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"Against the shamelessly vile methods of the politician there is but one effective weapon—the daring appeal of the revolutionist." —James Connolly



Students and community rally outside of the University Center while white supremacist Jared Taylor spoke at CMU on March 27. Photo courtesy of Honest Lens Photography.

GJ Socialists Mean Business

MC-DSA Leads Major Victory for CMU Students

By Nikoli Weir

If the anti-Jared Taylor protest showed anything, it showed that the Mesa County Democratic Socialists of America (MC-DSA) means business. We said we would organize a massive event to protest Jared Taylor, and we did. We said we would be as well organized and we were, like a well oiled machine. We said we would be loud and militant, and we were.

No other group in Grand Junction stood up to Jared Taylor in such an organized fashion. The liberals and democrats

didn't do it. The libertarians didn't do it. Campus administration refused to move even a finger. The local churches did nothing. We, the socialists and revolutionary organizers, were the ones who made a stand, and the masses recognized that and they followed us.

The Mesa County Democratic Socialists of America is different from other organizations in town. We are not guided by vague feelings and sentiments. We do not shy away from that which is difficult. We do not tone down our ideas to

PROTEST on Page THREE

Free Speech For Some

By The Revolutionists

John Marshall, President of Colorado Mesa University, has championed the idea of free speech, even going as far as saying CMU's "civility" towards a white supremacist speaking on campus is what makes CMU special.

Marshall has made very clear both that he finds the speaker's ideas abhorrent, and that the speaker is here at the invitation of a student group.

Let me say that again for the civil rights attorneys in the back; John Marshall sent three top administrators to disenfranchise the voices of 20 students all in an effort to make sure a white supremacist spoke at CMU. His protestations and polished emails to the "Mavily" cannot cover this up.

Additionally, admin even had GJPD—in their role as campus security—guard a meeting of the original five members just before spring break.



Marshall continues to use students as a shield, saying students invited the speaker, therefore his hands are tied. But in reality it is John Marshall and the administration that are hosting this speaker at this point.

What has not been widely made public is that two weeks ago, 20 students opposed to Jared Taylor speaking on campus joined the Western Culture Club. They followed the club's constitution, they followed Club Advisory Board rules. They called a meeting and elected new officers. Marshall could have taken the off-ramp those brave students provided him. Instead, Marshall had Jody Diers, Trey Downey and David Ludlam, all three high-level administrators, meddle in student club politics to ensure that the talk proceeded. As of today, 20 out of 25 members of the WCC don't want Jared Taylor on campus, but those 20 students apparently have less free speech than the five racists that started the club.

John Marshall could have taken the off-ramp, but didn't. Don't be lulled by the double-speak; John Marshall is personally hosting this speaker.

Tickets for the talk have also been a fiasco, and the control of the tickets have been left in the hands of the minority (5 vs. 20) of the WCC club.

Max Applebaugh told the CMU Criterion in an email, "I didn't prevent anyone from going. Rather I never set aside tickets...I am [unwilling] to remove people from the reservation list (some of whom are flying in from out of state) to make room for [media]. I know journalists like to see themselves as first-class citizens and entitled to special treatment, but I do not see them that way."

Additionally, Marshall's recent statement in an email published by the Daily Sentinel calling the editor of The Revolutionist an "antifa lunatic" was a mask-off moment where Marshall

Events & Orgs: Praxis in Action

Democratic Socialist of America Mesa County
Will be hosting a May Day celebration on May 1.
Details coming soon.

Mutual Aid Partners' Distro Day!
Every Tuesday!
10am to 1pm Drop Donations
11am to 1pm Receive Donations
262 Ute Ave, Grand Junction

Solidarity Not Charity
Free Food for Free People
Feeds every Saturday at 4pm at the Resource Center. Grand Jct.
solidaritynotcharitygjinfol@gmail.com

Falconer Workers' Society
Anti-Capitalist and Revolutionary Book Club
Grand Junction. Email for an invite.
falconersworkerssociety@gmail.com

Be the Media!
Help Edit, Write, Distro
The Revolutionist
therevolutionistgj@gmail.com

The Invisible Patient Movie Screening
6:30pm May 15th
Main Branch of the
Asteria Theater at CMU, Grand Jct

<https://tickets.coloradomesa.edu/event/mental-health-awareness-film-screening-10gypj>

Cortez Food Not Bombs
Serves a community meal every Sunday
at Veterans Park. 12pm-2pm

Join the Mesa County

Democratic Socialist of America (DSA)

The local chapter is holding meetings and organizing! Committees are getting to work! Join them!

Memberships are on a sliding scale!

www.mesadsa.org

Contact the local chapter:

info@mesadsa.org

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Starting Somewhere: A Review

By Jacob Richards

Starting Somewhere: Community Organizing For Socially Awkward People Who Have Had Enough” by Roderick

Douglass is a two-hundred page, easy reading, guerilla guide to getting things done.

