
in TENSION

an
anarchist
agitation

Nº. 1
Fall 2024
Free



**LEAP Lebanon Tech Park
Same Shit, Different Jail
Indigenous Peoples Day of Rage**

In Tension is a journal acting as a place for anarchist analysis, dialogue, and reflection on activity that extends beyond single subcultures, issues, and social groups. Intended for people beginning to learn what anarchists are fighting and creating as well as people who have identified with anarchism for decades, In Tension is a way for us to talk to each other and report actions, issues, and initiatives that are otherwise under- or un-reported. We are interested in promoting the practice of doing things for ourselves and connecting our struggles locally, regionally, and internationally. In Tension also functions as an archive of sorts, a way to foster collective remembering.

In Tension is published in so-called Bloomington, Indiana each season. We welcome submissions of actions, events, and analysis from different perspectives that hold true to an anti-authoritarian, anti-state, and liberatory lens.

Please keep submissions to a length of ~1500 words or fewer. See InTension.noblogs.org for instructions on how to submit anonymously and securely. For other correspondence, reach us at InTension@riseup.net.



To us, to live life as anarchists is not about accepting a hollow title or stagnant ideology, but is about an active, intentional, and eternal becoming. It is not just about the ideas we have but how we put them into the world, and the strength we must cultivate to weather what unfolds when living against the dominant order of this society. We live in tension with this world every day: its jobs, prisons, ideals, social roles, and identities. We notice the ways others do too, and we refuse to avoid conflict in pursuit of comfort or for an illusion of safety. We chose "In Tension" as our title as a way to embrace the difficult balance of this beautiful and painful path. We accept the discomforts and challenges of being against so much of this world, and understand it as a reality of creating lives true to our values and hearts. We embrace our hostility for this world, and learn where to channel our time and energy to see ideas come to fruition. We notice and embrace ruptures small and large, where we can see through the facade of this world. It is neither complacency, nor an ascetic militancy, but a fostering of joy through the creation of our lives and a living-against. Rejecting a finality of destination, it is choosing to stretch beyond what is familiar, comfortable, or known, in a continual pursuit of freedom.





TABLE OF CONTENTS

Wetlands	2
Indigenous Peoples Day of Rage	3
What is a Communique How to Post a Communique	4
Collapse Features: Disaster Preparedness	5
Same Shit, Different Jail	7
Defined by Action	8
Anarchy of Time & Place	10
Enemy Territories: LEAP Lebanon Tech Park	12
A Lexicon: Free Skool	14
December Week of Solidarity with Prison Struggle	15
“Mad Honey” by Tarik Dobbs	17

Wetlands

Earlier this year the Indiana state legislature changed the way that wetlands are classified so that more areas are less protected. There are 3 classes of wetland, according to the state, that are defined by size, previous disturbance by human activity, hydrologic activity, and species it contains. The new law put more wetlands in the lower class. These “lower class” wetlands do not require the same permitting to destroy, drain, and develop in place of. There’s a pointed cruelty in naming disturbance by human activity as a defining factor for it being not worth keeping, instead of giving it a chance to recover from what was done to it.

Wetlands are already some of the most desecrated and endangered ecosystems in the state. Most importantly, wetlands are valuable for their own sake and for the web of life that they support. They also have important properties and roles in the larger ecosystem: They reduce flooding and prevent erosion by storing excess storm water. And, while storing, they clean that water and allow it to recharge groundwater. They are habitat to many of the endangered plant and animal species in the region.

A lot of people do not know that pre-colonization, so-called Indiana was 24% wetlands. That is 5.5 million acres. Now only 3.5%, or 813,000 acres, is wetlands. Much of this was the Kankakee Marsh that cut across the north west corner of what was taken to be Indiana. Throughout the 1800’s settlers laid over 30,000 miles of drainage pipes, incentivized by the brand new government of Indiana, and even punished if they didn’t. This draining was done to create farmland for both crops and cattle. The Kankakee Marsh was the second largest freshwater wetlands in the so-called U.S., with only the Everglades being larger. Several smaller wetland systems met the same fate. The level of destruction is inconceivable. And they want to keep destroying more. While the exact meaning of Kankakee is unclear, the name is probably from the Myaamia language interpreted by settlers who were unable to understand it. Which reminds us that the genocide of Indigenous people and the destruction of ecosystems are the same process.

As a reminder of what has been lost and what still needs defending, we have, throughout this issue, interspersed photographs of wetlands and the life within them.



Arethusa bulbosa, a wetland plant that is now extirpated in Indiana

Indigenous Peoples Day of Rage



Colonialism for October 11th. This would be the day before Columbus Day/Indigenous Peoples Day. The call reads:

"We are calling for autonomous, anti-colonial, anti-capitalist, and anti-fascist actions. We will take the streets and we will take the waters and the forests. We will intervene in settler and resource colonial violence. We will defend our communities. We envision this Day of Rage to be decentralized, filled with creative direct action (both above ground and below ground), daring, and with extraordinary diversity of tactics."

This could look like marches, occupations, blockades, street theater, it could look like anti-colonial messages spray painted on walls, it could look like monuments falling or going after I.C.E. facilities or resource colonial corporations and their machinery. It could look like hundreds of people or just a couple of people with a targeted action. What it looks like is really up to you."

This call was put forth anonymously by some of those unsatisfied with Indigenous Peoples Day's "politics of recognition," as Charles Sepulveda, Tongva from occupied lands of so-called Los Angeles puts it. He adds, "It isn't justice. It doesn't give land back. It doesn't move the Tongva towards decolonization or strengthen our ability to be sovereign." Bettina Castagno, mixed Kanien'kehá:ka, explains: "Those in all good intention think they are helping but don't know these 'holidays' are still a dominant culture deciding what is to be celebrated. Those days eventually become a consumer capitalist driven celebration, taking on the value system of the dominant greed cultures with christian euro-centric values and behaviors." Alex Soto, O'odham said, in response to Phoenix, Arizona declaring Indigenous Peoples Day, "The politics of settler recognition (IPD) in no way ensures our existence. If anything, it re-enforces that we are a conquered people. I rather put my energy into burning the table if insincere gestures of acknowledgment and respect are offered by settler colonial institutions."

In 2020, on the first Day of Rage, nearly 100 actions were reported. A demonstration in Portland tore down statues of Theodore Roosevelt and Abraham Lincoln and left messages such as "Stolen Land," "Land Back," and "Dakota 38." [One person from Indiana was arrested at this action and is still in prison! See more information about Malik Muhammad elsewhere in this issue.] In Utica, NY, a demonstration connected the genocide begun by Columbus to the 2013 police killing of a Native teen from the area.

In 2021, a call for "Round Two" was put forth and, again, many responded with banner drops, marches, and graffiti. Both symbols (monuments, statues) and tools (rail-lines, earth-destroying machines) of colonization were attacked and destroyed.

The third call in 2022 includes:

"We heard that mass actions are a bit out of fashion this season & lone wolfs [sic] or affinity groups are all the rage. Counter the spectacle of the 'good, respectable Indian' and their mundane celebrations of assimilation. Your ancestors invite you to embrace the veracious criminality of anti-colonial struggle and be smart (don't get caught)...In the spirit of Jane's Revenge, abort colonialism. Colonizer (c)laws off our bodies! – The insurrectionary anti-colonial invisible council of IPDR."

There was no call in 2023 and the website is no longer active. However, a call for 2024 was posted on Unsalted Counter-Info. It says, "We don't just want a cease fire, we want the Right of Return for all Palestinian people, for water to flow, and the traditions to stay alive." And, "For the end of the struggle that is settler colonialism everywhere. Where the land is stolen, consent violated, the old ways forgotten – let it burn." Until the U.S. and every colonial state and every empire has fallen, every day is a day of rage.

To see calls and reportbacks, visit IndigenousAction.org & Unsalted.noblogs.org.

