
2014



WHAT WENT DOWN

September 7 - Citizens Bank at 6324 Stenton Ave robbed using a threatening demand note.

September 18 - Wells Fargo robbed at 770 Adams Ave using a demand note followed by a verbal demand.

Mid-September - Someone wrote "ARM THE POOR (A)" on the inappropriately named, for-profit, yuppie-accommodating business, Soup Kitchen Cafe in Fishtown.

Late September - "Climate Action or Die" banner appears along the Vine Street Expressway, above Interstate 676.

September - Slew of 'Circle A' and antifascist Gritty stickers found on everything from OCF Realty vehicles to Federal building signage.

October 1 - PNC Bank at 1511 Walnut St robbed using a threatening demand note.

October 4 - Demonstration against the Frank Rizzo statue, the police and in solidarity with political prisoners in Center City. ★



TABLE OF CONTENTS:

PITTSBURGH RAID
3

A BERNIE SANDERS STORY
4

CHASE™ YOUR DREAMS
6

BRING WATER (HONG KONG)
6

CHILE IN SEPTEMBER
8

REPORTBACK FROM CANADA'S CLIMATE STRIKE
9

REST IN POWER KELLY GIBBS
10

VENGEANCE FOR KEVIN, SOLIDARITY WITH JOAQUIN
11

ACAB POEM
12

IN REVENGE OF KEVIN GARRIDO CALLED A BLACK NOVEMBER

ON NOVEMBER 2, WHEN HE GOES DOWN TO THE JAIL YARD KEVIN IS INVOLVED IN A FIGHT WITH ANOTHER PRISONER, WHO SEEMED TO BE ONE OF THE MANY DAILY CONFLICTS THAT ARE LIVED IN THAT PLACE, BEING WOUNDED IN A LETHAL WAY, WITHOUT RECEIVING TIMELY MEDICAL ASSISTANCE, IS TRANSFERRED DEAD FROM SANTIAGO 1, AN HOUR AND FIVETEEN MINUTES LATER TO THE BARROS LUCO EXTERNAL HOSPITAL.

" I KNOW WHAT I WAS FACING, FROM THE MOMENT I CONSCIOUSLY DECIDED TO LIVE MY LIFE IN CONSTANT ACTION AND NOT VAGUE WORDINESS, AND I DON'T REGRET ANYTHING "

" THAT SOLIDARITY IS NOT JUST A GROPED WORD, THAT THE SOLIDARITY BE AN WRATHFUL ACTION THAT GIVES INJECTIONS OF STRENGTH AND ENERGY TO THE HEART OF EACH SISTER IN CAPTIVITY "

A YEAR AFTER HIS MURDER, AN INTERNATIONAL CALL TO ACTION IS MADE IN VENGEANCE FOR KEVIN'S MURDER WHILE HE WAS HELD CAPTIVE IN THE JAIL/SLAUGHTERHOUSE SANTIAGO 1. THE CALL EXTENDS TO REALIZE MULTIFORM VENGEANCE ACTIONS, BETTING ON THE CHAOTIC PRAXIS OF VIOLENCE THROUGHOUT NOVEMBER.

LEAVING ASIDE THE UTILITARIAN DISTORTIONS THAT HAVE ARISEN AROUND KEVIN, WHICH CONTRADICT HIS WORDS AND ACTIONS.



**VENGEANCE FOR KEVIN, COMPLICITY WITH JOAQUIN
FREEDOM TO ALL PRISONERS IN THE WORLD.**

that socialists imagine to be a model for their reformist demands, idealizing Canadian healthcare and coveting politicians more attractive than “45.” A similar lack of imagination plagues the Climate Strike in its Canadian form.

The most obvious blind spot in the Climate Strike in Canada was the absence of an enemy or any clear adversary. This was made abundantly clear by the presence of politicians. It was reinforced by the ambiguous and generalized messaging of protesters, whose signage and slogans added to the obfuscation of our opponents, the police, the rich, colonialism, the capitalist system, etc. One memorable chant in Toronto went as follows: “Hey Hey, Ho Ho, Climate Change has got to go!” Although a boiler plate chant, the substitution of the common enemy for “climate change” was telling. Climate change, personified, needs to be ousted—no one is responsible.

