



NEWS by taylor dean Westville Prisoner Rebellion Successful But Repression Continues

Prisoners at Westville Correctional Facility in North West Indiana began a hunger strike in mid January protesting scant, nutritionally deficient sack lunches being served in place of hot meals. The lunches were a cost cutting measure enacted by the Indiana Department of Corrections and private contractor, Aramark which severely restricted the prisoners' calorie intake and seldom included fresh fruits or vegetables. The strike began in the Control Unit (a.k.a., solitary or Super Max Units) and spread in other areas throughout the prison supported in solidarity by folks on the outside who hung banners, painted bridges, protested at the capital, and began a campaign to flood the Warden's and the Governors' offices with phone calls demanding that hot meals be stored at the prison. The Westville prisoner support website announced this week that efforts were successful and hot meals are now being served at the prison. However, prisoners in Super Max who rebelled against the insufficient and unhealthy sack lunches are now having heat cut from their cells. The Super Max Unit has been without heat in these brutally low temperatures. Calls are needed to the governor's office and the commissioner's office demanding that heat be restored. Governor's Office: 317-232-4567. Commissioner's Office: 317-232-571.

For more background on prisoner struggle at Westville, check out North Carolina anarchist radio program, The Final Straw, (thefinalstrawradio.noblogs.org) episode featuring an interview with Deedee from Saving Our Families who speaks about the Westville prisoner hunger strike and appalling living conditions and treatment at the prison. A reading by anarchist prisoner Sean Swain is also included.

Keep an eye on dignityatwestville.wordpress.com and rifibloomington.wordpress.com for updates as the situ-

SCENE REPORT

Indiana Queer Prisoner Solidarity is a group working to build ties between current and potential gay and transgender prisoners. As queer anarchists, we have an intimate understanding of how the repressive arm of the state is used to police gender, sexuality, and dissent. We seek to create personal relationships between incarcerated queers and those situated similarly on the outside, coming from the understanding that the only difference between us is an accident of fortune. We also hope to provoke queers whose main political interests lie in organizing for marriage and hate crime laws into considering more vital and conflictual political action--that of revolutionary solidarity.

We have a letter-writing night at the Midwest Pages to Prisoners space (118 S. Rogers) every second Wednesday from 7-10pm. We encourage you to drop in! For more information, to be connected to a penpal, or to join our mailing list, write to indianaqps@riseup.net. You can also check out our blog (<http://indianaqps.noblogs.org/>) for information and upcoming events.

"In The Red" Sale to Benefit Boxcar Books

Below freezing temperatures and the holiday season break has made January a tough month for Boxcar Books. Expenses (rent for Boxcar and MWPP, utilities, ordering, etc.) have outpaced sales leaving Boxcar in the red. Help Boxcar bounce back and come check out our In The Red sale! All throughout the month of February, all books with a red 25% off sticker will be 50% off! Pick up some good reads on the cheap and help us weather the strain of the winter months.



Don't Feed the Meters, Don't Fund the Police

The city of Bloomington has made it clear that parking meters are not only a hassle and a financial burden, but also a revenue source for additional policing and surveillance in town. Money deposited into the parking meters will fund the installation of permanent and roving surveillance cameras in public spaces as well as extra police patrols, specifically targeting areas where homeless folks congregate. Mayor Kruzan has tried to present the police patrols as agents of compassion who will distribute information about support services for the homeless but we know that this is just another effort at social cleansing telling poor and homeless folks downtown and along the B-Line to "move along." Tell your friends; don't feed the meters - give your change to folks on the street, not the state.

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Midwest Pages to Prisoners Hours:

Mondays 7-9pm
Tuesdays 7-10pm (Community Night!)
Wednesdays 2-6pm
Thursdays 7-10pm
Sundays 2-5pm

New autonomous prisoner solidarity projects

Two new autonomous prisoner solidarity projects recently began meeting at the Midwest Pages to Prisoners Project. Indiana Queer Prisoner Solidarity (see the "Scene Report") is a prisoner support project connecting queer folks on the inside and outside. The group meets at MWPP (118 S. Rogers St.) every second Wednesday of the month, 7-10pm. All are welcome to attend.

The Indiana Prisoner Writing Workshop is a correspondence based writing project encouraging prisoner creative writing through assistance in editing and support in publishing. Indiana prisoners submit creative writing pieces which are then workshopped for feedback and editing, swapping writing between prisoners and linking folks to volunteer editors on the outside. Volunteer editors and corresponders are needed. To get involved, stop by MWPP Wednesdays 2-6pm.

BOOK REVIEW: Bike Snob

Eben Weiss has been, in many ways, praised and placed in the cycling world as a spokesperson on behalf of urban cycling and the spread of bicycling as a reemerging form of transportation and lifestyle. Weiss, the "Bike Snob", has authored an ongoing daily blog devoted to social commentary and borderline satire involving the cycling world. His debut novel, "Bike Snob" builds upon preexisting themes found in his blog, but with a more accessible twist- one that leaves the pages open for anyone interested in beginning to acquire a lifestyle as a cyclist, or a lifelong enthusiast who wishes to further enlighten themselves or expel a few good laughs between the lines. With popular reaction and praise for the debut work, The Bike Snob has since released a second and third book on cycling themes- the second having to do with commuter angst and paths to transcendence, and the third having to do with the ongoing search for a cycling utopia in Europe. Amuse yourselves at his blog, bikesnobnyc.blogspot.com for further musings. -David Stepanovich Davtyan

ZINE REVIEW: Cute

by Jordan Castro and Mallory Whitten

Cute is a chapbook of poems / drawings by Ohio writers Jordan Castro and Mallory Whitten. The poems are intimate seeming and plain-spoken and feature various anthropomorphized animals doing simple things like floating in the ocean, or flying towards a sunset. A squirrel dances to a waka flocka flame song in a suburb of Cleveland, Ohio. A guinea pig feels sarcastic and thinks about twitter. These are haiku-y feeling gifts of poems and drawings that resonate and relate w/ a postmodern audience. the seemingly-never-not-going-to-be-alone octopus / thinks, // the world ends when we die anyways / right? is an example of a line from the chapbook. I felt comforted while reading this, in a similar way to the feeling I remember having when I was a kid when my mother would sit on the couch near me, vaguely patting my head as I fell asleep watching television w/ her.

Find more about the authors here:

Jordan Castro: <http://jordancastro.tumblr.com>

Mallory Whitten: <http://malloryannwhitten.tumblr.com>