

SPARKS



PRIMA

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION FROM OCCUPIED MESPEATCHES, MATINECOCK, CANARSIE AND LENAPE LAND, OR SO CALLED NYC.

AUTHORITARIANISM: A DEADLY SYMPTOM OF CORONA VIRUS

What's scarier than a global pandemic? The perfect excuse for authoritarianism that governments around the world have been waiting for – lockdowns, quarantines, curfews; “social distancing,” repression of organizing, large groups, intimacy, and sharing with one another – all in the name of our own wellbeing. We saw it with AIDS, and we're seeing it again – some believe that these viruses were state-created, but wherever they came from, the state has exploited their existence to stoke fear and excuse the deaths of the most vulnerable people – poor people, disabled people, immigrants, immunocompromised people, the elderly, people who live in dense urban environments, people who are incarcerated and forced into close-quartered captivity. Privatization of healthcare is killing us. We must take care of ourselves and each other, and we must keep our eyes wide open to the ways the state is swiftly weaponizing the situation. The national guard is in New Rochelle. Cuomo has enlisted prisoners in Comstock, NY to make emergency hand sanitizer for 62 cents an hour while hand sanitizer is contraband in prison due to its alcohol content, and Rikers inmates will dig graves if we have a plague year. People's fear of one another hangs in the air in the city, on the train and in the streets. Private colleges have been closed to protect their wealthy student body while public schools have only announced their closings this week after thousands of working-class students flooded the internet with their fears and feelings that their wellbeing does not matter. The fear of the pandemic draws the line brutally between those who can afford to air on the side of safety; staying indoors, on their salary, in their private home, private car, with their private healthcare, stockpiled food, and the rest of us—gig and service workers, public transit riders, people who live in and rely on community networks of support. Fear of contamination, fear of our own bodies and the bodies of others and the larger social implications of goodness and cleanliness in a gentrifying police state are extremely troubling. We must keep track of our houseless neighbors – a state of emergency could lead to sweeps and concentration. If we are quarantined, if our movement is further inhibited and our collectivity is discouraged, let us remember that this moment is being exploited by our oppressors. This may be the beginning of a new strategy for state control. We cannot go willingly into fear and isolation. We must keep track of these days and the days to come and refuse to grant them normalcy.

MUTINY!

*“LONG LIVE
THE PRISON-
ERS' REVOLT!
THE PRISONS
ON FIRE, THE
GUARDS IN
THE MIDDLE!”*



Prison visiting rooms in Italy were closed on March 8 after a rise in coronavirus cases. In response, 27 prisons rose in revolt – and some of them in flames (!) – by which several were destroyed. At Sant'Anna prison in Modena, prisoners barricaded themselves inside the prison and lit fires. Nearly the whole prison and perhaps the entirety of the registration office's paperwork, holding all the records of the detainees, were destroyed. In Pavia, keys were stolen from jailers and the cages unlocked! Two guards – one of which the commander of the prison's police – were captured and held as hostages, beaten, and later released. Fire was then started on the roof. At Foggia, the entrance to the prison was set on fire and prisoners clashed with guards. A grate was removed from a window, and about 50 prisoners escaped – of which 30 were recaptured. One cop refers to the scene of the break as “apocalyptic” and admits a loss of control and defeat of the police force, stating that the detainees have the prison. In Milano, detainees started a fire inside the prison, destroyed the infirmary, set fire to a control tower, and took to the roof. Folks outside gathering in solidarity were charged by police while trying to prevent guards from entering. Another revolt broke out at Bollate prison, also in Milan. In Rome, revolt broke out at Regina Coeli. Bars were removed from a window in Rebibbia and fires started, while supporters and families of detainees blocked the street in front of the prison. In Palermo, several fires were started and escapes attempted. Some detainees lost their lives in the revolts. To them, rest in power, long live in revolt. (These events are a summarization of a report-back translated from Italian. Original can be found here: <https://nantes.indymedia.org/articles/49182>)

THIS MONTH IN HISTORY:

March 7, 1965: Bloody Sunday. Hundreds of peaceful protesters march to Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, Alabama and are charged by horses, trampled, tear gassed, and beaten with billy clubs by police.

