On July 22, Mayor Charlie Hales announced that the long-standing houseless vigil in front of City Hall would be moved. The vigil, which began as a protest against the city’s camping ban, which is routinely used to target houseless people, has seen the most impoverished people in the city occupy the sidewalk in front of the building since late 2011. The next morning, the city went forward with the plan, sending unhoused people across the street to the federally-controlled Terry Schrunk plaza, and to the sidewalks around Chapman and Lownsdale Squares, as inmates from the county jail power-washed the sidewalks.

Not everything went the way the city wanted. After changing the zoning designation of City Hall to a “high pedestrian traffic area,” Hales initially believed the change would bar people around the clock from sleeping on the sidewalk. After some cursory research, however, it was determined that this wasn’t the case; now houseless people at the vigil are being rousted every morning at 7 and told to move. Hales has said he wants to replace people in dire need with food carts and bioswales. Yes, really. Food carts and bioswales. That’s literally what he wanted.

To further appease the greedy fucks who populate the Portland Business Alliance, Hales directed the Portland Police Bureau, the same guys who, you know, routinely kick the shit out of and Taser poor and mentally-ill people, to fan out around the city to evict temporary houseless encampments that week. Houseless people around the city were confronted by police, told to leave their spots, and had their possessions taken and in some cases destroyed.

Here’s a little background: the PBA believes the presence of houseless people anywhere near their storefronts and hotels depresses shoe sales and other important commerce, so in an all-out campaign to prevent that from ever happening, they use the considerable power at their disposal to constantly lobby and create mass panic about the terror campaign being wrought by the poor against tourism and shopping. Last fall, the PBA lobbied hard in Salem to get some legislation passed that would allow Portland to reinstate the “sit-lie” ordinance, a rule deemed unconstitutional in Oregon in 2009, that barred people from sitting or lying on the city’s sidewalk, another law that police could use to harass houseless people. It didn’t go through. But Hales really wants to fuck with houseless people at the behest of the PBA, and he’s got the best police force in the country to do that, so actually looking at houseless people on his way into work every morning for months probably gave his feeble politician brain an idea.

After a few incidents where houseless people were accused of violence against housed people, the PBA got an assist from local press, spinning the incidents into a violent epidemic perpetrated by “gutter punks,” “road warriors” and other people from the hazy taxonomy of the houseless. Blithely ignored were the often uncounted and therefore innumerable incidents of routine violence directed at houseless people from above, as well as instances in which people in extreme poverty victimize one another. A disruptive division occurred, “good homeless” versus “bad homeless,” and while PBA representatives and city officials fumbled around in an effort to sketch a portrait of the kind of houseless person who is the enemy (“aggressive panhandlers”), they were essentially able to oppress the whole class with all the power they could muster.

Hales said the homeless sweep was about “lawlessness,” and the actions taken were against the unlawful existence of an impoverished class.

Amidst this week’s cynical campaign against poor people, fliers appeared throughout the city threatening to “expose” people who receive government disability assistance and some wannabe-vigilante jerkoffs are warning that they’ll conduct (HOUSELESS, cont. Page 7)
MANNING: Army whistleblower Private First Class B. Manning was found guilty of 20 charges stemming from Manning’s 2010 release to Wikileaks of diplomatic cables, military logs, and video showing an Army helicopter pilot indiscriminately gunning down unarmed Iraqi civilians. Manning was acquitted of aiding the enemy, a charge that possibly carried the death penalty. Manning is due to be sentenced shortly and faces 90 years in military custody.

TRAYVON MARTIN: George Zimmerman, who shot and killed Florida teenager Trayvon Martin at Martin’s father’s gated community last year, was acquitted of murder on July 14. The verdict resulted in protests nationwide with property destruction and clashes with police reported in San Francisco and Oakland.

STOP AND FRISK: New York City’s controversial “stop and frisk” procedures were struck down by a federal judge on August 12. The actions of police, overwhelmingly targeted towards black and Latino men, were deemed unconstitutional.