With close to a million demonstrators, there was space for other tendencies to emerge. But one cannot be everywhere, and we were in Toronto of all places. Since the Toronto anarchist bookfair was taking place the next day, we might have expected a green anarchist contingent to form, but there was no sign of one. However, the demonstration was quite large with multiple, unregulated crowds spilling out onto the streets. A large section of downtown was overtaken by young people wandering whenever and wherever, making it difficult to identify contingents, the center or main march (this makes us question how the news reports established the march at 40,000 demonstrators). This decentralization was the strike’s potential strength and an opening to possibilities.

Reports from Montreal suggest ways to take advantage of these possibilities, even when the recuperation of the demonstration seemed inevitable. While students in Philly at least rebelled by walking out of school, “strikers” in Montreal were given the day off to march with the Prime Minister. Within this suffocating environment, Montreal anti-capitalists managed to form an autonomous contingent, handing out fliers to the massive crowd and splitting off for a breakaway march. An egg was thrown at Trudeau. For a more complete description, see the “Report-Back” on mtl.counterinfo.org.

These small acts of rebellion highlight just how nonconflictual protest in the rest of Canada can be, particularly in Toronto. Make no mistake: almost any opportunity to walk down the middle of the street for hours in a major city can be nice. That doesn’t make it rebellion, no matter how many XR hourglasses appear on the signs. One of the more confrontational moments of these hours in Toronto’s downtown came from the Grassy Narrows contingent, a group acting in solidarity with the Grassy Narrows First Nation who have been subjected to mercury poisoned waters from a 1960s paper mill. This contingent took up position on the sidewalk, loudly chanting at the crowd, who remained mostly docile and indifferent. It is fitting that, in a protest without enemies, the Grassy Narrows contingent was effectively protesting the protest.

For many, it is enough to see demonstrators take the street in recognition that climate change is bad (or real). This is the enduring appeal of more liberal and socialistic countries like Canada. But without a discernable opponent, these demonstrators protest climate change instead of the people and systems that cause it. These valiant heroes of socialism are tilting at the wind, taking swings at warm temperatures. Does it need to be said that you can’t fight the weather? ★



PITTSBURGH POLICE RAID

Last month an anarchist house was raided by police in Pittsburgh. Neighbors say that the cops were dressed in plain clothes, wearing bulletproof vests, and said they were volunteering their time – implying that the cops were off-duty, and perhaps even that they had personal motivations for being there.

These twenty-or-so officers showed up around 10am, while the residents were away at work, breaking down the front door and entering the home with guns drawn – but this wasn’t their first interaction. The cops apparently made a big show of towing one of the resident’s car a few days before, potentially intending shame and intimidation, and apparently have been harassing and monitoring other anarchist houses in the city (i.e. home visits and patrols) concurrently.

The warrant named charges amounting to petty theft against one individual, but included a rarely-used felony charge that allowed for the raid to take place, and a list of things to be taken (e.g. electronics, photographs, cell phones, and clothing). They left an incomplete inventory of what they stole, including those things listed and passports, and left many more things out on display. These display items were likely photographed and include guns, certain zines, sex toys, holy basil, and J20 and anti-fascist paraphernalia. In addition to busting up ceilings and curtain rods during this petty invasion of a personal home, the cops even went so far as to slash bicycle tires.

It is suggested that the cops are behaving in such a way so as to map out the anarchist scene in Pittsburgh, taking note of who knows who, and fishing for anything else potentially incriminating.

This differs from most federal raids we’ve heard about, like the most recent one targeting anti-fascists in South Carolina late last year, in which the federal officers involved made their way into the home while residents were there. Those residents, often in various states of undress, were handcuffed and kept together at a central point where they could be monitored (namely, on a couch in

the living room). Otherwise, the manner of searching the house, interrogating for known associates, and stealing possessions seems about the same.

The charges against the anti-fascists in South Carolina, which amounted to stalking and harassing white supremacists, were dropped as of this summer. Ironically, though, the raids followed an occasion in which a white supremacist came to one activist’s place of work to demand their personal information from the establishment; after the activists’ court date, the stalking continued with a bunch of white men monitoring one activist’s home with cell phone cameras.

