



POST OFFICE BOX 110034 BROOKLYN, NEW YORK 11211

Updates for March 13<sup>th</sup>

## **2 Feb – A Belated Happy New Year and Update From Marie Mason**

*We really dropped the ball and somehow missed Marie Mason's update and warm Happy New Year wishes. We've pasted it below.*

### **MORE:**

Hello and Happy New Year!

It's been a little more than a year and a half since I was transferred to the Admin Unit at Carswell. Many folks have written wondering if I was in the hospital here, and no, I am not. The Admin Unit is just part of a larger compound that has a major medical center for the Bureau of Prisons. This unit is completely separate from both the compound and the medical center. It's actually more difficult to see most medical staff from here because of the security detail that must accompany any of us if we leave the unit for any reason.

It is a very small world here; only some 20 women are housed here in complete segregation from general population. It is a mixed unit and serves as both death row and as a kind of control unit. We are fortunately not locked down as often as the men's units are, as policy in the BOP is different for male and female prisoners.

I have been able to maintain my vegan diet, mostly at my own expense until recently, and will continue to do that. It has been easier to get a more healthy and varied diet here than before. The Carswell kitchen has consistent vegan options for meals with a few exceptions, as beans and rice and vegetables are mostly available.

Carswell is far enough from everyone I know that it makes it hard for people to visit. It's expensive to travel, it's intimidating to come here I'm sure...But my family and my friend Julie have all made the trip to get here, things went well and it was good to see my loved ones. Mostly I have been struggling to keep up with folks through mail and email. I have had some trouble these past few years with lost letters and such, but have resolved to track and increase my communication this year. If you have written a letter, or signed one of the wonderful message cards (after an animal rights convention, at the [Heartwood gathering](#), from a prisoner support letter writing night)- thank you so very much and please know how much I appreciated your kind words and encouragement! I've been so happy to hear about walks in the woods (how much I miss being in the forests!), amazing bike rides, photos of animal friends and beautiful natural places and descriptions of all the great campaigns to save forests and animals, to stop nuclear pollution and to halt the [Keystone Pipeline project](#)!!!! You all rock with a vengeance!

Tomorrow I will turn 50. It's a mile marker and a time to reflect on my life. Like all humans, I've made mistakes and have some small regrets. But I am still an anarchist, a feminist, an internationalist, a [Wobbly](#) and community organizer, a passionate [Earth First!er](#), and am still proud to have played my part in the Earth Liberation Front and Animal Liberation Front's work to defend the wild and our non-human brothers and sisters.

My life has been spent in many movements, and all seem to be part of the process of necessary change. That experiment in social change is still ongoing and we must all keep trying, keep contributing what we can. My body is trapped here, but my heart is with you still fighting out there. Never give up, never give in, keep your minds open to inventing better compassionate ways to make change happen. And write when you can. I'm a mom, I worry about all of you out there.....

As Woody Guthrie used to say, take it easy...but take it.

And here's a new poem by Marie:

(Entropy)  
What do you see  
In this Winter face?  
The imminent decomposition of the unbeautiful?  
Even so, even in that  
I see that all my pieces  
Have their own story.  
My hands have worked a brand of  
Entropy  
That is much more sociology than  
Physics.  
My body has bourne children  
Who fly away from me  
In becoming of themselves.  
This body burned and burning,  
Flies apart in exothermic birthing,  
Molds again in endothermic coupling,  
Touches ground and stretches to the sky,  
Dissipating heat.  
My hands move across the page  
With words this time,  
The taste, the sound of them  
Drips, mists, rains in torrents,  
Common-tongued as a storm on a street corner;  
Cursed and shared and necessary.  
Fingers pushing colors from my eyes into images that speak,  
Or pulling the taut metallic strings of a guitar,  
And waves flowing between notes  
Falling from my lips  
Join with the air,  
Steam rising, molecules  
Dispersed to dance,  
Becoming something new,  
Somewhere else,  
Again.

## **10 Feb – Memories of Maroon by Mumia Abu-Jamal**

*Here's the transcript of a recent radio piece by Mumia that focuses on Russell Maroon Shoatz.*

### **MORE:**

His name is almost legendary: Russell "Maroon" Shoatz, an affiliate of the Black Panther Party, activist and Black revolutionary.

My teenage memory is sparse about him, other than what read in the paper (and largely disbelieved.) As a member of the Black United Liberation Front, I prepared a leaflet in his support, calling for letters to be written to him.

Occasional news flashes intervened, but such reports became all the more rare, and his name faded into the mist of memory, of all except his family and closest comrades.

Until 1995, when I was transferred to Greene's ominous Death Row. Folks assumed I knew him, although we'd never met. Again, we saw each other sparingly, until a cool day, perhaps in 1998, when we were near each other in the 'yard'

(actually, the 'cage') separated only by two walls of fencing.

He praised my newest book, *Faith of Our Fathers*, (Africa World Press: 2004), a study of African- American and African spiritual traditions.

I was thrilled he read and enjoyed it.

The next time I saw and really talked to him was Friday, December 9, 2011, around 7 a.m., the day after I left Death Row.

We both tried to ignore the biting sub-freezing temperatures in t-shirts, boxers, under thin, flimsy orange jumpsuits, with 'yard' lasting only an hour.

Even though not formally on 'the Row', I unconsciously expected 2 hours of yard, but Maroon knew better. He launched into an analysis of the Occupy Movement that left me stunned with his brilliance, insight and succinctness.

I thought to myself, 'whoa! This guy has thought long and deeply about this; I've got to sharpen up my game!'

According to Maroon, this new formation showed how technology has transformed not only communications, but organizing itself. It cut out the middleman--went straight to the potential activist, and convinced him or her to engage or disengage. He explained that this new social medium gave impetus to organizing in Tahrir Square, Cairo, but also in the U.S.-based Occupy Movement.

Organizing would never be the same, he said.

For 3 frigid mornings on C pod, Maroon and I met for just under an hour, and I left impressed each time.

For here was a man who was arguably one of the longest-held Black political prisoners in America (with the possible exception of former Black Panther, Chip Fitzgerald of California)-- unquestionably one of the longest-held men in Pennsylvania's solitary for over 30 years --and although nearly 70 years old, his mind was as sharp as a cactus, informed, analytical, intuitive, acute.

Three days--three hours--and then I was gone.

Maroon--writer, historian, and theorist--remained, as he does to this day.

His loving family continues to fight for his release from the tortures of 'the hole', by making people aware of the plight of Maroon.

### **26 Feb – Mumia Awarded Frantz Fanon Prize**

*We are proud to announce that on Sunday, February 26, Mumia received the 2012 Frantz Fanon Prize in Paris. Mumia's brother, Keith, accepted the prize at the ceremony on behalf of Mumia.*

#### **MORE:**

Pictures of the event will follow. Below is the link to the powerful 17 minute statement that Mumia recorded for the occasion and which was played for those who attended the ceremony. Congratulations, Mumia, on your getting yet another well-deserved honor! We look forward to the day when you can receive these honors in person.

<http://www.prisonradio.org/media/audio/vision-fanon-mumia>

### **27 Feb – New Songs for Oso Blanco by Rock Band Martyr Index**

*We got word through comrades with South Brooklyn ABCF that a band called Martyr Index has a new song about Oso Blanco. You can listen to them online at the links below and stay up to date on the call-in campaign for Oso Blanco via*

the SBABCF link, also below.

**MORE:**

[http://www.facebook.com/martyr.index?sk=app\\_2405167945](http://www.facebook.com/martyr.index?sk=app_2405167945)

<http://www.myspace.com/themartyrindex/music/songs/oso-blanco-26362177>

And support Oso Blanco by calling USP Lewisburg- updated info here-

<http://sbrooklynabcf.wordpress.com/2012/02/04/stand-up-for-captive-cherokee-warrior-oso-blanco>

## **27 Feb - Support Antifascists Arrested Protesting Neo-Nazis in Harrisburg, PA!**

*There has been a lot of antifascist activity lately, no doubt in response to the ever growing rise in openly fascist organizing. At the end of a counter to what was being billed as a "national day of protest" by various white supremacist organizations, an antifascist from Philadelphia was arrested. This came after neo-Nazis menacingly approached the antifascists, with every intention of assaulting them. Showing their true colors, police rushed in to defend the neo-Nazis and arrest the antifascists, leaving the white supremacists free to walk the streets while the antifa was carted away to jail.*

**MORE:**

As part of a supposed national day of protests organized by various fascist groups, over a dozen neo-Nazis appeared at the state capitol in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania today to "to arouse the attention of mainstream media to the rapes, murders and other horrendous ATROCITIES our brethren in South Africa [read: white racists] endure on a DAILY BASIS."

Antifascists from across the region organized to counter this insanely racist propaganda the neo-Nazis were attempting to spout, trying to both shout them down and block their signs so their hateful rhetoric would neither be seen nor heard.

In the end, an antifascist from Philadelphia was arrested after the neo-Nazis menacingly approached the antifascists, with every intention of assaulting them. Showing their true colors, police rushed in to defend the neo-Nazis and arrest the antifascists, leaving the fascists free to walk the streets while the antifa was carted away to jail.

