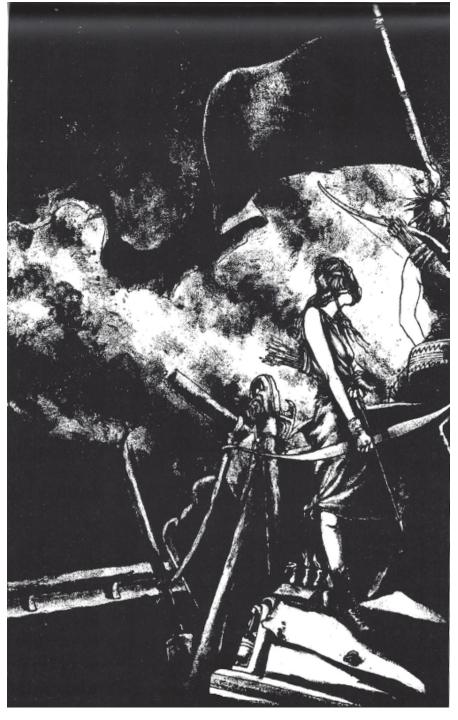
operating system on my phone' or 'I dropped my phone in a pool and had to get a new phone'. That's usually the reason for a safety number changing, but definitely what you want to do is find a different way to ask that, other than using Signal and ideally other than using the phone. Especially if we are worried about cloned phones. Because if you just use a normal SMS text message to send to your friend and your friends phone has been cloned, then it could be the cops responding saying 'Oh, yeah I had to get a new phone'.

BOG: I've seen some people do a
thing where they ask someone in a
group, when their safety number
changed, 'Hey could you leave a
voice memo with your name and
current time that you're recording
the memo and send it into the
loop?' And that way everyone hears
this person's voice, and it's the time
when they specifically get asked to
record the memo so it's outside of
Enemy-Of-The-State-level NSA
level operation that's probably not
somebody compiling an automated
voice message in that person's

CB: Yeah, that's a pretty good method for doing that. As you point out, synthesizing peoples' voices can be done, but taking into account what your threat level is — are you someone who they're going to be throwing everything at and be able to synthesize your voice in a

very short time? For the protest movements we've seen, probably not. However if you are the leader of a protest group, hmm... If you are someone that they're really going to be going after because they think that going after this one person will completely destroy the movement which I don't think is the kind of movement time that we are in right now which is good, to avoid those specific people who could really destroy a movement – that's a pretty good method.

BOG: If you could speak to that prior scenario, is that actually copying the contents of a phone? I think that was the subject of the recent article by Upturn called Mass Extraction --



CB: That's right.

BOG: If you could talk a little bit about what the findings were there. I was kind of surprised yet kind of not surprised to see the local law enforcement here in Asheville spent at least \$49,000, according to their studies, on cell phone extraction tools. But what are mobile device forensic tools, and what do you know about them, how widespread and what kind of stuff do they do?

CB: So these things have existed for a long time.

We've been talking about them at CLDC for a long time but this Upturn report is really wonderful for just as you say, how widespread they are. Small police departments have them, medium police departments spend hundred of thousands of dollars on access to this over the course of 5 years, and some of the capabilities were actually, I suppose, not really surprising. But reading them all in one place and knowing how low cost access to that technology is was sobering.

So these cell phone extraction devices, they come in different forms but the kind that is most popularly seen is a small stand alone device that you plug a cell phone into and that stand alone device either tries to break into that phone if it's locked or otherwise just copies all of the content of that phone for later analysis. Some of the things that were surprising to me was how much was available even when the phone was locked and encrypted. There's a lot of data that is existing in an unencrypted form on your phone.

For example say your phone is locked, you receive a phone call and the name of your contact still shows up, right? It's not the name that your contact is sending you, its not metadata associated with that contact. if your mother is calling you, it probably shows up "Mom" in your phone, and the reason it says that is because your address book has an entry with that phone number and the name "Mom" attached to it. So your address book entries are existing in an unencrypted state, for example.

Some of the other things that were sort of surprising that were pointed out, that exist in this unencrypted state even though your phone was in a locked condition, were Telegram files and Discord files, and files associated with Google mail. I think a lot of this stuff could just be from bad decisions that the app developer made. Like Telegram is not necessarily focused on security, and so for convenience or speed they may just not be hiding that information behind the device encryption.

There was definitely some reporting in that Upturn report about being able to brute force guess passwords and so there are some things that you can do to protect yourself from that, which is to have a long enough password. Or if you have an Apple device you can enable your phone to self-wipe if you have 10 incorrect guesses, for example. Which if you have a small child at home maybe you don't want to do because I almost guarantee you will end up with a wiped phone by the end of the week.

BOG: With encrypted files, if there are messages or what-have-you that are saved in an encrypted section on the phone would that just get copied and saved, and tested against decryption later? Is that the idea?

CB: I think what's happening in most cases is they're taking a copy of encrypted information, possibly in the hopes that they could decrypt it later or in the hopes that they would be able to get the unlock password from you by other means, like a court order for example. You know, they did point to instances where they were still able to bypass security features like encryption because of security flaws, which is very common. If your phone is badly out of date and you haven't been keeping up with installing security updates, always install your security updates. That's a common thing in computer security, that there are flaws that can be taken advantage of that can allow bad actors to break through otherwise strong encryption. But I think if you're keeping an up-todate phone, I think that's the best that any of us can do.

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BOG: Another point that was interesting in the article, and I'm glad that they pointed it out, was the sorts of instances when this is being applied to people. You hear about Apple being pressed to give up encrypted information or give a back door when there's a mass shooting, or a sort of incident that may involve multiple conspirators and the loss of life – something very serious. But in the Upturn article they talk about how through their research and requesting of records it showed that a lot of law enforcement agencies, even local law enforcement agencies, are attempting either to pressure people whose devices they get a hold of or apply for warrants to copy peoples' contents of their phones for minor things that they're being accused of.

Like if it's something like shoplifting or graffiti or public intoxication, petty drug charges, sex work, these are a few of the examples that they give. Considering the way that policing works in the United States, and this shouldn't surprise anyone in the listening audience, police tend to focus their attention on poor and racialized parts of the population. So if law enforcement gets people's data, whether by asking for it and pressuring people into it or by using devices, and then saves it for a later investigation and there's no sort of oversight of this, it seems very likely that the sorts of data that they're collecting could be used to build future cases or for building profiles on people for things they haven't actually been accused of so far.



CB: Yup. Phishing for data. Maybe they're just trying to justify the purchase of this stuff. In Oregon they spend half a million dollars on cellphone extraction technologies, Portland alone spent a quarter of a million in a period of 4-5 years. That's a lot of money to justify, right? If you're only using it 3 times a year for homicide cases then maybe you can't justify actually spending that money and you would just farm out, whenever you do need it for something like that, either to a fusion center or a pay-per-service from one of these companies. So it might just be they're partially covering their asses and saying 'Oh yeah, we use it 10 times a week'.

But we've also seen examples of law enforcement agencies that just collect so much data, almost for the purpose of just having data. The LAPD famously uses Palantir which is a horrible company, to do all sorts of data analytics for their region collecting data on pizza purchases and parking passes and all sorts of things that don't seem relevant at all to law enforcement, but it's almost a compulsion to just collect the data and see what they can do with it.