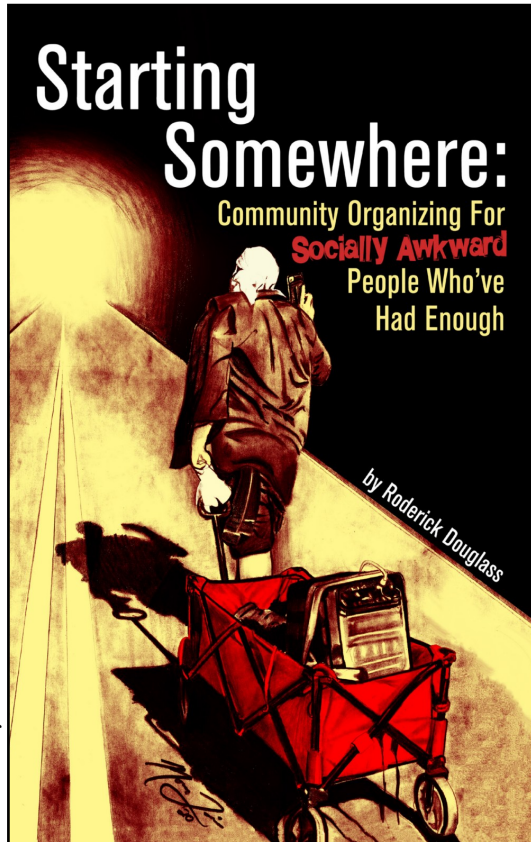
Drawing on years of activism, robin-hood-esque daring do, academic sources, and radical histories Roderick takes readers on a very human journey disguised as a how to manual. That is of course not to say that “Starting Somewhere” isn’t packed with information for revolutionists of all levels of experience, because it is. From protest safety, how to have meetings, build community, supply lists, and the importance of saying “no,” the information is timely, accurate, and needed now more than ever.

Funny, irreverent, radical, and at times touchingly sad, this fast paced book pays homage to Abbie Hoffman’s counter culture classic: “Steal This Book.” In many ways “Starting Somewhere,” is an update to Hoffman’s work; picking up where he left off.

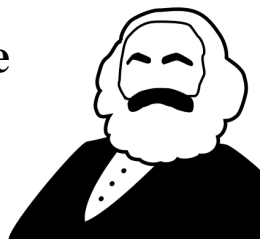
Revolutionaries, outlaws, organizers of all stripes, outcasts, agitators, misfits, and scatterlings will learn something from this book and should give it a read.

Published by Truth is Publishing, it can be purchased digitally for \$7.99 on Kindle and in hard copy for \$15 from Amazon.com.

Locally, Lithic Books in Fruita has copies on the shelf.



Make sure to checkout our website for additional content, breaking news, and calls to action.



PROTEST from Page ONE

appeal to our opponents. We proudly declare that the only way to defeat fascism is by means of socialist revolution.

We understand that the only way to oppose the incoherent ramblings of fascist madmen is by putting forward clear and nuanced analyses of the political situation. The fascists try to win people over by tricking them, but the people are not stupid. They do not want lies and empty promises; they want a clear understanding of why things are the way they are, and they want to know how to bring about change.

We provide such an analysis, and we provide such a guide to action. We work tirelessly to bring to light the contradictions which rend our society into pieces, and to show that the existence of these contradictions is not inevitable.

The rise of racial hatred, white supremacy and fascism is not accidental. Capitalism is in decay, and whenever societies begin to fall apart, violent and reactionary groups emerge whose sole mission is to attempt to preserve the decaying society by means of violence and coercion.

That is the objective role of fascism in history; to preserve capitalism by means of terror and violence. The only way to oppose this is by the power of the organized working people. We may not have won the war against fascism, but we certainly won a battle against it.

In the weeks leading up to Jared Taylor’s speaking event, CMU students, on their own initiative, joined the Western Culture Club (the club that invited Taylor) and attempted to hold an election to appoint new officers and change the direction of the club to be more positive and uplifting. In response, John Marshall sent two of his top ranking Administrative thugs, Jody Diers and Trey Downey, to illegally pre-

vent the students from exercising their rights. Despite this the students soldiered on, and refused to be intimidated or coerced by John Marshall and his fascist appeasing gang of academic frauds.

Jared Taylor ended up speaking to a room that was more than half empty. Of the 80 seats that were sold, only 25 were occupied by listeners, eight of whom were there to argue with and question Taylor. Most of the attendees were unimpressed by his arguments, and less than five people clapped for him. Patriot Front came to town, but they hid like cowards a few blocks away from the demonstration. The



Courtesy of Honest Lens Photography.

fascists wasted time, money and manpower on an event that ended up being a total defeat for them, and a major victory for student and community organizers.