We do not have much more information at this point, but we are being told that the person arrested is being charged with simple assault, possession of a concealed non-lethal weapon and at least two other charges. His arraignment is scheduled for some time tonight - probably after 9PM. We will have the exact bail amount and more information then. In the meantime, considering the number and severity of the charges we do know about, we are starting to fundraise bail money.

The easiest way to donate money is through a GreenDot Money Pak. Money Paks are a simple and easy way to anonymously send money varying in amounts from \$20 - \$500 (\$1100 at Wal-Mart). We prefer MoneyPaks over Paypal because of Paypal's history of disabling accounts with little justification, and because the MoneyPak method is almost instantaneous.

How to Send Money via MoneyPak

A Money pak is a consumer product in which you pay a retailer money and in return receive a 14 digit number. You can then give this to us and we receive the money. Fast and anonymous (assuming you pay with cash).

1. Find out where your nearest retailer is that carries these cards. This is as easy as visiting <https://www.moneypak.com/StoreLocator.aspx> and putting in your zip code. Unfortunately Money Paks are only available inside the US at this time.

2. Go to that retailer, you will find the Green Dot Money Pak were you will find other various PrePaid cards for phone, online games, gift cards, etc. You are looking for Green Dot Money Pak (Not the prepaid visa). Do not get the card that looks like a prepaid credit card.

3. Now take the proper card up to the front counter (Some are scratch off some are just a scan and its printed on a receipt for you) and they will ask you the amount you want place on the code/card tell them the amount and then there's a \$4.95 fee added by the retailer and that's your total.

4. When you are done. go ahead and shoot us an email to [nycantifascists@gmail.com](mailto:nycantifascists@gmail.com) with the 14 Digit code.

Anything you can donate would be helpful! And please pass on the word! If you need to donate in some other, please contact us at the email address below and we'll work something out.

## **28 Feb – Updates on Camille Marino**

*Camille is now out on bail and we've provided a chronology of updates below to help you keep track of her case.*

### **MORE:**

#### UPDATE 1:

I heard from Camille's attorney this evening. She is now at an undisclosed "holding facility," in an unknown location. They wait until they have a number of prisoners going in a certain direction before they send them to their destination. She is expected to arrive by the end of this week.

The Motion to Dismiss will be heard by a Judge this Friday, March 2, whether Camille is there or not. Please get the word out to supporters: Motion Hearing for Camille Marino, Friday, March 2, 2012, at 8:30 a.m. before Judge Richard Halloran.

I would like to have a presence of supporters in the courtroom. I would also like to hold a rally in front of the courthouse at 8 AM to show our support and expose for all to see the horrors being perpetrated against dogs by Wayne State and O'Leary. I will let my limited contacts in the area know, but this will only be as successful as the local AR/Rescue community makes it. Please spread the word to anyone you know in the Detroit Michigan/ Windsor Ontario area. I will give any help I can regarding the wording of signs and informational flyers to distribute. The PCRM site should offer plenty of support.

I have asked Karen Kline to organize this effort as our Michigan representative and to interact with Camille's attorney re legal advice. Remember, we want to vigorously assert our First Amendment rights, while following the law.

#### UPDATE 2:

I just spoke to Karen. She talked to Aggie, who was with John Royal, Camille's attorney. She said Camille will be bonded out for \$500. I have not yet spoken to John, who is very busy, but will email him as soon as I finish this. Since Camille is not there yet, Karen will call the jail to find out the earliest we can get Camille out. Must speak to the attorney before I know more. Sounds good though! One more thing. I have not found a volunteer in the area to allow Camille to stay with. Karen might not be able and is about an hour and a half away from Detroit. If anyone has contacts in The Detroit area and knows of a trusted person who would be a suitable host, let me know. We will pay for Camille's living expenses.

#### UPDATE 3:

Camille's next hearing will be Wednesday, March 7th at 9 AM in Courtroom 1801 at the same Courthouse as last Friday's hearing. It will be to pursue the Motion to Dismiss, which was postponed so Camille could be there.

#### UPDATE 4:

Here is the latest. The attorney visited Camille in the Wayne County Jail. She is in reasonably good shape, but endured an arduous journey, spending most of her time in a county jail in Kentucky, from which the transit company rents space. Conditions were not good. Camille did not suffer any mistreatment beyond that.

She must appear in court tomorrow for arraignment. Apparently this is routine for Personal Protection Order (PPO) violation cases in Michigan. This particular PPO Court usually has a backlog, so we don't know when she will be arraigned. Her attorney will not be available tomorrow morning due to personal reasons, but he will find a colleague to represent her.

For some reason, the Wayne County Jail does not have a record of her bail. There are a number of possible reasons. The attorney discussed what she should say and gave her all the paperwork for her to present to the court tomorrow and to confirm the bail order, issued by the judge on Friday. Karen will be there at 9 AM, ready to bail her out, if that is possible. There are some issues which might cause a delay, but the attorney thinks we have a very good chance of getting her out tomorrow.

#### UPDATE 5:

It looks like Camille will be bonded out today. Her attorney plans to bond her out personally. Karen will then meet with them to take Camille to her home, where she will be staying while in Michigan. If all goes well, Camille will be back online tonight.

#### UPDATE 6: "While I'm Out On Bond"

After 31 days in jail, I was bonded out last night and am staying with my comrade who founded (and recently resurrected) NIO (Negotiation Is Over) Michigan. I will be in court tomorrow but will not discuss my case at this point. I think it is safe to say, however, that while I was incarcerated; my closest and most-trusted associates removed certain information from this website because countless other activists and cells picked up the mantle while I was down. I am proud to be a member of the NIO community — one where we are all engaged in a war and we all have each other's backs. Thank you to everyone who has organized campaigns to address those that have stepped forward to demand our attention.

Additionally, I am overwhelmed by the outpouring of love, support, generosity, and concern that has been extended to me. I am at a loss for words that convey the depth of my gratitude and sincerity. Without your support — all of the thousands of you that have stepped up — I would be at the mercy of the enemy. Rather, I have never felt stronger or more determined to push forward. Thank you!

As far as jail goes, please know that there is nothing to fear. If we need to take a hit here and there to fight for the animals, then we should accept it as simply an occupational hazard. Remember, Mandela sat in jail for 27 years in his war against Apartheid. Walter Bond stood unrepentant before the court after taking out three animal torture businesses and said "I'm ready to go to prison." Fred Hampton said "You can jail the revolutionary, but you can't jail the revolution." And I'm drawing my inspiration from these freedom fighters that came before me. We all need to adopt this mentality. There is nothing they can do to us that remotely compares to that which the animals are forced to endure. And we are at war!

While my future is uncertain at the moment, I want to be extraordinarily clear about this. The best way in which you can support me is by boycotting UF. I am asking the almost 15,000 activists who signed [the petition](#) to actively go into your communities and get the UF Boycott underway in every high school across the country and abroad. This is not a "petition" to ask or beg the enemy for some crumbs. We are submitting it to no one. It is simply an instrument through which we may organize, mobilize, and focus ourselves on one single issue. And with 15,000 of us working to kill admissions to UF, we are an army. We now have muscle and it needs to be flexed. We must take this opportunity to show the enemy what we're made of. We can and must force UF's hand, liberate the monkeys, declare victory, and move on to take the vivisection complex apart piece by piece.

The harder they hit us, the stronger we will come back every single time. We are unphased. We are focused. We are NIO!

### **29 Feb - Urgent Action for the Cuban 5**

*Roberto González, René's only sibling and an important member of the Cuban Five's legal team, is gravely ill with*

*cancer in a Havana hospital. Although René has served his unjust sentence of more than 13 years in U.S. prison, as a punitive measure he is being forced to serve probation in the United States. As a result he is unable to be with his brother at this critical time, unless he receives special permission to do so.*

**MORE:**

His attorney Phil Horowitz has filed an [emergency court petition](#) requesting permission for René to return to Cuba for only two weeks to visit his brother in the hospital. The petition states, "Over the past nearly five months since his release from incarceration, the defendant has faithfully complied with each and every condition of his supervised release." Horowitz tells the National Committee, "The motion that is being filed is not unusual; it is common for a defendant to seek court permission on an emergency basis, to travel internationally for health concerns of a family member."

René, as well as the other four, should be allowed to return to Cuba immediately and permanently. However, in this emergency we ask you to **contact President Obama and urge him to immediately allow René to return to Cuba for two weeks as a humanitarian gesture.**

You can also call the White House at [202-456-1111](tel:202-456-1111) to make the request. Please act now!

**1 Mar - Bail Fund and Update on Antifascist Eric Desouza**

*Eric, along with two other comrades, was arrested at an Antifa action in Sacramento on Monday Feb 27, protesting neo-Nazis at the state capital.*

*He has been charged with six different counts, and multiples of some. His bail has gone from \$30K the day of his arrest to \$100K. Video has surfaced showing he is innocent of the charges they are sticking him with — he is clearly being made an example of. He has since been bailed out, but still faces very serious charges and needs ongoing support.*

**MORE:**

Below is an unedited message (except for the name at the end) from our Bay Area ABC comrade after his visit with Eric Desouza

*“Yo. I just got back.*

He is doing pretty well. Trying to sleep as much as possible. He got an email from the Oakland Werewolves and said it was huge in lifting his spirits – he said to keep them coming. He says he loves all of us and is incredibly thankful for everything we are doing. I let him know that when he goes back into the cell and its quiet and he isnt sure if anyone is thinking about him that I am literally 6 blocks away and have him on my mind and am working towards getting him out.

