

# NIGHTFALL

FREE

An Agitational Newspaper

Jan 2017



## AUTONOMOUS ORGANIZING IN THE AGE OF TRUMP

So they really went and did it. This time last year the Trump campaign was only just beginning to lose it's comedic factor. Now Trump is just days away from taking office, and many are at a loss on how to navigate this new reality. Without promising any solutions, we would like to outline a combative strategy against the incoming regime and all manifestations of oppression and authority.

In the days following the election, even cities where riots did not erupt from anti-Trump demonstrations witnessed an antagonism unprecedented in recent history. In every metropolis throughout the country social peace was shattered, even where it was strongest. Even as the immediate momentum slows, calls to disrupt the inauguration ceremony on January 20th have picked up steam. Interfering with this spectacle holds



Memorial for fallen comrades  
December 2016

## I'D RATHER WALK

*written, from a place of love, for someone who shared a meal with me at standing rock*

you talk about building a movement  
like you are building a train:  
let the experts design it  
decide where it should go  
at what speed

then once it is all planned out  
recruit people to make it real  
masses laying rail and shoveling coal  
middle-class porters hauling luggage

of course you won't need to search  
for an engineer to captain it all  
you already have someone  
in mind

# EDITORIAL

So it has now been nearly eight months since we first began planning this paper and six months since the first issue came out. We started this project because we felt that there might be others like us who do not buy in to the consensus of the liberal establishment here in the Land of Ten Thousand Non-Profits that all we need to do to liberate our lives is to get together in large numbers and tell those oppressing us to stop.

We hoped that a newspaper would give us some space in which to scheme with those like-minded others. Since then we have found that at least some people are in fact actively engaging with what we have been writing, which has been gratifying but also terrifying. Not only because now the pressure is on to write articles worth reading, but also because now we have no excuses for staying home and grumbling when it seems as if everyone else in the world is content to ask for a single cop to be jailed, a single pipeline to be stopped, or a single president to be overthrown when what we want is a world with no cops, no pipelines, and no presidents.

But if we can't make excuses anymore than neither can you. We're out here, and there will only be more of us as time goes on.

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Burning vehicle displays "Blue Lives Matter" flag.  
November 2016

**Autonomous, continued from pg 1.**

potential, but the prospect of decentralizing conflict on the 20th and beyond is what really piques our interest. The model we elaborate here provides us with a loose strategy for spreading ungovernability, reducing the capacity of the Trump regime, and by extension local authorities of all parties, from operating.

This strategy is what we, and others like us around the world, call autonomous self-organization. Let's take a moment to unpack what we mean by this. First of all, when we speak of autonomous action we refer to action taken outside of or separate from official groups and organizations. While useful at times, formalized relations such as these can not only hinder our ability to act but also leave us vulnerable to repression when actions can be tied to offices, spokespeople, or membership lists. For these reasons, affinity groups are often proposed as an alternative to organizations. Affinity groups refer to those friendships that most of us already have—those handfuls of comrades with which we have built, or are building, a deep trust. With our affinity groups or even alone we have the freedom to take initiative, acting on our own accord and on our own timelines without waiting for instructions or invitations.

In refusing to become followers in struggle we are also refusing to gather followers for ourselves. For this reason reproducibility is prioritized when acting. Spray paint is 97¢ if you can't steal it, every home has a hammer, and concealing your identity is simple if you think ahead (see our September issue for some tips). The easier an act is to reproduce the more likely it is to generalize, and as attacks spread and more people join in it becomes more difficult for authorities to profile possible suspects, creating space for more to participate and for bolder actions

to be taken. While isolated acts are manageable, generalized unrest can and does make it harder for law enforcement to operate, harder for them to harass, arrest, evict or deport us.