The Pittsburgh raid happening while no one was home highlights, as we’ve heard in similar instances, the benefit of having a good relationship with neighbors who can share information with you afterwards – or even notify you while it is going on.

Since even various elements of the far right have learned the technique of doxxing, though (with a recent local example of the Proud Boys visiting the home of a Philadelphia journalist who was critical of them), it might make sense to review the security of your home against a variety of related threats.

In Philadelphia, it’s not uncommon for homes to have bars on the window, but doors are still the most common manner of entry. Longer screws for the hinges are a great start and an easy upgrade for slowing down forced entry, but the deadbolt will still force its way through if the door frame isn’t reinforced too. There are various “security doors” on the market that help displace the blow of that forced entry, and many newer-designed door stops commonly marketed to prevent school shooters. The main issue with the former is its high price; as for the latter, it usually requires all members of the household to be inside (and many a collective house can have people coming and going at all sorts of undetermined times). Still, this is up to the personal consideration of each individual and collective, and the risks they feel they do or do not take.

When you do notice a growing interest in your activities or otherwise anticipate an unwanted visitor, however, you can remember additional advice

from those who've been through it. You may want legal phone numbers easily available (i.e. a friendly lawyer, the National Lawyers' Guild or other local legal observers, or a group like the Tilted Scales Collective, who aided a Pittsburgh comrade), who can also help you figure out how to best monitor searches and seizures; and/or temporarily move electronics, literature, and other items out of your home.

For more immediate threats of bodily harm, you might also want to practice steps of vacating your home through less commonly-used points of entry and exit, so that muscle-memory may guide you even when your brain is in panic mode – whether that involves having an easily accessible “go bag” (containing short-term living essentials) near that exit point and/or a predetermined, always-available sanctuary space is up to you. As many of us may valorize a stand-and-fight manner of self-defense, it is important to remember that in most instances this should probably be the absolute last choice in a worst-case scenario that few if any of us are on the level of – particularly in opposing state apparatuses.

Regarding police raids in particular, these preparations piggyback on many basic “security culture” practices, like not keeping incriminating items in your home if you ever have any, and not saying anything more to cops beyond “Show me a warrant,” “I do not consent to a search,” and “I want to see my lawyer.” Furthermore, this should be treated as an opportunity for us to unite, strengthen, and connect our scenes – extending hearts and helping hands to comrades (as we already saw in the Pittsburgh comrades' very quickly successful fundraiser for legal fees) – as we continue to learn from the pitiful techniques of authority against us.★



WHEN THEY WIN, WE LOSE

In January 2015, the relatively new far-left party Syriza was voted into power in Greece. Syriza was a response to the worsening economic crisis in Greece and was formed by socialist, communist and Green party adherents. A political party aligned with grassroots social movements, Syriza publicly defended rioters against police brutality and built its following by campaigning against austerity measures and the unlivable impact they were having on the Greek people. The party's electoral victory brought hope to radicals all over the world.

Four years later, anarchists' predictions that “Syriza would draw movements out of the streets, re-legitimize the institutions of the state without changing their essentially repressive character, and ultimately fail to address the consequences of capitalism, polarizing Greek voters to the right” have all been validated (CrimethInc, “Syriza Can't Save Greece,” reprised recently in “Greek Anarchists Fight Back in Exarchia”). A right-wing party is now in power in Greece and this summer began ordering raids and evictions of refugee squats in Exarchia, one of the world's few semi-autonomous anarchist neighborhoods.

The failure of Syriza, along with countless other attempts to put leftists in power, shows that radical structural changes can't happen through electoral politics. Aside from showing us once again that electoral strategies will not work, what's happened in Greece also warns us to consider the longer-term consequences of when a leftist bid for electoral power actually succeeds. Once leftist politicians fail to deliver on their promises – as they inevitably will – much of the increasingly desperate population swings towards fascism, which presents itself as the other potential “radical” option. Campaigning for democratic socialists is not only to campaign for the system – it also cedes ground for the fascists to step in later. The only way this dynamic can be circumvented is for us to work on solutions to the crisis that start off autonomous from electoral power, and stay that way.