I was honest w/ him about the seriousness of his charges and that given the bail he may be in longer then expected. He said he feels like he can hold out for 2 more weeks and then psychologically would need to get out.

I shared as much as I could remember from your email but they wouldnt let me take my fucking notes into the visit. He laughed good and hard about Comrade Eric, The Nazi Slayer FB event.

A few key things:

1) He wants his parents to know how much support he has on the outside (us, other individuals supporting him, the A-R Crew, ABC BA, NLG etc), to show them that he was in the right. He says that they should be willing to put in \$5k or something close to it and would likely be will to put in more if they know others are also putting in \$ to get him out.

If we can take what his folks put in, combine it w/ what the A-R Crew can put in and then try to set-up a donation fund and see if we can start to get close to the \$10k – hopefully by that time it will have been reduced a little. I am going to see if we can get the ABC BA site set-up w/ a donation piece.

2) Related to # 1, he thought it would be good if I contacted his parents about our visit and talked to them, try to see if they could come up on a day off and visit him at the jail.

If yall can come up Friday maybe I could trek back down to the bay with yall and we could talk with his folks together? This might also help show them that he has a lot of support.

3) I told him that I would either stay in Sac or would keep coming back out here to make sure his 2 “social” visits per week were filled-up. So we could at least just talk and get him out of his cell twice a week for 45mins each time.

I think that is all – I couldnt take any fucking notes during our visit so its all a memory game.

I need to get some dinner – feel free to call me anytime tonight after like 930. Generally, you can reach out anytime you want.

Love and Solidarity to you and (name deleted). As if we needed this one more reason to tear this shit apart..

*(name removed by BA ABC)*

Eric's new charges as far as we know are:

PC 148(A)(1) Misdemeanor

RESISTING OR OBSTRUCTING PUBLIC/PEACE OFFICER/ER TECHNICIAN

PC 185 Misdemeanor

WEARING MASK/DISGUISE FOR UNLAWFUL PURPOSE

PC 245(C) Felony

ASSAULT GBI PEACE OFFICER OR FIREMAN LINE OF DUTY

PC 404.6(A) Misdemeanor

URGED RIOT/OTHERS TO COMMIT ACTS FORCE/VIOLENCE/BURNING

PC 600(B) Misdemeanor

INTERFERE WITH AN ANIMAL USED BY A POLICE OFFICER

PC 69 Felony

RESISTING EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

Bail: \$100,000.00

Sacramento, CA: Comrade Eric “The Nazi Slayer” released

The Nazi Slayer is OUT! Released from the concrete maze of caskets back unto his friends and loved ones arms, and sadly, also back into the acidic masquerade of existence under hegemonic power and control of exchange, capital and the bare minutia of everyday life.

With solidarity and love many Comrades gave as much as they could in the unfortunate form of capital as well as in thought, time and effort. Many sent messages of solidarity and encouragement. That coupled with a flexible bail bonds “person” released him back into the wild as he begins to heal, reject the victimization of the State and start the more-formal self-defense against the farce of “drive-thru” “justice” imposed on us by this mechanistically bureaucratic apparatus of captivity and death.

In a world where most ask, “What if I get caught?!”, Comrade Eric asked, “What if We get free?!”.

The charges being leveled are serious – including felony assault w/ a deadly weapon on a cop. Solidarity actions, messages of support and encouragement and adding to the bail and defense fund are all welcome, and will be reciprocated until we are ALL free.

Bail/Defense Fund:

<https://www.wepay.com/donations/186193>



## 1 Mar – “The Many Faces of Vanier” by Mandy Hiscocks

2010 Toronto G20 “main conspiracy” prisoner Mandy Hiscocks has been sending out blog entries and we’ve included the latest ones below. We’ve also included a mainstream news piece on the popularity of Mandy’s blog.

MORE:

### The Many Faces of Vanier

a few weeks ago i wrote about the overly scheduled and tedious days here. for the most part every day is the same, but every so often little things happen. this post is a look at the more random events of the past few days - the good, the weird, the completely fucked up. behold the many faces of Vanier!

FEBRUARY 23rd

as i write this we are locked down because a new 32 inch flat screen TV is being installed on the range. it seems like a strange thing to spend money on for various reasons, among them:

-the old TV was missing a button but it worked fine;

-we seem to have a shortage of socks, sheets and size small clothing on a fairly regular basis; and

-inmate workers are "paid" in chocolate bars and little perks like a later night-time lockup (read: not money)

some people arrive here with no way to call anyone because nobody they know with a landline can or will accept their collect call. there's a phone in the Arrivals cell block - i wonder how many one-time non-collect calls the jail could have paid for the cost of the TV? but now we have cable. . .i guess it's good to have priorities.

now, despite the fact that we have this fancy new TV, it's definitely not all comfy and luxurious here. i know there are some people who believe that the government has a "hug-a-thug" approach to jails (i know this because prior to coming in here i often read the comments on mainstream news websites, which is quite a scary thing to do). anyway, this is really not the case. it's cold - almost all the time - and we barely get fresh air. it can be hard for some people to get the medication or medical attention they need, or access to a lawyer they can afford. the legal process and our rights while we're here aren't properly explained. neither are the rules, although we're quickly yelled at or punished for breaking them. so yes, we have a new TV. . .but maybe they could work on the basics too.

this seems like a good time to dispel a myth that i fear i've encouraged by asking someone to start a facebook jail profile Mandy InVanier and writing this blog. THERE IS NO INTERNET OR COMPUTER ACCESS HERE. at least not in any wing i've ever been on. i have no idea what's going up on facebook (argh). as for the blog posts, they are handwritten on lined paper bought off canteen, with tiny little pencils. then i mail them to the amazing Ali who types them in and post them to the website created by the also amazing Justin. so many, many thanks to Ali and Justin! and please, if you ever hear anyone marvelling at how great it is that there's internet access for Vanier inmates, please set them straight.

FEBRUARY 24th

today i was sitting at a table writing a letter when i heard a loud crash. an inmate, incredulous, was marching back to her seat - "did you fucking see that!?" - after the guard slammed the hatch in her face when she asked for the mail - "don't tell me how to do my job!" (now, to be fair to the guard, she was quite busy. she'd been reading a magazine at her desk all morning and probably really wanted to finish it.) so now the inmate is getting louder, reaming off insults and asking whoever was paying attention if we saw what just happened - "did you see how she treated me!?" some of us are looking at the guard with our what-exactly-is-your-problem faces or shaking our heads at this most recent display of bullshit. she comes onto the range and yells at the inmate to go to her cell.

-what for?

-GO TO YOUR CELL OR YOU'LL GO TO SEG!

("seg" is isolation, aka "the hole")

she goes to her cell. more what-exactly-is-your-problem faces, some head-shaking, mutterings about what an asshole this guard is being. the guard is following her to her cell and they're having an argument. i hear the guard say "because you're inciting a riot." (oh, please. not one of us, to our shame, has said a word. the inmates wants to see a white shirt - a superior - "ASAP". the guard doesn't like that and calls for backup on the radio.

-what the fuck for?

-because of your bad fucking attitude.

(nice. very professional.)

she goes into her cell and the guard, red-faced, gets on the radio to the guy in the control bubble. "put a deadbolt on her door." this is so that when the doors buzz open, hers won't. the guard leaves the range with a huge grin on her face like she's been wanting to power-trip on someone all day and THAT WAS AWESOME. she's laughing with another guard - i'm expecting them to high-five each other any second.

later, the white shirt arrives to hear the inmate's complaint. she and the guard go to the cell, and after a brief conversation they lock the inmate back in and leave. shamefully, again, nobody stands up for her. later i go past her cell on the way to the bathroom, and she's standing at the window. "do you want a witness?" i ask. "i'll do it." (too little too late, mandy, you coward). and now the guard is pointing at me. <sigh>. i go over.

-when someone is on lockdown, you don't talk to them, or you go on lockdown yourself. do you understand?

-(gritting teeth) is that all?

-yes.

(right, piss off then.) i go to the bathroom.

the fact is, she could've locked me down - or worse - for anything or nothing. clearly there's no recourse to reason, even when a superior is called in. we're completely at their mercy. and then had anyone stood up for me, they would have been locked down too - or worse. a woman at my table said it best: "i don't get involved. we'll always lose." still, the lack of solidarity was unsettling. we all knew full well who was in the wrong. in my world, people are willing to confront heavily armed riot cops in order to de-arrest someone - often someone they don't even know. surely we can do a little better in here?

[note: i don't want to give the impression that most or even many guards are like this. this one's a gem, that's all.]