March 15, 1908: The Sunday paper in Rochester, NY stated, “Women anarchists have become the terror of world's police” ... “the guardians of the world nearly always find a woman implicated when a ruler is stricken down - emotional women lose sense of fear”.

March 21, 1973: The Mental Patients Union was founded in London by a small group of mental health patients and supporters. They argued that psychiatry was a form of control of the working class under capitalism, and so in the same way that workers organized themselves, so too should mental health patients.

March 28, 1915: Emma Goldman was arrested in the US for explaining birth control. She spent 15 days in jail rather than paying a \$100 fine.

○MARCH CALENDAR●

- Tue. Mar. 10:** Cultural Change in the Age of Climate Change - discussion, 7pm @ Mayday Space (176 St. Nicholas Ave.—BK)
- Wed. Mar. 11:** POP Gym - Monthly Workshop, 6pm @ Brooklyn Community Pride Center (1360 Fulton St., Ground Floor—BK) // Comics as Political Expression, 7pm @ Mayday Space (176 St. Nicholas Ave.—BK) // Free Food at The Base, Vegan Feed, 4.30 - 6pm @ The Base (contact thebasebk@gmail.com to help—1302 Myrtle Ave.—BK)
- Fri. Mar. 13:** Women's History Month Rave Series, free, 10pm @ Starr Bar (214 Starr St.—BK) // Film Screening: Lucio, 7pm @ The Base (1302 Myrtle Ave.—BK) // Day Against Hate Upstander Workshop, 12-2pm @ Center for Antiviolence Education (327 7TH St., 2nd Floor—BK)
- Sat. Mar. 14:** POP Gym Intro to Submission Wrestling w/ Spectrum Wrestling, 1pm, DM @spectrumwrestling for location // Off the Binary, Non Binary Gender Identity Discussion and Safe Space, 2 - 3pm @ Bluestockings (172 Allen St.—MNH)
- Sun. Mar. 15:** SecuriTea Time, CyPurr Collective, Social Event/Critical Discussion 1 - 3pm @ Bluestockings (172 Allen St.—MNH) // Black and Pink Letter Writing, 3 - 5pm @ Bluestockings // Anarchists Care About Books, Reading Group, 4 - 6pm @ Bluestockings // Major Minor - Folk U! Radical Song Night, 9pm @ Starr Bar
- Mon. Mar. 16:** POP Gym Self Defense Workshop, 7 - 9.30pm @ Bluestockings (172 Allen St.—MNH)
- Wed. Mar. 18:** Free Food at The Base, Vegan Feed, 4.30 - 6pm @ The Base
- Fri. Mar. 20:** SWOP Brooklyn Zine Launch, Made By and For Sex Workers, 7 - 9.30pm @ Bluestockings (172 Allen St.—MNH)
- Sat. Mar. 21:** Feed the People, Food Serve by NYC Shut It Down, 3 - 5pm (Hunt's Point Plaza & Bruckner Blvd—BX)
- Sun. Mar. 22:** PRIMA Benefit, Proceeds go to Puerto Rican Musicians Impacted by Earthquake, 7 - 11.30pm @ Starr Bar (214 Starr St.—BK) // Abolitionist Book Club, 5 - 7pm @ Bluestockings (172 Allen St.—MNH) // Let Us Heal, Healing-Centered Open Mic, 7 - 9.30 @ Bluestockings
- Mon. Mar. 23:** Get on the Stage, Q/T/POC/TS/GNC/NB/I + Open Mic, 7 - 9.30 @ Bluestockings (172 Allen St.—MNH)
- Wed. Mar. 25:** Free Food at The Base, Vegan Feed, 4.30 - 6pm @ The Base (1302 Myrtle Ave.—BK)
- Sun. Mar. 29:** Abolitionist Book Club, 5 - 7pm @ Bluestockings (172 Allen St.—MNH)
- Mon. Mar. 30:** Get on the Stage, Q/T/POC/TS/GNC/NB/I + Open Mic, 7 - 9.30 @ Bluestockings (172 Allen St.—MNH)