It is important to note that the framework of autonomous self-organization is not exclusive to small or clandestine actions. It can also inform how we approach mass actions such as demonstrations. Rather than the traditional march where we follow the bullhorn from point A to B, we can come together as a cluster of individuals and affinity groups who cooperate to carry out larger, public actions. The tradition of protest marshals solidifies a hierarchy

between organizers and participants, stifling self-organization even when marshals aren't directly facilitating the work of the police. Instead, different individuals and groups can come prepared to achieve their own goals, whether this means bringing a banner along with flyers to hand out, acting as a self-defense squad against right-wing threats, or having the tools necessary to carry

out a targeted attack when the time is right. In this sense, every public call should be viewed as a call for self-organization, a call to step up with our own contributions, with the hope that they can come together to strike a chord.

It might be difficult to imagine anything meaningful produced in our current context from a handful of isolated acts of resistance, yet the world abounds with examples: gentrifying businesses closing in San Francisco after repeated vandalism, immigration enforcement raids aborted in London after spontaneous blockades, eviction lawyers in Berlin dropping cases after their cars are burned. These are small victories within western urban centers, but we have just as much to learn from the self-organized communities of southern Mexico, the squat-



Graffiti painted as anti-Trump demonstration takes over the highway  
*November 2016*

**Autonomous, continued from pg 3.**

ted forest of the ZAD, or the maroons of the eighteenth-century South.

Over the past year, the Twin Cities has seen a number of acts that loosely fit within this framework. Some are claimed through anonymous communique submitted to counter-information websites such as Conflict MN or It's Going Down. Others simply rely on the eyes of witnesses and passerby, leaving us guessing as to their intentions or allegiances.

In the spirit of self-organization, we at *Nightfall* have no interest in becoming the single voice of anti-authoritarian views and critique in the Twin Cities. The actions we cover and the events we promote are not representative of any single group but instead resonate with us regardless of their stated affiliations or lack thereof. We look forward to others with whom this newspaper resonates putting their voices and clarifications out into the world in whatever format appeals to them. This newspaper only requires a printer and a few dedicated friends.

So far we have described a framework of attack—something we find to be a crucial component of liberatory struggle. However it is just that: a component. Equally important is to support each other and build communities to sustain ourselves. The balance between these two has been described elsewhere as *spreading anarchy* and *living communism*. Any attempt to sever one component from the other will surely lead to defeat. As a friend once said, the commune is that which sustains the attack and the attack is that which enlarges the commune. We briefly explore this in a separate article on the next page.

Everyone agrees, the situation is bleak. The Democratic Party is scrambling for relevancy, desperate to redirect different struggles and campaigns into membership drives. Every leftist group sees an opportunity for a new organization to take the Democrats' place; that this organization is always their own is surely just a coincidence. These false solutions only offer the certainty of defeat, of death. We see in autonomous self-organization the potential for something more than bare survival, something like life. Our lives belong to no vanguard, organizer, or leader—only to ourselves.

## REFLECTIONS ON STANDING ROCK

What can you say about Standing Rock? How to begin to describe what has been happening there in the past months to someone who hasn't been? It's a question that has been needling me ever since I left. A real answer would take up much more space than I have here and would be written by someone with more knowledge than me, as I only spent a few weeks there. The short answer is that it's complicated. One thing I learned quickly while there was to be wary of those claiming to have the only correct or official program for resisting the pipeline and standing in solidarity with indigenous warriors. Like any group, Native people are not homogenous. Some are prepared to defend their land and people using whatever tactics are necessary, some are understandably cautious given this country's legacy of violence against them, and some are classic politicians who despite good intentions act to neutralize any momentum generated by the people they claim to represent in return for a seat at the negotiating table. This last group, in Standing Rock as much as anywhere else in the world, is elevated to prominence by colonial power structures such as non-profits, tribal governments and media, and in a bizarre but unsurprising reversal any non-Native who seeks out as wide a variety of Native views as possible and evaluates how best to contribute to the struggle accordingly rather than simply parroting the official leadership is accused of perpetuating colonialism. Native spiritual practices are then mobilized to pressure warriors to remain 'peaceful and prayerful,' in a manner similar to how Christianity is often deployed against non-Native struggles. This was clearly especially painful to witness for the multiple Natives, both Sioux and non-Sioux, who explicitly told me that their traditions have never recognized a division between praying and fighting back, with one elder labeling the imposition of Western notions of pacifism on Native traditions 'spiritual abuse.'