BOG: Another thing that I had seen was Google was recently in the news when court documents were unsealed in Detroit relating to witness intimidation and arson by an associate of R. Kelly, and this in regards to keyword warrants. Are you familiar with this case and could you talk a little about keyword warrants and what they are?

CB: Yeah, so keyword warrants. I hadn't heard about them before this news story came out earlier this month, but it's not surprising. I certainly was familiar with just how many requests for data Google gets and responds to, affecting hundreds of thousands of user accounts every year in the US. So it wouldn't surprise me if Google, instead of just getting requests saying 'Hey, I'd like to have all of the emails associated with email address thefinalstraw@gmail.com', which seems to be the more straight forward type of request related to a specific account that might be included in a law enforcement issue... probably not though. To expand that to 'Hey, I want to know all of the information you have about people who searched for 'The Final Straw''. So that's the keyword warrant or the keyword search request that happened in this case. We've seen examples of Geofencing warrants

cloning of the network ID or SIM connection could be done. It would be similar to you getting a new phone but having the same number, and that if Signal was installed on that device and it was connecting to the same phone number, by a Man in the Middle attack via a cloned SIM, it would appear that the interception could still be happening but that everyone would see a notation that there had been a change in safety number. Is that maybe what would happen?

CB: Yes. That is perfectly said. Right, so for them to be able to both clone your phone and intercept messages without those "safety number has changed" messages happening would be very, very difficult. So yeah, certainly if there are reports of anybody who's had a confiscated phone and then all of a sudden all of their contacts are noticing that their safety number has changed with them, that would be super interesting to find out. --

BOG: --Or they stopped getting messages.

CB: Also horrifying.

*Laughter

BOG: Yeah. You know, they noticed that they stopped getting messages, everyone notices that the safety number changed, then that means that hypothetically the cloned phone or whatever would now be in those chats.

CB: So I don't know if it's as simple as that, because when you add a new device on Signal all the other devices get a notification of that.

BOG: Oh I see. So if I had a desktop and at least one cell phone that was getting messages... Yeah, but if that device was no longer getting new messages because the traffic was being routed to a different device, you wouldn't like –

CB: Right so, your contacts should at the very least get the notification saying that the safety number has changed. If it's a remote clone I think the only way in

which the cloned phone would be able to read the messages in preexisting groups, for example, would be if the device was physically confiscated and copied. Because there are encryption keys that are used to start those conversations which are needed.

BOG: Do you mean the messages that were in loops before?

CB: No, to continue to receive messages from conversations that had already been going on. If someone started a new conversation after the cloning then the other people in the conversation might not be able to notice, but if you were continuing a conversation that had started before the cloning I don't think you would be able to get that information without having physical access to the device and being able to copy over the encryption keys that were used to start those conversations.

BOG: Because they're being stored on the phone and not on the server.

CB: That's right, yeah. So for example, when you add a new Signal device part of what happens is copying over the encryption keys needed to continue conversations. And there's a QR code that, say if you have Signal on your phone and you start using Signal on your desktop, you link those 2 devices so that both devices are able to receive and decrypt messages that go to you as an identifier.

BOG: If you know that if someone in your group or one of your friends has changed their number, whats a good verification?

CB: Don't message them on Signal, and ask them, right? Because who knows who's answering. Try to find a different form of communication even if its via friend or via a regular phone call, but ideally via email or some other band that is unrelated to your phone would be perfect to ask them, 'Hey, I noticed your Signal safety number's changed, what went on?' Most of the time, or every time this has happened to me, the answer's been 'Oh, I had to reinstall my

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and possibly making a new cell phone that behaves just like your cell phone. So it would allow them to intercept calls possibly receive messages that you were intended to receive.

The scarier version but probably less likely, is the ability for them to be able to do the same thing without having the need to confiscate your phone to do so. That feels unlikely to me that they were doing that. If it was some sort of remote cloning I would gather that they were just cloning the sort of network ID of your phone, and not the contents of your phone. This would still allow them to do things like Mintercept calls, and intercept data, but in both scenarios I think endto-end encryption (E2E) apps that you use like Signal or Keybase or Wire, that enable E2E encryption, I think the messages you're receiving there would still be safe and that the cloned device shouldn't be able to have the keys enabled to decrypt those messages that were

intended for you. And even traffic that is encrypted – if you are visiting a website on your phone that your accessing via HTTPS, where the S stands for Secure – I think that even they wouldn't be able to see the contents of that web page either because there is a key exchange that happens between you and the web server that they would have to play man in the middle on. Which is more complicated to do in a way that you wouldn't be able to tell that something was going wrong.

All that's to say, it's still scary and I think if you have poor encryption practices like keeping your phone in an unlocked form, they have access to all of your encryption keys for things like Signal and Keybase and whatever other secure messaging apps you might be using. You should do whatever you need to do to alert everyone you contact with to delete your contact from their messages, groups, and so on. And if you have a phone that is confiscated – and certainly in an unlocked form - I would not trust that phone again. If your phone is confiscated but it was locked at the time and presumably you have a good password so they can't easily unlock your phone, I would still maybe do a factory reset of your phone and start fresh by installing everything over again.

BOG: So, I'm not sure what the basis of this is, but conversations that I was having with friends when we were talking about the latter of the two instances that you were talking aboutthe hypothetical that remotely the

happening for Google Maps asking for anybody who has searched for an address within a given region, that there were a few stories about over the last year. So yeah of course, the data is there why not ask for it? Google is not going to say no, why would they?

BOG: Basically, again by collecting information based on its availability then attempting to apply it. So in this case with the arson, they asked for people who had searched for the address of the house where a car got set on fire within a certain period of time and then cross-referenced that to a Geofence of what phones were in the area within a period of time, and were able to pinpoint and place charges. And not all of the information came out from that, some of the court records are still sealed. It's kind of a frightening application of technology and as you say, a very happy-to-oblige industry.

CB: Yeah. I think the potential for false arrests and harassment of people, like say you happen to find someone in that area who you don't like for one reason or another you can arrest them and hold them for a while lawyer, am I correct in that? even if you have no evidence.

Harassment arrests are used all the time by law enforcement and have been for decades, centuries probably.

BOG: So I guess... use DuckDuckGo if you're going to be committing an ---?

*Laughter

CB: I would avoid Google, I definitely use DuckDuckGo. I prefer DuckDuckGo for selfish reasons, I find the personalized search aspect of Google to be somewhat infuriating. When I search for something I don't want to find what Google thinks I want to find, I want to find the documents related to my search. It's hard to avoid these tools, but I think DuckDuckGo, anything but g-mail for email please, and there are alternatives to Google Docs as well. Cryptpad seems to be getting better. Every month there are improvements. It offers collaborative online editing to documents, all E2E encrypted.

BOG: I am going to presume with this question that you are not a

CB: I am not a lawyer, no.

BOG: It seems things like

intercepting phone calls, people text messages, or getting deep into their cellphones and all of the information that's collected in them for arguably unrelated topics, might overstep into the realm of FISA (Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act), or might overstep into the realm of one of those amendments that protects our rights against unfair search and seizure. That just doesn't seem to be the case? Or in these instances is it that these methods haven't been brought before courts to be challenged?