TEMUCO 12: In Chile, a dozen Mapuche natives have been arrested under antiterrorism laws for their alleged involvement in liberation struggles in Wallmapu, ancestral lands that have been defended, at different points, from Spain, Argentina and Chile, as well as logging and mining concerns. Many of the accused were acquitted in a previous 2010 trial. Also, in the city of Temuco, three anarchists were arrested in March and accused of a bomb plot, reminiscent of the 2010 Santiago “Bombs” case, where anarchists were accused and acquitted for assembling explosives they said authorities planted. Supporters of the Temuco 12 and the Temuco city anarchists are asked to protest at Chilean consulates.

EGYPT: The Egyptian military, which on July 3 deposed democratically-elected President Mohammed Morsi, cracked down on supporters of the former president on August 14, violently confronting sit-ins in Cairo, and sparking clashes which, as of August 19, had killed over 1,000. In the wake of the attacks, Morsi supporters set fire to government buildings and Coptic Christian churches. August 14 was the deadliest day in Egypt since the start of the 2011 popular uprising which deposed former dictator Hosni Mubarak.

FOSSIL FUELS: Port of Vancouver officials approved plans on July 23 to build an oil export terminal at the port. The plan would require miles-long freight trains to carry crude oil from the Bakken oil fields in North Dakota to be exported to markets in Asia. Protesters held a symbolic aquatic blockade of the Columbia on July 28, vowing to fight fossil fuel projects in the Northwest.

PORTLAND POLICE: The Portland police have promoted an officer who was found by a citizen’s review panel to have disparaged an African American man whom he accused of being a pimp. Todd Tackett was promoted to sergeant on August 8. In other racist cop news, PPB Captain Mark Kruger, disciplined by the department in 2010 for erecting a shrine to Nazi soldiers, was given an award, along with 80 community members, for their work helping immigrants. However, someone within the city’s Office of Equity and Human Rights asked that Kruger not attend the July 26 ceremony, based on community concerns. The office later apologized and presented Kruger his award on August 13.

PDXSOL: The Portland Solidarity Network is working with former employees of Fubonn, the Asian megastore on Southeast 82nd, who are seeking to recoup back wages they say that management denied them. PDXSol delivered notification to Fubonn on June 29 and vowed to escalate tactics unless the workers were given their back pay.
**SABOTAGE:** Animal liberation saboteurs glued shut the locks of businesses in Portland profiting from animal exploitation. Businesses have included Nicky USA Exotic Meats, Original Steer Market, Tails & Trotters, and Bird Hut. In July, windows were broken at Ocean Crystal Seafood in Tigard.

**REBECCA RUBIN:** Accused Earth Liberation Front and Animal Liberation Front saboteur Rebecca Rubin will plead guilty to charges related to a series of arsons in the West, from 1996 to 2001. Rubin was indicted in 2006 and spent nearly a decade underground before surrendering last year. Accused co-conspirators Sunshine Overaker and Joseph Dibee remain at large. Rubin is being held at the Multnomah County Detention Center while awaiting trial.

**ANIMAL LIBERATION:** On July 20, anarchists wearing diving equipment freed 2 dolphins from the Yevpatoria dolphinarium in Ukraine by cutting nets and allowing the dolphins to escape into the Black Sea. The action was claimed by the “SEALS touring cell” of the Animal Liberation Front/Informal Anarchist Federation. In other animal liberation news, animal liberators also freed 2,400 American mink at a fur farm in Burley. The farm was the property of Cindy Moyle, a family mink dynasty in the state. It was the first known instance of an attempt to attack a high-security Moyle family farm, and it resulted in the release of 25 percent of the farm’s animals. Also, animal liberators in Oregon released a number of wild birds being exhibited at the E.E. Wilson Wildlife Area north of Corvallis on August 15. The action was taken in solidarity with American anarchist prisoners Marie Mason and Eric McDaid.

**LIVELY:** Former Oregon Citizen’s Alliance leader and propagator of numerous pieces of anti-gay state legislation Scott Lively is being charged with crimes against humanity in a federal court for his role in drafting legislation in Uganda that would have allowed gays to be put to death. Lively is famous in the state for his time heading up the OCA, when the group attempted a failed ballot measure in 1992, which would have declared homosexuality “perverse” in the state constitution, and would have required school curriculum to teach that homosexuality was tantamount to pedophilia. The measure was defeated by a narrow margin: 56-44.