Yet in spite of such obstacles there are many powerful currents brewing at Standing Rock. In addition to the actions taken against the pipeline, covered elsewhere in this issue, people from all across Turtle Island and the world are building bonds and generating momentum against industrial civilization that I think will prove extremely powerful in the coming years; indeed this momentum has already manifested

# SUPPORTING EACH OTHER IN THE AGE OF TRUMP

Elsewhere in this issue we explored a combative strategy against authority in the age of Trump. However, to attack domination is only one part of a larger struggle. It's difficult to know what exactly will happen with Trump in office but we must be prepared to expand our support networks and our capacity for mutual aid within them. There are a lot of resources out there with tips and tricks, but here are a few ideas to start with.

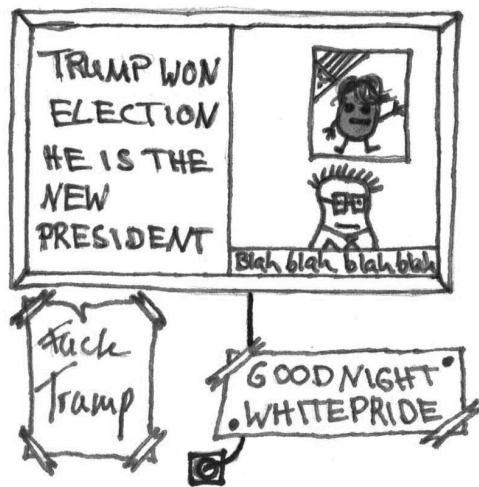
First of all, don't be satisfied with just wearing a safety pin. Wearing a safety pin, anti-fascist or feminist clothing, and putting up stickers, banners, posters and graffiti with slogans such as the well known "Refugees Welcome" all help create a space that is welcoming for marginalized peoples and unwelcoming for our enemies. However, these visual markers have to be given meaning. Be aware of your surroundings and pay attention when you're outside, riding public transit, shopping, working, etc. If someone is harassing someone for being (or even just looking) Muslim, queer, an immigrant, etc, don't ignore it. If you aren't comfortable addressing the attacker directly, you can alert people around you about the situation or offer support to the person being harassed. You can also talk with trusted friends about how to handle such situations ahead of time so that when the time comes you can call on them for support rather than calling the cops. Anti-fascist and autonomous gyms and self defense trainings could also improve our ability to act in these situations.

Stock up on emergency contraception in case it is no longer available. Anyone with a uterus can get prescriptions for hormone contraception which they can then distribute to trans-women who might lose access to hormones. Right now The Exchange exists as an incredible resource for trans folks in the Twin Cities as well as serving as an example of a larger-scale mutual aid project.

Spaces where we can creatively express ourselves are incredibly important and already face turmoil. Many of us lost friends in last month's Ghost Ship disaster, which claimed over thirty lives when an underground concert venue in Oakland, CA caught fire. Since then, authorities have evicted and shut down countless similar spaces across the country. This has been aided in part by an alt-right internet campaign that made false reports on underground venues to the cops, as these trolls correctly recognize that such spaces can function as breeding grounds for anti-racist, anti-patriarchal rebellion. While not exactly an underground venue, the Minnehaha Free Space has served as a place for all sorts of different people to gather, hold events, watch movies, share a meal, or make art together. They are still struggling to make ends meet while they look for a new space and deserve all the support they can get. Beyond the Free Space, now is the time for the various underground scenes in the Twin Cities to get real about turning the loose networks of acquaintances they foster into powerful networks of solidarity. Many of the people who make up these scenes have vaguely antiauthoritarian politics, but often the endless shows and events we go to function solely as places for us to blow off steam rather than spaces in which to forge bonds that will make us stronger once the music stops and the sun comes up. Some encouraging attempts at changing this pattern can be seen in the many fundraisers thrown for Standing Rock and other causes over the past months.