CB: Everything I know about the law I learned from CLDC, and Law & Order in a previous lifetime. So what I do know about these from reading various news articles and conversations with CLDC is, as pointed out by Upturn, a lot of the extraction of data from cellphones was based on consent and not a warrant. It was about a 50/50 split depending on jurisdiction. So this was probably the case of intimidation by a cop to a person with a cellphone, to say 'Oh, well let us check your cellphone". I'm not sure if they give full disclosure of what they mean by 'let me check your cellphone', right? (laughs) 'Let me copy everything there is on your cellphone off your cellphone, if

you're not guilty of this minor misdemeanor'. You know, they're just asking permission.

That's one of the things CLDC shoves down the throats of everyone at their trainings, which is <u>don't consent to searches</u>. Just don't do it! Even if they're going to go ahead and do the search, even if you're not consenting to it, say over and over again 'I do not consent to this search'. Have a sticker on your phone that says 'I do not consent to this search'. Because then it can't be used in the court of



law at least. The other thing that we've seen over the years is, parallel reconstruction. I don't know if I've seen a well researched example of this but certainly people have hinted that this a common practice, where they'll find out something via methods that wouldn't be admissible in the court of law and then they figure out a way to reconstruct what they know using admissible methods.

BOG: Oh like in The Wire.

CB: Yeah, exactly. So that's something that might be why they're getting information that they can't necessarily use. The other part is just general intelligence work. It's not necessarily going to be used to arrest anyone, it's not necessarily going to be used in a court of law, but they just want to know what's going on, and so are going to collect as much data as they can. Unless you find out about it and unless you prove harm in a court of law, then how are you going to stop it from happening? Which is why this report about the Google keyword searches and Google Geofencing searches is so important. If we can find out about that and we can get a case brought forth and have it deemed unconstitutional to do this kind of search then that would stop those kinds of requests from happening. Then you could put pressure on a company – even a company like Google – you could put public pressure on them to say 'Don't respond to these requests, they've been deemed illegal'.

BOG: You can write to Sean Swain at his latest address at:

Sean Swain #2015638

Buckingham Correctional

PO Box 430

Dillwyn, Virginia 23936

You can find his past writings, recordings of his audio segments, and updates on his case at seanswain.org. Or now follow him on twitter, @swainrocks.

BOG: So I'm speaking with Cora Borradaile who is on the advisory board of the Civil Liberties Defense Center or CLDC and we spoke before about a range of issues in May of this year, and before the George Floyd uprising and the resulting ACAB Spring. During the uprising researchers, journalists, and activists saw that applications of new, or new to us, surveillance methods were being used by security forces against the populace in the so called US, so I was hoping to pick Cora's brain a bit about this and see, especially since upcoming months in the US also might get a little spicy with the election and all. Thank you Cora very much for taking the time to have this conversation.

Cora Borradaile: Yeah, it's great to talk to you.



BOG: So just to list off a few things, like this summer we saw the use of military drones surveilling and sharing information with law enforcement in Minneapolis, lots of militarized gear being brought out in the streets across the US, or for late May at least protests against police violence, and collusion with para-state white supremacists have been ongoing in Portland, Oregon. In July we saw the deployment of federal officers from the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) including Customs and Border Patrol (CBP), and the Department of Justice (DOJ) sent out to fight against protesters in the streets of Portland and attack and kidnap people. Including journalists from that and other cities. the US Marshalls also had their own aerial surveillance to track crowds in Portland, it came out this summer. On the tech side of things, the public got wind, apparently from leaks within the department of homeland security, that DHS had been cloning activists' cell phones. Could you talk a little bit about this and what cell phone cloning is?

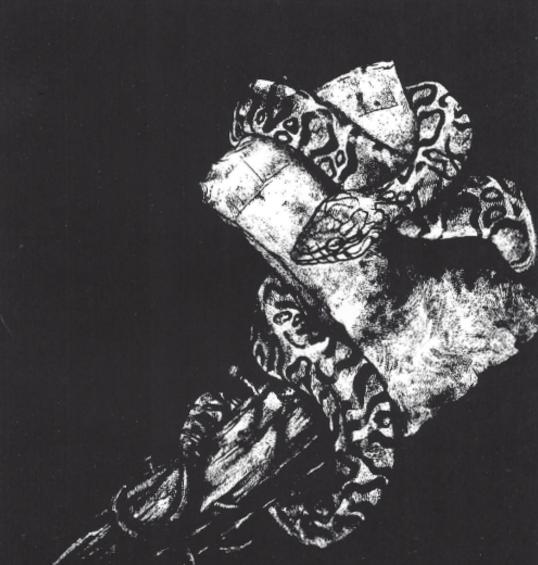
CB: Yeah, from that report their were very few details so a lot of it is guesswork as to what could possibly be going on. I could imagine two different ways in which their cloning cellphones- One which is scarier than the other. The more likely I think, is the less scary version which is if they manage to physically get your cell phone, like if you're arrested and your cell phone is confiscated from you. Even if it's confiscated temporarily, then they're copying everything from your cell phone

Sean filed for clemency with the governor and we told the governor the whole terrible story, and we rallied public support, sometimes more than 100 emails a day went to the governor. We held our breath hoping governor Dewine would see what happened and be moved to give Sean his freedom. It turns out Mike Dewine denied Sean's request back in April, and didn't even tell us until October 21st. Not only did Mike Dewine say the man I am about to marry cannot come home, but didn't have the decency to let us know. That's wrong. This is how Mike Dewine treats non-criminals who didn't even have the benefit of Ohio's current self defense law and this is how he treat their loved ones. Mike Dewine is not a friend to the second amendment, Ohio justice is broken. There is no accountability. Judges break the law, the parole board has no accountability and the

governor allows to continue business as usual.

I need Sean home and so does his mom Nancy, who's elderly. Sean is an only child and his dad died back in March, Sean's mom needs him home. Mike Dewine and his officials neglect apathy, their loyalty to failed approaches that don't keep us safe are ruining the lives of people, people like me. The Ohio governor general the Ohio general assembly needs to pass serious amendments to the courts and to abolish the parole board entirely. And Mike Dewine needs to set up a commission to select prisoners who are suitable for release, so Ohio families don't pay millions for prisonsmore than they do for schools and road repairs, like they do now. I am waiting for my husband to come home. Any help in spreading this message would be

much appreciated.
Thank you.



BOG: There are a couple of other, I guess not insights but points in that Upturn article that I thought were useful. Like if someone deletes information on their phone, are they actually deleting information off of their phone, and are there appropriate or useful, good tools for actually wiping data off of phones or does it just kind of sit there?

BOG: --MAGNETS--

CB: I don't know of a good tool. I think that if you do a factory reset of your phone that's most likely to help make that data inaccessible. Even then, is it actually getting completely deleted? It might not be. You have memory on your computer or on your cellphone, and when you delete something it just kind of takes the index away... I'm trying to use an analogy that people would remember. Do people remember libraries and card catalogs? (laughs) All of my analogies are too old.

BOG: I think it's fair, go ahead.

CB: You think people will remember?



BOG: I think so, or they've heard the analogy enough they'll recognize what a card catalog is.

CB: They've seen a movie with an old-timey library and card catalogs?