**BAHRAIN:** The embattled Persian gulf kingdom of Bahrain, a close US ally which has suffered pro-democracy protests as part of the Arab Spring, is nearing the end of its contract with former Philadelphia and Miami police chief John Timoney, who was hired in 2011 to serve as a security consultant. Timoney oversaw the heavy-handed police response to protests at the 2000 Republican National Convention and the especially brutal crackdown of the Free Trade Area of the Americas protests in Miami in 2003. Numerous reports from international press and human rights groups indicate that Bahrain has not reformed its police state, with 87 protesters being killed by police since the uprising, half of those on Timoney’s watch. Thousands have been injured.

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**From Sanford to the SHU:**

**White Supremacy and Criminality in an Age of Mass Incarceration**

by Andrew Lee

**SCENE 1:** Sanford, Florida. February 26th, 2012.

It’s raining as dusk falls in Sanford. Seventeen-year old Trayvon Martin is walking home from the convenience store through his father’s fiancee’s gated community. He’s talking to his girlfriend on his cell phone as he notices an SUV slowly following him. Inside is George Zimmerman, aspiring police officer and neighborhood watch member. Zimmerman suspects that Martin, a young black man, is casing the houses in the neighborhood to rob them. He’s also on his phone, talking to a dispatcher with the Sanford police department. They make eye contact. Zimmerman leaves his car to pursue Martin. When the police arrive five minutes later, Zimmerman is standing over Martin’s lifeless body, Martin dead from a gunshot to the heart. Only after weeks of protest will the state press homicide charges against Zimmerman.

**SCENE 2:** Pelican Bay SHU short corridor, California. Late June, 2013.

The Secure Housing Unit of Pelican Bay state prison houses people the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation considers the worst of the worst. Prisoners are kept in 12′x8′ cells for 23 hours a day for years on end. The only way to get out of the SHU is by “debriefing,” i.e. snitching to the guards about the supposed gang status of other prisoners. William, a Solano State Prison inmate, writes:

“The SHU is where you’re alone when you do something bad or not, basically [they] put you there. If the cops don’t like you they will find a reason or make something up. They put some people in there decades at a time for being in a gang, a danger to the prison and stuff. You never come out of your cell or see anyone. It’s solitary confinement... It’s like getting a term within a term or going to prison prison but it’s the cops, not a judge.”

Two years ago, thousands of prisoners went on a hunger strike to protest inhumane prison conditions; the CDCR agreed to prisoner demands but never implemented the
As some of us pursue justice, systemic change, and, dare I say, revolution – we are also building intimate personal relationships and taking lovers. The political is very much also the personal. Ignoring the politics of our intimate lives means allowing patriarchy, racism, classism, and all the unhealthy, oppressive behaviors opportunity to thrive in the petri dish of our vulnerable insides. No joke, this shit is real.

So, why are so few people talking about dating as a political act?

There are infinite advice columns but, honestly, none are perfect, few are crowd-sourced, and rarely do the columns represent good politics. This is unacceptable. Sex, love, and dating are core parts of our humanity and deserve our collective attention. These topics need air to breathe and circulate. We need the liberation that comes from shameless healthy sex talk and ending isolation.

I was dating a dude that wanted to avoid gossip and keep our relationship on the down low, or just between us to maintain our privacy in the small radical subculture scene that we are a part of. At first I agreed with keeping people out of our business. During our brief time together he treated me poorly and then dumped me without notice or discussion. In retrospect, I feel pretty used and now I also feel isolated because I agreed not to “gossip” about our relationship. What’s the difference between gossiping and talking?

— Hair in my Face

Dear Hair,

First thought - your dude’s desire for “privacy” and “no gossip” was actually just a tool for him to act freely without facing any consequences from your mutual community. It was also a way to silence you. And it seems to have worked. Now you feel isolated from your community because this guy was a selfish jerk. It’s one thing to want QT with a hot new date without having to answer questions of curious comrades, but not talking about your dating at all?! That is too much to ask. Hair, this dude was either embarrassed to be dating you, or he has some baggage that he doesn’t want spread around, or this is a pattern. Either way, he isn’t worth your time.

Now, let’s talk about gossip. You should gossip, Hair. We all should. That’s the whole point of this fucking column. Often talking about relationships, sex, and intriguing situations between people is called Gossip, with overwhelming negative connotations. Fuck that. Relationships are social. Justice is the social manifestation of love. Our love and relationships deserve air to breathe, they deserve the attention of our friends and comrades.