The fascist appeaser John Marshall also suffered a major defeat. The Daily Sentinel falsely reported that only 150 people showed up to protest. We had a ticket counter, and we handed out over 600. For ten straight minutes, over 600 people chanted and denounced him as a spineless enabler of totalitarianism and fascism. When press, including the student newspaper the Criterion, tried to enter Taylor’s event to report on it, they were denied entry, despite Marshall’s claim to be a first amendment absolutist. When Dean Withers, a left wing content creator, interviewed Marshall and asked him a difficult question, Marshall walked away like the coward that he is.

Even the CMU Campus Unity Festival, which was originally organized by students but shamelessly co-opted by John Marshall, wasn’t enough to shield him. We made sure that everyone knows John Marshall is a liar, a fraud and a crook, and we will continue to spread the truth

APRIL NEWS BRIEFS

Not All Heroes Wear Capes

It was sad news to many when GJPD arrested the alleged CMU graffiti bandits. Many felt seen. Like someone was willing to do something to oppose the rising tide of hate on CMU's campus when no one else would. The Grand Junction Police Department initially reported that the graffiti was both anti-government and racist. GJPD later made a correction to the initial statement after members of the community asked how anti-nazi graffiti was considered racist.

First They Came for the Activists

ICE is coming after activists, they have detained: Rumeysa Ozturk, Mahmoud Khalil, Yunseo Chung, Badar Khan Suri, Lequaa Korida, Ranjani Srinivasan, Alireza Doroudi, Dr. Rasha Alawieh, Momodou Taal, for their alleged pro-Palestine anti genocide activities. Additionally, another 300 or so students have gotten letters from ICE encouraging them to self-deport. They

have been targeted for their support or perceived support of pro-Palestine activities on campuses. In Denver, Jeanette Vizguerra, an immigration activist, has been detained by ICE. In Washington, state farmworker and union activist Alfred Juarez has also been detained by ICE. Cyber-security expert and prominent computer scientist, Xiaofeng Wang and his wife have disappeared into federal custody after the FBI raided their home near Bloomington Indiana, and the university has scrubbed all mention of Wang and his wife from the college's website.

Election Denier Sherronna Bishop Committing Voter Fraud in Mesa County

Anne Landman's blog is reporting that Sherronna Bishop is likely committing voter fraud by maintaining a residence in and

voting in Mesa County, despite residing full-time in Texas in violation of Colorado voting regulations. Sherronna rose to notoriety as an election denier close to Lauren Bobert and an unindicted co-conspirator with Tina Peters all while branding herself America's Mom. Will someone challenge her voting status? any voter can!

The Rev in the News

The Revolutionist has been in the news lately. First, Corey Hutchins, profiled us on his Substack, and we added dozens of new subscribers from around the state. Hutchins' post was then picked up by *Editors and Publishers* at the national level and we made a few more new comrades. On the other side of the coin, we were called "Antifa Lunatic(s)" and minimized as a "blog" by Colorado Mesa President John Marshall in an email obtained by the *Daily Sentinel*, and again picked up some new subscribers. Welcome, and thanks for the support!

Some of the emails also stemmed from an article that detailed growing concerns of hate on campus from *The Revolutionist*, a left-wing publication. Marshall was sent a link to that article and wrote in response, "Yes, I'm aware of the antifa lunatic who runs that blog. He and Anne Landman lace me up periodically," referring to local blogger Anne Landman.

Explosion at Weapons Factory Injures One

Local war-profiteer, Valor Tactical, formerly CAPCO, at 1328 Winters Ave, was the scene of an industrial accident and explosion at their Grand Junction factory. CAPCO had numerous worker health and safety violations before rebranding as Valor Tactical after sweeping layoffs in 2023.

On Strike! & Labor Under Threat

There have been 59 official strike actions so far in 2025. 1700 employees at the university of Oregon have authorized a strike, and might go out by the end of March. More than 2300 Kaiser Permanente mental health workers have been on strike in