BOG: Ghostbusters

CB: So. you have a big library with books on all the shelves and the way you know where to find a book is to go to the card catalog. You look up the book that you want and you find its listed location on the shelf and then you go to the shelf and you find the book. Well now, when you delete a file from a computer, really all you're deleting is the card from the card catalog. So when it comes time to put a new photo in the memory of your computer or cellphone, you go to the shelf and you find out 'Oh, there's supposed to be space here because according to the card catalog there's nothing stored here, so this old data must be something that I don't need anymore, now I'm going to delete that old stuff.' Right, 'I'm going to remove that book from the shelf whose existence was deemed not there anymore by the card catalog, I'll throw it away now and put my new one in.' So it's not until you use the memory again that the old information actually gets deleted.

BOG: At least on computers there's – for instance I had to reinstall my operating system recently. And when I installed it I went to encrypt the home folder and the file system and it asked 'Do you want to overwrite everything else on the hard drive?' Is that what you're talking about?

CB: Yeah, so that would be the equivalent of actually going to all the shelves of the old library and removing all of the old books. So that's pretty common when you're setting up on a computer but I've never seen that option

on a phone. I'm wondering, does a factory reset actually delete all of that information? I haven't noticed that myself.

BOG: Microwaves. I mean I saw –

*Laughter

BOG: Yeah, I got nothing.

CB: Drop your phone in the pool, start over.

BOG: They invented this thing called rice though, where if you put your phone into a bag of rice it extracts the water... and the data...

*Laughter

BOG: Well are there any other things you'd like to share with the audience concerning digital tech or any insights?

CB: I did want to share one thing. You asked about them getting this data, and is this illegal search and seizure. There are still strange laws that date back to the 80's, for example e-mail can be accessed by law enforcement form somewhere like Google with just a subpoena and not a warrant, necessarily. For a law enforcement agency to get information that would otherwise be deemed illegal search and seizure, they need to get a warrant from a judge that proves probable cause for them to get that data or that physical item. But if it's email on a server held at Google then they don't need to prove probable cause and they just need a subpoena which is essentially just a 'Please can I have this information'. I think that's where these keyword searches are coming in, I'm not sure that they actually need to have a warrant for those. So that's maybe one extra detail on that front.

BOG: In those instances it's in one centralized place, although if your doing a keyword search... Yeah I don't know-- I guess I don't know how

Google works on the inside and if it's just constantly categorizing what people are typing into its different services for later use and then providing that in easily digestible pills to law enforcement. If you're sending email and it's unencrypted, it's probably getting Hoovered up somewhere and fully readable anyway.

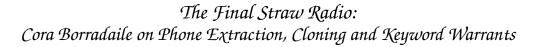
CB: Depends on who your adversary is. I don't think the Portland police department has access to a big Hoover of data on a global scale, but they certainly can ask Google for all of the emails of the activists whose email addresses they've extracted from the phones they confiscated during protests.

BOG: Cora, thank you so much. Cora is an associate professor of Computer Science at Oregon State University with a focus on Security State and The Adoption of More Secure Apps, and also is on the board of the CLDC. Thanks again for having this chat.

CB: It was wonderful talking to you, as always.

You can find archives of each episode of The Final Straw at www.thefinalstrawradio.noblogs.org
Emails can be sent to: thefinalstrawradio@riseup.net or thefinalstrawradio@protonmail.com

Send letters to: The Final Straw Radio PO Box 6004 Asheville, NC 28816



This episode originally aired on November 8th 2020. This transcription has been lightly edited for readability.

Bursts O' Goodness: Airing first on Asheville FM, WSFM-LP 103.3 in Asheville, this is The Final Straw Radio a weekly anarchist and anti-authoritarian radio show broadcasting out of occupied Tsalagi land in Southern Appalachia. We bring you voices and perspectives from projects and struggles all around the world.

This week on The Final Straw you'll hear me speaking with Cora Borradaile who sits on the advisory board of the Civil Liberties Defense Center and works around issues of tech security and movement.

 $_$ Channel Zero Network plug and jingle intro $_$

BOG: And now an update about the condition of anarchist prisoner Sean Swain.



Lauren: Hello my name is Lauren ______, soon to be Lauren Swain. My partner Sean Swain has been confined by the state of Ohio for non-crime for almost 3 decades and Ohio governor Mike Dewine won't set him free. Sean acted in self defense in 1991, killing a man who kicked in his door and threatened his life. But Ohio had no self defense law. The castle doctrine wasn't introduced until after Sean went to prison, and because the man he killed was related to a court official, and because that court official was the chair of the democratic party, the prosecutor -also a democrat- fabricated and concealed evidence of Sean's innocence. When Sean was wrongly convicted of crimes he didn't commit he won his appeal, but the trial court judge also a democrat, refused to give him a fair trial. They went as far as to block him from filing anything in court, making it impossible for him to get out. This is how Ohio courts operate. Ohio courts broke the law to imprison a man who hasn't broken the law. It's mind over matter- they don't mind, and he doesn't matter. And what they did to him they can now do to you.

Because he maintains his innocence and because he spoke out against corruption and injustice, the parole board has made Sean serve an additional 15 years and counting. Parole board members have specifically interrogated his criticisms about the parole system and his political activity, and then gave him more time. He's been punished for nothing more than telling the truth. Sean is a published writer of several books, he has a college degree, and is a certified paralegal. He's never been accused of any violence in his 29 years of imprisonment. He contributes weekly segments to a globally syndicated radio show. His personal papers are archived at the University of Michigan to celebrate his impact on American political culture. However the parole board treats Sean like a terrorist. They do this because they have no standards, no regulation, no statutes they have to follow and they can do whatever they want. Sean is a good man and I love him very much, but the powerful career bureaucrats run Ohio and they don't care about people like us. Governor Mike Dewine enables them.

"El Patron (Second) Waves Goodbye"

by Cop Exclusionary Radical Feminist

I can patronize you, at least two ways, and neither enable the patriarchy.

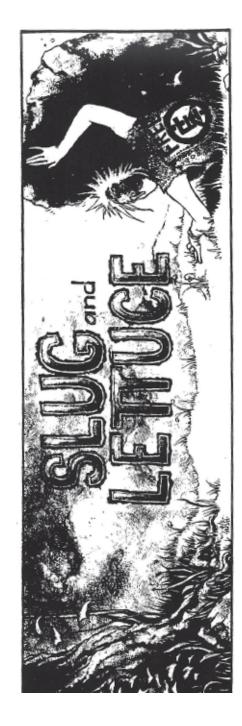
See, I didn't call myself a feminist until I became a John.

I tried to hashtag Not-All-Men my way out the friendzone, when Venmo had the answer all along...

I might be a straight-cis-hetero-fratboi
but I become queer,
(or at least a comrade)
when I pay for pussy,
however I came by the currency...
It has no name on it, like a bullet,
and though I may not be a father,
I can be a Daddy
(Going elsewhere when wifey
won't render certain services,
or simply when that "strange" calls to me)!

I learned that it is the opposite of objectification when I Devil's advocated a passport to first-world fragility out of an anarcho-betacuck on backwards day.

Anti-capitalism itself is victim-blaming, so abolish work (except sex work) and pass the ass...



I paid good money for it.

Notes and Reflections from the 12/12 MAGA Rally 2 in D.C.