Here we are now in the United States in 2019,

combatant” since his youth.

They also explain the benefits of “observing and analyzing with caution,” which, in addition to increasing the chances of success, also reduce the opportunities for “arbitrary hierarchies” – even in the case of something like a fake bomb, which can have also “generate huge impacts,” depending on one's objectives.

These sort of tactical considerations call to mind the strategy of “twos and threes,” “sniping” cops during riots in the Black Liberation struggles of Sixties America, and similar attacks in Ireland by liberatory forces that continued on into more recent decades. In a brief interview during a Belfast riot in 2011, which still occur regularly against the occupying British colonial forces in Northern Ireland, former Irish political prisoner Martin Meehan expressed that the provisional IRA used to organize the youth to riot in the same way expressly so the adult members of the community could then ambush the British police forces with bombs and guns. This followed a condemnation of those that went into politics, seeking compromise with the occupying nation-state, especially after a long history of gratuitous violence visited on the Irish people – particularly the murder of five children while they carried rifles in the 1970's.

These strategies seem particularly foreign in our present-day locale, given the lack of sustained riots here since the 1960's, after many-an-inclusive-reform (and other methods of conditioning) contributed to the increased pacification of the population. It's exactly because of these pressure releases, particularly the illusion of being heard by those in power (and even seeing minor changes because of it), that there have been less riotous opportunities here. Given the increasing polarization, and honest disavowal of public opinion by the powers that be, that could change.

Contrast that with the Greek autonomous neighborhood of Exarcheia, currently under siege by newly elected xenophobes, who rightfully recognize the mere presence of police as provocation – and all the more rightfully so, as their neighborhood has long been organized in such a way that the police were not welcome. In fact, the police

generally only entered the neighborhood to enact evictions or other violence on the population, unless an anarchist called in a fake emergency to draw the fearful police toward the periphery of the neighborhood in order to ambush them. These decreased opportunities for friendly interactions with police – the exact opposite of the “community policing” and other friendly event strategies seeing increased utilization in the U.S. (i.e. Coffee with Cops) – likely contribute to remembering that cops are the enemy.

Alternatively, riot organizing and tactics have contributed to and maintained the liberation of space throughout the world, given the appropriate context in which to operate. That context, as the Chilean comrades convey, is often affected by its participants, and specifically how they prepared and planned their involvement. These opportunities, in turn, open up possibilities for insurrection – particularly when the rioters look beyond police as the targets – and some might argue, revolution.

Of course, these opportunities come from organizing and acting for liberation, by any means necessary, and not from contributing to the policing and pacifying of the disaffected. ★

REPORTBACK FROM CANADA'S CLIMATE STRIKE: YOU CAN'T FIGHT THE WEATHER

On September 20th, 1000s of protesters took to the streets of Philadelphia for the Climate Strike, along with four million protesters worldwide. A week later, the Climate Strike continued in more cities. Notably, crowds in Canada grew to 800,000 across the country. With next month's federal election in sight, even the Prime Minister Justin Trudeau joined death metal singer Greta Thunberg in the 1/2 million-strong demonstration in Montreal. His political opponent Jagmeet Singh, leader of the left-leaning New Democrat Party, joined the throng of 50,000 in Toronto. Is this an image of the future?

Undoubtedly, many on the American Left fantasize about a day that politicians will join their cause and take up the banner of climate justice. By turning to “our neighbors to the North,” we might get a glimpse of what this objective looks like in advance. Indeed, Canada has long been one of the countries

slingshots, they join the fray when necessary, but their non-combatant tactics are essential to the ecosystem of riots.

These “distant attackers” point to kinds of participation that don’t require rioting but may be required for rioting. Recently, the Hong Kong police began spraying rioting crowds with blue water from their firehoses to mark them out, presumably to be arrested. Similar if less dramatic tactics are often used to mark clothes in North America. People in Hong Kong responded by leaving changes of clothes out for escaping participants and placing baking soda in public bathrooms to wash off. This kind of mutual aid reminds us that our actions in the streets still depend on activity in other sites and situations.

