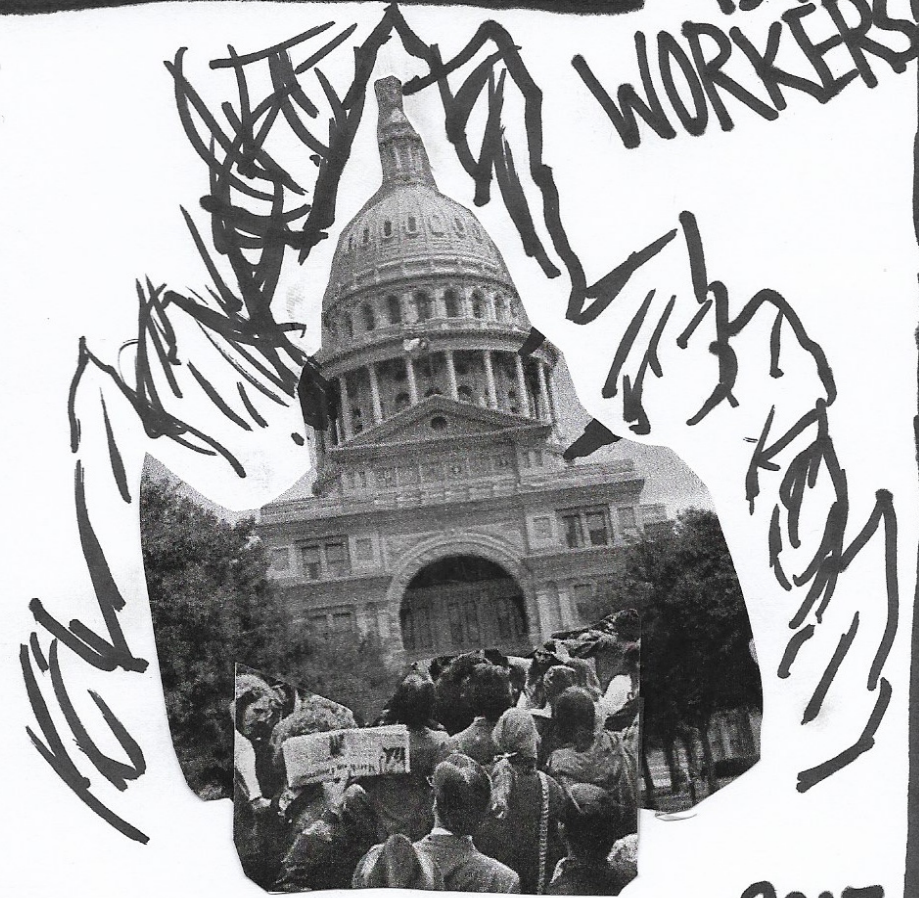


# the CALL

May  
Day  
is for  
WORKERS



2017



If you've been watching or reading the major news outlets lately, you might have noticed the recent attempt by the corporate media to reframe their icy relationship with Trump as a conflict between "the integral values of liberal democracy" and a 1984-esque police state. The glaring exception to this rule is Fox News, but the lack of anything resembling news coming from the talking heads who scream right-wing lies on that channel is well known, so they can be safely ignored in this article. Although Trump's megalomaniacal raving and incoherent tweeting against any who oppose him make it easy for his critics to take up the banner of Freedom and Democracy, the CNNs and Washington Posts of the world have never been on the side of the people whose rights they now claim to defend.

These outlets are the same ones who whipped the American people into a blind fury during the Iraq War, pushing the Bush administration's lies without criticism while running "expert panels" that feverishly speculated on the logistics of the invasion. They then attempted to cover their own tracks when it became clear that the WMDs that Bush had used to justify his imperial venture had never existed (with Iraq's chemical weapons store having been provided by the US who supplied their old buddy Saddam during the Iran-Iraq War), but even those sorry attempts fell short of "speaking truth to power." With explanations ranging from "faulty image analysis" to "brief collective hysteria", they all danced around the obvious fact that the Bush administration had simply determined that they would invade and came up with the excuse as they went along.

During the Obama era, NPR, MSNBC, CNN and the major newspapers were the unofficial apologists for the Drone Jockey-in-Chief, praising his willingness to use robotic assassins to wage his wars abroad. The civilian losses of life in Afghanistan, Libya, Iraq, Yemen, and Somalia were of no concern to the

the Left allowed the fascist far-right to hijack terms we thought were ours, like freedom of speech, freedom of religion, and tolerance. We let them win this battle.

Don't believe me? Post about militant resistance to hate speech on your Facebook wall, and see how fast your "liberal" friends, or their friends, will race to defend genocide as a valid point of view..