SUBURBIA From Page SEVEN

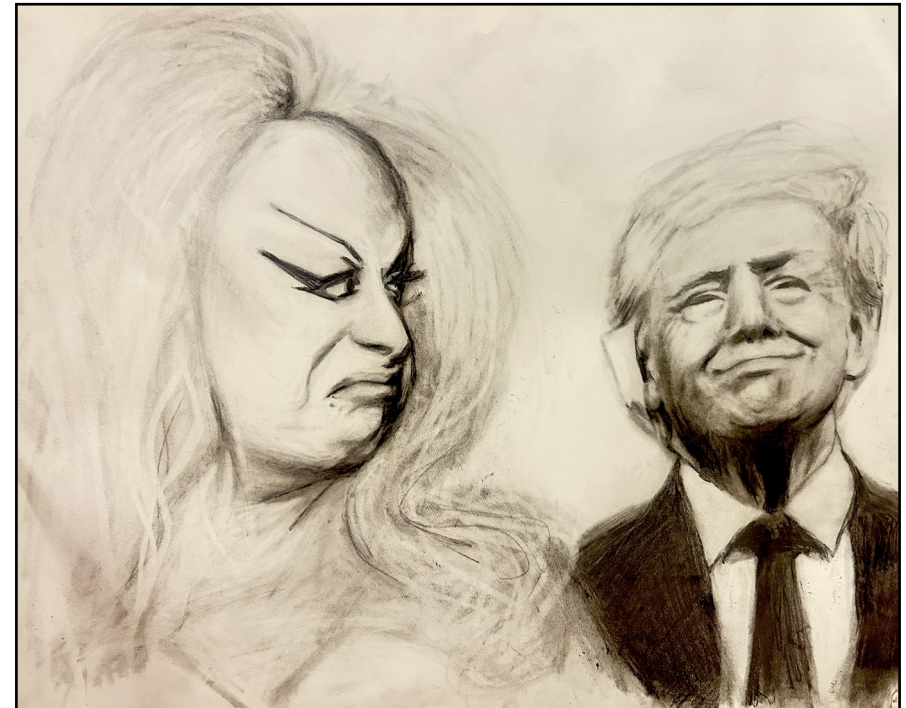
rise apartments, cities can build medium-density housing like townhomes, multi-plexes, and row-housing. New buildings can also be built closer together when cities repeal parking requirements. Small cities can invest in their bus systems, even creating dedicated lanes so they are actually as fast as driving. Here in Grand Junction, work is being done to create a better biking network, however our bus system is still impractical and slow.

Building communities with urbanist principles can improve the quality of life for its residents and develop a stronger sense of community; however, there are limitations. Urbanism is largely a liberal movement and works within established governments. Yet car dependency is violent. From the deaths caused by collisions and the inequality it creates, as well as the environmental destruction it contributes to, leftists should consider if relying on local policy changes will create change fast enough. A radical view of urbanism could

use the labor power of the working class to demand faster change as well as progress to adjacent issues like housing. Urbanism also tends to forget about rural communities. While urbanism is certainly applicable to small towns, a radical approach should consider how the rural/urban divide could be mended. Practices like community and backyard gardening would fit well in urbanism as well as address the environmental issues of industrial agriculture.

Suburbia and car dependency creates a tangle of issues that affect our daily lives. If the working class of the world is meant to organize, urbanism may be an important part of mending broken communities and raising general quality of life. Class consciousness is more likely to spread amongst tightly knit neighbors and people who see each other every day on public transit or out walking. For the sake of our environment and our communities, we have to pay attention to the physical infrastructure that can so easily divide and hurt us. A clean and efficient city is a city on the path to revolution!

Devine Disgust by Ky



FREE SPEECH From Page TWO

decided to attack the media that exposed the months of rising levels of racism and hate on campus. His reaction was not to take swift and decisive action to make the campus safer for students of color and LGBTQ+ identities but to denigrate and call the press names.

Does Marshall not believe in the part of the first amendment that covers the press? Surely, a poli-sci teacher would know that the media is the only private institution provided for in the Constitution to play a role in our system of checks and balances.

A coalition of student clubs have organized a Unity event from 3pm to 8pm on the campus that is open to the public, and will surely be awesome, but according to Jody Diers, "No protests will be tolerated inside the fenced festival."

Meanwhile a large coalition of students, alumni, retired professors and community organizations with structure and leadership provided by the Mesa County chapter of the Democratic Socialists of America has been meeting for weeks planning a peaceful protest march against the

CMU administration, John Marshall and the white supremacists they are platforming.

These students, whose free speech is supposedly just as dear to Marshall's heart, have been told they cannot flyer or poster or promote non-sanctioned events on campus.

Which is it, John? Free speech for all, or just for the white nationalists?

Attacks on the press, the exclusion of the press, the disenfranchisement of anti-racist students' voices, the prohibition on protesting at the sanctioned event, and the suppression of student organizers working on the march all paints a picture of free speech on campus that isn't all that free.

At least not free for everyone.



BREIFs From Page FOUR

Southern California since October. On March 10 striking workers at the Atlantic Theater in New York City struck a deal with management after going out on strike January 12. Some 271,500 Americans went on strike in 2024. Trump's recent executive order to eliminate collective bargaining rights will affect up to one million federal workers.

Colorado Springs Protester Struck by Vehicle Outside Bannon Event

On March 28 a woman was struck by a vehicle at a protest outside of a Colorado GOP event in Colorado Springs. The driver also punched a number of demonstrators. No major injuries were reported and Colorado Springs Police Department made no arrests.

Tesla Dealership Picketed in Gypsum

On March 29, dozens protested outside of western Colorado's only Tesla dealership near the Eagle Airport in Gypsum. The protest was held in conjunction with "Tesla Takedown's Global Day of Action" which

saw actions and protests at 200 Tesla dealerships around the world. Coincidentally, a Trump airplane with a Secret Service detail sat at the Eagle Airport, but it's unclear who was visiting western Colorado. Was it Trump or someone else within the Trump administration or family?