The home remains a central location even in heightened conflict. Since the struggle in Hong Kong is predominantly a youth struggle, the problem of the home is particularly complicated. Parents can be an arm of the police. To overcome this, people have organized a network of open apartments for young people to crash, along with food and transportation to rescue them from demos. For the young students presently making their home in the streets, supporters have set up free tutoring, counseling and other services.

Even the front lines need to get away from the streets sometimes, particularly before the fighting begins. Before this wave of demonstrations, street fighters escaped to the woods to make and test out Molotovs and play war games. Back in the city, they prepared by practicing martial arts in the park and making invaluable maps of the streets. We imagine that these preparations must include the contributions of non-street fighters as well.

For Philadelphians, this distillation of tactics is meant to get us thinking about how to coordinate our activity, our different skills and interests. We can use our skills to help prepare for an insurrectionary situation or simply to augment a direct action with better infrastructure. The lesson we take from Hong Kong is that a coordinated effort of conflictual action and mutual aid is important to direct struggle. This is not a prediction of a coming insurrection, just a description of what will be required to continue fighting. ★



CHILE'S BLACK SEPTEMBER

September 11th is a historic day for the Chilean people. It was on this day in 1973 that the CIA-backed dictator, Pinochet, wrested power from the democratically elected leader there to impose a terrifyingly totalitarian rule on the people. Since the end of his rule in the 90’s, “Black September” has been marked by reoccurring riots, as with similarly historic days in that country (i.e. Day of the Youth Combatant each March). This most recent riot, though, continued the expression of a new urban guerilla – the Karr-kai Cell – Forces for the Overthrow of Civilization – Insurrectionary Column “Anger and Conspiracy” – FAI/FRI [Informal Anarchist Federation/International Revolutionary Front].

In their communique for the “Armed attack against police” that day – the second such communique since August – they convey that incendiary attacks against a police van caused it to crash, injuring one officer, and for the previously protected police to emerge from it. At that point, the comrades begin firing with improvised shotguns wounding two more, and bringing them a great deal of satisfaction. They continue on, remembering the life of Kevin Garrido (a radical environmentalist who was murdered in a Chilean prison last year while serving time for possession of explosives and another weapon), and expressing solidarity with Marcelo Villaroel – one of a few unrepentant anarchists from that region who were incarcerated for robbing a Santander Bank and killing a cop, with little or no evidence from the state, after spending many years in and out of tortuous prison situations for being a “social fighter and popular

facing an even more extreme level of crisis, as the world’s end appears to be more closely approaching than ever. Have we learned anything? Are we going to keep entrusting leftist politicians with our fates, or can we figure out how to take matters into our own hands? Each election season, the pressure to invest our energy into the process grows more intense, because the scope and urgency of the crisis grows ever more overwhelming. But this pressure cannot change the empirical reality that no politician – regardless of their intentions – can change the system from within in a way that does not also strengthen capitalism’s violent hold on us.

The constraints on what politicians can and can’t do once they’re in office are not political – they’re economic. Under capitalism, nation-states serve to protect and manage the global economy. In order to do so, the richer nation-states tend to ruthlessly pressure poorer nation-states into doing their will. This is part of what happened to Greece under Syriza – its government was forced by richer countries in the European Union to abandon its campaign promises and institute austerity measures after all. This means that even if Syriza had the very purest intentions when it got into office (which is very hard to believe), those would always have been compromised once the party took power, because countries like Greece are still part of a global economic system and subject to richer nation-states.