Now they occupy the White House, and the Left still can't agree on whether being antiwar or even antiracist is a fundamental principle of our work.

What can we do? Educate ourselves, share skills with each other, build stronger networks, and prepare to fight. That's been the core of my work since the beginning of the year through the Oh Shit! What Now? collective here in Austin. I know similar people across the country doing this kind of work, and it's wonderful, and it's inspiring.

But it's not enough.

From my vantage point in April 2017, it looks as if the activists that stormed the airports and marched for women are going home, and our movements failed to attract even 1% of them to long-term movement building and resistance.

Democracy may 'die in darkness' but the military-industrial complex thrives with the support of the mainstream and even the left media. The so-called resistance is waiting for a red-scare Get Out Of Jail Free card that will never come: impeach Trump and we can all go home.

I can't close this issue with a truly hopeful message, except to say we're still here and we'll still be here, building real resistance in local neighborhoods, in high schools and on college campuses, in cafes and in living rooms.

It's not enough, it's never enough, but we fight anyway. Let's find each other.

@KitOConnell



# That Which Doesn't Kill You Leaves by Kit O'Connell SCARS

I'm in a strange position this month as a gonzo journalist, because I can't really write about the major action I attended last month.

The short version is that I attended a counterprotest against the Austin version of the national "March 4 Trump." We were badly outnumbered, surrounded and attacked by fascist Trump supporters. I survived a serious assault and was hospitalized overnight. I now face a misdemeanor assault charge even though I was the victim, along with hospital bills, and this charge prevents me from writing much more.

Still, here's the main lesson I learned — at least the one that's safe to share:

We are not ready.

While we laughed at militias and sent jumbo buckets of lube to the Bundy Ranchers, they were obtaining military training and preparing for war ... against us.

While the Left argued about whether or not it's okay to say "All Cops Are Bastards," they were infiltrating the police and making an institution built on racism into one that openly equates the phrase "Black Lives Matter" with terrorist threats.

Just as so many of us grew up dreaming of being part of a 1960s-style revolutionary fight for justice, the fascist far-right grew up fantasizing about busting hippie heads, just like Granddad did in the John Birch Society.

Not only are they more tactically prepared but, while we were sleeping,

interests of the wealthy corporate investors who hide behind the facade of an independent press, so they were of no concern to those media outlets themselves. When the terrorist group Boko Haram kidnapped schoolgirls from a government boarding school in Nigeria in a now infamous raid, the liberal bleeding hearts at NPR pleaded for the President to "think about the matter before sending in troops", but those same peacenikscrushing of a Tuareg revolt against the Malian dictator Ibrahim Boubacar Keïta by French UN troops and cried out for violent intervention after the crossing of Obama's red line in Syria. If schoolgirls weren't worth a heroic military rescue but despots and war criminals were, it's clear that the corporate media's credentials as so-called "interventionist humanitarians" are as fake as Iraq's WMDs.

Despite the current fixation on media "fact-checking" as the only protection against Trump's alternative facts, it is all too clear that the people cannot rely on these corporate shills masquerading as news agencies. Only by collectively building a real platform for our voices can we form a bulwark against the twin tides of fascist-aligned Trumpism and the capitalist neo-liberal agenda.

And that is why Autonomous Student Media exists. That is why this zine exists. We deserve a space where we can share experiences unique to our communities that mainstream publications will not focus on. We deserve a forum to facilitate discussion without the threat of internet surveillance. We need media that is not bound to protecting oppressive forces, but media that will shed light on leftist narratives in the face of capitalism's evils. With this goal in mind, ASM presents The Call's May Day edition, and looks forward to many following issues.



# the LEARNING CURVE

girls mature  
faster  
than boys

because

we are taught  
all the ways our bodies are  
bait for violence

how our lips are  
dripping with  
seduction

how our thighs are  
rancid with  
sin

how our blooming  
curves  
are traps for the  
eyes and hands of  
grown men

we are taught this lesson:  
how our bodies  
betray us  
in the presence  
of men

we are taught this  
at the soft age of  
five, six, seven

many a times these  
lessons

are forced upon us

while boys just get to be  
boys.