The purpose of these proposals is not to fill the gaps of the state in times of austerity, but to build our collective power. We really don't have a choice anymore. We don't want to provide stopgap measures until things return to normal, we want to desert this white supremacist, patriarchal, capitalist social order entirely.

## A special message from the AgiTater Tot:



Talk to your friends and family. Let them know what a Trump presidency means to the world.



Many of us have to fear even more hate and discrimination. Stand together and support each other!



Our starchy rebel sits in jail after getting arrested at Standing Rock.

The three conspire to escape

Within hours, the facility is on fire.

**Standing Rock, continued from pg 4.**

itself in a variety of anti-infrastructural actions around the continent in the past months. Furthermore, people who have only recently found themselves within the struggle are listening to and learning from those for whom struggle has been a reality for generations. This is especially important given the tendency of the white Left in this country to gloss over the genocidal foundations of this society and thus claim victory the moment a few reforms are offered, leaving those who can't or won't stop pushing forward even more isolated than before. We can only hope that this renewed historical awareness will encourage us not to stop now. As anyone who spends much time at Standing Rock quickly learns, if you want to split a log of firewood you can't just aim for the top of the log. If you do the ax will simply bounce off. Instead you must swing through the log at the larger piece of wood it is sitting upon. If we really want to kill this pipeline we can't just swing at DAPL but must swing at the oil economy as a whole. And when DAPL is dead we will keep on swinging, not just at the oil economy but at this entire white-supremacist industrial nightmare.

**NORTH STAR ANTIFA**

In the ten days after the election, there were nearly nine hundred recorded hate incidents in the United States. It's clear that Trump's victory has further emboldened the far-right—and Minnesota is not exempt. Thus, some Twin Cities-based anti-fascists have created a site to collect information about fascist and far-right activities. The site includes an anonymous submission feature for anyone to report relevant information. This could be fascist graffiti, like the handful of swastikas that have been spray painted around the region, or intel on fascist individuals, like Luke Tromiczak of neo-nazi band Blood and Sun, who up until recently were based in Minneapolis.

North Star Antifa is not an organization, merely a clearinghouse of information. It is crucial to remain vigilant and to stamp out any signs of fascist organizing immediately.

More info: [northstarantifa.blackblogs.org](http://northstarantifa.blackblogs.org)

# GLOBAL NEWS OF RESISTANCE

## THE WORLD AGAINST TRUMP

Before the vote was even called, crowds had gathered in several cities all over the west coast as well as Pittsburgh. Hundreds attacked businesses and started fires in Oakland while a small demonstration in Olympia left a trail of graffiti and broken windows. In Berkeley, demonstrators briefly took over the highway as a few decorated with the walls with slogans. Los Angeles saw several nights in a row of rowdy demonstrations that involved highway takeovers, smashed cop cars & ATMs, and tons of graffiti—rare considering how heavily policed the city and it's protests are.

A few smaller actions were claimed as well, including an incendiary attack on a Confederate History Museum in New Orleans, and the burning of barricades in Tucson.

The second night saw an even larger riot in Oakland as tens of thousands marched through the city as businesses were wrecked, police attacked, and even a handful of molotov cocktails thrown. Portland is covered in graffiti in the city's second night of unrest as well. A bank is attacked during a rebellious march in New Orleans, while the GOP headquarters in Richmond has it's doors smashed during a demonstration in the city. Police cars and other property are vandalized on demonstrations in New York City, Philadelphia, Santa Ana, Washington D.C. and probably more. Even a pacified demonstration in Denver breaks through police lines to blockade a highway.

A car in Los Angeles is lit on fire for sporting a Trump bumper sticker the afternoon of the 10th, that evening the city sees yet another wild demonstration with an officer claiming his gun was stolen after being jumped by the crowd. Portland sees an intense escalation as the march tears apart a wealthy part of town, wrecking stores, car dealerships, and even electrical boxes.