Beyond the natural wisdom of collectivizing our love experiences, I reject the idea that gossip is bad or hurtful or destructive. Anything can be hurtful or destructive if the intent is to hurt or destroy or undermine someone. But that is not gossip, that is just being mean. Gossip has historical roots in feminism and in subverting patriarchy.1

“In its original manifestation then gossip culture provided a collectivity for women which was maintained and upheld for as long as it was for the simple reason that it worked to empower women in a world which was in every other sense overtly patriarchal.”

So, talk to your friends, Hair. Better yet, do the really hard thing and talk to this guy, tell him that you are not feeling hyped on how things ended, and are feeling used. Or don’t, what?

Dear Fire Fingers,

Believe it or not, pepper-spray-disrupted-sex is a real and serious issue! The state is working to destroy our movements on every level, above all they want to destroy our relationships so that we are weak, lonely, and toxic. All is not lost, we can overcome.

First, you gotta tell you sexy buddy that you got sprayed and that it’s all over your hands and wherever else. Do they still want to sleep with you?

If so, get in the shower, wash yourself with malox-type product, thoroughly and several times.

Then, do some test runs, start slow and easy. In fact, test on yourself. Don’t just go directly for vajayjay. Put your finger(s) in your mouth for a second, a few seconds, a minute. Is your mouth on fire? If so, hold your horses. You can also stick a finger in your nose if you like*. I would advise against testing on your eyes.

Wait a bit, like 10 minutes. If you’re not burning, then you all should feel free to have some touchy naked time.

If you are burning, even a bit, then you need to figure out a different plan. How about this - use a glove or get creative and don’t use your hands at all.

Try your hardest not to burn your partner’s sexy parts. If you are a decent person, you will feel like utter shit. If there is some burning - I found sitting in a tub of cold water to be helpful for keeping my vagina from feeling like seared meat.

So, Fingers, let’s make it simple. Buy some malox, get some gloves, talk to your partner, and ask them if they think it’s hot to play doctor. Don’t let the pigs destroy your love life.

— Fire Fingers

Sitting among a group of college aged friends that all dress and talk in the same way is a recurring scene in activism and organizing groups around the world. In large part, organizing takes the form of a few people trying to rally their friends around a cause. These practices are counterproductive to creating welcoming organizing spaces.

I’ve been in all types: organizations that were started from friendships, groups of people that later became friends after working together (which is better), and most recently a group that I have a few friends in but most of the people I work with I just consider comrades. Meaning once in awhile we go out for beers after a meeting or action but socializing doesn’t go much beyond that. The latter of the three works best to promote a healthy organizational culture. This article will examine the reasons as to how leaning on our friends to take a role in our organizations can become problematic.

1. Organizations that have a membership based around a group of friends are unwelcoming. In friend groups a culture develops: inside jokes happen and friends start to reflect each other’s styles. Groups of friends tend to be homogeneous, belonging to a specific subculture. This is natural, because we want to be around people that validate our interests and beliefs. This means we often share the same tastes in music, sports, fashion, and so on. But our goal in creating broader social movements means that we not only have to look towards engaging people outside of our social sphere, but we also need to create welcoming spaces for people that we may have nothing in common with except the project that we’re all interested in. It’s incredibly difficult to create these spaces when organizations start as groups of friends. A newcomer interested in the project will quickly notice who is friends with whom and who has influence over whom. That new person will feel left out in realizing that influence in these friendships spills over and dominates the decision making process and power dynamics in the organization.

These types of organizations are identified with the social scene which its members make up. For example, there might be a group made up of solely of hipsters around the same age from a specific university, or solely of crust punks, or solely of diehard Seahawks fans. These groups are going to be unwelcoming to people that could never see themselves as being like those people.

2. Another problem is that friend drama spillover gets in the way of effective organizing. The health and culture of these friend/activist groups are very much linked to health of the friendships of the people involved. For example, friends date each other, they break up, and friends take sides. Organizing spaces that aren’t dominated by friend groups are less susceptible to friend drama spillover because others in the group are likely not to stand for the distraction. There is also less of a possibility

— Send us your comments, questions, conundrums, and sticky situations:

lovetotheleft.tumblr.com
hearthrobccentral@gmail.com
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* Um, we are not doctors, that should be hella clear.