FEBRUARY 25th

back in the summer of 2010 one of my male co-accused who was next door at Maplehurst called jail "the world's most boring summer camp." read the next snippet from my life with that in mind. . .

during breakfast a guard came in to tell us that "today is a special day at Vanier. we're going to have Vanier Idol." wings A, B and F (the regular maximum security wings - not psych, seg, protective custody or medical) would be competing in a singing competition. the prize: a movie screening later in the day. we were to be ready by 10:45 when impartial judges (guards from other units) would be coming in to choose the winning range.

there is now absolute pandemonium. i'm feeling conflicted (not to mention slightly nauseous).

it's nice that the guards thought of something fun for us to do and took the time to make arrangements. but i'm always wary of the blurring of lines - after all, we are their prisoners. they didn't put us here but they work for the system that did, and every day they stand between us and our freedom and communities. still, most inmates were grateful for the opportunity to do something fun for once, and the organizing and practising started right away.

the process was interesting, on the outside, forced with decisions such as 1) who will sing? and 2) what will they sing? the first step would be to gather all the people interested in participating, make a circle, and have a meeting. that's not how things work here. while there aren't really gangs or exploitation of newer inmates, and nobody officially "runs the range", there are some times when the hierarchy becomes apparent. this was one of those times. immediately a couple of people took charge.

"who can sing? (some hands go up, some are acknowledged and some are ignored). "okay, you, sing. EVERYONE BE QUIET! okay, go. louder. SHUT THE FUCK UP PEOPLE!!! okay, good, stop. now you."

and so on, until a group of people have been selected by the self-appointed leaders, the potential songs have been picked and the group goes to the back of the range to rehearse. as always with decisions not made by consensus. not everyone is invested in the project and about half of us drift back into the normal morning things: phone calls, chores, exercise, shower, cards. personally i'm pretty glad i don't have to participate, this kind of public performance thing being my own private hell.

there are a lot of people here with really great voices, who sing beautiful songs beautifully. alas, Amazing Grace and Lean on Me were considered but not chosen, beaten out by a pop song i'd never heard. half the range participated in the contest either by singing solo, singing backup or dancing and snapping fingers.

in the end, in true Vanier we-are-dealing-with-children style, they declared us all winners. all three wings would get to see the movie at some point over the weekend.

cheers, high-fives, general ruckus.

and then normal jail life resumes.

Mandy Hiscocks: Diary of a jailed anarchist (Corporate News Article)

Amanda "Mandy" Hiscocks, a G20 activist serving jail time, is writing a blog chronicling her life behind bars.

In her online journal "[bored but not broken](#)," Hiscocks muses on prison time ("my biggest fear is that I'll become a cynical, nasty person in here"), complains about the quality of the underwear ("the cheapest kind known to humanity") and dismisses the possibility of early parole ("they want to see remorse, of which I have none").

Web developer Justin Saunders, whose organization hosts Hiscocks's site, says her first post had "over ten thousand" visits within the first few days.

"It's nice that so many people are interested," says Hiscocks by phone from the Vanier Centre for Women in Milton, Ont. "But it's uncomfortable."

She should have known her blog would be an instant hit. Prison diaries are a hot commodity. Earlier this year, rocker Courtney Love, Lil Wayne and U.S. student Amanda Knox, who all spent time behind bars, announced multimillion dollar deals to release their memoirs.

But Hiscocks, in accordance with her anti-capitalist beliefs, chooses to use her material as an educational tool, not a money-making one.

"In this day and age of conservatism, fear mongering and [Bill C-10](#) ("Safe Streets and Communities Act") it's really important for us to have a good understanding of who's in jail and what purpose it's serving," wrote Hiscocks in January. "I hope I can contribute to that."

Last November, the 37-year-old veteran activist from Guelph pleaded guilty to counselling to obstruct police and counselling to commit mischief — or, in the words of fellow activist Monica Peters, "to do [smashy-smashy](#)."

Hiscocks is serving her time in unit 2F maximum security at the Vanier Centre. Leah Henderson, another G20 activist who pleaded guilty, is down the hall in 2A.

"I can see her," said Hiscocks, "but we're not allowed to wave or smile at people in other ranges."

She writes her blog on paper in prison, then sends her entry by mail to a friend who types and posts the entry online.

"Not much has changed since the summer of 2010," writes Hiscocks in a Jan. 29 entry, "just some little things, like now we get compostable 'ecotainer' cups instead of Styrofoam, and instead of real soy milk there's this horrible smart milk non-dairy milk replacer powder. Kosher, vegan and gross."

In jail, Hiscocks craves her political news fix. "For someone who used to watch [Democracy Now!](#) every day and read [The Dominion](#) on a regular basis this is quite a shock to the system," she writes.

Hiscocks describes her daily routine in a February entry titled "home, home on the range," deploring the afternoons when the television is on.

"This is the time of Really Bad TV: Jerry Springer, Maury Povich, Silent Library, Scare Tactics," she writes. "It's painful, and hard to get away from, but I'm getting better at tuning it out."

Still, it's not all bad, she writes: "My fears of a shelf full of Harlequin Romance novels and Danielle Steel were unfounded!"

At times, the blog is personal, such as when Hiscocks recalls her cellmate — a loyal Scrabble and backgammon partner — commenting on a lockdown. "We're not getting out any time soon. And we still don't know why. As my cellie likes to say, 'We're just mushrooms, they like to keep us in the dark.'"

Hiscocks says the reaction to her posts so far has been incredible.

"I've had really, really good feedback," she says. "People seem to love the blog."

un/welcome distractions (10 Mar)

at the moment i'm being distracted by the bad pop music coming from the TV. as well as being bad, it's muffled because once again we're on lockdown and it's coming through the door of my cell. my cellie got out this morning so i'm all alone in here, you'd think that would help me focus on work but instead it seems i'm distracted by the lack of distraction.

it looks like we might be in here all day. all day i will be forced to look at the sticky bun sitting on my window sill. will i eat it? or will i save it for later? such are the Big Questions in the air here in Cell 12, Unit 2F.

sitting on the bed beside me is the Globe and Mail. as distractions go, this one is a huge hit. before i came here, when i was thinking about how to make the sentence productive, i thought up three campaigns. the first was to get a newspaper onto the range. check! success. a little bit of asking around on my part and a lot of work on the outside by my good friend Ali and a sympathetic Globe and Mail staff person, and now every morning i trade in the previous day's paper for the new one and feel a little bit more part of the world. according to one guard, we "pulled off quite a coup" because newspapers haven't been allowed on maximum security for some time. it's a coup that's very much appreciated by others on the range who take turns reading it.

for now, i'd like to tell you about a very unwelcome, albeit somewhat fascinating distraction from last week's tedium: my unexpected visit with John Dyer of the Provincial Operations Intelligence Bureau of the Ontario Provincial Police.

when he walked into the Professional Visit room, he just looked at me with an awkward half-smile. who is this guy? he looks familiar. . .i wait for him to introduce himself. . ."hey, do you remember me? i'm John -" ah, yes, 2008. right. "yeah, you're John Dyer, from the OPP." i'd been wondering when these folks would show up.

so last week he was "in the neighbourhood" and thought he'd come to see me. "because, you know, i've known you for quite awhile now, since 2002 with the squat in Ottawa - "(huh. that long? interesting.) "and i just wanted to come and see where your head's at these days." yes, John old buddy, i'm sure you did.

i first met him while detained at the Guelph Police station after being arrested following a road blockade back in November of 2008. he showed up with another officer, in plain clothes, to talk to me. "when i saw you in Guelph," he says to me last week, "we talked. . .we had a good conversation that day." (oh did we really? because as i recall it ended rather abruptly, with me walking to the door and telling the Guelph cops to "get these people the fuck out of here.") "yeah," i say, "when you wanted me to snitch on people?" he looks offended. "well i wouldn't say that." but in fact, John, you DID say that - on the witness stand at my preliminary inquiry:

-what was your mandate that day?

-to get information.

-you wanted to turn me into an informant.

-yes.

-so you drove all the way from Ottawa to try to turn me into an informant.

-yes.

it's true that one of us talked at length that day back in 2008. he talked at me about all the things he knew about me and my life (it was shocking at the time), and about things that had been going on in Guelph in the last little while and that, presumably, were under investigation. he told me that the cops had no problems with the type of activism i was involved in, but "you know, sometimes people come into your community and start doing things you don't agree with, and that when you and i can work together."

actually, John, no. THERE IS NO SITUATION IN WHICH YOU AND I WILL EVER WORK TOGETHER.

i remember feeling insulted that he'd even try this with me - don't these people have psych profiles on us? what in my profile could have led him to believe i'd ever be a snitch!?

the one-sided conversation last week didn't really go there, although he used similar tactics as he had back in 2008. there was a lot of name-dropping - of people i know, places i'd lived, events i'd been at (yes, i know, you've been spying on me, i get it). strangely, he gave me advice on how to question a witness on the stand - perhaps to show me how friendly and helpful he can be? there were allusions to my intelligence, and his disagreement with the "eco-extremism" label in many cases, and to our shared belief in social and environmental justice. at some point i get tired of doing the clenched-jaw-grit-teeth-stare-coldly look and interrupt: "are you recording this?" he laughs - "no, of course not." yeah, of course not, because that never happens. silly me.

several times i state that "i have nothing to say to you. go knock on the door, we're done here" and he replies "sure, i will, i will" and keeps talking.

by far the most surreal part of the visit was when he started to share his own (not necessarily real) feelings and beliefs about the environment, activism, and what types of organizing are really effective. Clayoquot Sound, Elizabeth May ("I know, some may say she sold out"), and so on and so forth, until "you know, all that Hanlon Creek Business Park stuff. . .I just don't know why they didn't focus on something specific, like Nestle. i mean, everyone knows we shouldn't be drinking water out of plastic bottles. that's something the whole community could've gotten behind." clearly he hasn't done much research into this, or he would've known about Wellington Water Watchers, but i don't tell him that. instead i say "well then maybe you should start that up." alas, "in my line of work they frown upon that." no doubt. "well then," i suggest, "maybe you should choose what would benefit society more." and then, incredibly, he tells me that he only has a few years left on the force and that maybe when he's done he'll get involved. "i'll come and see you again then."

yes, why don't you do that. an ex-cop who spied, tried to turn people into agents of the state, and then helped put a bunch of folks in jail? not really the kind of person we need on our side, fuck you very much.