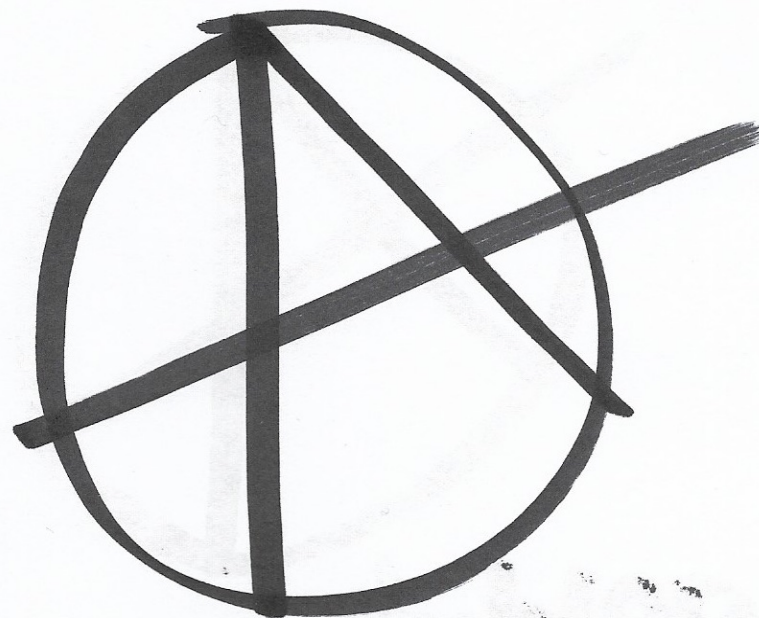
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not. Action deferred only signals to the landlords and property managers that abuses will be tolerated and that their bottom line will stay protected. In order to stop this trend students and renters must build networks that connect our struggles and harness the power of students, which act as a counterbalance to the market forces that we have allowed to jerk us around for so long. Many students not only believe that struggling to pay for housing is normal, but also have been tricked into believing their struggles are disconnected from the struggles of all other students in similar circumstances. To combat this atomization, we need solidarity. Just as the landlords have solidarity among themselves to increase rents and screw students, we need solidarity of our own. **With the simple understanding that an injury to one is an injury to all we can improve our lives immediately.**



apartments. **These new complexes have done nothing to combat the trend of ever increasing rents.** New developments are built to cater to wealthier renters and usually require the demolition of older, typically more affordable houses, pulling those options off the market. The explanation is simple. In Austin we have a slumlord's market where the marketable range of rents is mostly up to the discretion of landlords.

**Neither the market nor bureaucrats can save us.** The city is doing little to help students find affordable housing. The city's efforts revolve mostly around zoning, which leave much to be desired. All that zoning changes can do is increase the number of multi-family housing options in more places in the city. These new units, which are not being built with the intent of being affordable in the first place, will not be open for leasing until even after all of the current freshman graduate. Additionally, students are typically ignored from the analyses of income and affordability due to the complexities of financial aid. This means that landlords are able to raise rents according to market ranges without having any sort of index for affordability. As for the slumlords, they have their pocket books to look after. These slumlords will keep increasing rent as long as students are essentially given no other choice besides living further and further away from campus. They will put a price on any tiny amenity they can—access to public transportation, distance from campus, proximity to food—to turn the necessity of housing into a market for a quick buck. The “market equilibrium” lauded by neoliberal elites will never be responsive to the true needs of students, as they can simply cater to the wealthier students and squeeze every penny out of students going deeper and deeper into debt. At the end of the day the slumlords and the developers can keep increasing rents and fleecing the students who have little option but to live in the neighborhoods near campus as Sally Mae oh so generously foots the bill.



for **WORKERS**  
for **STUDENTS**  
for the **WORLD**



# Depressing the STATE to DEATH

Sometimes I think anarchy means "I know everything that's happening right now is wrong, but frankly I don't know what it means to be right". It fills me with deep fear, self doubt, it makes me paranoid and depressed. There are days where I question if it's worth

spending my life fighting the so-called "system". Would it be easier to ignore it all and just work my day job unquestionably until I die? Would I be happier if I worked my day job unquestionably until I die?

This rebellion of a life seems like constant defeat. I can't maintain a relationship because the "cause" is more important to me than a significant other. Fuck, the cause is my significant other. I read messages from the cause constantly, I check on the cause to make sure it's having a good day, I go to sleep thinking about the cause and wake up hoping to help the cause out in any way I can. No wonder my relationships in life fail, I already have a partner. It brings me back to my first question, would it be easier to give up?

Fuck no it wouldn't.

It would be ten times harder to stand on the sidelines and go through my life knowing that I could have bettered all of humanity only to give up because it was easier not to try. To watch the injustices all around me and be complicit in my passivity would be a million times harder than knowing I fought to end them. I question the point of life as it is, I'd certainly have my answer if I gave up now. There would be no point. A life of passivity and complacency is not worth living.

them. Many of us live in buildings that are constantly in need of repair. In my own personal experience, the boards of my house are rotting allowing for moisture to penetrate the house and contributes to the ever increasing mold problem. I have heard stories of leaks in ceilings going unrepaired for an entire twelve-month lease. Other stories include elevators that stay out of service for weeks, leaving the mobility impaired without any accessible route to their own houses. Additionally, the renting experience in Austin includes a large number of expenses that often go unmentioned: extra costs for parking spots, cleaning and repair fees, and application fees. All the while many students, upon vacating their lease, will have their security deposits stolen from them without explanation. In a tragic culmination of these insults, we are also expected to suffer these conditions all while paying rents that are consistently going up each year upon renewal, a situation which amounts to extortion.