Much of this is quoted and paraphrased from Chapter 13 of Klee Banally's No Spiritual Surrender (2023) from Detritus Books.

Christopher Columbus landed on the island of Guanahani on October 12, 1492. This day is celebrated by a baffling number of countries around the world as "the discovery of America." It is, as we know, actually the beginning of European colonization of these continents. The first Columbus Day celebration was in 1792 in New York. In 1934, Congress passed a statute declaring Oct. 12 Columbus Day, and since 1971 the second Monday in October is the federal holiday.

Indigenous Peoples Day was put forth by Indigenous activists as a counter-celebration to Columbus Day & occurs on the same day. It first became official in Berkeley, California in 1992, the 500th anniversary of Columbus' arrival. It has now been adopted in various cities and states around the country. In addition to celebrating Indigenous cultures, the day is, to some, meant to acknowledge the legacy of colonization, and build unity among Indigenous Peoples.

In 2020, amid the early days of the COVID-19 pandemic and the George Floyd protests, Indigenous Action released a Call to Action: Indigenous Peoples Day of Rage Against

A Communique

What Is How to Post

What is a communique?

A communique is an anonymous written account of an action or event. It is anonymous because the action or event likely included illegal acts. Communiques claim an action and communicate why it was undertaken, share how to do things safely or efficiently, and serve to inspire and remind others what is possible. Communiques are also an important way for radicals to speak to one another across distance, to send greetings and share actions of solidarity, to continually develop theory and practice and to contribute to an archive of militant action that already faces erasure and forgetting. Adjacent to a communique is a report-back, which is used to share comments or critiques about how an event unfolded, or was organized. These are also often anonymous so as to limit the impacts of social mapping by the state, or the accumulation of social capital, by having one's name associated with it.

Whether or not a communique makes sense depends on the action and its context. For some crimes that carry a very heavy sentence, posting a communique may not be wise. Communiques are not necessary, and plenty of things happen that are not followed by a communique. However, communiques can be a useful tool for communication,

especially given the fact that mainstream media serves to promote business-as-usual, and will bury or misrepresent actions. For actions that are obvious in their target, or if mainstream media has reported on it, maybe a communique is unnecessary or unwise. A growing field utilized by law enforcement is that of linguistic forensics – i.e., how something is written shares information about the writer that can be used by law enforcement to apprehend the person. Writings with a similar tone or style can link actions together or reveal a way of communicating particular to a specific geographical region. When the stake are high, it can be better to keep the communique short and without flourish. If you are not confident in your ability to anonymously post a communique, its best to wait until you can properly learn the skill. Better for the act to go unclaimed than to go to prison over it.

How to post a communique:

While there is no such thing as being 100% anonymous or secure when it comes to the internet and technology, there are ways to approach its use that minimize risks. Consider actions on a case-by-case basis, and include your own model of threat and risk. The most secure way to submit a communique is to use Tor browser (torproject.org) on an amnesic operating system like TAILS (Tails.net) or Whonix, on public wifi, without your phone present, and away from cameras. The next best option is using Tor on the amnesic operating system at your home. Below that, just using Tor in a public space, as above. And finally, using Tor on your home wifi, which is the least secure option, though still secure enough for many actions. Make sure you're well versed in the limitations of Tor and can confidently accept those risks. There is a Tor

app available for phones, as well as many impostor apps! Phones' operating systems work differently than those of computers, and using your phone for posting a communique is HIGHLY DISCOURAGED.

Visit the counter-info site you wish to submit to via one of the above approaches. Do not ever visit these sites on google, etc. Your tabs in Tor browser are correlated, so do not post your communique in one tab while searching or logging into something that could de-anonymize you in another tab. There should be a page for submissions. Have ready what you want to submit. If you're drafting what you want to write beforehand, know that using a standard writing program on your computer poses its own security risks; simply deleting it does not get rid of it from your computer. Using an amnesic OS or writing it with pen and paper and flushing or burning the paper afterwards will suffice. Do not just throw this away! People have faced serious repression and prison for evidence found in their garbage.

If you're trying to share photos, know that images and other files contain metadata, which reveals information about when/where the file was created. Files need to be wiped of metadata before sharing (Exif Purge is one option, Tails also offers a built-in metadata cleaning program)! Use a temporary email service like Tempmail or another one-use service (the best option can change periodically). You will not be corresponding with the site, so you will not need an actual email you can check. The site may request a name: use a fake one you don't use in life, and don't reuse names. Carefully consider whether the information you're sharing reveals more than is necessary, or if any elements are uniquely identifying and could aid in the prosecution of you, or others. If you worked with others, find a time to talk away from phones, computers and walls to discuss a good approach for a communique.

Stay anonymous and have fun! ;)



Collapse Features

Disaster Preparedness

If you've ever ridden a plane I'm sure these words are etched into your brain: "Secure your own mask before assisting others." Contrary to what the dominant narrative of our society attempts to instill within us, the desire to be useful and to help those around us is fundamental to the human experience, so much so we might get ourselves killed in the process. Self-sacrifice is rarely the right call; every person who gets their mask on in time is another person who can help those who didn't.

In late September 2024, hurricane Helene poured an unfathomable amount of water onto the mountains of southern Appalachia. Rivers rose 20ft in some areas, ending more than 200 lives and erasing entire built communities off the face of the earth.¹ Hopefully those who lost their lives in the storm are the last of Helene's victims, because, rising to the occasion, humanity's greatest strength, mutual aid has begun the hard work of putting together the broken pieces of a new reality for those who've survived. Returning to our metaphor from before; individual preparedness enables community preparedness. By securing our own essentials prior to disaster, we are able to be confident in our own survival and more immediately able to assist our neighbors. So let's talk about some of the ways that we can take actions today, that aren't too intense and won't break the bank, to help ourselves and our neighbors.

Being prepared comes in three codependent forms; social, intellectual, and material. Humans are social creatures and at the end of the day we are helpless alone. It's only through cooperation that we are able to survive. Cooperating with our community allows us to pool labor, know-how, and resources to address our concerns. We don't have to and shouldn't wait for disaster to begin preparing and taking action. It's also important to remember that in the event of a crisis, people and resources may become inaccessible, preparing is important but nothing is guaranteed. Contingency plans and flexibility are necessities.

One of the most important things you can do today is to get to know your neighbors. Learn their names and faces, where on the street they live, who knows what, and who needs what. By building community in the here and now we are able to support each other in our day to day lives and begin to undermine the isolation inflicted upon us by capitalism while also enabling communal responses to extraordinary and every day crises. However, getting to know your neighbors if you don't already can be incredibly strange. Social norms tell us not to randomly start up conversations with strangers and doing so could end up backfiring if you're not well versed in being outgoing. A great way to deal with this is to find the places where normality has already been disrupted: construction on your street or a new pot hole, a big storm taking down some tree limbs, some neighbors having a loud fight, or sirens blaring down the block. People love to complain, it's one of the few ways to feel control in a world where we've been so disempowered by the state.

Learning relevant skills is a great way to both prepare yourself and build relations with others that can make a difference in times of need as well as in normal life. Look out for skill shares, classes, and trainings but remember, you don't need to know everything. We live in real places full of real people who each know something useful and through the aggregate can accomplish feats beyond the scope of the current imagination.

On the Go

Being prepared doesn't always look like hunkering down with stockpiled cans of beans in the basement. There are innumerable reasons that we may need to leave our home for any amount of time at a moments notice. Crisis of any form may also occur at any time, being

- If you have a car and the financial means to do so, keeping your tank at least half full ensures that in the event of a power outage or similar event preventing gas from leaving the station, you can hopefully make it far enough to fill up again. It also means that if something happens and you need to run out

the door and start driving you can hopefully go a few hours before needing to stop.

- Do you have jumper cables in your car? Can you hear your loved ones nagging you about having them? You know this is something you should have, we all know it.