3 Ways Organizing With Friends Can Lead to Failure

by Brandon F.
(TRAYVON) agreements. Prisoners in the SHU are organizing another strike to force the CDCR to live up to their words. Putting ethnic and gang divisions aside, they are uniting under the most repressive conditions to fight for marginally more humane conditions. When the strike began on July 8th, over 30,000 prisoners in three states joined, starving themselves and refusing to work. One striker wrote, “I wasn’t even hungry because I was gaining too much enlightenment. I could feel the hunger of others starving, feeding me.”


George Zimmerman is acquitted of all charges, even manslaughter, and walks away from court a free man. Riots break out across the country: fires set in Miami, the freeway blocked in Oakland, thousands in the street in New York City. How can there be justice for people of color in America, protesters ask, when a vigilante can stalk and kill a black young man and see no jail time at all?

Whether it’s the California prison strike or protests against the Zimmerman verdict, mass mobilizations against racism and white supremacy are energizing thousands of Americans, particularly oppressed people of color. But isn’t there a paradox here? How can we protest the injustice of Zimmerman walking free while protesting the existence of prisons like the one he would have been incarcerated in had the jury handed down a guilty verdict?

Let’s first remember that this was never really about George Zimmerman. Heck, it wasn’t even about Trayvon. Despite political pundits’ endless debates about the personal characteristics, virtues or vices, possessed by the two men, what drove the outrage around this case was the fact that the issues involved resonated with masses of people. Racism, white supremacy, property laws, and self-defense are bigger than George and Trayvon, and we should never make the mistake of thinking that the decision reached by six Florida jurors is enough to vindicate or condemn the system as a whole.

And this is why I’m glad that George Zimmerman walked. Not because I think he was “innocent,” certainly not because I’m unconcerned with the pain it inevitably caused Martin’s friends and family, but because though this is the case that grabbed the attention of thousands, it’s far from the only example of the brutality of white supremacist violence. The deaths of Keaton Otis, Kendra James, and Aaron Campbell, all young Blacks, at the hands of the Portland Police Bureau caused local outrage but not national attention. CeCe MacDonald, a young Black transwoman, remains locked in a cage in Minnesota for defending herself against a white supremacist assailant. In fact, according to the Malcolm X Grassroots Movement, a police officer, vigilante, or security guard kills a Black person in America every 28 hours, but precious few of these cases spark the rage at injustice that this racist system deserves. A guilty verdict would not change this fact. Nor would it bring the dead back to life.

The other end of the continuum that starts with racist vigilantism and police violence is a system of mass incarceration that disproportionately imprisons poor black and brown people. It’s not just the vigilantes and cops; it’s the courts, the guards, the lawmakers and the reactionaries who support them. While liberals view the prevalence of brown bodies in prison as an unfortunate aberration, our contemporary police and security apparatus has in fact always been descended from the institutions used to keep Blacks in slavery before the Civil War. In Louisiana, for instance, a notorious plantation was converted into a state prison after Emancipation. While Black men picked cotton for armed whites on horseback when it was a plantation, at the new Angola State Prison... well, Black men pick cotton for armed whites on horseback to this day. The slave patrols that returned escaped slaves to their owners in the ante bellum South were converted to modern police forces. Since the beginning of the prison system in the late 18th through mid 19th century, reformers have critiqued its inhumanity and its inability to reduce recidivism. It’s not that people need to realize the system isn’t working. The system is working fine; it’s just that it’s a system of institutionalized racial violence, whether it’s expressed through the prison system, the police, or white vigilantism.

We anarchists oppose political, economic, and racial oppression. We do so without appealing to authorities or political parties but by directly confronting unjust institutions and, for many of us, engaging in the long, hard work of building alternative institutions proper to a free society. When we oppose the outcome of the Zimmerman trial, then, it is not because we wish to see Zimmerman in a cage. Rather, it is because we stand against the brutality of a racist system, exposed by the bodies in the street, the bodies in cages, and those who avoid the cages with impunity. This verdict is an occasion for mourning because of the dehumanizing brutality levied against people of color in this country. The mobilizations around it are an occasion for solidarity and celebration. Let’s not become enamored of reform and visibility but continue to build the solutions that will actually keep our communities safe. Whether we are working to mobilize against injustice; to create safety from interpersonal, domestic, and state violence in our community; or encouraging others to stand up together to change this system; we should fight the urge to make this about two people in a gated community and six jurors who decided on one of the men’s fate. Let’s also remember our victories along with the defeats. The past five years have seen remarkable mobilizations and politicizations of masses of people: unemployed and working to middle class people, mostly white, during Occupy Wall Street; the forces of organized labor who were pulled to action by the strength of OWS; and now the insurrections of people of color against the Zimmerman verdict. A critical and contingent solidarity between these groupings could create a revolutionary force with the power to radically transform this racist, capitalist society. Liberals offer hope. Conservatives peddle fear. Let’s reach for tools and weapons.
that this will cause the friends who are involved in the conflict to leave the organization because the organization is perceived to exist outside of the friend sphere of the people involved.