Grand Junction Social Security DOGED

The Grand Junction office of the Social Security administration has been hit by DOGE's cuts and will close its doors by June 21. The next nearest Social Security Office is in Montrose, sixty miles away.

Israel Breaks Ceasefire

In the wee hours of March 19, while Israeli negotiators and Hamas were still at the table, Israel launched a massive airstrike killing at least 400 civilians, making it one of the single deadliest days in the unending war in Gaza.

PROTEST From Page THREE



Students were loud and peaceful in opposing hate on their campus.

Photo Courtesy of Lee Galett.

that he so desperately tries to hide.

All of these victories for the students and the community would not have been possible if it wasn't for the tireless efforts of MC-DSA activists and allies. For the past month we have been working day and night to plan and coordinate the event to make sure it was safe and welcoming for everyone in the community.

MC-DSA provided an 'open-mic' segment that platformed regular students' voices. Students spoke to their personal experiences with racism and hate on campus. MC-DSA cares about our people and their voices, and we believe that providing a space for them to speak their truths is vitally important.

But even with all of that, none of this would have been possible if it wasn't for our local community showing up en masse to oppose Jared Taylor and his vile white supremacist rhetoric. The community showed up and they made themselves heard. They showed

Jared Taylor and his supporters that Grand Junction will never again welcome fascism and white supremacy. They showed that when the working people stand united, they can never be defeated.

Some of our local elected officials also showed up in support. City Councilmembers Scott Beilfuss, Jason Nguyen and Randal Reitz, as well as school board member Jose Chavez, came to support the community and oppose racism and hatred.

In the past few months, students and community members have also been showing up consistently on 12th and North to oppose the Trump Administration's campaign of mass deportations and the U.S. government's funding of the genocide in Gaza. The students are not new to opposing fascism; they have been doing it, and they will continue to.

On March 27th we stood as the vanguard of the anti-fascist student movement, and we don't plan on backing down any time soon. We will continue to stand up against fascism, white supremacy, and capitalism. We will continue to stand up for ourselves as working class people. We will continue to fight, and we will win!



Marchers outside of the University Center. Photo by Mariann. presentmomentsart.com

The Isolation of Suburbia and Car Dependency

By Kailey Goode

Since the 1950s and the advent of the automobile, suburbs have been the primary form of new residential development in America: expanses of twisting roads, large houses lined up like products, and big-box stores surrounded by lakes of parking. On the surface, suburbs seem like a perfect solution to housing, a great place to raise children and live out the American dream. The truth is this way of building isolates people from their community. Suburbia, and the car dependency implicit in it, segregates us and creates an environment hostile to the organizing of the working class. Like all things, the suburbs and its cars are made by and for capitalism.

Despite its prevalence, the suburban method of development has garnered critique across political divides. The fast roads and sprawling housing brings disadvantages that anyone can object to. Cars themselves are very expensive to buy, fuel, maintain, and insure. Yet suburbia essentially requires that a family has multiple vehicles. This is because the road design and land use of suburbia is built solely with cars in mind. The required parking of everyone's cars further space out homes and businesses. The result is that shops, work, and home are often out of walking or biking distance. In fact, walking

or biking can be dangerous next to fast-moving vehicles. The danger of everyone driving also increases the severity and frequency of car crashes, leading to an arms race of sorts as everyone seeks to buy bigger, "safer" vehicles. These feedback loops lead to more traffic, requiring more lanes, more road maintenance, and more sprawl.

The headaches of car dependency are expensive, dangerous, and inconvenient for everyone, not to mention unsustainable in the face of climate change.

The history of suburbia is also rife with social issues. New constructions of large highways and housing developments deepened racial segregation and class divides. New highways were almost always built through black and brown communities, displacing thousands of families. Meanwhile,

the wealthier white populations of cities escaped to red-lined neighborhoods and newly built homes. Wide roads, confusing layouts, and lots of fences have created two classes of communities: racially diverse, poor communities and predominantly white, wealthy communities. This all continues today through the continued construction of wider highways and newer, fancier developments with more gates and security. Through structural violence and



INVISIBLE from Page NINE

bullet to the chest. We attended his memorial, and at the request of his mother, screened a portion of the film that featured John's story in his own words, and it's haunting how much of what John predicted about his own future came true. It's bitter-sweet, because I am confident that John's story has the potential to connect with audiences. I only wish he could still be here to see that story resonate.

TR: What's next for Jhova Films?

JQ: I am admittedly a bit superstitious when it comes to talking about projects in the pipeline, I don't want to jinx anything. However, I can say that we currently have some options for the next documentaries we will pursue. In between, we plan on continuing work on our current projects—the 100 Year anniversary film for Colorado Mesa University (Not yet titled), as well as

a documentary following the lives of the Latino community in Eagle County, and the numerous non-profit resources that are available in that region, (titled One Valley).

TR: When and where can readers catch a screening of "The Invisible Patient?"