Unrest slowly disperses over the following weeks, with smaller anti-Trump demonstrations occurring in a number of cities. News reports trickle in about people who dared publicly support Trump being harassed and assaulted. Self-defense initiatives and anti-fascist groups are springing up all around the country. Neighborhood assemblies spread across different cities as well. We look forward to seeing what emerges from these attempts at self-organization.

While the immediate revolt has died down, rebels are digging in for the long haul; preparing for the inauguration day convergence #DisruptJ20 and the next four years.

With this explosive revolt as a backdrop, it would be remiss not to mention the nine hundred "hate incidents" that took place within the first ten days of the election. Thirty four of these took place in Minnesota. Donald Trump's election has certainly emboldened many racists and misogynists, but it's also enflamed anti-fascist and anti-state tensions. Neither side is going to back down, we have to step up to the challenge.

More info:

[itsgoingdown.org](http://itsgoingdown.org)

## THE LATEST ON STANDING ROCK

With so much happening against the Dakota Access Pipeline in recent months we'll get right to the news. In mid-October a suspected arson occurred at a construction site in Iowa, causing nearly \$2 million in damages, bringing total damages from apparent anti-DAPL arsons in Iowa to \$3 million. On October 27th over 200 cops, including personnel from the Hennepin County Sheriff's Office, attacked the only camp at Standing Rock directly in the way of the pipeline with pepper spray, rubber bullets, concussion grenades, and an LRAD. In spite of this onslaught warriors refused to surrender this strategic position without a fight, defending the camp with rocks, molotovs, and barricades. At one point masked warriors on horseback even stampeded a herd of buffalo at a line of riot cops, causing them to break rank and flee. Someone also took advantage of the chaos to sneak off and torch construction equipment. Eventually, however, the water protectors were driven out of the camp.

On November 20th water protectors attempting to dismantle a police barricade blocking them from reaching the construction site were met with a water cannon as well as more rubber bullets, tear gas, and concussion grenades, all of which combined with freezing temperatures to injure over 300 people. The most severe injury was inflicted upon Sophia Willansky, who is facing the loss of her arm after a concussion grenade was fired directly at her at close range. Since then, Willansky and another have been subpoenaed to a grand jury investigating the incident, another tool of state repression.

On December 4th the Army Corps of Engineers announced in a surprise move that they would deny the easement required for DAPL to drill under the Missouri River. Some claimed victory and moved to dismantle the camp, but most remain wary given that DAPL has announced its intentions to drill anyway, not to mention the fact that Trump, a DAPL stockholder, could reverse the Army Corps decision once he takes office. As of now there are still hundreds camped out at Standing Rock with no intention of leaving anytime soon.

Way too many actions have taken place in solidarity with Standing Rock to list here; what follows are a few we find particularly inspiring. In Atlanta pipeline construction equipment traveling by rail was blockaded for over six hours, backing up trains for miles. A blockade shut down the port of Olympia for an entire week, delaying fracking chemicals headed for North Dakota. In Québec multiple rail lines were blockaded and a major bridge between Montreal and its suburbs was briefly shut down by Kahnawake Mohawk warriors. In Chicago the windows and ATMs of multiple branches of DAPL-funding CitiBank were destroyed. Hackers associated with Anonymous took down the website of law enforcement vendor Safariland, responsible for providing much of the weaponry used against those at Standing Rock. A variety of local actions have also taken place, some of which are highlighted on the next page.

More info:

[warriorpublications.wordpress.com](http://warriorpublications.wordpress.com)

## LOCAL ACTIONS

**October 27th:** A banner is dropped in Minneapolis declaring "Against the DAPL and its World".

**November 9th:** Anti-Trump demonstration blocks traffic for hours in downtown St. Paul.

**November 9th:** Anti-Trump graffiti is painted in Northeast Minneapolis.

**November 10th:** Thousands march against Trump from West Bank onto i-94, stopping by the GOP Headquarters which is vandalized.