3. Many of our friends who consider themselves politically minded are just not as serious about organizing as we are. Oftentimes, attendance at meetings is more motivated by the social aspect than an actual desire to make revolution. The motivating force behind recruiting our friends is the idea that by adding bodies to our group will somehow make us more successful, and that by leaning on these people to attend our meetings it will increase our group's capacity and power. This line of reasoning doesn’t work. A group filled with friends can often lead to unreliable members which puts pressure on the reliable organizers in the group to babysit. Babysitting leads to burnout, and burnout of the solid organizers within the group leads to group failure. It’s better to put zero effort into retaining these unreliable people. A group of three reliable people will function better and accomplish more than a group of five with two or three “reliables” and the rest being flakes.

This isn’t to say that people who have a lot going on in their life shouldn’t be able to participate and be involved. Levels of involvement will always vary and we should make space for people with families, illness, or other reasons that leave them with minimal time to contribute. Unreliable people are something different altogether; they are the people who say they will do something and repeatedly don’t follow through or require a phone call meeting reminder to even show up. It just so happens that often times these people happen to be the ones with the most time on their hands.

Why do friendship groups so often dominate our organizing? It’s because they are the people that we have the most access to. Going out and doing real outreach and engaging people that we don’t know and are different than us is scary at first. It takes work, so doing this in teams is a good way to alleviate some of this fear. The simplest thing we can do to change the friend activist group culture is to not lean on our friends to join our groups and actively seek out self-starting organizers who are interested in the projects we want to work on. Start with two or three people instead of five unreliable people. You will have better results.

(HOUSELESS) anti-homeless patrols in Buckman, as the St. Francis diocese and the Red and Black Cafe were warned in a couple cryptic emails they received. Even fascist neighbors want a piece, it seems.

Victimizing the poor is also a tried-and-true government tactic during a down economy; if you want an extreme example, look at Greece. It’s a disgusting and cowardly tactic employed by people with no answers and no ideas, and it exposes the true values of those calling the shots. Instead of dealing with the underlying issues of systemic poverty and the oppression that it brings in this extremely class-stratified society, those in power think that it is better to simply remove poor people from sight, denying them a chance to sniff any hope of a stable, healthy life. When you prevent houseless people from sleeping, they can’t sleep. When you don’t let them shelter themselves, as prevented by the camping ban, they die. The actions of the city and PBA just underscore their essential position within the status quo. The PBA is concerned with narrow self-interest and the city simply finds it more valuable to prioritize their wishes. As guarantors of the status quo, the city (and by extension, the PBA), also have access to a surly militia, called cops, who are employed to terrorize expendable, surplus humans who serve no function to the rich, and in Portland the cops are really good at this.

In Portland, houseless people have shown amazing courage, tenacity and solidarity in their emergence as an active political class, going back to watershed moments like winning land for Dignity Village through an occupation in 2001. Right 2 Dream Too is a mutual-aid project by houseless people for houseless people, providing a safe spot to sleep for nearly 100 people each night, sheltered away from cops and other shitheads who would target them. The city, of course, scared of the grassroots power of a good example, has responded by levying fines against R2D2, accusing it of operating a “recreational campground.” The matter is still being decided in court, but R2D2 has been disciplined and creative in demanding their basic rights to survival.

Because of the houseless sweeps, people are responding to the city’s criminalization of poverty, with each push begging a bigger push back. Community members in Southeast have reached out to the houseless community, after people near St. Francis Park were harassed, and in light of the threatening emails. People are providing legal rights training to houseless people, distributing distress whistles, and encouraging houseless people harassed by police to keep a log of incidents at the Red and Black. Organizational meetings where houseless people are working to devise a long-term response are being held at the cafe.