- Having a warm blanket, coat, and pair of socks in your trunk could save a life on a cold wet day. If you have a whole outfit's worth of old clothes you might otherwise get rid of, consider adding them too, there are so many reasons you might want a change of clothes.

- If you regularly carry around a purse, fanny pack, or backpack, adding basic first aid supplies like band-aids and alcohol wipes, hand sanitizer, a flashlight, and a pocket knife could come in handy any time, not just in disaster.

- It's recommended that every person have an emergency supply kit (E.S.K.),⁴ also known as a 72 hour bag, "bug-out" bag, and a "go" bag. Inside these bags you should have: copies of important paperwork like birth certificates and proof of vaccination, person hygiene products like hand sanitizer and soap, 3 days of food, prescription meds, flashlights with extra batteries, a radio either hand cranked or with extra batteries, and first aid supplies. Your ESK should be somewhere easily accessible in the case of emergency like by your door, in your car, or in a closet.

B'N'B

One of the most important things we can do to prepare ourselves is to store food and water. While we can go a few days without food, that's not the case for water. The average person needs around a half gallon of water per day. The CDC recommends storing 1 gallon per person per day.² This includes a quarter gallon for cooking and another for cleaning. However, by preparing large communal meals we might be able to reduce our consumption of water when cooking and extend the life of our supply. Occasionally using wet wipes also offers an alternative to washing with our potentially limited supply of water.

Plastic is relatively inexpensive and lightweight, which is important if water ever

needs to be moved, however, plastics can potentially leech slowly into the water they store as they age. Keeping plastic containers in dark and cool environments can slow this process but you should still change out the water every 6–12 months. Look for the recycling triangle on the container and make sure the number inside reads 1, 2, 4, or 5.³

Storing water can be a serious hassle, but there are several easily accessible options. Large 5 or 6 gallon plastic containers are often available in camping supply sections. Made of thicker blue plastic to limit light infiltration, they are an inexpensive option to store most of a person's water needs. A more free alternative is to use 2 liter bottles. They're less durable than the specifically made containers, but you probably already have some in your fridge. Milk jugs are a no-go though. They are often "bio-degradable" and their lids don't seal well. Milk and fruit juice sugars are also very difficult to properly sanitize, posing serious health risks.² If you work in a commercial kitchen, you may have food grade containers, like buckets, lying around ready to be repurposed. Those black containers protein powder comes in are usually food grade, BPA-free, #2 plastic as well. Lastly any water or soft drink bottle can also do the job as long as they have a good cap.

Several government and non government organizations recommend storing at minimum a 3 day supply of food with FEMA recommending storage up to 2 weeks.^{4,2} 2 weeks of food might seem like a lot and you're right, but there's no need to buy all of it at once. Every time you go grocery shopping consider throwing an extra bag of rice, lentils, or other non perishable foods in your basket.

When power goes out, flood waters rise, or chemicals spill, water might not be safe to drink. Boiling and filtering water can help to protect you from deadly contaminants. Activated carbon filters are one of the cheapest and most effective options available. They're so common that you probably already have one: filter pitchers, faucet-mounted filters, water bottle filtration systems. Most of these use activated carbon. These filters usually last a few weeks to months so having just 1 extra filter should be enough to last most disasters.

When it comes to boiling water those little green propane canisters that many of our unhoused neighbors depend on to stay warm enough in the cold can get the job done. Also consider tins of burnable gel or denatured alcohol like chaffing fuel, not only to boil water or keep you warm in the cold, but to cook meals with as well. There are many

different attachments and gadgets to go along with these options, but before you consider buying one, ask your neighbors and friends if they already have one. The goal here is to build community and survive the coming future together.

When climate catastrophe strikes home, mutual aid will be what saves our lives. By preparing ourselves today, we can position ourselves to be better able to assist our community in times of need.

Preparedness doesn't need to be expensive, complicated, or paternalistic, rather it can fit into our normal routine and be a jumping off point for community building today.

(1) <https://abcnews.go.com/US/hurricane-helene-by-the-numbers-flooding-death-toll/story?id=114360081>

(2) <https://www.fema.gov/pdf/library/f&web.pdf>

(3) <https://www-tc.pbs.org/strangedays/pdf/StrangeDaysSmartPlasticsGuide.pdf>

(4) <https://blogs.cdc.gov/yourhealthyourenvironment/2021/09/22/emergency-preparedness/>

(5) <https://when-if.com/>

(6) <https://www.liveliketheworldisdying.com/resources/>

Support Malik Muhammad

Malik previously lived outside of Indianapolis and participated in the George Floyd Uprising both there and in Bloomington before going to Portland, where he was arrested. He is currently in Oregon State Prison. You can read his blog at MalikSpeaks.noblogs.org

"My name is Malik Farrad Muhammad. I'm a 26-year-old black/Palestinian pansexual Muslim (yes, hella confusing). I'm an anarchist antifascist, anti-racist abolitionist (yes, both cops and prisons) for my love of freedom! My first protest was in high school: a walkout staged after Trayvon Martin's murder. From there, I never really got active again until "Bernie or Bust" and then, of course, the George Floyd uprising. I traveled the country and organized and fought and was ultimately kidnapped ransomed and now held prisoner here at OSP. I have a beautiful son and a loving family back home in the Midwest. I'm also a veteran, I was a tanker in the army — and no, I'm not proud that I was part of the murder machine, so don't thank me for my service. I love music more than anything almost, am a guitarist and aspiring pianist, all genres.

Not much else to say except that I'm a lover of freedom, equity and equality, and will fight to my last breath for it. Unlike those who may regret a thing they did to get convicted or those who tempered their actions for fear of the consequences, I regret nothing, if only not doing more before I was caught. I will live for the people and I'll die for the people because I love the people, we who want freedom cannot rest till it comes."

"Let everything happen to you: beauty and terror. Just keep going. No feeling is final." — Rainer Maria Rilke



Same Shit, Different Jail: county moves forward with new jail project

Monroe County has decided on a location for a proposed new jail that has been many years in the making. They have also passed an income tax for county residents to fund the jail's construction. This project has seen a great deal of push-back, in its iteration in the 2010's as well as in its resurgence over the last two years. Push-back has ranged from NIMBY positions and downtown business interests to county officials and community health resources.

In the late 2000s the Indiana ACLU sued the county over unconstitutional conditions within the jail, namely overcrowding. In a settlement the county agreed to take steps to prevent overcrowding and by 2023 averaged only 2/3 capacity. However, since at least the previous jail administration, basic cleaning and maintenance had been ignored, which resulted in further constitutionally dubious conditions. Most of these concerns have been addressed by the newest jail administration, however, that hasn't stopped the county from pushing to escape their settlement restraints.

Between Bloomington and Ellettsville, at the intersection of Hunter Valley road and the bypass, on a property adjacent to a former Superfund site/ future public park, the county is buying a plot of land dubbed the "North Park" site to build their new jail complex. Without public transit access, the proposed location is an hour-and-a-half walk back to town, legally, or an hour if you cross the overpass on the highway. As part of the purchasing agreement for the new property, the county will be required to "co-locate" the jail and courts at the new site, and it's expected that many if not all of the other county departments located on 7th street will follow the courts in relocation.

DLZ, an engineering firm hired by the county in an "illegal" meeting to design the jail, has been the premier design firm for carceral expansion within the state of Indiana and claims that Monroe County incarcerates its residents at a rate lower than the state average.