By: Anonymous

-Lead-up to event plans (3 Main Steps)

1. a preliminary tactic of call-in campaigns against hotels and Harry's Bar. This happened and there was a lot of public traffic directed toward this endeavor with many many calls made and emails sent, albeit unsuccessfully.

2. A potential plan to keep them from getting to hotels/gathering en masse to easily create the violent situations they have an advantage in. But this plan fell apart in some fashion (we weren't in on planning, so don't know why) and never materialized.

3. A sort of "last defense" effort, and what could be considered most important/the bottom line -to hold and defend BLM Plaza from racist attacks — whether of symbolic targets or human.

Open planning before the event almost solely focused on steps 1 and 3.

Step 1. In hindsight it felt like following the play book – i.e. the call-in campaign to Harry's did not feel like it was worth the effort given their hard stance as a long time cop bar down with catering to the PB crowd, and with such big emphasis on that campaign up front it may have detracted from fully exercising steps 2 or 3.

Step 2 never happened, would have liked to see more use of diffuse tactics that either stymied their numbers overall, or kept them from easily reaching each other later in the day. The former would possibly consist of such tactics as keeping the "I'm openly going" crowd from leaving hometowns and traveling to DC at all, in creative ways. The latter would possibly consist of diffuse medium-sized groups physically confronting them to keep them from joining each other from hotel to hotel, growing their numbers. The big lull in time to potentially get

anything done here was between 2-3pm. What are the main choke points?...

We also have to be honest that the numbers of strikers/fighters never fully materialized to think we could actually win a series of street battles with them if we deployed this type of diffuse fighting tactic. The bloc was strong, but questionable about reaching that tipping point to realistically stymie their ability to gather in large numbers at all. We'll come back to the numbers problem later. It would have also required a lot more intelligence gathering than we saw leading up to this event. The same can be said for on-the-ground, real-time coordination. It's worth noting that police response would likely be very different and potentially have led to either many more arrests or possibly more serious injuries. All that is to say, we should still try and develop some alternative ways to keep them from gathering en masse, where they held a distinct advantage of comfort in their numbers.

-Step 3 is where the bulk of preliminary planning efforts that didn't go into step 1 ended up going. The couple of times we got the chance to do so we were successful, though it is hard to measure that success when each instance was a 3-way fight where we were simultaneously pepper sprayed and attacked by police. The biggest instance of us potentially having to defend the plaza where it was clear police wouldn't be close to stopping the fray, was when we were up at K street and all of the PB's in their greatest numbers and closest proximity were just a half block away. They did not actually step to us though- they truly only seek out confrontation when they vastly outnumber

their targets. In this exemplified moment, we'd estimate their numbers at about 350, and ours at

*It's worth noting, that our Madditional ultimate goal as antifascists is not only to protect $\stackrel{3}{\circ}$ BLM Plaza but in this instance to deal a "loss" to the Proud Boys that keeps them from wanting to come back.

- PB Optics

- The Proud Boys have clear nazi memberships, especially from boneheads and older "apolitical" skinheads, but the public has more of a problem with "insurgent communist" movement (read BLM, Antifa, Anarchist, etc) than with open neo-nazis participating in violent street formations. Their eterrible optics simply don't have the mainstream blow back that we think it does. Maybe this is changing? But doubtful. Currently, being anti-BLM is not equated by most or many

It is more likely that poor PB optics in total does at least pose the no matter how small in reality it opportunity to drive wedges and hopefully splinter them to prevent the larger numbers they can acurrently muster, dissuade other Trumpist/MAGA/Agro-Rightists from comfortability in being around them at rallies, and create infighting and possible collapse $^{\circ}$ overall.

Republicans with overt racism.

*Side note- The wide spectrum of PB membership beliefs, (pro/anticop, multiracial/explicitly prowhite, nazi/conservative) while

certainly a possible point for a war of division between them, may actually lend toward a wider base of possible membership accrual and growth, however unsustainable we hope that might be.

- Low Turnout Key reasons are 1- Aversion to COVID, 2- Lack of Recruitment.
- <u>- Lack of Recruitment</u> We saw lots of the usual suspects, but very few others from peoples' (talking about regional A.G.s here) wider networks. A lot of people from A.G.s took for granted that the same couple of people tend to be the only ones exposed to wider regional spokes discussions, which means around discussions of the importance to go to these things. This leads to the assumption that when you say - 'hey there's a PB thing coming up' – that people will mobilize like they did back in 2017/2018, but nowadays it really isn't working like that.
- COVID We need to come up with (maybe) an action/mobilization protocol in COVID times, because there are definitely ways to safely engage, but with the potential risk, often times is, still keeps so many away. This is especially important with the dynamic of COVID believers vs. COVID non-believers as a major

difference in the background between the mobilizing groups.

- Police – Are we just letting the cops defend us? If the cops weren't defending any of the 3 street entrances to the plaza, we wouldn't have been able to "defend" the plaza very well, contrary to our intention – we would have just been in a large (and at times outnumbered) fight with Proud boys IN the plaza. In hindsight, more planning around and a larger discussion concerning what defending the space really looks like is worth considering. Could 75-100 people at the end of each of the 3 blocks actually have been more effective?

Little intention to keep cops out -People were oddly okay with cops in the space half the time - even after snatch and grabs, police captains were free to both move into and throughout the space, and people made a deal with cops to get out of a situation of potential arrest. This was a non-consensual situation, where one local activist made a deal to have their bloc of about 100 people escorted by police back to BLM plaza. It was super weird to see that same person super-agro yell at the cops as they arrived back, followed shortly by a literal conversation with a police captain in the middle of BLM Plaza- all with little to no heckling of such a weird shitty situation form the 200+ people around. Plus some of those in the bloc that came back were pissed to find out someone made a deal with cops in that situation, without communicating so with them.

Happening across this racist country, by our folks and others by the millions, is ardent resistance to institutions rooted in and geared towards oppressive domination and naked racist violence.

I wonder, did the "Black" prison guard who and dutifully executed his orders, report what actually transpired with regards to the brutally racist measures committed at Soledad Prison on July 20, 2020, via repressive agents screaming "Fuck Black Lives." Did he notify any federal agencies, speak with the press, etc.? Did he later quit, or right-on-the-spot quit his damn J.O.B.?

That's a true "Black" person and/or righteous ally who genuinely cares about the wretched and who has a good heart, i.e., a person who is of a high character, motivated by uncompromising principles. rooted in justice, one prepared to give un-selfish sacrifice, etc.

Without that level and depth of commitment from all quarters or walks of life to include New Afrikan prisoners, we'll go on losing! What must be recognized is that in fact, there is a method to their madness! Their immediate aim was to remind y'all who's in charge! To exert a degree of force so as to "shake shit up," to cause fear and sow divisions amongst those who are inclined to break wide.

However, what they also managed to display, as is happening across this racist country, is their fear! They recognize what's on the horizon as far as our folks and others by the millions being ardently resistant to institutions rooted in and geared towards oppressive domination and naked racist violence, it's called getting ahead of the game, i.e. pre-emptive strikes!

The same was true as regards their reactionary measures post-Civil Rights and Black Power Movements, and indeed that of their deeply draconian response, however cloaked, in terms of when our folks and many others "went up" in 1992! They're ever making assessments and readjusting

their strategies and tactics.