JQ: Thursday, May 15th, at 6:30pm at the Asteria Theatre at Colorado Mesa University. Tickets are available now at Vivenu.com.

Tickets:

<https://tickets.coloradomesa.edu/event/mental-health-awareness-film-screening-10gypj>

In memory of: John William Nelson

MAYDAY from Page TEN

eight had been killed, and an undetermined number of protestors were killed and wounded. This event is known as the Haymarket Affair.

In response to the massacre of protestors by police, the mayor of Chicago illegally and unconstitutionally banned socialists and trade unionists from meeting and assembling. Newspapers published by the socialists and trade unionists were raided by the police and shut down, and eight socialists and anarchists were brought to trial for the throwing of the bomb.

The trial was rigged from the start; according to the Encyclopedia of Chicago, "the partisan Judge Joseph E Gary conducted the trial, and all 12 jurors acknowledged prejudice against the defendants." Because the prosecution had no evidence that any of the eight defendants were involved in coordinating the attack or throwing the bomb, their writings and speeches were used as evidence against them. "The jury, instructed to adopt a conspiracy theory without legal precedent, convicted all eight. Seven were sentenced to death."

Due to outrage on the part of the American people, two of the seven death sentences were commuted. On November 11th, 1887, four innocent people were ex-

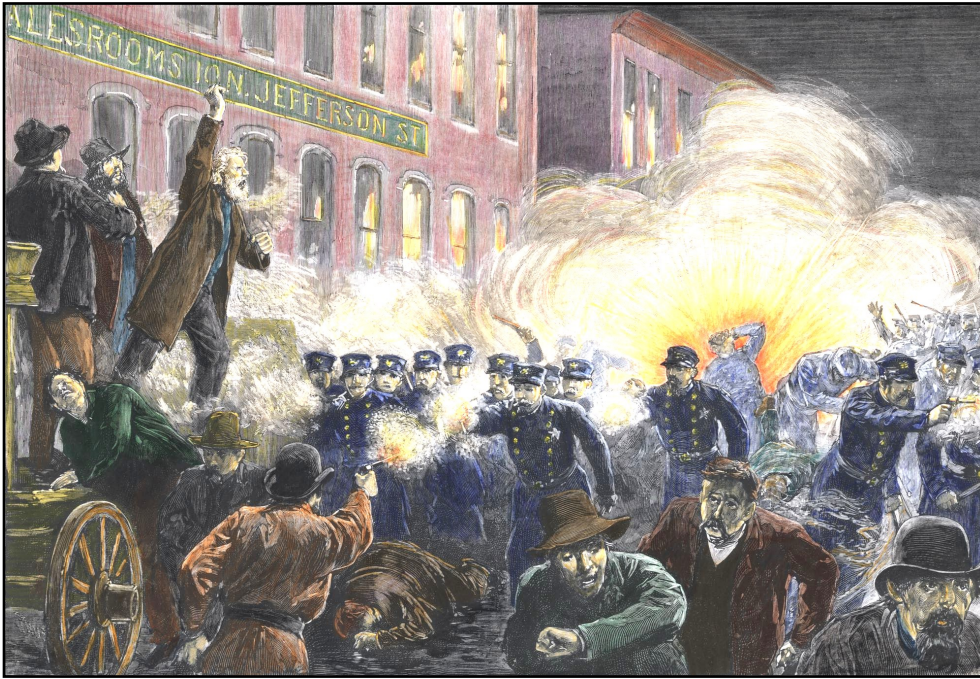
ecuted by the government after being convicted of a crime they didn't commit by a kangaroo court. The fifth defendant set to be executed took his own life instead.

To honor both the Haymarket Eight and the martyrs slaughtered by the police, socialists and trade unionists all across the world began celebrating May Day, and in many countries it would go on to become an official holiday. But not in the United States. The American government and the rich oligarchs who control it fought desperately to suppress the radical history of May Day, and to co-opt its celebration in a way that wouldn't oppose their rule.

In the end, they succeeded, and now instead of International Workers Day, or May Day, Americans celebrate Labor Day. Instead of parades with banners and red flags, we have cookouts and barbecues. The rich and powerful killed five of the Haymarket Eight, and then for good measure they buried their memory. It's up to us to rediscover the radicals of the past who gave up their lives to try and create a better world. It's up to us to carry the torch of Liberty, Equality and Solidarity forward into a brighter and better future.

Radical History of May Day

By Nikoli Weir



Painting depicting the bombing and ensuing massacre at Haymarket Square in Chicago May 4, 1886.

Every year on the first of May, working class people all over the world celebrate International Workers' Day, sometimes referred to as May Day. In the rest of the world, huge parades are held in every major city. In America, a small section of the working class gets the day off. In Europe there are demonstrations led by socialist and labor parties; in America there are barbecues.