WEEKLY/BIWEEKLY EVENTS

- Mondays:** Books through Bars - send books to incarcerated people. Every Mon. at 7:30 pm @ Freebird Books (123 Columbia St.—BK)
- Tuesdays:** NYC Anarchist Black Cross - write letters to incarcerated people and enjoy a free vegan dinner. Every other Tues Jan. 7th and 21st at 7 pm at The Base (1302 Myrtle Ave, BK)
- Wednesdays:** Times Up! — free bike repair open workshop. Every Wed. at 6:30-8:30 (99 South 6th St—BK) // Books Through Bars — send books to incarcerated people, most Wed. at 7 pm @ Freebird Books (123 Columbia St.—BK) // ABC No Rio In Exile — Zine Library Public Hours 6-9pm @ Clemente Soto Velez Cultural Center (107 Suffolk St Room #305—MNH)
- Thursdays:** Narcan Overdose Prevention training at 5:00 pm Bluestockings (172 Allen St, MNH) // ABC No Rio In Exile — Zine Library Public Hours 3-6pm @ Clemente Soto Velez Cultural Center (107 Suffolk St Room #305—MNH) // The Spectrum Wrestling Club - Queer Positive Wrestling, at night, DM @spectrumwrestling for address
- Saturdays:** The Base — open library hours, 2-6 pm (1302 Myrtle, BK) // Food Not Bombs Brooklyn — sharing free vegan food with others, 3 pm at the northwest corner of Von King Park (Lafayette & Marcy — BK) // Club A Kitchen — food & harm reduction distro, 4 pm (Myrtle & Broadway — BK) // Trans Boxing, \$10-20 sliding scale, 4 pm @ Overthrow (9 Bleecker St, MNH) // Times Up! — free bike repair open workshop 6:30-8:30 (99 South 6th St—BK)
- Sundays:** Food Not Bombs Manhattan — sharing free vegan food with others, cook at the Catholic Worker (36 East 1st St, MNH) at 1pm, serve at Tompkins Square Park (MNH) at 4:15pm // Books Through Bars — send books to incarcerated people 2pm @ Freebird Books (123 Columbia St.—BK) // LGBTQ+ Yoga @ Brooklyn Community Pride Center, 11am - 12pm (1360 Fulton St., Ground Floor—BK)

REFLECTIONS UPON RETURNING TO NYC FROM A MONTH ON THE YINTAH

Recent months have highlighted the strong direction of the indigenous sovereignty movement in regards to the land and water struggle on Wet'suwet'en territory. With attention and concern drawing focus from around the world, the injustices we are witnessing on the Yintah have spurred an inspiring show of solidarity against the fascist state and the capitalist system that drives it. This is an important moment for all of us. The recent actions since February have shown a shift in power that has pushed the movement forward on a scale we haven't even seen yet. Land defense has moved beyond the Yintah, where actions are unseen/ignored by the greater public, and into a display that pushes us into the face of apathetic bureaucrats. These actions popping off in cities all over turtle island bring indigenous voices right to the door of the colonial power structures that continue the legacy of violence against the earth and our bodies. That is inspiring. The youth taking their power at the legislature, a gross symbol that stands in representation for the pain inflicted on generations of indigenous people, was incredibly powerful to see. This was a moment previous generations could have only dreamed of, and here they were, chanting and singing in ceremony with the eyes of the world turned to witness their strength. Solidarity brought unity, and that unity transcends space and time. Across continents, in every struggle, our physical bodies bring our ancestors to the frontlines. With our feet on this earth and our fists in the air we shout the voices of those who came before us and those in the future we stand to protect. The ways in which people show up puts a light in my heart. This sets and example for all of us now in how important we are together, across all nations we must organize ways to utilize a wider variety of tools to combat our oppressors.

The Mohawks threw down hard, inspiring a series of rail blockades to pop up all over the country. I spent sometime at one such blockade in Gitksan territory and from there we heard news everyday of more actions aimed to shut down Canada. Surrounded by darkness sitting around our fire on the tracks we felt warmed by the fires burned at the Tyendinaga blockades too. A whole continent divided us but like veins that web through the body, like rivers that course and flow into all waters, those tracks connected us. What brought us to those tracks connects us. Somewhere down the line they're thinking this too, and for that moment in time, the space of separation between us was bridged by only two lines of steel.