They know and realize conditions shall continually spark major unrest. Based on the dynamics of this system of oppression and exploitation, there's simply nothing that they, those at the apex of this monster, can truly do but to direct their law enforcement agencies and military forces to quell uprisings.

Again, for most of those of the "badge," it is deep fear of our potential for serious and advanced organization, however positive and non-threatening, that actually is the threat! We understand human psychology and deal with folks amongst ourselves who are all image, masquerading cowards depending on their "gang."

Law enforcement is really no different, but, of course, with one crucial distinction, which is: They are organized and trained, even as they have an intelligence apparatus which they rely upon, as far as Uncle Toms and rats amongst us, from here to general society. Beware!

To be continued . . .

"Live to Give, Free of FEAR!"

Study the book "Black Awakening in Capitalist Amerika."

Send our brother some love and light: Joe L. (A'Jene) Valentine, C47779, Centinela State Prison A3-224, P.O. Box 921, Imperial, CA 92251.

Originally published by San Francisco Bay View. Written by Joe A'jene Valentine.



that "there are good and caring" law enforcement folks, is this:

So damn what! A "Black face, white mask" law enforcement official is present or intervenes during the time repressive racist measures are being executed towards securing and advancing the political interests of our oppressors. In terms of pursuing the ruling class's programs and agendas from prisons to general society, "Black face, white mask" remains an active element of the masters-enemies system, unless he or she shows otherwise by deeds.

There are folks who look like us, who have willingly chosen their side and identify their interests to be totally aligned with their brothers and sisters in green or blue, period! Yes, their job is more important than you!

This fact is made bare across the world, where we continually observe those of the "badge" engaged in targeting and controlling the wretched, as this is their primary function and an oath sworn. Just recently, this permanent truth was shown all around the world, same song, by the fact that now former chief of police of Rochester, New York, was attempting to cover up the outright murder of Daniel Prude, until his sly ass was exposed for the "Black face, white mask" that he is!

What did the "Black" mayor over that way express: "I failed," i.e., "I, too, became an unprincipled and willing careerist-motivated Uncle Tom, a complacent and collaborating agent for the Amerikan system of

white male supremacy and capitalism-imperialism."

This is nothing new and shall persist or exist as long as our opportunistic species survives. There'll always be those who look like us but who are really colluding Buffalo Soldiers, Red Tails and Harlem Hell-Fighters, i.e., those who've bought into the deception, if y'all catch my drift...?

We must cease playing with and entertaining illusions. This is what our true leader Frantz Fanon was emphasizing to us in his book "Wretched of the Earth."

Yes, truly, the enemy is within! They approach us with smiles, handshakes, carrots etc., but they're ever subordinate to their masters' programs and agendas. Ask Colin Powell, Susan Rice, Barack Obama, Kamala Harris, Eric Holder, Condi Rice etc. Even the "radical" Liberal, Michelle Alexander, in her book "The New Jim Crow," speaks of the "Black face, white masks" who took full advantage of the sacrifices made by primarily the wretched, in order to advance and secure their own livelihoods – at our cost!

Study the insightful work by Robert Allen, who thoroughly exposes those amongst us, especially and particularly as regards to those of the middle and minuscule Black upper classes. The pattern is the exact same and can be anticipated in all fields of law enforcement, unless you play the willful fool!



Extremely reductive of people's autonomy and the general 3 way fight we were in all day. It was especially weird given that some of our best successes of the night were in battles with the police. . . All in all, it wasn't an abolitionist space. It always should be.

- Gatekeeping – This particular action, people experienced lots of gate-keeping. There were multiple times people were being kept out of BLM Plaza by liberal-types, albeit who were part of the organizing coalition. Before this first example, it's worth noting there was a wide, public call made for people to come to BLM Plaza and help defend the space. This call went out over the internet, over the radio, it was very very public. There was an emphasis on this plan to garner mass-defense of the space in planning specifically to avoid small groups of BLM supporters and antifascists to be out in the streets without larger support given

how the violence against them transpired after the 1st DC MAGA rally; i.e ending in stabbings and beatings of comrades and locals.

Upon arrival at BLM Plaza in the morning, about 30 people with SURJ were holding the space, with a loose line along the cement block perimeter of BLM Plaza (the accessible part we were in all day). When we walked up to join them, we were 1st asked to walk around. When we said we were there for the event and to help hold BLM Plaza like the event asked for, we were asked who we were, who we knew, where we were from, and what organization we were with. We were not allowed to be in the space. This lasted for about 30 minutes, which we spent talking to those we did know from all of the prior organizing efforts we were a part of, to figure out why this was happening. It seemed especially dangerous because we didn't know how many people had been there before us and were met with the same rebuff. Eventually, the gatekeeping liberals messaged the only person from the A.G.s present and waiting who had a phone (who only had it because they initially planned to attend by themselves, imagine THAT rebuff scenario...).

There was eventually an apology made. At the end of this apology, it was said that because there were 4 people presenting as white men currently in front of them (this was not the original group rebuffed but now some people from the 2 groups rebuffed who happened to know each other), we should have expected to be met with distrust... This might be true in some instances, like predominantly black or brown held spaces but coming from a literal space dominated by 95% whiteness and Patagonia jackets, and after a clear and potentially dangerous (for us) misstep on their part- it was received as gross liberal over-posturing.

There were at least a few other instances of gate-keeping throughout the day, and that coupled with the pass police were given to be in the space was... a dubious and disheartening beginning.

4

To be frank, between the gate-keeping experience and constantly hearing ahead of time how bad action days are there in DC, there is already a recipe to keep people away from answering calls to come out.

Quick Note on Gear-While its great to wear protective gear, lots of plate carriers were worn incorrectly. Both exposing you to injury, and to back problems from continual incorrect wear. Also, proliferation in tactical equipment should not necessarily include tactical aesthetic. Bloc is useless with poor opsec – super identifiable. KExample: Dorner Tactical patches, spotted on doxens of people—it's an etsy store, remember how ties to an Etsy store were used for identifying a person of interest in a Philly police car fire this summer. Tactical gear can and should be used, but without making you a target.



- DC Mobilization History

There is a history of people's personal experiences that reflect on DC actions as lacking in tactical decisionmaking, poor prior communication with the outside who've been asked to come in, and local coalition communication breakdowns that leave locals stung, visitors confused, and everyone in more danger.

A metaphor from our perspective as attendees- DC mobilizations are like leg day. Few want to do them regardless of how important they might be. But in actuality, when you do actually go – if you don't come away injured – you are definitely learning and growing a muscle you can't get exercised in any other way... Weird metaphor – but we're keeping it here...

- ***DC activists should be very self-critical about past organizing shortcomings (especially ones that very much remain present shortcomings) if they want to help build a better base of regional support and active participation.
- What is the role actually of more seasoned antifascists?

-It might be contentious to say, but the rebellion/acceleration is still going in many ways. How many shootings and stabbings were there Saturday, from actions across the country? There is still a huge swell of rebellion happening in the streets. In this moment, it's turning into a bit more of a confrontation with fascists in the streets. Remainders of the George Floyd rebellion are still most of those who are in the streets, and they have just as much if not more experience than 2017/2018 antifascists might've had in fighting police. At least in many places. Sure there are more seasoned antifascists who've also either participated all-out in this year's rebellion or comes with lots of prior experience in police battles from further back. And there might be less experience for antifascists in fighting police overall, but where the burgeoning rebels currently still motivated to hold it down in the streets do fail, is in raw confrontation with reactionary street forces. These need to be amalgamated! We as antifascists need to step forward in a robust way, lets think about how to both recruit for the antifascist side of things and mutually share/learn each other's strengths for the ever-developing 3-way-fight ahead.