### **2 Mar - Jordan Halliday Transferred to FCI La Tuna**

*Several folks have told us that the letters sent after the letter-writing dinner we had for grand jury resister Jordan Halliday were returned. Part of the reason might be that he has been transferred. Again. Please resend your letters, or write new ones, to:*

**Jordan Halliday #15922-081  
FCI La Tuna  
Post Office Box 3000  
Anthony, Texas 88021**

### **3 Mar – Kickstarter Campaign for Oscar Lopez Rivera: Between Torture and Resistance**

*Resistance in Brooklyn (RnB) have a new campaign to raise funds in order to publish the English-language edition of Oscar Lopez Rivera: Between Torture and Resistance.*

#### **MORE:**

Our goal is to publish, in cooperation with renowned human rights activist and author Luis Nieves Falcon, the English-language edition of the recently published book Oscar Lopez Rivera: Between Torture and Resistance (San Juan, Comite pro Derechos Humanos de Puerto Rico). It is the story of one of Latin America's longest-held political prisoners, a Puerto Rican pro-independence activist who was convicted of the political "crime" of seditious conspiracy, not of harming anyone. Lavishly illustrated with photos of his life and artwork (he has become a painter during his now over thirty years behind bars), the book is an easily accessible introduction to U.S.-Puerto Rico relations and contemporary prison issues.

<http://www.kickstarter.com/projects/573856605/oscar-lopez-rivera-between-torture-and-resistance>

### **4 Mar - Support Needed For Anti-Fascist Dane Rossman**

*Dane Rossman, of Tucson, AZ, is in need of urgent support in the face of multiple felony charges stemming from an anti-nazi action in November of 2010. In a worst case scenario, Dane could be looking at over 20 years in prison. Let's not have that happen.*

#### **MORE:**

As of right now, Dane is out on bail and attending scheduled court dates until trial in May. No plea offer has been made so far and it remains difficult to tell how aggressively the state is pursuing the charges. Dane and his supporters are currently attempting to obtain private counsel and strongly feel that this could be the best route for things to work out as well as possible for Dane – that is, to keep Dane out of prison.

Not just in the particularly hostile climate of Arizona, but across the country, people are resisting organized white supremacists, the state, and their collaboration. We stand in full solidarity with Eric Desousa, recently arrested at an antifa action in Sacramento, California. More information on Eric can be found from [Bay Area Anarchist Black Cross](#).

Please help out Dane in any way you can, financially or otherwise, and forward this information to anyone interested in the ongoing struggles against white supremacy and fascism.

### **5 Mar - Five Lakota Arrested for Forming Blockade on Pine Ridge Reservation**

*Five Lakota were arrested on the evening of March 5<sup>th</sup> in Wanblee, South Dakota when they formed a blockade to halt a convoy of trucks going through the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation.*

#### **MORE:**

At issue was there were two trucks that appeared to be hauling pipes through the reservation on their way to Canada. The new trucks that were delivered in Texas from South Korea were carrying pipes used for tar sands pipeline. Totran Transportation Services, Inc., a Canadian company apparently wanted to avoid paying the state of South Dakota

\$50,000 per truck or \$100,000 to use its state highways. Instead Totran Transportation thought they would use the roads on the reservation. Some 75 Lakota thought otherwise.

The two trucks marked “oversize load” on them had in its convoy several pick up vehicles that were first spotted on the reservation in the late afternoon.

Once alerted about the convoy and its whereabouts, Alex and Debra White Plume decided to go and stop it. They were joined by others who formed a human blockade.

The human blockage halted the trucks. The White Plumes were told by the truckers that they had corporate authority to utilize the BIA roads.

“There are actually a number of laws that should protect Indian tribes from those who cite corporate authority,” said Charlotte Black Elk, a well known attorney activist from Manderson, South Dakota.

“I told them nicely we did not want any trouble,”

Alex White Plume told the Native News Network late Monday night.

“But we were determined not to let them use our roads. The chief of police for the tribe told me that he was told that the FBI was prepared to arrest me and pick me up and take me to jail in two white vans.”

White Plume and his wife, Debra and three others were arrested and charged with disorderly conduct and taken to jail in Kyle, South Dakota. The others arrested were: Sam Long Black Cat, Andrew Ironshells and Terrel Ironshells. Several reports on social media reported that Tom Poor Bear, vice president of the Oglala Sioux Tribe was arrested. This proved to be not true.

The five arrested were released on the personal recognizance bond.

“I was the voice for my grandchildren,”

said an exhausted Debra White Plume from home after being released from jail. White Plume was arrested last summer in front of the White House while protesting the Keystone XL pipeline.

The Oglala Nation and all American Indian tribes in South Dakota have adamantly opposed the Keystone XL pipeline that was routed through the Pine Ridge and Rosebud Indian Reservations that would cross the Oglala Sioux Rural Water Supply System in two places.

Late Monday, it was reported the Eagle Butte Indian tribal council met to decide to form a human blockade on their reservations if the Trotran convoy attempts to come through their reservation which is north of the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation.

### **6 Mar - FBI Visits NYC Antifascist Organizer**

*Earlier on Tuesday, March 6<sup>th</sup>, 3 FBI agents paid a visit to a local NYC activist while he was at school. They claimed to be investigating hate crimes and neo-Nazi activity, stating as cops always do, that they were on his side. They asked how antifascists get information on fascist activity and things of that nature, and also mentioned a neo-Nazi demonstration that was countered by anti-fascists last year in New Jersey. This is as good a time as any to remind everyone that if you're approached by cops or feds, ask for their business card and tell them your attorney will be in touch. Then seek out either the National Lawyers Guild or, locally, the Peoples Law Collective.*

#### **MORE:**

It seemed to the person they were talking to that they either had or were going to attempt to talk to other antifascists. They claimed to be from a regional group and that they were on the road right now. They also refused to provide their business cards, but eventually wrote down a name and number on a piece of paper. It just said "FBI, Lisa, 212-384-5000 - that number looks to be a general number for the FBI's NYC Field Office.

More information will be forthcoming, but for the time being, we wanted to get the word out about this FBI visit so that people can be prepared if indeed these agents are going to be visiting other people. Everyone should take the time to refresh themselves on their rights when it comes to interacting with law enforcement:

- You have the right to remain silent. If you wish to exercise that right, say so out loud.
- You have the right to refuse to consent to a search of yourself, your car or your home.
- If you are not under arrest, you have the right to calmly leave.
- If an FBI agent comes to your home or workplace, you do not have to answer any questions. Tell the agent you want to speak to a lawyer first.

Most lawyers agree the best way to handle a visit by law enforcement is to get their card and then shut the door. There are many reasons why speaking to the FBI is never a good idea. We recommend everyone read the primer on dealing with law enforcement called *If An Agent Knocks*, available online at

[http://ccrjustice.org/files/CCR\\_If\\_An\\_Agent\\_Knocks.pdf](http://ccrjustice.org/files/CCR_If_An_Agent_Knocks.pdf)

### **6 Mar - Jeremy Hammond Arrested -- Lulzsec "Leader" Sabu Cooperating with FBI since June**

27-year-old Chicago man was one of five alleged computer hackers charged Tuesday, March 6<sup>th</sup> for crimes relating to high-profile cyber attacks against major corporations and government entities, under the groups Anonymous, LulzSec, and AntiSec. A sixth alleged hacker has pled guilty in the case. We've pasted a mainstream news article below.

DRE:

Jeremy Hammond was arrested late Monday in Chicago.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation confirmed that it raided a home in the 2900 block of South Quinn in the Bridgeport neighborhood.

Authorities have been investigating Anonymous, a decentralized international collective of "hacktivists," or people who use computer networks for political protests and other actions. Anonymous is connected to a number of related groups, including LulzSec, Internet Feds and AntiSec.

According to federal authorities, Hammond identified himself as a member of AntiSec. He was charged with counts of computer hacking conspiracy, computer hacking and conspiracy to commit access device fraud. Authorities said he conspired to hack into the computer systems of Stratfor, an Austin, Texas-based intelligence firm that conducts geopolitical analysis for governments and other clients, in December. Hammond and fellow AntiSec members stole confidential information, including employee e-mails and account information for about 860,000 Stratfor clients, according to authorities. They also allegedly stole credit card information for about 60,000 users and made \$700,000 in unauthorized charges.

According to federal authorities, Hammond was known online by a variety of monikers, including "Anarchaos," "tylerknowsthis" and "crediblethreat." AntiSec members had posted a document with links to the stolen Stratfor information on a file-sharing website and called it "Anonymous Lulzsec rooting you proud," affirming their relationship with Anonymous, authorities said.