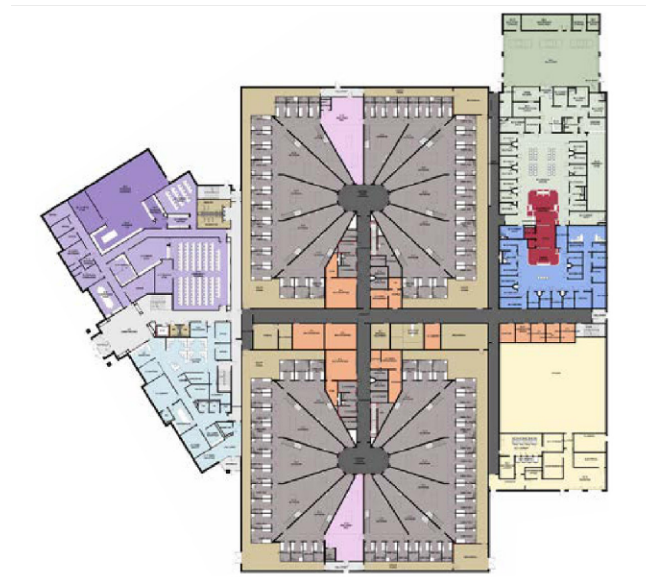
They recommend the construction of a new 200 million dollar "Justice Campus" and a new 500 "bed" jail (nearly twice the size of the current) to make up for this disparity. In line with this desire for increased incarceration, county officials have repeatedly expressed interest in what they call a "pod system." The pods are prefabricated cell blocks which can "easily" be inserted into a shell-like jail more akin to a warehouse holding crates.

Darkly humorous, these self-styled "progressive" and "caring" government officials have reinvented the panopticon using language of progress and so-called "evidence-based care." During report backs from 10,000 dollar trips to tour out of state jails, buzz words like "biophilic," "warm," and "natural light" are used as they describe the "humane" cages they trap their victims within. Talk of gardens, comfy chairs, and most importantly "clean" (think white, clinical) pervade the conversation intertwined with fawning over locks, cameras, gates, glass, and efficient processing facilities.

The current jail is now over 40 years old and was paid off a few years ago. Now unburdened by that debt, the county is planning lease bonds to be created to finance the \$200 million+ construction. Lease bonds come with the added benefit of allowing

the county to bypass a popular vote. These bonds are set to be in the several thousand dollar range, and are expected to be bought by only the largest firms, siphoning money from local paychecks to pay the dividends of multinational investment firms.

Through the permissible channels, a tapestry of different forces within this county have delayed the construction of a new jail for over 2 years, but participation within a system designed to disempower will only do so much. With taxes increased, a location selected, and a growing desperation to have something to show for years of effort, participation has ran its course. While many will continue to push through legal channels, or simply accept defeat, we know that it is not about the location of the jail or how much we decrease the income tax, but about opposing the creation and existence of jails at all. Clearly, now is the time to adopt alternative approaches to foil the attempts to kidnap an ever increasing number of us and our neighbors. Lessons from around the world continue to show us a diversity of tactics and an allowance for autonomy are the foundations of incredible strength. It takes everyone and what actions you take are your own business. We, as a whole, should be quick to support our comrades wherever their convictions take them.



Defined by Action



We are not only hostile to the prevailing order, but actively in conflict with it and all imposed authority. There was a question of whether attacks happen in our region, and so this is where we gather such news – to spread the positive truth of a destructive project, to illustrate that the system is vulnerable, and to take notice of the revolt that continues even when a large scale uprising is not underway. While paint and posters are not necessarily an attack, we may also include them here due to their inherent hostility to law and order, and often artful thinking outside the confines of prescribed strategies.

Sometimes this news is gathered from counter-info projects (generally insurrectionary anarchist websites and

newspapers), but sometimes we see unclaimed actions pop up in regular news that resonate with us and feel worth sharing. When doing that we are not trying to ascribe an anarchist ownership to them, but believe it is news of note. Neither is this a comprehensive list of every anarchist act – certainly too broad an array to be covered here – we only seek to highlight the (sometimes neglected, but always necessary) actively combatant portion of our struggles.

Since we are just getting this project underway, there is a back log of actions. It is also worth remembering that platforms for actions being entirely on corporate social media subjects their visibility to the algorithms imposed by those invested in maintaining the status quo, and increases the likelihood

of law enforcement showing up to collect your digital devices. A culture of security benefits our longevity...

October 9th, 2023 – Indigenous Action Media posters wheat-pasted around the city.

November 2023 – collection of actions against global and national policing entities claimed on *Unravel*: “We smashed up and pierced tires at the Air Force recruitment building. We smashed windows at the National Guard recruitment center. We cut down a National Guard billboard banner, and wrote ‘DEMILITARIZE, DEINDUSTRIALIZE, DECOLONIZE,’ in its place. We tagged Target and Chick-fil-A with Stop Copy City slogans...”



noitA yd benitəD



January – Graffiti appears around the city in remembrance of Tortuguita and against Cop City, where they were killed by law enforcement while camping against the project.

March 29th – Protesters disrupt a Luddy-Crane summit intended to recruit students into the military industrial complex.

April 1st – Two students disrupt a college Republicans event hosted by Jim Banks and Chaya “LibsofTikTok” Richik for their support of Israel and emboldening anti-LGBTQ+ behavior.

April 7th – David Agranoff event disrupted at the County History Center due to his cooperation with the feds during Green Scare investigations. Fliers were distributed detailing this and arguments ensued, “...some anarchists never forget a betrayal!”

April 25th – Occupation of Dunn Meadow to oppose IU’s relationship to military brutality begins, followed by the first eviction.

May – Pro Palestine graffiti, stickers, and wheatpastes begin to proliferate.

May – “14 tires slashed on 7 military recruiter cars near the mall. 14 more tires at a nearby security firm. Against the military machine. Against every nation-state. Against protectors of private property. Those that seek to maintain the peace in this time of upheaval are enemies of freedom. Those that carry out the ongoing death march are our top targets.”

July 31st – Vandalism of Indiana University Engraving above Dunn Meadow, anticipating final clearing of the liberated zone. “We will not stop fighting until IU divests from the genocidal apartheid state of Israel.”

August 20th – Two banner drops in town opposing IU’s relationship with the Naval Surface Warfare Center at Crane. “IU Welcomes genocide.”

August 29th – “#WhittenMustFall” banner drop at IU student involvement fair.

October 8th – “Stop Arming Israel” banner drop.

September – Fascist stickers removed around town.

October 10th – Herman B. Wells statue on IU’s campus reported vandalized with red paint and a Palestinian flag. “FUCK YOUR PHOTO OPS,” posted on social media. Later that day IUPD issued a warrant and seized a student’s phone and car.



Anarchy of Time & Place

“The great strength of anarchism is the fact that it does not rely on one fundamental analysis anchored in time.” – Jean Weir

Anarchy is freedom. Freedom from government, bosses, landlords, and other authorities; and freedom to build the lives we want in collaboration with those we choose, when we choose to collaborate with them. It is an interest in life lived through direct action, mutual aid, and voluntary association. My anarchy is insurrectionary – actively combative and refusing to negotiate – and decidedly interested in living in relation with the earth, water, and all the inhabitants that don’t overburden it. In that way it is an anarchy better suited outside of an urban landscape, though it doesn’t have to be. Being that how we live is dictated by place, this is a piece exploring an anarchy lived here, which is not an urban landscape – nor is it any of the historical moments that preceded it.

We live in a small city where roughly half the population is made up of transient college students. The major employers are that school and a pharmaceutical company. We are surrounded by farms and forest. Beyond that, several major military/policing infrastructures, open-pit coal mines, and budding modern infrastructures like factories for digital products and “sustainable” energy production – all of which the US empire is reliant on to some degree or another.

To be an anarchist here is conveniently not the most maligned position, but the real question is how to proceed in this moment – which each of us can only answer for ourselves.

To be an anarchist within this society is to live a life full of compromise, but also seeking to reduce or eliminate those compromises in that undying search for freedom. We are better off defining ourselves by our actions and not just our thoughts. We anarchists find ourselves in opposition to so many systems and structures, particularly every one that tries to impose itself on us, or otherwise coerce us into obedience. To destroy those institutions requires upheaval, revolt, and insurrection.