Regardless of any act of solidarity by those that are housed, the fact is that people will get what they need to survive, and they will often resort to acts previously thought impossible when they are deprived of what they need to live. Clearly, an alternative is needed to the power structures that would casually deny people their basic needs, and if those people in power stay their course, they may learn that their hold on power wasn’t as solid as they thought.

What if Portland weren’t a place where attempting to paper over poverty with imagistic kitsch was acceptable? What if every time a hack politician or gated-community-ensconced, suburbanite store owner sics the cops on the poor, a hundred homes were occupied by people who need them? A place where every time a bank tries to evict those people with the aid of the county sheriff, the community shows up and tells them to go fuck themselves? What if houseless people in Portland continued to unify, and housed people had enough courage to fight with them? No one in Portland would have to be unhoused ever again.
Masters Program Decimates Local Anarchist Paper

Matt started the Portland Radicle, or at least proposed it. He helped seed the idea of what could flourish at an anarchist general assembly in the fall of 2011, and as our paper has come to life and an editorial collective took shape, he was there putting in his hours, effort, and hard-earned cash to make this project possible. While it certainly was not a solitary effort, he’s kept us alive. Without him, there’d be no Portland Radicle. Now he’s headed to New York for his Masters, and we wish him well.

Most importantly, does anyone out there have a briefcase large enough to hold all those fucking papers?! Matt takes with him his big ol’ heart and leaves us in the trenches, awaiting a quick-witted offensive of much needed sarcasm to fill our active, weighted souls with laughter. May your path lead us to where we all must be headed. Much love and support on the journey ahead, my friend. Thanks for giving me an opportunity to express myself in ways I hadn’t previously been given the chance to. I hope you find that expression which has been building and awaits to see the breaking of a new day.

Emily: Without Matt’s enthusiasm and determination, the Portland Radicle would never have gotten started. In addition to his hard work and printing fund contributions, Matt pulled people together and brought a quirky sense of humor to the collective. At a meeting, upon learning that I’d never heard of ‘Gangnam Style,’ he showed me the video and then danced part of it on the spot. Matt had my back on the streets. He also makes delicious kale and quinoa. His jokes, positivity, and spirit will be greatly missed.

Andrew: Matt played a big part in getting us started, but made an even bigger contribution in keeping the paper going after his departure. Beyond just proposing an idea, he brought with him a welcoming attitude that got the rest of us involved. He is a great friend, one who is happy talking about big ideas from books, where to get a good vegan buffalo wing, his latest prank on the job, the highs and lows of your life/love/work, and plans for future adventures. His engaging spirit is something I hope we can learn from and carry on despite his departure. We wish him well and hope to see him in the not too distant future.

Jen: Matt leaves a pretty large gap with his absence. The Radicle will need to acquire pieces from new, dedicated folks, others will be needed to stay up all night doing layout on short notice, someone’s gonna have to work hard to throw down cash for the project and still more will be needed to help with fundraising for this project. Who next will put their strengths into aiding the process of holding this paper together for the long haul? Most importantly, does anyone out there have a briefcase large enough to hold all those fucking papers?! Matt takes with him his big ol’ heart and leaves us in the trenches, awaiting a quick-witted offensive of much needed sarcasm to fill our active, weighted souls with laughter. May your path lead us to where we all must be headed. Much love and support on the journey ahead, my friend. Thanks for giving me an opportunity to express myself in ways I hadn’t previously been given the chance to. I hope you find that expression which has been building and awaits to see the breaking of a new day.

Mike: Matt saved me from being arrested one time. I won’t go into how or when, but I will say that shit had really hit the fan and Matt helped me stay safe in a chaotic situation. In his work, he’s also defined the hollow journalistic imperative of pretending to be distanced and above the fray, unmoved by the events we witness. He wrote passionately about the repression meted out to anarchists, the militaristic raids the government resorted to as they served warrants and subpoenas last summer and the grand jury which stole friends from us. He could be found in the streets as ready to start some shit as well as cover some shit in equal measure. He’s a comrade in every sense, a great person, and I’ll miss him.

Most importantly, does anyone out there have a briefcase large enough to hold all those fucking papers?!