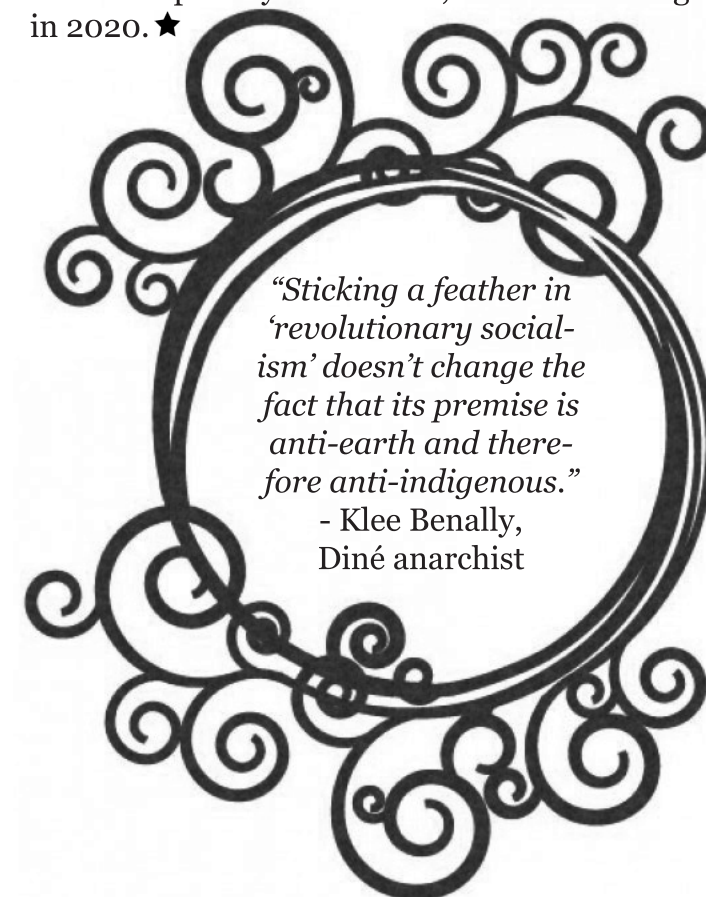
What this does not mean is that the richer countries are in complete control while poorer countries are not. Some radicals think that Bernie Sanders can succeed in the U.S. where Syriza could not in Greece, given that the U.S. is a major imperial power. This idea completely misunderstands how power works in a global capitalist system.

We call capitalism a system because it has needs of its own (most importantly, to keep expanding infinitely, and to do so by extracting profit from human labor). Whatever nation-states and politicians happen to be at the helm maintain their position by putting capitalism’s needs first and adjusting their nation’s policies accordingly. Under capitalism, everyone and every institution is dependent on market forces. Many major Marxist

theorists of political economy define capitalism as “a system in which all economic actors are dependent on the market for their basic requirements of life” (Ellen Wood, “Capitalism’s Gravediggers”).

This is not an excuse – plenty of people choose not to go along with capital’s compulsions despite the personal risk or hardship it might cause them – but an important part of understanding how capitalism works. Both the U.S. presidential administration and the Greek heads of state are equally governed by the laws of global capitalism. But it benefits the system to hide this fact by portraying political candidates as charismatic individuals who can singlehandedly change the course of history.

We need this understanding of global systems so we don’t keep offering up political solutions that don’t work. How much time have leftists and anarchists already spent on campaigning for and debating about the latest presidential candidates – and the election is still more than a year away? How much of our energy do we want to pour into this mess when we have lives to live and a whole world to lose? Don’t fall for electoral politics – it’s been a trap every time so far, and it will be again in 2020. ★



CHASE YOUR DREAMS

Chase Bank is opening new locations in your neighborhood! This increase in convenience follows an announcement for 50 new banks and 100 ATMs over five years. Expanding on their private offices at One Liberty Place (1650 Market Street), we've begun to see ground-level accessibility developing at 1628 JFK, Broad & Washington, 1636 Walnut Street, Frankford Avenue (near Norris Street), and more!

Rising Tide North America recently “highlighted Chase’s role as the number one funder of fossil fuels, how the bank has doubled down on financing fossil fuels in the past three years, and the bank’s role in funding new fossil fuel infrastructure projects like Line 3 in Minnesota and deforesting of the Amazon Rainforest, both of which threaten the traditional way of life of Indigenous people.”

The bank’s Chairman and CEO previously mentioned that the Delaware Valley region is a “critically important market” for the branch expansion and growth. Additionally, they are investing millions in the “revitalization” of Kensington Avenue, and have begun opening other branches throughout the region, including in neighboring Camden, New Jersey. They’ve also brought in local big hitters like Jodi Dayborn and Michele Lawrence from Citizens Bank and Wells Fargo banks, respectively, to oversee major regional operations.

Philadelphia Mayor Jim Kenney, himself, is excited for their expansion into the Kensington neighborhood, and the opportunities this presents.