Though we can learn from history, we can’t replicate it – despite the repeating cycles. Technology, and by extension society, continue to develop at an increasingly rapid pace, meaning that the conditions we struggle in are not the same as five years ago, let alone one hundred. It has substantially changed the way we communicate, and in fact made it much harder to talk to each other, and much more disconnected from the world just outside our front door. Therein lies one place to begin, and part of the motivation of *In Tension*.

There were very different conditions during those revolutionary moments at the turn of the 20th Century – Mexico, Russia, and Spain, for instance. Great masses of people remembering their indigenous lineages, where land and freedom meant something visceral. The rural populations had a significantly anarchic bent, and even the unions were radical and threatening to the status quo.

We don’t live among peasants, and in fact the economy here is largely post-industrial. Unions are far less effective and largely prop up their own politicians as they negotiate a maintenance of the status quo. Nearly every structure and relationship within that status quo is a result of, and actively upholding, settler-colonial dynamics. The rural populace is pigeonholed a certain way – inundated as some are with media confusing the government minimalism of traditional conservatism with a pro-police state perspective – but so many among us retain that skepticism of government and cops when it really comes down to it. Concerned as we are with individual far-right actors, the biggest and most constant threat is that of liberal capitalism – with its hip landlords, community policing, and gig-based economy and entrepreneurship.

Some things don’t change, as any society that treats the natural world as a collection of resources, and based around currency and commerce, results in the hoarding of wealth of a few and attempts to pit the resulting poor against each other. Like any place with such oppression, there is a rich tradition across this continent in the fight against those hierarchies

to draw from – indigenous guerrilla actions, insurrections of people enslaved, and a variety of riots. A variety because there are riots concerned with survival – for basic needs and commodities, or against a racist/patriarchal society intent on keep them down and killing them – and riots concerned with life, against the existential doldrums of post-industrial modernity. In reality there is often overlap, as the 2020 murder of George Floyd sparked riots that were all of these things, and precipitated a great deal of joy and purpose in the process.

There was no riot in this town, though. Not that a riot is the be all, end all, but it is an upheaval wrapped in opportunity. Many of us in those moments participated here and elsewhere, learning a lot about affinity, and the ways a group of people with similar goals might flourish in those opportune moments. We were also reminded of the shortcomings of working with those we have significantly less affinity with, and largely lacked intermediate goals. Despite a serious interest among some of us, we also did not move from riot to insurrection and the politicians among those struggles have since tried to recuperate the fight into reforming (and therefore maintaining) the status quo.

The insurrectionary perspective, at its best, is not just a perspective but an adaptable and unyielding revolt against the existent. At its worst, it is a short-lived pejorative. Some sympathetic to such a perspective have even suggested that the latter is a particular misreading by US-based activists, but let’s focus on what we want it to be.

Insurrectionary anarchism can be an active break with systems of control, finding common interest with all under the thumb of an oppressor at appropriate moments, while never advocating half-steps or mediations. It can be a spray-painted message, a shattered window-pane, a study group, a looted and redistributed store, a liberated prisoner, a spokes-council to determine how we decide to work together in a specific struggle, a riot, an insurrection, and the growth of any infrastructure that enables these. It is

an anarchy informally organized through principled affinity groups – not replicating the rigidity and oppressive structures of parties and other institutions. Should it want to effectively undermine systems of control, intermediate goals are necessary too – often organizing with additional affinity groups toward the eradication of a structure, but more in an interest of building a larger culture of revolt and spreading anarchist principles. At the same time, we should never neglect the power of the individual.

This informal organizing, as we call it, rejects unions, parties, and other administrators or intermediaries as solutions (as they prefer finding their place in the prevailing order). Reformist advocacy work creates a belief in the importance of the organizations involved (increasing investment in maintaining them even when they've ceased to be useful), meanwhile propping up new politicians and kowtowing to authority. While there is a risk of tyranny popping up in any organizing strategy, it is only anarchists who are principally and expressly opposed to every authority imposed, and informal strategies advocate abandoning failed or finished projects (without treating each other as disposable). If we are invested in a goal, we will regroup in an applicable way should there be more to do.

This is the scenario every time we wake up and decide on our own what to do with our day, any time a group of friends come together and mutually decide what to do together, and even when we decide to participate in more contrasting groups with a goal that aligns with our principles. Friendship doesn't define affinity, and affinity can be found in temporary moments with total strangers, but there's infinite combinations in between. The project at hand, in my mind, is to find common vitriol across this disparate landscape in order to wage intermediate struggles against the settler-colonial empire we live in, and every authority, tearing it down a piece at a time and building relationships in the process. Sometimes I might find myself fighting alone, strongly embracing my principles, and other times we might multiply our strengths with others. These are complimentary notions, as it is best to learn who we are and hone our skills rather than being swayed by or chasing behind some larger force. Learning the efficacy of certain tactics in the meantime, seeking out those attacks that are easily generalized, to once again better multiply our energies. We would do well to remember that waiting encourages waiting, and we are centuries behind in this fight.

Looking toward current points of conflict two things jump out: the building of a new jail, and the university. Since the issue of the jail is covered elsewhere here, I'll briefly speak of the university.

From the grad student union, to Palestinian liberation and suppression of speech, IU is of significance. *The issues are not the issue*, of course, and such a sprawling institution that has the audacity to read land acknowledgments without giving land back begins to spell it out. Being the biggest employer in the region means they are the primary exploiter of wage workers, and lesser noted expressions like vivisection and AI development only reinforces the problems. These pushes to address specific grievances in the institution (like certain investments or free speech), sometimes even citing that the institution is better than this, overlooks that it is, in fact,

not. IU is very thoroughly an entity bent on furthering control across the landscape, which can only be resolved through its destruction. It is not unique in that way, though, and is currently just the most glaring example of this perspective.

We in the "Crossroads of America" are surrounded by major transportation infrastructure built by and for capitalism to flourish. We may be near the third largest US Naval base in the world and a Big Ten University, all actively complicit in continuing and expanding the settler-colonial empire, but there is no end in sight to targets of our malice – and there are many approachable places to begin. There are *targets that exist no where else*, and some that very personally affect us – and it is their familiarity to us that lends strategic insight.



Enemy Territories

LEAP Lebanon Tech Park

The LEAP (Limitless Exploration/Advanced Pace)-Lebanon Innovation and Research District is an over 9,000 acre development project underway in Lebanon, Indiana, about 30 miles NW of downtown Indianapolis. The project is being spear-headed by the Indiana Economic Development Corporation (IEDC), a state-wide entity focused on bringing jobs and economic growth to the state.¹ According to the LEAP website, the project is inspired by North Carolina's Research Triangle, and is strategically situated between Indianapolis, Purdue University and Purdue's Discovery Park, as well as FedEx's second largest cargo distribution center in the world. The project aims to be a hub of research and development for semiconductors, Electric Vehicle (EV) battery manufacturing, Artificial Intelligence and research on life sciences. Eli Lilly, the Indianapolis-based pharmaceutical company will have a new research and manufacturing campus as a part of the LEAP district, and has thus far contributed over \$9 billion to the development of the project. Their new campus in the LEAP district will focus on the production of pharmaceutical ingredients and cell and gene therapy.

While this project was strategically situated to connect it to some big players based in NW Indiana, one vital element they failed to consider was that of water. Lebanon is already considered water-scarce, and the resources necessary to both develop and maintain this district far exceed the local capabilities. The IEDC, navigating frustration and concern from residents of both Lafayette and Lebanon, have proposed two pipelines: one from Lafayette to Lebanon, and another from Indianapolis to Lebanon. They have expressed confidence that this will cover the daily needed 100 million gallons of water, and have already built and spent a short period of time monitoring test-wells near Lafayette to see if water usage can be sustained. These wells pull from the Wabash River alluvial aquifer. The IEDC has hired an agency to handle this testing, unfolding over about a year, and feels confident there is enough water for LEAP to continue to be built.