During an appearance Tuesday in federal court in Chicago, Hammond was ordered removed in custody to New York to face the federal hacking charges there.

After the hearing, as he stood in a narrow hallway, Hammond appeared curious. He asked deputy marshals if he could keep a copy of the criminal complaint since he had no idea about the charges until his arrest Tuesday morning.

His lawyer, James Fennerty, said he considers Hammond a likable man with strongly held beliefs.



Among the groups Hammond is connected to is LulzSec. The Internet term "lulz" is a variant of "LOL," the well-known abbreviation for "laughing out loud." Lulz typically is used in connection with Internet pranks and trolling or disruptive and inflammatory online behavior designed to provoke emotional responses on forums such as message boards.

Authorities say the member of LulzSec, Anonymous and Internet Fed who has pled guilty in the case is Hector Xavier Monsegur, a 28-year-old New Yorker. Federal court papers in his case were unsealed on Tuesday in New York, revealing that he pleaded guilty to 12 charges in August.

In addition to Hammond and Monsegur, federal authorities identified four other men connected to Anonymous and LulzSec who were charged with computer hacking and other crimes: Ryan Ackroyd, Jake Davis, Darren Martyn and Donncha O'Ceirbhail.

Monsegur and other members of Anonymous took responsibility for a series of attacks against commercial and government computer systems between December 2010 and June 2011, according to a statement from the U.S. Attorney's Office in New York.

Federal authorities said Anonymous has been operating since at least 2008. Some of these attacks took the form of denial of service, or DoS, attacks, which involve overloading a computer network so it can't provide its regular service. In one of the attacks, Monsegur targeted Visa, Mastercard and Paypal to disrupt their Web sites in retaliation for refusing to process donations to WikiLeaks, the organization run by Julian Assange that disseminated classified government and diplomatic documents.

Other entities identified as being victims of hackers were foreign government computer systems, security firm HBGary, Sony Pictures Entertainment, Fox Broadcasting Co. and Public Broadcasting Service. In that attack, members of LulzSec, Monsegur and three others hacked the PBS computer systems in retaliation for what LulzSec perceived to be unfavorable coverage in an episode of the news program Frontline, the U.S. Attorney's Office said.

The attacks included stealing confidential information and making it public, hijacking e-mail and Twitter accounts and defacing websites. Among the alleged victims whose information was compromised were 70,000 potential contestants on the Fox television show "X-Factor," 100,000 users of Sony's website and 200,000 website users of Bethesda Softworks, a Maryland video game company.

In another alleged attack, Monsegur and others attacked the computer system of Tribune Co., parent of the Chicago Tribune. The group "misappropriated login credentials to access the Tribune Co.'s computer system without authorization," the government's criminal information said.

Tribune Co. spokesman Gary Weitman declined to comment.

Last month, the Tribune's Facebook page was flooded with hundreds of comments calling for the media to fight for the release of Hamza Kashgari, a jailed Saudi writer. Anonymous had directed its Facebook followers to post a pre-written messages on the Tribune's Facebook page, as well as that of the Wall Street Journal.

The message to the Tribune ended with this salutation: "We are Anonymous. We are millions. We do not forgive. We do not forget. Expect us!"

Information about Sabu's treachery: <http://gizmodo.com/5890825/lulzsec-leader-betrays-all-of-anonymous>

### **7 Mar - Former Ecoprisoner Tre Arrow Qualifies for Mayoral Race in Portland**

*We really need a news of the weird section in these updates. Case in point: The city of Portland, Oregon, announced that Tre Arrow had submitted enough verified signatures to officially be added to the primary ballot for the 2012 Mayoral election. In related news from today, prosecutors declined to file charges against Tre after he was arrested*

and accused of domestic violence on Tuesday morning.

**MORE:**

In a Survey USA/KATU News poll taken in late February, 7 percent of respondents said Arrow was their choice for mayor, putting him in 4th place of the [23 people contending](#) for the position.

Arrow is well-known for a protest in 2000 when he sat on a narrow ledge for a week at the Portland office of the U.S. Forest Service to protest logging. He was also convicted in 2008 of firebombing three cement trucks at Ross Island Sand & Gravel and setting fire to logging trucks near Estacada and spent 6 years in prison.

In related news from today, prosecutors declined to file charges against [Tre](#) after he was arrested and accused of domestic violence on Tuesday morning. They decided to not file charges after the person, who made the original accusation, said they [wouldn't testify against Tre and regrets making the call](#).

Arrow had been scheduled for a court appearance on Wednesday afternoon but was not required to show up after charges were not filed. But as of this post, Tre remained in jail on a US Marshals hold.

**7 Mar - New Filings on Frank Ambrose's Docket**

*After a long period of inactivity, 10 sealed documents have recently been filed on Frank Ambrose's docket. On Dec 21, 2 motions from the AUSA, on Dec 22 an order, on Jan 12 an AUSA motion, on Jan 12 an AUSA document, and on Jan 17 an order. Then, on March 2, a sealed motion and 2 sealed documents; and on March 5th a sealed order. Frank Ambrose is an activist turned informant who provided the government with information against Marie Mason and others.*

**MORE:**

<http://www.ecoprisoners.org/ambrose/plea-agreement-frank-ambrose.pdf>

These sudden secret filings on the docket of a confirmed informant are cause for concern, though it is unclear what to make of it. What is disturbing is that this is occurring in the context of continuing prosecutions in the Midwest. The most recent of these was against David Agranoff, who agreed "to cooperate by attempting to provide substantial assistance to the government."

[http://www.greenisthenewred.com/blog/wp-content/Images/2011.08.29\\_Agranoff\\_-Motion-to-Continue.pdf](http://www.greenisthenewred.com/blog/wp-content/Images/2011.08.29_Agranoff_-Motion-to-Continue.pdf)

Agranoff's plea agreement, indictment and other documents have been removed from his docket.

Additionally, it is still unknown who the informant is in the cases of Daniel Kruk (Indiana) and Jesse Waters (Michigan) - although it appears from the legal documents in those cases that the informant is not Frank (or at least he is not the only one). The court documents also seem to indicate that the informant in those cases is male and was involved in actions that took place in Michigan and Indiana in 2000 (although there might be more). Jesse Waters was recently sentenced and Daniel Kruk's case has not been settled.

We will post more information as it becomes available.

**11 Mar - As eco-terrorism wanes, governments still target activist groups seen as threat**

*Here's a corporate news article that points to the hypocrisy of government narratives and actions.*

**MORE:**

Ben Kessler, a student at the University of North Texas and an environmental activist, was more than a little surprised that an FBI agent questioned his philosophy professor and acquaintances about his whereabouts and his sign-waving activities aimed at influencing local gas drilling rules.

"It was scary," said Kessler, who is a national organizer for the nonviolent environmental group [Rising Tide North America](#). He said the agent approached him this past fall and said that the FBI had received an anonymous complaint and were looking into his opposition to hydraulic fracturing, also known as "[fracking](#)." The bureau respected free speech, the agent told him, but was "worried about things being taken to an extreme level."

Even as environmental and animal rights extremism in the United States is on the wane, officials at the federal, state and local level are continuing to target groups they have labeled a threat to national security, according to interviews with numerous activists, internal FBI documents and a survey of legislative initiatives across the country.

[Iowa Gov. Terry Brandstad \(R\) signed a law](#) this month, backed by the farm lobby, that makes it a crime to pose as an employee or use other methods of misrepresentation to get access to operations in an attempt to expose animal cruelty. Utah passed a similar bill, nicknamed an [“ag-gag” law](#), on Wednesday. Last month, Victor VanOrden, an activist in his mid-20s, received the maximum sentence of five years in prison under a separate Iowa law for attempting to [free minks](#) from one of the state’s fur farms.

At the same time, though, acts that might be defined as eco-terrorism are down. In recent years, the broad definition has included arson, setting mink free at fur farms, campaigns to financially bankrupt animal testing firms and protests in front of the homes of some of those firms’ executives.

Michael Whelan, executive director of [Fur Commission USA](#), estimated that in the 1990s “there were close to 20 attacks per year on our farmers” and that since 2003 there have been fewer than two attacks a year on American mink farms.

“Overall we’ve seen a decline in activity, in terms of violent criminal activity,” FBI intelligence analyst Erin Weller said in an interview.

FBI officials say two factors contribute to the reduced threat.

One is their successful prosecutions of several activists, in particular the 15 convictions in 2007 for members of the Earth Liberation Front. The national sweep of radical environmentalists was chronicled in the Oscar-nominated 2011 documentary [“If a Tree Falls.”](#) Not only did several ELF members get long prison sentences — Stanislas Meyerhoff got 13 years — but also many activists testified against others to get lighter punishments.

“That’s had an impact on the movement as a whole,” Weller said.

The second factor is that environmental and animal rights activists may view a Democratic administration as more sympathetic to their goals and be less inclined to take radical steps.

“Obviously if you think there is going to be support for your position, you’re going to use legal means rather than illegal means,” Weller said.

Despite the decline in activity, the level of scrutiny has continued, say several who track state and federal enforcement.

“There’s been very little change under the Obama administration,” said Will Potter, author of the book [“Green is the New Red: An Insider’s Account of a Movement Under Siege.”](#) After factoring in several state initiatives on top of federal enforcement, Potter said, “The political climate as a whole has gotten a lot worse.”