**November 13th:** The new city hall being built in Lakeland is burned down overnight.

**November 15th:** A large banner is dropped in Minneapolis declaring "Stand with Standing Rock Protect Our Water".

**November 16th:** After charges are brought against the officer who murdered Philando Castile, about a hundred march through St. Paul. The lightrail is blocked, a police station covered in graffiti and the truck outside a home sporting the confederate flag receives a flat tire.

**November 19th:** A truck displaying a "Blue Lives Matter" flag catches fire in Minneapolis.

**November 19th:** A small anti-Trump march blocks traffic on E Lake St.

**Late November:** Doors and ATMs of 4 different banks are glued shut in solidarity with the #NoDAPL struggle.

**December 6th:** A planning meeting for a new youth prison is cut short when crowds shout down speakers and tear up poster boards. Plans for the youth prison are subsequently dropped.

**December 12th:** On the morning of the Uptown Wells Fargo's grand opening, its doors are locked with U-locks in solidarity with the #NoDAPL struggle.

**December 15th:** Alt-right Milo Yiannopoulos is disrupted by several outbursts during his speech at Minnesota State University in Mankato.

**December 15th:** Neo-nazi band Blood & Sun is confronted at the Triple Rock, where frontman Luke Tromiczak and his band are chased from the venue.

**December 17th:** A small crowd gathers for a memorial remembering Michael Israel, a U.S.-based anarchist who was fighting with the YPG in Rojava, Guilherme Irish, a Brazilian anarchist murdered by his nationalist father, and the comrades lost in the Ghost Ship fire in Oakland.

**December 21st:** A credit union is robbed in Maplewood.

**Late December:** NoDAPL graffiti is painted by E Lake.

**December 31st:** The annual New Year's Eve noise demo lights off fireworks at the youth jail downtown, while some decorate the building with paint and rocks.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**January 5th:** Monthly prisoner letter writing night. Fill out birthday cards and write letters to political prisoners. This month's featured prisoner is Josh Williams, serving an 8 year sentence for trying to burn down a Quik Trip during a demonstration in Berkeley, MO in response to the police murder of Antonio Martin. *Walker Church - 3104 16th Ave S at 7:00 PM.*

**January 9th:** Court support for Louis Hunter. Louis is facing felony charges stemming from the July 9th protest and highway shutdown. Come show support at his next court appearance. *Ramsey County Courthouse - 15 W Kellogg St at 9:00 AM.*

**January 12th:** Midwest Trans Prisoner Pen Pal Project twice-monthly letter writing night. Write letters to and potentially start friendships with queer/trans prisoners in the Midwest. *Boneshaker Books - 2002 23rd Ave S at 6:00 PM.*

**January 14th:** Benefit concert for Louis Hunter. Performing acts include the Bolt Weevils, Malcolm Wells, Breakaway, and MC Longshot. *Seward Cafe - 2129 E Franklin Ave at 7:30 PM.*

**January 19th:** Trump the System Dance Party! Meet up the night before the inauguration to demonstrate the fierce disruptions that can be expected under a Trump presidency. *Hennepin & 29th St at 8:00 PM.*

**January 20th:** There is a call for a bold mobilization against the inauguration of Donald Trump. In addition to a convergence in DC, there are calls for autonomous actions everywhere. For more info, check #DisruptJ20

**February 2nd:** Monthly prisoner letter writing night. Fill out birthday cards and write letters to political prisoners. This month's featured prisoner is Joseph Buddenberg, serving a 4 year sentence for animal liberation actions. *Walker Church - 3104 16th Ave S at 7:00 PM.*

*If this calendar is looking a little sparse, it's because the invaluable Minnehaha Free Space is transitioning from their old building to a new one. Support them!* [minnehahafreespace.org](http://minnehahafreespace.org)

### LINKS

#### CONFLICT MN

[conflictmn.blackblogs.org](http://conflictmn.blackblogs.org)

#### TC RADICAL CALENDAR

[tcradical.wordpress.com](http://tcradical.wordpress.com)

#### IT'S GOING DOWN

[itsgoingdown.org](http://itsgoingdown.org)

#### CONTRA INFO

[en-contrainfo.espiw.net](http://en-contrainfo.espiw.net)