So why does this specific issue resonate with so many people? Because Indigenous people face the same injustices on every single continent

and it's beautiful to see us rise up everywhere. We recognize what hurts each other because it has hurt ourselves, and thus when we fight for each other we also fight for ourselves. Indigenous people everywhere share the same path towards liberation. What brought me to Wet'suwet'en territory was about more than CGL. This is about more than a pipeline. This intersects with so many acts of violence or injustices we face in our everyday lives. How can we talk about the negative repercussions that construction will cause to the environment, the land, water, and way of life, and not recognize corporate greed is genocide? How can we talk about RCMP intruding onto the territory without consent without seeing the historical context of displacement and disregard for indigenous rights? How can we talk about forcing an injunction to shove an unwanted pipeline into the earth without acknowledging the epidemic of missing and murdered indigenous women and recognize CanAmerica as the rapey colonial monster they've always been? How can we hear the voice of our comrade over the radio cut off in a scream as the cops broke the window of a truck to drag them out into custody, or feel the frustration when armed officials with no right to be there took people from their home at 44km, or see the matriarchs at Unist'ot'en arrested in ceremony without reliving the trauma that is all of colonial history?

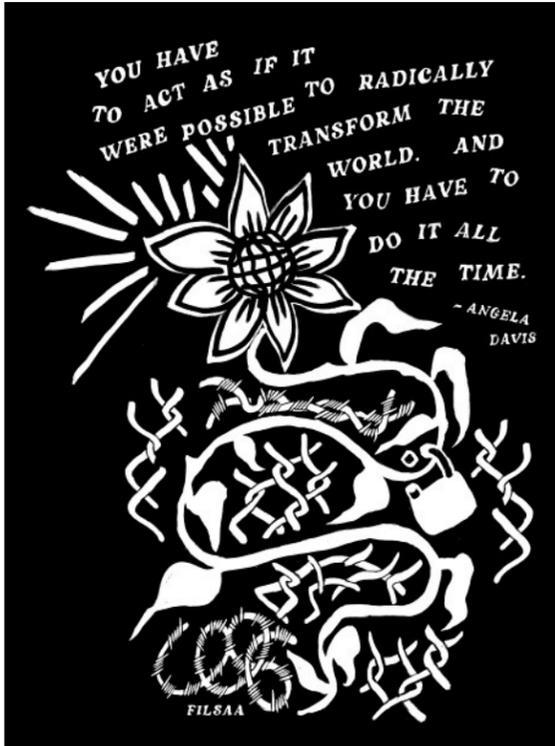
This is why I address you reader. Here on unceded Lenape territory I write to incite the spirit of action in you. How will you show solidarity and continue to stoke the fires of this movement to bring the changes we so desperately need? You are not removed from these issues. You are living here in a city built on stolen land and don't ever forget that you live off this land too. We all rely on it. Your children will drink the same water we stand to protect. Time to step up. I will also encourage you to seek out more information for yourselves in how to support local struggles and stay up on indigenous issues. It may be obvious to say mainstream media isn't trustworthy but often times it isn't obvious what alternative sources we can trust for information. Indigenous people are gathering power and it's important to support that power in what news outlets we turn to. Pay attention to accounts like @gidimten_checkpoint @indigenouising @smogelgem and @skodenne who gave updates throughout the raids. Media Co-Op, It's Going Down, Sub Media, and Democracy Now have all done coverage including several interviews.

Stay bright, stay tru, stay U
love and rage

The Formerly Incarcerated Law Students Advocacy Association (FILSAA)

participated in the National Lawyers Guild's Prison Abolition Week/Week Against Mass Incarceration at CUNY Law early this month. In 2015, NLG membership adopted a resolution calling for "the dismantling and abolition of all prisons and of all aspects of systems and institutions that support, condone, create, fill, or protect prisons." Along with advocating for prison abolition, FILSAA exists to support law students and prospective law students who were formerly incarcerated and/or have had detrimental interactions with the criminal justice system. FILSAA also seeks to provide resources and encouragement to people who are currently incarcerated, and is open to anyone who opposes the prison industrial complex, not only formerly incarcerated folks.