Why are American International Workers Day celebrations so different from European celebrations? To know that we have to look at the history of the holiday. International Workers Day was started by the American Federation of Labor (AFL) to honor and commemorate the American general strike of 1886, which began on May 1st. It is estimated that as many as half of one million people participated in the strike.

Workers were primarily striking for an eight hour work day. On May 3rd, soon after the strike was declared, a

demonstration was held in the west side of Chicago at a McCormick Harvesting Machine Company location. At this rally, police fired their guns into the crowd, and two protesters were killed and many others injured. In response to this act of state terrorism, socialists and anarchists in Chicago called for a protest on the following day, May 4th.

The demonstration began peacefully, but eventually the police ordered the crowd to disperse, and attempted to enforce this order using violence. In response, someone from the crowd threw a bomb at the police line, killing one officer. In an act of bloodthirsty frenzy, the police drew their weapons and began firing indiscriminately into the crowd of protestors. In response to the police mowing down a crowd of people, many protestors drew their own guns and returned fire at the police in self defense.

By the time the fight was over, sixty police officers had been wounded,

SUBURBIA from Page SIX

hostile urban design, the end result is people are disconnected from their community.

Both the physical geography and transportation of the suburbs literally separates us from our neighbors. The large houses and fences create boundaries between family units, and cars insulate us from anyone outside the moment we leave. This recreates a very individualistic culture. More public forms of travel like transit, biking, or even walking are often not even considered options, so drivers are often flagrantly unconcerned with their surroundings. This disregard for safety leads to dangerous driving and speeding. More broadly, these divisions normalize a neglect for your fellow humans and the environment.

All of the problems with car dependency are kept alive by the massive corporations that it benefits. Most obviously, the requirement to drive forces residents into car ownership. And the constant driving leads to more wear and the need to buy new cars (if you can afford it) or risk the inconvenience and danger of breaking down. Of course, all of this driving burns literally billions of barrels of gasoline every year. The need to drive to go to work or get food also makes gasoline a largely inelastic demand. In fact, gas prices have influenced elections, and incentivizes opposition to environmentalist policies that could make gas more expensive. This is how car culture exacerbates class divides and feeds into anti-environmentalism.

A large system of powerful institutions maintains the culture and structure of suburbia. The massive auto manufacturers, oil and gas companies, and real estate developers rule the stage. However they are also allied with "homeowners as-

sociations" (HOAs) and the prevalence of "not in my backyard" attitudes (NIMBYism). These groups often oppose projects like constructing multi-family homes, apartments, and mixed use buildings needed to make a community more affordable and walkable. They profit from opposing policies which could make our communities more diverse, prosperous, sustainable, safe, and convenient.

A solution to the issues with car dependency and suburbia may be found in



the rapidly growing 'urbanist' movement. Urbanism generally advocates for denser housing, and investment in public transit, as well as making cities more walkable and bikeable. Even conservatives love the possible money saved on personal vehicles and road maintenance as a taxpayer. Parents can find peace with safer roads while their kids don't always need a car to get to school, activities, and friends' houses. Urbanists also try to emphasize a healing of past mistakes by reconnecting marginalized communities as well as making accessible infrastructure for those with disabilities.

Examples of good urbanism can be found globally. Cities like Amsterdam, Tokyo, and New York City have long been celebrated for their dense neighborhoods and high quality transportation. Amsterdam in particular has been pushing out cars in favor of biking infrastructure across the city. When biking becomes the most popular form of travel, it is easy to go to school, work, shops, and home within a 15 minute ride. This creates a quieter, cleaner, safer, and healthier city.

However, you don't need to be in New York to have good urbanism. Cities of all sizes are becoming more urbanist. New housing is needed everywhere, however instead of big family homes or high-

The Invisible Patient: a Q & A with Jhova Films

The Revolutionist: Who is Jhova Films?

Jaden Quan: Put simply, Jhova is a creative film production company. Myself and Herry Fuentes are partners in the business, which was formed after meeting in college as production assistants for CMU's marketing department. We have people we consistently collaborate with, but we are otherwise a full-service, two-man production crew. We specialize in documentaries and promotional films. Philosophically, I think Jhova is still developing. It absolutely stems from a love for cinema, but it also represents the opportunity for independent film to flourish in places that it may not be inherently valued, (like Western Colorado). It's why we are advocates for the growing film industry in Colorado. Not just for our personal benefit, but for the sentiment of art becoming a feasible career option for young people like us, who cannot see themselves assimilating in the traditional workforce.

TR: Why film? What about film speaks to you as a medium of storytelling?

JQ: To me, film/cinema is the highest form of art that humanity has ever devised. It's the perfect intersection of art and science. The elegance of stage performance, the meticulousness of musical composition, and the innovation of creative technology. It's just as much an artform as it is a working class craft. It requires distinct expertise in so many different fields, and ultimately the pursuit of filmmaking has led to numerous instances of technological pioneering. The very nature of the craft creates infinite possibilities to tell stories.