The concern of residents has mainly focused on water-scarcity fears, how this will impact their relationship as neighbors, and also whether already-existent businesses, like industrial agriculture, will be able to maintain their access needs.² Residents are also worried about the utility costs to build and maintain such a project, including what will be done with the wastewater output from the facility, and whether they will be required to foot the bill. Their concerns are not unfounded, and it is worth noting that the IEDC, while technically a public agency, has taken on the role of developer, and has already accessed taxpayer dollars to begin this project.

The IEDC, which was started in 2005, is an entity whose aim is to advance economic development in the state of Indiana. The IEDC is a public-private partnership, which is a long-term arrangement between a government and a private-sector entity. Essentially, the private-sector entity finances government projects up front, and expects to collect on their investment as the project reaches completion and revenue begins coming in. This revenue can either be taxpayer money or money grossed from a business. The 14-member board of the IEDC includes Governor Eric J. Holcomb as well as many other expected wealth-hording figures; former president of Eli Lilly, the chairman of Lake City Bank (worth \$3.8 Billion), and Michael L. Kubacki, who is comically also a part of the Indiana Chapter of the Nature Conservancy, to name a few.

At this point in late-stage capitalism, these kind of blatant overlapping of interests come as little surprise. Nor is it surprising that this entity would disregard consideration for rural farmers, as they focus on their goals of pushing Indiana as the next great tech hub of the U.S. This writer does not intend to rally for rural farmers specifically, and certainly not Industrial Agricultural, but instead highlight that those whose aim is progress, continual growth, and the accumulation of wealth care little of what is beyond their purview, even if that industry was once highly valued.

One entity, the Citizens Action Coalition,

is a consumer and environmental advocacy nonprofit that is organizing opposition to the LEAP project, echoing concerns about the costs, and who will be responsible, as well as citing frustration over a lack of transparency and consideration from the IEDC about the impact locally.³ Like most nonprofits, they miss the mark, and while fighting against utility hikes is certainly a way to get more citizens on board with your agenda, they are advocating that the area is still "productive farmland", and would be put to better use shirking this new development in favor of the day-to-day environmental degradation that comes with farming, strip malls, and single family housing. Another group, the Boone County Preservation Group is challenging the LEAP development over concern for farmland, but also for its negative environmental impact.⁴

There are a lot of moving parts to this project, and while the focus of public critique has revolved around water, for us there are a few other alarming components worth commenting on. One of the industries that the LEAP project hopes to attract and bolster is that of semiconductor manufacturing. "Semiconductor" is just another name for microchip, a key component of many technologies, that provides its core functionality. While your brain might go straight to your laptop, microchips are also at the core of "all contemporary technological devices, whether data center servers, autonomous robotics, 5G towers, wind turbines, nuclear reactors, industrial automation, aerospace systems, [and] military systems" and are the "fourth-most-traded product after only crude oil, refined oil and cars."⁵ Suffice to say, microchips have become integral to the functionality of this death-machine of a world, and it intends to increase manufacturing, in order to more efficiently plunder this earth.

The LEAP project is a shining example of just how interconnected, and interdependent the horrors of this world are, and how even more interconnected and far-reaching they long to become. LEAP aims to become a part of a 70-mile technology corridor, that connects

itself to Purdue and Indianapolis. Purdue University is already a major contributor to the research and development of a great deal of technological infrastructure. In 2023, Purdue invested \$49 Million dollars to expand capabilities for semiconductor research and development on campus, and it is also home to the Birck Nanotechnology Center, the Luddy Artificial Intelligence Center, and the Institute for Physical Artificial Intelligence. Semiconductors play an important role in various military technologies, and the U.S. Department of Defense topped the list of federal agencies that are funding research at Purdue, contributing \$123 million for the 2024 fiscal year.⁶ Purdue also hosts a Military Research Institute which helps improve drones, missiles and other machinery used to kill humans, worldwide. While all universities are deeply embedded in the aims of empire, Purdue has also cast itself as a shining-star in many of these burgeoning fields. This surge of U.S. based semiconductor development

comes after a 2022 act, the US CHIPS (“Creating Helpful Incentives to Produce Semiconductors”) Act was signed into law. US CHIPS commits \$39 Billion in grants and loans for microchip manufacturing in the U.S. Microchip manufacturing is incredibly complex, and uses resources sourced from around the globe, sometimes

by only one or two manufacturers. This bill and the resultant U.S. development is intended as a way to secure microchip access during wartime or crisis.

Semiconductors are also integral to Electric Vehicle (EV) batteries, self-driving cars, as well as AI – the advancement of which LEAP hopes to spearhead at its research park. While empire has chosen to pivot to various “green technologies” as a band-aid for the unfolding climate catastrophe, the development of these is very much dependent upon continued destructive extraction projects. All EV batteries contain lithium and require cobalt in their manufacturing. Most cobalt comes from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, where Congolese people face abuse, exploitation, and poisoning in mines that are often owned by multi-national corporations. Child labor is extensive. Those who profit from these industries manipulate social,

economic, and political institutions in order to maintain control and access to wealth. For an example of where lithium comes from, we have the Thacker Pass mine in Nevada, which is currently being built on a sacred site, the site of a massacre of indigenous people. The Reno-Sparks Indian Colony, the Burns Paiute Tribe, and the Summit Lake Paiute Tribe sued to stop the project, but were denied by U.S. courts. This mine is heavily funded by GM and driven by demand from the EV industry. Here in Indiana, the auto manufacturer Stellantis is partnering with Samsung SDI to build an EV battery production plant in Kokomo (just NE of Lebanon) in 2025. Samsung is also partnering with GM to build a \$3.5 billion dollar EV plant in New Carlisle, Indiana. Auto workers are resisting moves towards electric vehicles, as their production would rely more on automation and maintain fewer jobs. The addition of these two plants will establish Indiana as the home of the largest production



base for EV batteries in North America.⁷ The parallel between farmers and autoworkers is worth noting, not to emphasize that certain jobs or industries are worth maintaining, but to continue to highlight that empire does not care who or what it tramples in its pursuit of progress. Ultimately, any of this “economic development” comes directly at the expense of colonized and impoverished people, and the land they depend on.

The IEDC wishes to promote Indiana as the new “Silicone Heartland”, a web of advanced research and manufacturing happily piloting us into the future. LEAP has not even been built, and yet plans for this web’s expansion are already underway. The Indiana Department of Transportation is focusing on the development of U.S 52 and I-65 to better facilitate travel in and around this tech corridor. Alongside the current development of I-69 (which saw a great deal of resistance

from anarchists and many others, once upon a time), we can see that the long-term goals are an entire state (country, and world) seamlessly connected for faster and more efficient output. Tech businesses are looking to leave the more water-scarce California for a state that is fairly water-rich, and has the benefits of few environmental protections, an especially profit-driven government, lower cost of living, “affordable” housing and a flourishing housing market, lower crime rates, as well as a low minimum wage and few protections for the workers necessary to keep a world like this running. Whether you want to wall yourself off in their proposed “sustainable” housing community, or do so in one of the neighboring suburbs, pretty soon those that long for such a bubble will never have to spend much time outside of their gated community, car, or office. And while this region may indeed be more affordable than the original silicon valley, many of us are barely getting-by, and the level of growth

that the IEDC wishes to bring to the state will not keep that true for long. This type of growth will likely bring many of the same issues facing Silicon Valley: mass surveillance, soaring rent prices, and increase in the violent criminalization of houseless-ness. Class disparities will intensify, dividing the population into either attractive participants, low level workers, or more bodies for the ever-expanding prison system.