The new branches vary from traditional-looking bank branches, to more futuristic, digitally-focused accommodations limiting human contact. We hope our readership will give these newcomers a proper Philly welcome. ★



BRING WATER: HK'S SUPPLY LINES AS MUTUAL AID

Last week, Tsang Chi-Kin, an 18-year-old high school student, was shot by the police in Hong Kong during a demonstration. The struggle against the extradition bill that brought Tsang Chi-Kin to this moment is still ongoing after taking off four months ago. We will continue to follow and study closely the events that brought a city to open rebellion. It is not only continuous street fighting that brought Tsang Chi-Kin or anyone else to face down swelling crowds of riot police but also a coordinated effort pulling from a repertoire of tactics. Presently, we should consider the patterns taking shape and the broader lessons we can take from these tactics. This is not a timeline. Neither is it an analysis of the political development among Hong Kong’s insurrectionaries. What is at stake here is the strategic developments that might become applicable to our situation in Philadelphia.

For those following closely, none of these tactics will be new. It is still important to highlight the role of these tactics in coordinating struggle. While the courageous actions on the front lines are impressive, we should be careful not to fixate on these spectacular battles at the expense of missing their broader context. Although the prospect of open rebellion or even a riot sometimes seems unlikely in Philly, it is not necessarily the street fighting that should catch our eye. What is more interesting is the array of actions taken to facilitate the street fight. Even in times of low intensity, we can learn from the coordinated actions and infrastructure taking place in Hong Kong.

After all, the primary characteristic of a riot is not the singular street fight but its ability to break limits: a riot spreads. Where are the boundaries to the riot? Where do we draw the line between participant and spectator? Obviously, we couldn’t care less about the person sitting at their desk writing think pieces based on what they see on cable news. But there are many participants in an uprising that don’t directly wield the metal bar or throw the rock.

The front lines depend on supply lines. Both de-

pend on preparation and communication.

Some supplies are readymade, and we only need to see them in action to understand their use. Take for example the distinctive shields that have become the symbol of Hong Kong’s demonstrations: the umbrella. Other shields require a bit more ingenuity. In recent weeks, the streets of Hong Kong have been filled with a variety, from garbage can lid bucklers to the kickboard carried by Tsang Chi-Kin and repurposed plastic suitcases. Some shields are homemade, and others are made in the streets, like the popular street sign made by lacing zip ties for handles.

Not everything will be waiting and available in the streets. In fact, the government will likely, as they recently did in Hong Kong, restrict the sale of necessities if things get hairy. Although events in Hong Kong seem distant to us, it’s still a good idea to stock up on supplies: helmets, gasmasks, etc. In Hong Kong, vendors set up “pop up” shops to sell restricted supplies. We could forego the “pop up” if we could set up free stores.

There are things we will need to make and other things that will always need to be re-supplied. For example, when you are going to be in the streets for a long time, always bring water. That’s common sense. You might also want to bring magazines or other padding for makeshift armor. That depends on the scenario.

Other scenarios might require practice long before you find yourself in the street. People in Hong Kong have been constructing barricades from traffic materials, which requires on-the-ground initiative, but it also requires some prior know-how.

Not everyone can be on the front lines nor should they be. The protests in Hong Kong have relied on supply lines sometimes 1/2 mile long. People set up supply depots to drop off and stash things people need: scissors, markers, helmets, umbrellas. These materials can be passed along in a human chain using a simple yet sophisticated set of hand signals (think “people’s mic” but with hands).

Other modes of communication still need improvement. In Hong Kong, participants have used

encrypted apps and AirDrop to discuss targets and police locations. We will need stronger ways to connect since people in the streets can’t usually risk bringing phones that track their movements. On the other hand, the Hong Kong demonstrations have provided interesting forms of disrupting surveillance and state communication methods, from the generalized use of laser pointers to cutting down facial recognition towers.

The crowds in the streets of Hong Kong can divide into different roles: fighters, medics, messengers, and the “firefighters.” These last put out tear gas with the ingenious method of pouring water on them, often covering them with traffic cone first. There are also formations who keep away from the direct action, “distant attackers,” who organize resources on the outskirts of the conflict. They facilitate escape routes by setting up transportation, money for public transportation, and clothes. Armed with long distance weapons like