Some words from the group:



"FILSAA sees a major oversight in our school's lack of scholarships for formerly incarcerated students. CUNY talks a lot about diversifying the law but that is really only going to happen with student and activist-motivated change. As a new organization founded by CUNY students in 2018, FILSAA has extremely limited resources, but has already helped some formerly incarcerated folks get into law school and offers resources such as mentoring, textbooks, and other assistance. However, for FI folks finances are a huge

hurdle, as are character and fitness concerns, and the general notion that if you've done time you won't be able to go to law school/admitted to the bar. FILSAA seeks to change that, and part of that is getting the word out to FI and currently incarcerated folks. Another part is offering as concrete of assistance as possible, and so the money raised will go towards outreach to folks, helping them through the application process, and once enough is raised, an ongoing fellowship for FI folks. All of this takes money, and the school currently either doesn't have the budget for these things or doesn't view it as a priority.

Considering CUNY's mission of "law in the service of human needs," and the numerous intersections of disenfranchisement and obstacles that FI folks face, law school can seem like an insurmountable hurdle or an unrealistic dream. The intersections of racism, classism, patriarchy, and the numerous other forms of oppression perpetuated by capitalism affect everyone, and FI folks are especially vulnerable to many of these methods of domination and control. And that is why FILSAA believes it is especially important to prioritize and assist FI folks in coming to law school. Because no one quite understands the law like those who have been in a cage (or otherwise directly affected by it, criminal penalties are only one of many facets of the hydra that is the law), and their voices and experiences are of crucial importance to help others and continually fighting the injustice of the law."

THE SOLIDARITY ROOM PROJECT

is a New York City based volunteer group working to help pay the living expenses of people seeking asylum in the US who have landed in our city. We are gathering donations to maintain rooms in private homes that offer individuals, couples, or families a temporary stay while they are going through the political asylum application process in the United States, allowing them time and support in a new city and culture. Donate by becoming a monthly supporter, or tapping in to the digital raffle which is full of an assortment of great prizes. Winners to be drawn on April 30th! Find out more info and donate or sign up for raffle prizes here:

https://withfriends.co/the_solidarity_room_project

**A MOLOTOV COCKTAIL
IS A BOTTLE FILLED WITH
THREE PARTS KEROSENE
AND ONE PART MOTOR OIL
IT IS CAPPED
AND WRAPPED
WITH COTTON
SOAKED WITH GASOLINE
TO USE—
LIGHT COTTON
THROW BOTTLE
FIRE AND EXPLOSION OCCUR
ON IMPACT WITH TARGET**

**A "WHITE RADICAL"
IS THREE PARTS BULLSHIT
AND ONE PART HESITATION.**

**IT IS NOT REVOLUTIONARY
AND SHOULD NOT BE
STOCKPILED
AT THIS TIME**

**-1968, UP AGAINST THE WALL
MOTHERFUCKER**

If you have any communiques, analysis, criticism, events, or anything else you want included please don't hesitate to email us:

**THESPAKPLUG
@PROTONMAIL.COM**

SUPPORT MICHAEL KIMBLE: LET'S BRING HIM HOME!

Michael Kimble was imprisoned in 1987 after defending himself and a friend against a white supremacist homophobe in Alabama. This year marks his 34th year of being held captive by the Alabama Dept. of Corrections. He has recently been transferred to Easterling Correctional Facility, and has hired an attorney to aid in a push for sentence reduction with the goal of his immediate freedom. His next parole hearing is set for February of 2021.

In a January interview, he stated:

"There's not much to say about myself, there's nothing unique about me or my situation. I'm a proud Black gay anarchist that sincerely wants to bring about radical change, and when I say radical, I mean extreme and I don't think nothing can be more extreme than the total destruction of this social order, system of domination or whatever you want to call it.

I got locked up in 1986 for the murder of a white guy that wanted to do harm to me and a friend who was out one night walking. We had our arms around each other and this guy started fucking with us, calling us fags, niggers, and all kinds of disrespectful, homophobic and racist shit. When he attacked after confronting him, I pulled a pistol I had on me and shot him. The media tried to turn it into a racially motivated murder and all kinds of things. I really didn't know any of this until I had a chance to view my Pre-sentence Investigation Report (PSI) and this was after I had already been in prison awhile. I took the case to trial and received a life sentence and here I am 29 years later, still in prison because of a homophobic racist. I have no regrets about it."

Donate to Michael's legal fund here: <https://actionnetwork.org/fundraising/support-michael-kimble/>