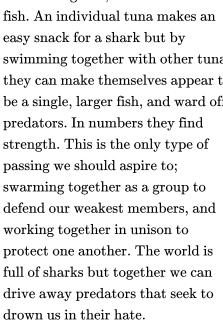
for a Spooooooky



animal kingdom, that of a school of fish. An individual tuna makes an easy snack for a shark but by swimming together with other tuna they can make themselves appear to be a single, larger fish, and ward off predators. In numbers they find strength. This is the only type of passing we should aspire to; swarming together as a group to defend our weakest members, and working together in unison to protect one another. The world is full of sharks but together we can drive away predators that seek to

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Check out more at wussymag.com



We've all probably heard the relevant sayings, "One bad apple, can ruin the whole bunch" and "The fruit doesn't fall far from the tree!" Yes, the tree being symbolic and indicative of the root, i.e., the very essence from whence the lone apple originated or fell. That's the nature

of what we're actually confronted with in terms of the orientation

regards law enforcement across the fascist-authoritarian board.

which is systematically ingrained and promoted – i.e., reinforced – as

Know Your Enemies From Your Friends

By: Revolutionary Prisoner Joe A'jene Valentine

All else is ... illusion!

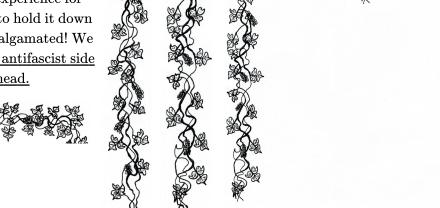
There is no doubt that during the Nazi Germany genocidal onslaught there existed some "good" and "caring" Nazis, in the sense of some folks actually being under, or rather, not under, the brainwashing ideologies, but merely feigning conformity for purposes of self-preservation, since standing out like a sore thumb could be a very dangerous problem under conditions where the vast majority around you dutifully swim in authoritarian compliance.

It's a basic and simple fact that under every oppressive order there were and are those who morally oppose the status quo, as I am sure was the case when our ancestors were being made to endure the barbarity that was slavery – direct colonial domination in white face.

Yes, there were also "good" and "caring" overseers since for some, it was simply a matter of economics. They, too, were born into a manufactured reality that was constructed via the powers that bepowers which created the socio-political conditions for even overseers to "get in where they fit in" or succumb to poverty etc., feel me!?

Yep, their behavior and opportunistic thinking was definitely at the huge expense of Black folks, and for that, those of this nature are to be condemned. In other words, even as there are those who are "good" and "caring" people on a moral level, let us not ever be blind to the fact that, unless their "goodness" and "caring" goes beyond morally identifying and showing empathy or sympathy, it only amounts to nothing of real value as far as not being committed and active participants, however covertly, in assisting to eliminate the oppressive institutions or in the very least to serve to undermine their effectiveness.

My basic point is, particularly and especially as directed to those among us who persist naively, yelling or taking the incorrect position



as a caterpillar, knowing I was a woman inside but passing myself off as a man to blend in. Every word I spoke and every action I took first ran through a filter to make sure it appeared masculine enough. It worked, I was passable. For many years I walked the world safely concealed within my disguise. It took great effort to maintain the illusion, to pass myself as a man, and created great pain within. Anyone who got too close would be pushed away, lest they discover my true self. But no matter how hard I tried, no matter how many people I fooled, I knew I was not that man. Eventually the time came for me

to shed my passing privilege and become the me I had always known myself to be. I didn't transition so I could pass. I stopped passing so I could transition.

Now I simply am.

It doesn't matter if stubble still peaks from under foundation or breasts still show through a binder.

Trans women are women and trans men are men. The fear and hate of the outside world cant change that.

Let's stop selling ourselves short, but instead embrace our true selves and our true beauty. We do not pass, we are.

There is one other type of passing present in the



All artwork in this issue of Hellbender

is from

HUSH

Issue 1,

an Illustrated Work

out of so-called Asheville.





HOROSCOPES

Pisces - It's about time for that crumpled up surgical mask you've been using since March to be put to rest. The Rona is here to stay, so lift your spirits with some new masks.

Taurus - Winter is here, the
revolution hasn't come and you're
living in a pandemic. This is a perfect
time to sew a new patch over the
mouth hole on your ski mask and
continue to rev-LARP. Stay safe and
stay dangerous!

Scorpio - When your polycule was trying to figure out who was in and who was out of the pod, you took that shit seriously. Getting that P100 not only secured your spot, but it's paid off all summer long when the tear gas cannisters flew. Good thinkin' Scorpy.

Aries – As soon as your favorite Etsy seller posted their ACAB flower design masks you were all over it. It's cute,

Now, it's just time to upgrade from that digital camo to some Mossy Oak.

edgy, and says exactly what you want at the socially distanced fire hangout: "I'm horny af, but safe about it".

Sagittarius – To you, the bandanna look is timeless. You've literally been wearing them with various outfits for years. No need to change now!

Cancer - Is that a scarf wrapped around your face? Bet that Elliot Smith is playing in those air pods too. Sure, it's a seasonal, hipster look. But the real win is hiding that public cry in plain sight, with warm knit wool catching your tears before they even have time to fall...

Virgo – It's no surprise you prefer to rock the gas station camo gator, Virgy. It's practical and tactical! Now, it's just time to upgrade from that digital camo to some Mossy Oak. <u>J. g. J. s</u> <u>COVID-19-tastic</u> <u>Afro-Nihilist</u> Insurrection Playlist

Solarized - "Dreamcatcher" Yves Tumor - "Dream Palette" Saul Williams - "Before the War" Zeal and Ardor - "Tuskegee" BLACKIE (All Caps, With Spaces) - "Not Part of Their Plans" Nicole Mitchell and Moor Mother -"Vultures Laughing" clipping - "club down" Pink Siifu - "FK" dreamcrusher - "PSA" Primitive Man - "Consumption" Listless - "No Remorse" The HIRS collective - "I'm Tired (featuring Pierce Jordan)" Soul Glo - "29" La Armada - "Plagued" Ho99o9 - "Chris Dorner"

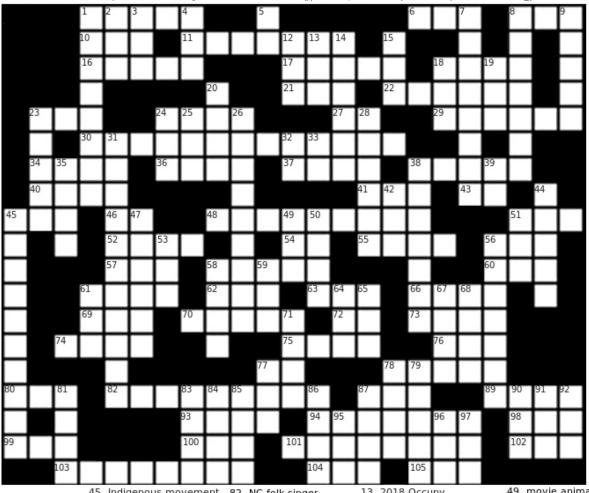
Capricorn – The N95. The cr! me de la cr! me. It was definitely worth the steal from work, Cappy... even if your face looks like fuggin' Beldar from The Coneheads.