In the past few years FBI agents have suggested District police monitor animal rights protests outside the Vanguard Group’s offices downtown because of its investment in a controversial animal testing facility, and they have mined a Web site, [the North American Animal Liberation Press Office](#), for hints on upcoming activities, according to FBI documents obtained by [Ryan Shapiro](#), an animal rights activist, through a series of Freedom of Information Act requests and other contacts.

The police chief in Moscow, Idaho, said in an interview that he discussed with FBI agents the repeated protests aimed at blocking the shipment of equipment [Exxon Mobil](#) and other firms are using to extract heavy crude in Canada’s [oil sands](#).

Some say the broad definition of domestic terrorism the FBI uses contributes to the number of investigations. According to its [2002-05 terrorism report](#), “A terrorist incident is a violent act or an act dangerous to human life, in violation of the criminal laws of the United States, or of any state, to intimidate or coerce a government, the civilian population, or any segment thereof, in furtherance of political or social objectives.”

As a result, any act aimed to intimidate an individual or corporation that has a political or social goal qualifies.

“We have to respond to every threat that’s been called into our office,” Weller said.

For example, the FBI agent, David Rogers, told Kessler he started looking into him after receiving an anonymous tip. Rogers, along with a Dallas police officer, also approached Kessler’s philosophy professor, [Adam Briggie](#), last month. Briggie, who chairs a [citizens advisory group](#) aimed at imposing new restrictions on rules governing gas drilling in the Denton area, said the two men spoke to him for half an hour about subjects including his course syllabus and the line between civil disobedience and terrorism.

“I don’t know how law enforcement works, but it seemed like a total fishing expedition to me,” Briggie said, adding that when they discussed the controversy surrounding fracking, “they pointed to the Pacific Northwest and how there’s a culture up there of eco-terrorism, and they wanted to keep it from spreading down here. . . . To have the FBI come in here and interrogate me as an academic, it was pretty off-putting.”

The FBI will not comment on open investigations. Domestic terrorism section chief Stephen Bucar said extremist groups “like those affiliated with environmental and animal rights have committed numerous criminal acts in the United States resulting in damages costing multimillions of dollars. Operating within our legal authorities, the prevention and detection of these criminal acts prior to their fruition is our objective.”

Several oil and gas companies contacted by The Washington Post would not comment on measures they take to address eco-terrorism, possible threats, or their conversations with federal authorities about eco-terrorism. One industry source familiar with intelligence matters who for security reasons asked not to be identified, said that when it came to possible acts of eco-terrorism, “it is in our conversations. It’s a world we live in.”

Shapiro questioned this surveillance. He and four others are suing the federal government on the grounds that the American Enterprise Terrorism Act has a [chilling effect](#) on free speech, since they are now intimidated from “documenting conditions on factory farms so [consumers] can make informed choices about if they want to continue to pay people to abuse animals on their behalf.”

Shapiro helped expose the force-feeding used to produce [foie gras](#) in the United States, sparking a [ban](#) that will take effect in California in July, and is writing his PhD dissertation at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology on the use of a national security justification to curb animal rights activism.

Patti Strand, founder and chairman of the [National Animal Interest Alliance](#) — which represents animal businesses including egg farmers and dog breeders — said Americans might underestimate the impact of “things that stop short of actually maiming people and seem trivial after the fact. But if you’re a recipient of it, it’s life altering.”

### **12 Mar - Kellie VanOrden Sentenced to 60 Days**

*On the afternoon of Monday, March 12<sup>th</sup>, at 3:00pm, Kellie VanOrden stood before District Judge Steven Andreasen for attempting to release mink from a Sioux City farm. The judge suspended a five-year prison sentence and an additional 305 days of jail time, settling on the 60-day sentence for the attempted burglary charge.*

#### **MORE:**

Kellie pleaded guilty in Woodbury County District Court to releasing an animal from an animal facility and attempted third-degree burglary.

He also placed her on probation for five years and ordered her to have no contact with farm owner Steve Krage and not approach the farm for five years. Kellie will be given credit for 16 days served in jail after her arrest.

As previously reported, Kellie's husband (Victor VanOrden) was sentenced to five years in prison in February for releasing an animal from an animal facility and attempted third-degree burglary.

Both Victor and Kellie must pay \$8,757 in restitution to farm owner Krage for damage to his fence.

I will soon be posting Kellie's mailing address so you can write letters to her. Her and Victor will be sharing the same Amazon Wish List, so once Kellie's address is made available, you can start ordering away. In the meantime, please consider donating \$10 or \$20 as there is \$600 in unpaid court fees that has been handed to Victor's mom to pay (who doesn't have the money to do so.). Kellie and Victor would like me thank everyone for your continued support and generosity.

### **15 Mar - Former PP Carlos Alberto Torres in NYC**

**WHAT:** A Night of Speakers and Culture

**WHEN:** 6:30pm, Thursday, March 14<sup>th</sup>

**WHERE:** Hostos Community College 3rd floor Cafeteria (450 Grand Concourse)

**COST:** \$5-\$15 suggested donation

Performers and speakers include:

The Welfare Poets, Prof. Thelma Ithier Sterling-Humanities/VPA, soprano singing La Borinqueña and Verde Luz, Bomba Yo, Paula Santiago (Prisionera)

### **16 Mar - Culture Is A Weapon Benefit for Political Prisoners**

*Details are below for a (2) Day - All Day "True Skool Revolutionary Conscious Minded Spoken Word & Hip Hop Benefit" For U.S. Government Held Political Prisoners Of War; Dr. Mutulu Shakur, Sekou Odinga & Sundiata Acoli.*

#### **MORE:**

Day One: Spoken word poetry slam & tribute to Gil Scott Heron

**WHEN:** Friday, March 16th, 2:00pm-10:00pm

**WHERE:** Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Labor Center Auditorium 310 West 43rd Street New York, New York

**PERFORMERS:** The Last Poets, Autumn Ashanti, George Edward Tait, Amiri Baraka, Sam Greenlee, Tony Mitchelson, "Q," Louis Reyes Rivera, The Verbal Artisan, Alkamal, Lora Rene Tucker (The Therapeutic Poet), Aidge of Aesthetics Crew, Guerilla Republik, "Why?"

Day Two: Tru Skool Hip Hop Concert & Tribute to Panther Cubs

**WHEN:** Saturday, March 17th, 2:00pm-10:00pm

**WHERE:** Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Labor Center Auditorium 310 West 43rd Street New York, New York

**PERFORMERS:** M-1 (dead prez), IMPACT, Maroon Society, MeccaGodzilla, Final Outlaw, Hassan Salaam, Rebel Diaz, Unseen Reality, MC GLO, The Sargonites, Immortal Technique, Yatta Kill, Propaganda Anonymous, The Black "U.N.," Collective Flow

Organized by The Safiya Bukhari-Albert Nuh Washington Foundation, The Universal Zulu Nation & The Grassroots Artists Movement

**YOU MUST RSVP FOR "ADVANCE & GROUP" TICKETS!**

\$ 20.00 At The Door

\$ 15.00 Advance Tickets

\$ 25.00 Advance Tickets (Both Days)

\*For RSVP & Single Day Advance Group Sales Of (10) or More Contact: Bro. Shep

[\(212\) 650-5008](tel:2126505008) or [Panthershepcat@aol.com](mailto:Panthershepcat@aol.com)

### **17-18 Mar – Left Forum Panels of Note**

*The typically academic and leftist masturbatory Left Forum is coming up. This year actually holds some promise, with a few panels on political prisoners and prisoners of war and what is being billed as an entire anarchist track (though thoroughly peppered with non-anarchists on the panels). We've provided some suggested panels below.*