**We are not in short supply of housing, but of the money and credit to afford it.**

Don't be persuaded by the stock explanations that slumlords and their apologists may offer. They, who are typically insulated from the economic pressures of being a student trying to finance housing expenses, often make passing remarks that living in less than desirable conditions is a hallmark of the student experience, without acknowledging the specific conditions that modern students face. One of the most common explanations is that rents are so high due to an overall housing shortage in Austin. While this may be true of city wide trends, this does not apply to West Campus. In addition to West Campus, more working class neighborhoods, such as Riverside, have also been seeing the same process of development and displacement. If you have not noticed, several years ago many of the density restrictions that were set in campus were removed, allowing for the rapid proliferation of high rise



# Not Another CENT: the Need to Fight Our Landlords and ~~W~~

"You got to have a J-O-B if  
you wanna be with me  
Aint nothin goin on but the rent  
No romance without finance"  
- Gwen Guthrie

We students put up with a considerable amount of abuse. From the steady rise in tuition over the years to the inexplicable increase in the cost of ordering transcripts, we see these abuses everywhere.

There is, however, one major obstacle to all of us as we try to obtain an education: the struggle to find affordable housing. Most of us have just come to accept it as normal. Each year the rents go up and each fall, as new students come to the university, the norm keeps getting set higher and higher. While all may not be witness to these seemingly subtle increases as they happen overtime, many of us feel the burden of the aggregated effects of this trend. Yet, we all see no hope in sight and are constantly subject to more of the same: spending more of the money we are yet to earn, with only a flicker of hope that one day we may be able to earn it all back once we graduate. And with half of all students using grants or loans for housing expenses, this bleak reality competes with an increasingly bleak future.

There is an overwhelming consistency to the series of housing horror stories for the students here at UT Austin. Finding a place to live comes with a litany of sacrifices that would seem outrageous to someone on the outside. Many of us live in cramped conditions, piling into small houses and apartment units so that we can afford

Right now, we're losing. We are getting arrested, we are getting shot, we are being targeted for doing the right thing. No wonder it's depressing. No wonder I contemplate whether blowing my own brains out would be the most productive thing I could do. Then a white supremacist yells at me to kill myself and I remember. I remember everything that my comrades can't remind me of. That my job, my guitar, and my girlfriend can't remind me of. I'm reminded that I stand for the best in humanity. I'm reminded that we stand for the best in humanity. We believe humanity's best is achievable. I believe humanity's best is achievable.

I want to die a lot of the time, but I won't blow my brains out. I'll see to it that when it's my time to go, a klan member gets a bullet in my gut while I scream at him about how he's lower than garbage, while I run at him with a hammer, I'll make sure that the last thing that I see in this life is fear in a fascist's eyes. Then I'll know we've won. I'll know that I've won.

Sometimes I think anarchy means "I know everything that's happening right now is wrong, but frankly I don't know what it means to be right." Then I realize I do know what it is to be right. We all do. We love, we defend the downtrodden, we thwart evil in every form.

My depression and anxiety didn't want me to write this. My depression and anxiety didn't want me to put a bamboo pole through a bike cop's spokes either. Fuck my anxiety and depression. They're fascists.

I love you. Keep fighting.



these were not the first lies:

the riots are spilt out of fear.  
the people are  
afraid.

the riots are produced by hatred.  
the people are  
hateful.

the riots are senseless, blind, disturbed.  
the people are  
raging.

these were not the first lies.  
we have been here before.

the riot is born by brilliance.  
screams erupting we are  
burning.

the riot is sewn with unity.  
hands clasped tight we are  
allied.

the riot is made of confidence.  
welcoming arrest  
With valor.

these are the truths one can know  
only by frustration with the many other lies  
and the love unique to struggle.

the concrete is drenched in new.



[Verse 1: Rihanna]

Yellow diamonds in the light  
And we're standing side by side  
As your shadow crosses mine  
What it takes to come alive

It's the way I'm feeling I just can't deny  
But I've gotta let it go

[Hook: Rihanna]

We found love in a hopeless place  
We found love in a hopeless place  
We found love in a hopeless place  
We found love in a hopeless place