We can barely begin to delve into the realm of pharmaceutical manufacturing and life science research that will be included in the LEAP project. Eli Lilly, the \$34.12 billion pharmaceutical giant is one of the few confirmed businesses building as a part of LEAP. The project hopes to plug into the fields of orthopedics, radio-pharmaceuticals and nuclear medicine, as well as cell and gene therapy. In depth research into each of these fields is beyond the scope of this article, but they’re surely all alarming in their own right. While there are life-saving technologies that spring out of the medical industry, the ills they fix are overwhelmingly a result of the poisonous reality that is industrial society. The medical industry, which claims to promote health, is just another profit-driven entity that exploits animals, earth, and

humans for the betterment of a small selection of the population in the western world. Its preoccupation with an immortality-of-sorts, and extending the life of (wealthy) humans for as long as possible, is a part of the toxicity of speciesist thinking that puts human life and progress, and domination of the natural world, above all else.

The list of industries that depend on advancing microchip development could go on and on. The world of the advanced microchip is a world of even more cell-towers, highways, surveillance, extraction projects, resource scarcity, a more efficient military and police apparatus, poisoned land and water, dying animals, and a hollowed life of constant connectivity to the grid and our smart phones. What was once a region of 20 million acres of forest, stripped and drained to create swaths of farmland, is being decimated once again, exhausting ecosystems and their inhabitants in an effort to churn out technologies that can begin this cycle

all over again. They will make it harder and harder to ‘get-by’, and harder to opt-out too. One of LEAP’s aims is, “Securing the Future Now” – a goal which this author believes all should be wary of. To secure the future means empire forever tightening its grip, promising falsehoods of stability to some, while most of us drown in a world of even more immense surveillance, the further destruction of all ecosystems, the further surrender of our lives to technological interventions, and the severing of ties with a life worth living. But the truth, beyond their well-crafted plans and shiny websites, is that these industries are incredibly vulnerable. Technology, goods, and networks of commerce are incredibly vulnerable. For microchips specifically, much of their completion relies on expensive machines, precise manufacturing and a chain of resources that only a small handful of entities can fulfill. Their network is fragile, and they know it, which is why so many profiteers, politicians and institutions are scrambling to increase their development

capacity. But their disastrous future is not yet here, they are still vulnerable, and there is still time and space for interruption.

- (1) <https://www.iedc.in.gov/>
- (2) <https://indianapublicmedia.org/news/indiana-gubernatorial-candidate-eric-doden-speaks-out-against-iedcs-leap-district-pipeline-plan.php>
- (3) <https://www.citact.org/leap>
- (4) <https://preserving-boone-county.org>
- (5) *Tinderbox Journal of Combative Anarchy* Issue 5, page 5
- (6) <https://www.purdue.edu/research/features/stories/purdue-sets-record-with-647m-in-research-awards-more-than-doubling-research-funding-in-last-decade/>
- (7) <https://indianacapitalchronicle.com/briefs/second-stellantis-samsung-ev-battery-plant-announced-for-kokomo/>

A Lexicon Free Skool



Inspired by the belief that how we understand a word shapes what we do in its name, A Lexicon is a series introducing keywords in anarchism. To suggest a keyword for a future issue, email intension@riseup.net.

Free Skool

The k in skool distinguishes an anarchist learning community from educational institutions managed by the state or accessed through tuition. Often held in low-barrier settings such as public parks, free skools welcome participants without charge. Elsa Noterman and Andre Pusey of the Really Open University in Leeds, England have described free skools as “based on principles of horizontality, autonomy, self-reliance, equality, and collective organizing.”

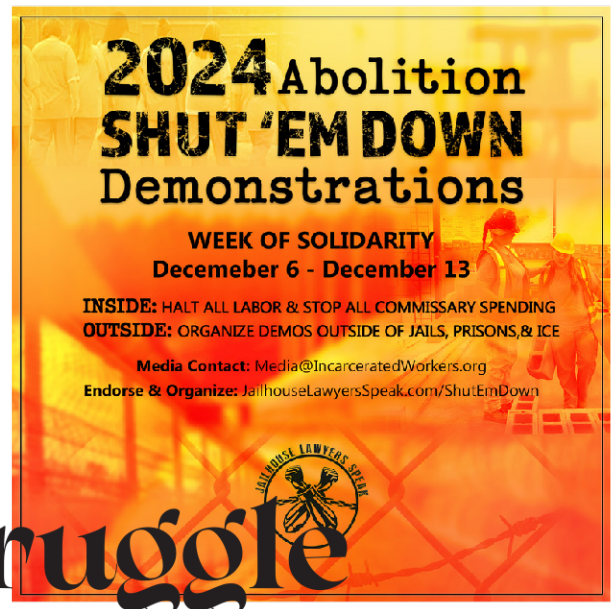
The salons organized by Bloomington Anarchist Black Cross offer a local, ongoing example of a free skool. Their first salon, held in mid-June of 2024, happened at 9th St.

Park; the next, scheduled for November 9th, 2024, is intended to take place at First United Church. These salons embrace Brazilian educator and philosopher Paulo Freire’s opposition to the categorical separation of teachers and learners, inviting participants to teach a 20-minute session and learn from sessions taught by other participants. The qualifications for teaching are simply showing up, writing one’s topic on a slip of paper, and dropping the slip into the hat from which it may be randomly selected. Resisting the myth and time-suck of meritocracy, this selection process has fostered learning about a breadth of topics, including the characteristics of affinity groups, the impact of marijuana on air accessibility, and the tools of graffiti art.

As Noterman and Pusey have written, though free skools differ from state-run educational institutions in content, they can reproduce hierarchical teaching methods common in such institutions: the sage-on-the-stage model in which one individual speaks and others

mostly listen, or one individual modeling a skill and then assessing others’ attempts to copy what was modeled. The Nottingham Free School — explicitly inspired by Freire — began experimenting with a more collective learning process in the summer of 2010. NFS hosted a workshop animated by questions such as, “Do we really need to be so reliant on the National Health Service and the medical industry?” and, “How can we produce and share new models for maintaining our physical and mental health?” Participants collaboratively criticized the National Health Service and considered “practices that have been lost and buried,” to quote NFS member Sara C. Motta. At this workshop ideas were generated through the meeting of minds in facilitated dialogue. Free skools can oppose unnecessary hierarchy not only with what is taught but also with how it’s taught. The method of facilitated dialogue propelled by questions about a complex issue affecting participants presents an opportunity for anarchists to collectively create ideas and an intentional balance of power.

December Week of Solidarity with Prison Struggle



Jailhouse Lawyers Speak calls for a week of solidarity Shut 'Em Down demonstrations

Jailhouse Lawyers Speak is an autonomous, abolitionist prisoner-led organization with membership around the country. It started with, but is not limited to, jailhouse lawyers. These are people who, from prison, using the law libraries and their own expertise, file motions in their own cases as well as for other people. They are an important part of prisoners' ability to advocate for themselves. They often file things like appeals and requests for sentence modification. JLS has an agreement that they do not charge other people money to help them with their cases. JLS started as a group of radicals who saw the need to go beyond just legal interventions, to build collective power and action, with participation from inside and outside. It formed in contrast to non-profits who offered top-down assistance, but did not follow the lead of prisoners organizing themselves.

JLS played a role in the 2016 Nationwide Prison Strike, the 2017 Millions for Prisoners March in DC, and calls for coordinated demonstrations in 2021 and 2022. It also facilitates non-traditional housing for women activists and jailhouse lawyers as they transition out of prison. The latest call is for Shut 'Em Down demonstrations this December.