Libra - It's likely you have the same mask that didnt fit your face back when Covid popped and... it still doesnt. For the love of god, the shoestring tie behind your head is not a good look. Functional, sure. But we live in a material world. Find a better fit.

Gemini – You really are a gem, Gem. You've been a DIY kid for years, and when corona hit town you got to sewing masks for all your buddies, the mutual aid project, and quite a few for yourself! Sharing is caring and you're no Karen.

Aquarius – You've been know to wear 2 masks at once and you're definitely the one seen driving by yourself still wearing your mask. You'd wear one of those plague doctor masks if you didn't hate steampunk so much!

Leo – So many masks, masks everywhere! They're stashed all over and not just because you've dramatically forgotten them on crucial trips before, but because you never know which design will go perfectly with today's outfit. And sure, you've perfected the Smize – but the right accent below those babies is crucial.



ACROSS

- . Gay boy
- AIDS activist group,
- B. Taxi
- 10. Helps ya move the boat
- 11. The Noah's Ark of the radical autonomist
- 16. What Red Guards might do to your table at the bookfair
- 17. Caustic
- 18. Genesis console company
- shooter, slang term for a little ass gun
- 22. Meeting structure with limited reps from each
- -cities, on the TN
- 24. AVL housing helpers 27. The only good cop
- 29. Shady 30. Marcos of the EZLN
- 34. Abrev. mail header. 36. To hide a thing for later
- 37. Busta banger
- "Everybody 38. Quickly take (as a
- glance) 40. Growing vigorously
- 41. Local bus acronym 43. 1 of 4 states close by

- 45. Indigenous movement from the 1960's
- 46. commonly circled letters 48. Tit family member
- with a black cap 51. Aussie anarchist poet
- 52. This Bike Is a
- 54. 1 of 4 states close by 55. PGH version of vall
- 56. 'Fuck Your Stuff' MC Will Editions
- 58. Mountain to Sea 60. To bop, or knock 61. painful peepee issues
- 62. octopus projectile 63. Kudzu, ea -catcher, device
- for mobile eavesdropping
- 70. "America was never
- 72. 2 Encryption,
- 73. Subject of slaughter

76. Bar game prop

in Chicago

alledgedly used to stab

78. Crew of celebrated

80. Noted antispeciesists

antiracists Dan & Spit.

back at nazi "Trigger" Ton

- in a Killiov title 74. PDX riot food 75. Ambulance personne
 - ange
- 77. 1 of 4 states close by. dance
 - 12. east coast rap,

- 82. NC folk singer Cotten 87.Pork-filled steamed
- 89.Ego
- 93. November 2019 uprising locale 94. What a cell-like
- structure might be missina? 98, prefix meaning nev
- 99. selfie, eq. 100. Sisters of the Val
- weed grower 101. What cool kids call
- those who read that Kropotkin book?.. 102. What you hope 99 Across doesnt lead to 103. less volatile fue
- than gas 104. Sea. in Nantes 105. Reciever of stiches or cute lil cuddle buddy
- DOWN
- 1. local enemy, or team 2. sex posi song of the
- 4. zoomer?
- 1 of 4 states close by Jean-Luc Picard fans
- Gas Link Expressive lapanese

- movement target
- 14, hop 'em or ride 'em with ur buddy Grease Trap
- 18. Cry for help 19. 1 of 4 in late NYC punk venue of fame
- 20. Gay 23.Local indigenous rebel. prophet and martyr of the
- early 1800's 24. State infiltrators,
- abbrev. 25. ATL nickname prefix 26. Jada Pinkett hospital
- drama series based in RVA 28. Local harm redux collective 31. local antifascist punk/
- metal/dbeat outfit, almost... (typo= minus "in" 32. campy, horror flick,
- 33. Transhumanists love it 35. Gut rot band aid
- 38. Graffiti artist's pizza 42. place to steal camping
- 44. 56 across rap duo FOUR

off to "love and rage

45. outdoor gathering as a radical response to an event, perhaps 47. Alternative e-mail sign

- 49. movie animation tech
- 51. Traditional Hawaiian dish
- 56. anarchist hacker, fka
- 58. spare ender, or iron
- preceder
- 61. Yang Gang desire 64. where to take Fluffy
- when they get worms 65. "Move Yourself!" prog
- 67. Fool's gold
- 78. 1492 Back Lane
- 81. what the, who the, how
- 83. infoshop staple
- 85. a source of harm or ruin 86. Indiana crew known for
- 87. donut shop buy,
- commonly
- -Lo Green

- debuting in 1988 film Willow
- Tankies, perhaps
- 59. common abreviation for
- rock crooners
- 71. camper's crib

- 84. "Let's go for
- fucking up nazis
- 90. finish 91. Turtle with a blue mask.
- 92. glowing fungi, 95. Dungeon Family member
- 96, period

50. Hacker linux distro

77. common countdown start



A periodical of anarchist ideas, stories, art and fun.

Passing Thoughts On Passing By: Unknown

I can still remember the first time I heard the words. "You look totally passable. I'm so jealous." I was attending my first local transgender gathering when an older lady approached me with praise. I knew the term, but this was the first time someone directed it at me. I took it as most do, as a great compliment and sign of success. I came home that night feeling so proud of myself. I hadn't even started HRT and I was already passable! How lucky I was! And I was certainly lucky. By virtue of genetics and youth I was able to blend among the cis easier than most. That night I was too thrilled by my own success to consider the deeper meaning of the words. As I matured however, I began to take a more nuanced view of passing and the culture it breeds.

Passing is such a simple phrase, spoken often, but filled with meaning. I have seen it slip from many lips, including my own. The word is ubiquitous within our community, and is one of the most damaging phrases which permeates our culture.

Passing, you see, implies pretending. To pass is to convince the world around you that you are something different from what you are. When we claim passing as a mantle of success we sell ourselves short. Passing is in fact the very thing from which so many of us have run. Elsewhere in the animal kingdom passing is common. Predators and

prey alike use camouflage to pass themselves off as things they are not. The mantis passes itself as a stick, the caterpillar as a leaf, the stonefish as a... well, you get the point. Each of these of these animals blends themselves into their surroundings to survive. But the mantis is not a stick; it has merely adopted its appearance to better stalk its prey. The mantis matches perfectly with the narrative that is pushed so aggressively by anti-trans bigots, that trans women are not real women but men trying to trick others to take advantage of them. When we talk about ourselves in reference to passing we play into this narrative. One must wonder if the animal kingdom is filled with anti-mantis activists decrying the way they pass themselves as sticks and leaves to lure in unsuspecting young grasshoppers. In the insect world such a protest might just be justified. Unlike the mantis though, trans people are not predators. We are not pretending to be something else to better stalk our prey. We are not the mantis; we are the leaf. Applying the term passing to a trans person makes as much sense as it does for a leaf. A trans man does not pass as a man any more than a leaf passes as a leaf. The leaf is a leaf and the trans man is a man.

In reality, passing is the very thing countless trans people have fought so hard to escape. Like so many of my trans sisters and brothers I lived the first half of my life