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Jayden Quan and Herry Fuentes co-owners of Jhova films.

To have the honor and privilege of pursuing that craft, and seeking to make your mark on that sprawling tapestry—there's something extraordinarily special about that to me.

TR: Tell us a bit about Jhova films and the work that you do? How's business going?

JQ: My humble answer is that we still have our nose to the ground, but I'd be remiss if I didn't express the pride I feel about what we have accomplished in the two years that Jhova has been operating. We've organized a grass-roots film festival (The Junktown Film Fest), shot a musical promo in Las Vegas, independently produced two documentaries, and currently have two more in the pipeline. Not to mention the smaller productions we've done in the Mesa County/Eagle

County areas for non-profits and small businesses. We're very fortunate, but we still have a long way to go to meet our goals.

TR: You have tackled some tough issues in your documentaries. "The Invisible Patient" delves into our local mental health system, another tough issue. Why cover these tough stories? Why tell these difficult truths?

JQ: Again, I have to express that being able to be a full-time filmmaker as my job is a very privileged position to be in. I personally was able to secure my education in film on a full-ride scholarship. To me, to get my degree and zoom off to LA or NYC or wherever didn't feel like the right path. I'd like to break into the "proper" industry

some day, but I grew up in Grand Junction, and I've lived amongst drug addiction, poverty, and mental illness my entire life. These are problems I can immediately identify with, but you don't often see these issues portrayed in media with the nuances of a semi-rural setting, or the distinct circumstances of a town situated between two major cities, and being the so-called dumping grounds for groups of people that these cities and resorts deem "unappealing." These are the things that create untold stories, and we are in a position to shift that narrative, and shed light on the ugliest truths that are very intentionally silenced. So for me, not only is it an opportunity to leverage my abilities for something positive, but it also opens up doors for more people to have their stories told.

TR: Mindsprings' recent closure has only further exacerbated the problem, what futures do you see for mental health services in Western Colorado?

JQ: I can tell you what I hope to see. Our research for the film was extensive, with over 20 interviews being conducted, reading books, articles, health reports, and even an academic paper that we wrote in order to assure we had a strong grasp on what is ultimately an extremely complicated subject. Despite all of that, I don't feel that I have the expertise to tell anyone what's going to happen next. What I can say is that our community absolutely needs an extensive wrap-around care model in order to actually start healing people. The path to that care model is tangled in a storm of red tape and conflicting interests. It would require a lot of people to get involved, and

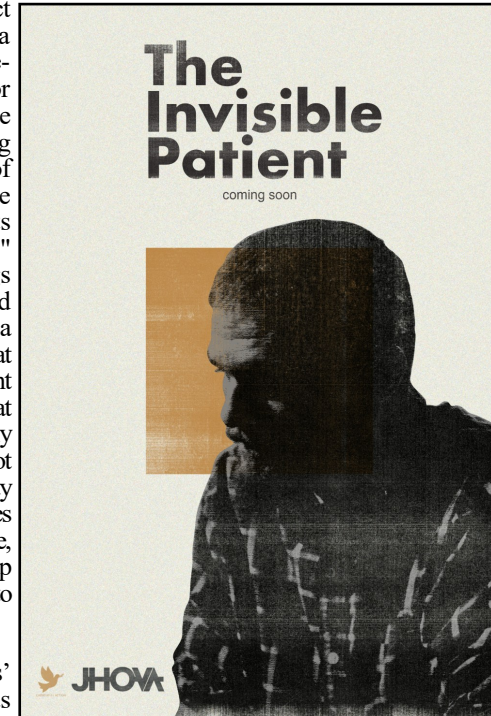
a lot of decision makers to open their minds and hearts to the people of this region. Easier said than done, but I am hopeful.

TR: We understand that one of the subjects of this film recently passed away. How did you handle this loss? How does

the relationship between subject and filmmaker transcend the work? What ethical obligations does the filmmaker have to their subjects?

JQ: It was surreal, put simply. I was introduced to the film's primary subject, John Nelson, through the provided journal entries of his mother, Diana. She had written extensively about his illness, and the fear that it created to those closest to him. Hallucinations, delusions, violent/self-destructive outbursts—the whole nine. Surprisingly, John himself agreed to sit down with us for the documentary. I had several assumptions I had made about him before the shooting day, and we wanted to be very careful about how we approached the harder

questions, knowing that he could lose stability at any moment. However, I was blown away by how well-mannered, articulate, and insightful he was. As a human, I was humbled, as I realized the stigma that we intended to combat had indeed dictated my predispositions on the guy. But as a filmmaker, I was over the moon. It was precisely the kind of person we needed to speak about this. Even his natural screen presence was compelling. We didn't need to coach him, edit him, or correct him at any point. The hundreds of collective hours we did for research was perfectly synthesized in his lived experience. When we found out he passed, it was absolutely a



May 15 @ 6:30PM at CMU's Austeria Theater. Tickets now available.

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