By far the most successful of these previous calls was the 2016 Prison Strike, which began on September 9th, the anniversary of the Attica uprising. Collective actions by prisoners, such as work and meal refusals,

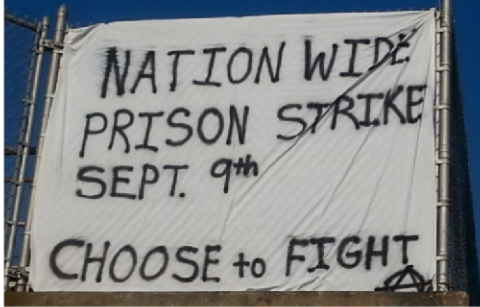
demonstrations, and property destruction, was taken in facilities across several states. Many more locations saw solidarity demos and actions on the outside, even spreading beyond the U.S. The 2016 Strike received much more mainstream media coverage than other similar days of solidarity, before or after. Although there are many more, here are a few things that contributed to its success. First, it was called far enough in advance for word to spread among prisons and detention centers. Communication and mail move slowly through prison bureaucracy and often face censorship. So we must allow time to figure out ways around mail restrictions and enable word to spread organically through the movement of prisoners. Second, it was coordinated but it was not centralized. The call focused on prison slavery, and the work prisoners do for little or no money to maintain the facilities that cage them. But a very small percentage of prisoners have jobs, so the idea of what resistance or striking looked like had to be expanded. It was explicit that groups of prisoners in their own location could decide what was best for them in their context. It did not have to be approved by a planning committee. In fact, to do so would have made almost all action impossible and put more people at risk by discussing their plans and framing "leaders." Actions on the outside also did not have to be approved by anyone and covered a great diversity. While it wasn't centralized, it also was not just a "do what you want" call and left at that (which usually bears little fruit). There were discussions at nationwide conferences; there were regional gatherings; and there were countless conference calls, meetings, and conspiring among friends to plan solidarity

actions. Third, plans and commitments to support prisoners facing repression for taking action were baked into organizing from the beginning. This consideration should be incorporated into all such calls.

Calls for days of action/solidarity since then have tried to replicate the energy and momentum of 2016, but have, in most cases, fallen short. The 2018 strike, which began on August 21st, the anniversary of the killing of George Jackson during an escape attempt, had moderate participation. The call for this December was released early enough to potentially spread widely, but the media coverage so far has been much less than in 2016. There is still time. The framing of "Shut 'Em Down" also carries with it the legacy of abolitionist mobilizations following the height of activity of the George Floyd Uprising in 2020 combined with advocacy for prisoners at the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, as the virus swept through crowded facilities where people had no PPE and the only thing the administrations did was the cancel visitation under the guise of "safety" and separate people even more harshly from their families. Another thing that was developing during 2016 and has continued to improve in subsequent mobilizations is the increasing inclusion of women's facilities and ICE facilities, the captives of which are often innovating and pushing prisoner-led resistance.

To perpetuate recent, local movement memory and hint at what is possible, here is a list of a few of prisoner solidarity actions in and around Bloomington:

• Banners hung in Bloomington, Evansville, and Indianapolis in 2016



• 2016 Strike Solidarity Day 1: Democratic Party HQ Disrupted: “in solidarity with prisoners taking action for the 9/9 prisoner strike, about a dozen people disrupted activities at the local Democratic Party campaign headquarters. Standing outside the building, people held a large banner announcing the prisoner strike while a statement was read and others passed out handbills. Additionally, a group of people went inside the headquarters to yell chants, clog sinks, tear down campaign posters, and scatter handbills. An American flag in the office found its way into a toilet. People walked away from the building tossing handbills in the air... Bloomington Democrats have blood on their hands. One of this year’s democratic candidates for sheriff was Steve Sharp, who was present when the BPD killed a black man, Denver Smith, during an episode of mental distress in September of 1983. In May, Sharp was defeated by the current sheriff, Brad Swain. It is under Swain’s command that Clinton “Boo” Gilkie died of medical neglect in the Monroe County Jail on June 7th, 2016, preceded and followed by an alarming number of suicide attempts.”



• 2016 Strike Solidarity Day 2: Microphone Demo at Sample Gates: Played audio from

Chelsea Manning (who was on hunger strike at the time) and “Let the Crops Rot in the Field” by the Free Alabama Movement, handed out handbills, and had conversations with curious passerby. From the reportback: “For Chelsea, fighting for her dignity against brutal transphobia and repressive confinement. For all striking and rebellious prisoners in revolt against their captors. And for all – behind bars or in the ‘free world’ – who choose to act against this system of domination and control.”



• 2016 Strike Solidarity Day 3: “On the night of September 10th, 30 rebels took advantage of the first home-game of the season, when most law enforcement were kept busy elsewhere ushering crowds and responding to drunk bros (college towns take note!), and staged a simple yet raucous demonstration outside of the county jail in solidarity with our friends and family locked inside as well as the hundreds of prisoners across the country currently on strike.

Noise was made, smoke-flares set off, and fireworks lit, illuminating the air as chants echoed off the walls in tandem with the honking horns of the blocked traffic. 800 flyers advocating solidarity with striking prisoners and condemning prison slavery were both strewn about and passed to curious passersby/motorists.”



• Banner drop for 2018 strike



See RifiBloomington.wordpress.org & ItsGoingDown.org for these and other reports of actions and events.

What It Means For Us

The fate of every anarchist, radical, and revolutionary is tied to the fate of those in prison. Because our activity will necessarily be criminalized, policed, and repressed, prisons will always be a site of struggle. While we try to avoid imprisonment by being clever and strategic, and try to get our friends out whenever they serve time, we must also join the struggle being waged by people stuck inside. To support prisoners fighting for themselves and weakening, even in tiny ways, the power of the state to control every aspect of their lives, is an essential form of movement self-defense.

The date of previous prison strikes – on the anniversary of the Attica revolt and George Jackson’s daring escape attempt – explicitly ties us to history. It draws the connection between prison struggle in the 1970’s to today’s struggles. Indeed, many of the same issues and demands persist. There is also local history to connect. In addition to the actions outlined above, there have been several events on campus about abolition and in solidarity with Indiana prison rebels such as Zolo Azania, Shaka Shakur, and the Pendleton 2. Car demonstrations against the organized abandonment and forced isolation of prisoners early in the COVID-19 pandemic proved that it was possible to mobilize in more remote areas across the state. To see ourselves as part of a larger legacy of liberatory action gives deeper meaning to our contributions, inspires us to be bold, and reminds us that we are not alone.

There is still more work to do. Just as Bloomington and every US city has institutions that contribute to the war machine perpetuating the genocide in Palestine, they all have institutions that perpetuate a world of carcerality. (In fact, these are sometimes the same or interconnected institutions.) The Monroe County Jail holds hundreds of people captive every day, and is actively pursuing building a new, larger jail to hold even more. Acadis, formerly Envisage, headquartered in Bloomington, develops software for ICE agents. Aramark, a company that profits off of giving prisoners shitty, inadequate food also contracts with IU Health. Just to name a few. All around us there are vulnerable threads of the prison-industrial complex, waiting to be pulled.



“Mad Honey”

Tarik Dobbs

**I didn’t get bees until violence.
Until the battlefields bittered**

**Our pollen, its gun-powered honey
Collected from colony to colony:**

The Lebanon to The Ukraine.

**My mother’s metallic spit. Her tongue
In the mirror. The grayed burst coaxing**

**Her larynx, invisible. A mandated moment,
Its promise to history. Along the Black Sea,**

**War was waged, reddened.
A hallucinogenic tint to be measured,**

**As always, the dose makes
This syrup, poisoned. A promise**

The bees dead someday, just like us.

In *Tension* as in purpose

In *Tension* as in setting out to do something

In *Tension* as in finding balance

In *Tension* as in tuning the strings

In *Tension* as in leaning into hostility

In *Tension* as in antagonism with the existent

In *Tension* as in something's got to give



In Tension aspires to be a place-based project, and as such, we must state that “Bloomington” and “Indiana” should not exist. At the deepest fulfillment of our liberatory project, these entities would be dissolved. The devastating impact of European colonization, settlement, and industrialization on the land, its human and nonhuman inhabitants, and the way in which we relate to it cannot be overstated. This land is unceded territory of the Myaamia, Kaskaskia, Kiikaapoi, šaawanwaki, Neshnabek, Wandat, Waayaahatanwa, Peeyankihšiaki, Peewaareewa, Lenape, and others. Toward the end of the U.S. and every empire.