**MORE:**

- \*\*\*Love & Struggle: the WUO and the Occupy Movement, A Mother and Child Reunion?, Saturday, March 17, 10:00-11:50 AM, Room E302, with Terry Bisson, Laura Whitehorn, Cathy Wilkerson, and Dan Berger
- \*\*\*Reclaiming our Comrades: The Omaha Two, Saturday, March 17, (also) 10:00-11:50 AM, Room W607, with Tekla Ali Johnson, Trish Kahle, Michael Richardson, Tariq Al-Amin, and Reynaldo Anderson
- \*\*\*U.S. Imperialist Wars, Political Prisoners, Past & Present And The Anti-War Struggle, Saturday, March 17, (also) 3:00-4:50 PM, Room W609, with Ralph Poynter, Pam Africa, Ricardo Jimenez, Anne Lamb, Matthis Chiroux, Jay Johnson, and Jess Sundin
- \*\*\*Freedom for Mumia Abu-Jamal: Liberation for All of Us, Saturday, March 17, (also also), 3:00-4:50 PM W610, with Johanna Fernandez, Suzanne Ross, Pam Africa, and Mark Taylor
- \*\*\*Free Puerto Rican Political Prisoners, Saturday, March 17, 5:00-6:40 PM, Room E323, with Ana Lopez, Carlos Alberto Torres, Richard Lopez, and Melissa Montero
- \*\*\*Free the Cuban Five: Bring them Home!, Sunday, March 18, 10:00-11:50 AM, Room E323, with Benjamin Ramos, Frank Velgara, Nancy Cabrero, and Ismael Nunez
- \*\*\*WHERE DID OCCUPY COME FROM? MOVEMENT HISTORIES AND PRESENTS Saturday, March 17 at 10:00 a.m. Facilitator: Cindy Milstein Participants: Chris Dixon, Silvia Federici, and George Katsiaficas
- \*\*\*OCCUPY OUTSIDE METROPOLIS: SMALL-TOWN AND RURAL OCCUPATIONS Saturday, March 17 at noon Facilitator: Chris Dixon Participants: Welch Canavan, Joseph Lapp, and Heather Pipino
- \*\*\*BEYOND THE ENCAMPMENTS: NEW DIRECTIONS FOR THE OCCUPY MOVEMENT Saturday, March 17 at 3:00 p.m. Facilitator: Hillary Lazar Participants: Max Rameau and Joshua Stephens
- \*\*\*OCCUPY ANARCHISM Saturday, March 17 at 5:00 p.m. Facilitator: Joshua Stephens Participants: Irina Ceric and Cindy Milstein
- \*\*\*THE QUESTION OF COLONIALISM: UNOCCUPYING, REOCCUPYING, DE-OCCUPYING Sunday, March 18 at 10:00 a.m. Facilitator: Tamara Vukov Participants: Jimmy Johnson, Maia Ramnath, and Pavlos Stavropoulos
- \*\*\*IS THIS REALLY WHAT DEMOCRACY LOOKS LIKE? SELF-GOVERNANCE, LEADERSHIP, AND AUTONOMY Sunday, March 18 at noon Facilitator: Brooke Lehman Participants: Carwil Bjork-James and George Machado
- \*\*\*CLOSING SESSION OCCUPYING FROM BELOW: RESIST, REFLECT, RE-CREATE Sunday, March 18 at 3:00 p.m.
- \*\*\*What, me worry? The Rise of the Surveillance State and What We Can Do About It Saturday, March 17 at 3pm in Room W608 Panelists: scott crow, Scott Parkin and James Clark
- \*\*\*Black Flags and Windmills: Hope, Anarchy and the Common Ground Collective Saturday, March 17 at 5pm in Room E302 Panelists: scott crow, Kerul Dyer

**17 Mar - Love & Struggle Book Release Party**

*We've also included information for a similar event two days later at the Brecht Forum.*

**WHAT:** NYC Release Party for David Gilbert's *Love and Struggle*

**WHEN:** 7:00-10:00pm, Saturday, March 17th

**WHERE:** Bluestocking – 172 Allen Street New York, New York 10002

**COST:** FREE, copies of the book will be for sale at the event

**WHAT:** NYC Book Party for David Gilbert's *Love and Struggle*

**WHEN:** 7:30pm, Monday, March 19th

**WHERE:** Brecht Forum – 451 West Street New York, New York 10014

**COST:** FREE, copies of the book will be for sale at the event

**MORE:**

Join David Gilbert's long time comrades, Terry Bisson and Dan Berger as they read from [\*Love and Struggle: My Life in SDS, the Weather Underground, and Beyond\*](#) and discusses David's life, politics, and what David's experience and activism can teach today's Left.

This is the NYC book release party- and an event not to be missed. The Brecht Forum event will also include Lumumba Bandele, Kenyon Farrow, Matt Meyer, Laura Whitehorn, and will be moderated by Kazembe Balagun.

One of America's most celebrated political prisoners since his appearance in the Academy Award nominated film, *The Weather Underground*, David Gilbert is also the author of *No Surrender*, a book of essays on politics and history. He can be reached at NY's Clinton Prison as 83-A-6158.

### **18 Mar – Ben Morea at Book Thug Nation**

*Ben Morea, legendary anarchist bandit/badass, joins Sean Stewart and Josh MacPhee to discuss On the Ground—an Illustrated Anecdotal History of the Sixties Underground Press.*

**MORE:**

**WHEN:** 7:30pm, Sunday March 18th

**WHERE:** Book Thug Nation (100 North 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, Brooklyn, New York)

**COST:** Free

Morea is author of *Black Mask*, and member of the Sixties gang/rebel army Up Against the Wall Motherfuckers.

Stewart edited *On the Ground*, and did an excellent job of capturing not just the passion, but also the behind-the-scenes work of underground publishing—and all the conflicts that come with it.

MacPhee is to blame for *On the Ground's* beautiful design. He is the editor/designer of seemingly thousands of books, including *Signs of Change*, and a member of the BTN extended family.

### **20 Mar – Anarchist Open Forum**

*The New York Anarchist Open Forum is described as “a gathering of NYC anarchists where we meet other anarchists and discuss anarchist ideas, events, projects and whatever else comes up.”*

**MORE:**

**WHAT:** Anarchist Open Forum

**WHEN:** 7:00-9:00pm, Tuesday, March 20<sup>th</sup>

**WHERE:** 6<sup>th</sup> Street Community Center (638 East 6<sup>th</sup> Street New York, New York 10009)

NYCAOF is organized to facilitate in-person discussion forums for topics of interest to the NYC anarchist community. Gathering on the third Tuesday of each month, in spaces conducive to discussion, we give members of the community a space to hold discussions on topics of mutual interest, announce or promote projects they are organizing and, generally, to socialize with other anarchists. The forum is open. The forum meets on the third Tuesday of every month.

The discussion agenda will be determined by community members. Topics suggested for this month include:

Security Culture or not?

Market Economics (Is the invisible hand an anarchist's?)

### **9 Apr - Never Alone Tour Hits NYC, Supporting Eric McDavid and Marie Mason**

*It's 2012. The world is ending. So what are we at Sacramento Prisoner Support and Marie Mason Support Crew gonna do? Go on an epic road trip to talk about prisoner support, of course! Because unless we actually make this the last year of their world, our comrades will still be in there the next.*

**MORE:**

The nationwide Never Alone tour will be crisscrossing the country in April 2012, featuring the usual suspects speaking about long-term anarchist prisoner support. Focusing specifically on the cases of Eric McDavid and Marie Mason, the tour will mark the spots where the events of these cases unfolded, using multimedia presentations to bring the facts of

these cases to light.

As well as raising awareness and support for Eric and Marie, the tour will also feature strategizing about how to more effectively grow a culture of resistance that can breach the prison walls and sustain long-term anarchist prisoner support, a security culture beyond 101 workshop (updated for 2012, now with extra tech!) and some awesome guest speakers. Truly, you won't want to miss this.

When our friends and loved ones are snatched from us and held captive by the state, we become all too aware that we are never alone. The eyes of the state are always upon us, attempting to silence our voices and still our hands. To keep us from doing the work we know must be done. We must act despite this.

Because we also know that it is imperative that our friends on the inside know that they, too, are never alone. That we will stand by them throughout their time in prison, and welcome them with open arms when they return. That the struggles they were involved in continue on, and that they are empowered to continue on in struggle from inside the prison walls.

And we know that we can't do this alone. We need the active support of our communities to give us the strength and courage to struggle for our friends and their freedom.

Our friends remind us of what is possible. They remind us that we don't have to wait for permission to do what we know is right. They remind us that we are not powerless. Like Marie and Eric, we are tired of watching all that we love be destroyed by all that we hate. We know what needs to happen.

We are in it for the long haul.

Are you?

Find out more about the tour: <http://neveralonetour.wordpress.com>  
Questions? Trolling? Contact us at [neveralonetour \(A\) riseup dot net](mailto:neveralonetour(A)riseupdotnet).

#### About Marie Mason

Marie Mason is a loving mother of two and a long-time activist in the environmental and labor movements. In March 2008, she was arrested by federal authorities after her former partner, Frank Ambrose, turned informant for the FBI. Facing a life sentence if she went to trial, she accepted a plea bargain in September 2008, admitting her involvement in two acts of property destruction that occurred in 1999 and 2000 – damaging an office connected to GMO (Genetically Modified Organism) research, and destroying a piece of logging equipment. No one was injured in either act. On February 5, 2009, she was sentenced to just under 22 years. She is now serving the longest sentence of any "Green Scare" prisoner. Marie is currently being held in an incredibly restrictive unit at the prison in Carswell, TX. Other political prisoners, such as Lynne Stewart, are also housed there. For more information on Marie and her case, please visit <http://www.supportmariemason.org>.

#### About Eric McDavid

Eric McDavid was arrested on January 13, 2006 and charged with a single count of "conspiracy to damage and destroy property by fire and explosive." No action ever took place. Eric was arrested after being entrapped by a government informant, known as "Anna," who was paid over \$65,000 for her work with the FBI. Eric stood strong in the face of great repression and refused to cooperate with the government, choosing instead to take his case to trial (even after both of his former co-defendants took a plea bargain and agreed to testify against him in court). After a trial riddled with errors, a jury convicted Eric in September 2007. Many of these same jurors later went on record making damning statements about the FBI. Two of them later submitted declarations to the court stating that they believed Eric deserves, at the very least, a new trial. Despite this, in May 2008, the judge in Eric's case sentenced him to an outrageous 19 years and 7 months in prison. Eric is now serving an almost 20 year sentence for what amounts to "thought crime." For more info on Eric and his case, please visit <http://www.supporteric.org>.

This tour is part of the collaboration for International Day of Solidarity for Long-term Anarchist Prisoners, June 11.  
<http://june11.org>