

RESISTANCE BEHIND BARS

—BOOK REVIEW—

Published by PM Press, Victoria Law's first book, Resistance Behind Bars: The Struggles of Incarcerated Women, takes a poignant look at the history and issues surrounding women in prison. An often overlooked reality in our culture, Law's 288-page book seeks to raise awareness to the lives and struggles of incarcerated women across the country. With many first-hand accounts of disrespect, neglect, and abuse (physical/mental/sexual/emotional), Resistance Behind Bars paints a picture that something is deeply wrong with the way we, as a society, (mis)treat imprisoned people, especially the needs of women, which are not usually considered when thinking about prisoners.

However, this book isn't just a pity party thrown to lament the woes of women in the prison industrial complex. Resistance Behind Bars brings to light the many ways in which women struggle against the system for more humane living conditions. Many issues, such as access to education/work opportunities, adequate and affordable healthcare, and family contact/visitation have been fought for inside prison, regardless of known repercussions and punishment.

Law seeks to discount the general assumption by academics and prison activists alike that women in prison merely accept their conditions and do nothing to change it. While many prison riots and protests that occur in men's prisons may be often known about or covered in the media, similar incidents in women's facilities fail to get the same media attention. In addition to direct action, many women also exhaust the 'official' procedures to combat mistreatment.

Complete with numerous helpful end notes, a glossary, and a section on resources for incarcerated women, Resistance Behind Bars offers the public a new and realistic look into the lives of the forgotten and the oppressed.

Resistance Behind Bars is available through PM Press at pmpress.org.



RESISTANCE BEHIND BARS
THE STRUGGLES OF INCARCERATED WOMEN

State of Disunion

PERCENT OF GRAND JUNCTION'S POPULATION that is homeless:
2

ESTIMATED NUMBER OF HOMELESS PEOPLE in Grand Junction:
1000

PERCENT THAT INCARCERATION RATES for women have increased since 1977:
757

NUMBER OF EARTH FIRST!ERS arrested dropping a banner at a Denver Home Depot:
2

WHO CAN HELP keep The Red Pill in print:
you

PERCENTAGE OF 'WALKING VIOLATIONS' handed out by the GJPD that have been given to homeless people:
48

AVERAGE NUMBER OF HOMELESS STUDENTS identified by school district 51 every year:
500

NUMBER OF WOMEN in Colorado Prisons:
2302

NUMBER OF DOLLARS worth of damage eco-activist caused to the Vail Resorts in 1998:
12,000,000

DATE OF GRAND JUNCTION'S NEXT CRITICAL MASS:
7/31/09

* Sources for the State of Disunion can be found at www.gjredpill.org

CALL TO ACTION

The Red Pill is looking for volunteers: graphic designers, writers, poets, cartoonists, artists, and photographers are needed. Get your work published now. Help distribute The Red Pill in your community, church, and school: contact us at gjredpill@hotmail.com. You can also do your part to keep us in print by donating time, paper, film, copies, and of course money (it doesn't print itself).



The Red Pill is collectively produced by Grand Junction Alternative Media, with the aim of publishing stories and ideas that the mainstream media won't cover. It is distributed free, collects no advertising, and is completely staffed by volunteers. All materials are copyleft, no rights are reserved.
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GRAND JUNCTION,
COLORADO

IF YOU WANT TO KNOW THE TRUTH TAKE

The Red Pill



LET'S ORGANIZE

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RADICAL ENVIRONMENTALISM RETURNS TO COLORADO: HIGH COUNTRY EARTH FIRST!



High Country Earth First! (HCEF!) Started its Anti-I-70 Expansion Campaign in Denver this past month.

Earth First! is a philosophy of resistance, not a national organization or group. All you need to do to be an Earth First!er is to agree with the general principles of Earth First! The battle cry of Earth First! is "No compromise in defense of Mother Earth", which means that we will not compromise our values and morals when fighting to protect the environment, and we won't take half a clearcut forest over an intact ecosystem ("cough"Sierra Club"cough"). It also means that we will protect wilderness and the environment by any means necessary, from rowdy protests and sit ins, to letter writing, tree sits, road blockades and the use of the ever elusive 'monkey wrench.' We believe in direct action and in not compromising with those who destroy our earth for profit. We also believe in biocentrism and deep ecology, that all life and ecosystems have inherent value beyond their 'usefulness' to humans. Ecosystems and wild places have the right to exist for their own sake, not because we want to use them or 'conserve' them. These are some of the basic tenants of Earth First! but the philosophy is constantly evolving.

From a historical perspective, EarthFirst!, in its current form, started up in the southwest in the late 1970s, and has since evolved into an international movement fighting on many fronts. EF! Has popularized many creative tactics in wilderness defense such as tree sits, long term road blockades, tree spiking, hunt

sabotage, and plenty of nighttime activities. The primary method of communication is the Earth First! Journal, a bi-monthly magazine which is currently put out by a collective in Tucson, AZ (www.earthfirstjournal.org). There is also a national rendezvous twice a year of EF!ers to come together and share stories and skills, plan future campaigns and have a good time in the woods (this summer the rendezvous will be in Cascadia). Groups form and function autonomously, often based on their bioregion or a specific campaign. In Colorado, the last EF! groups which were outwardly active existed in the late 90s as part of vigorous campaigns against the expansion of ski areas into critical lynx habitat. HCEF! is an attempt to revive the wild spirit of resistance in this part of the Rockies and bring folks out of the woods who until now may have been operating as 'lone wolves.'

HCEF! is a network of smaller EF! groups throughout the state from Denver and the Front Range, to here in the Grand Valley/Western Slope, all the way to the four-corners area and back again. With focuses on the oil and gas industries, the 'clean' coal movement (new plants/mines), uranium mining/milling, the I-70 expansion and stopping urban sprawl, and of course protecting wildlife and their ecosystems.

If you are interested in getting involved with HCEF! or just want to know what's going on, email: highcountryearthfirst@riseup.net

REVOLUTIONARY MEDIA: AN INTERVIEW WITH THE STIMULATOR

e have been fans of radical film maker Franklin Lopez and his group SubMedia for years. His short films, "Why I Love Shoplifting From Big Corporations" and "Join the Resistance, Fall in Love" went viral on the web, and exposed many to anarchist and anti-authoritarian ideas. Lopez's most recent project is the semi-regular radical newscast, "It's the End of the World As We Know It and I Feel Fine." Hosted by the foulmouthed "Stimulator," the show delivers radical news, street action, and more with a healthy dose of humor, music, and resistance. Keep up with the revolution by checking submedia.tv or youtube.com for the most recent (s)edition.

The Red Pill: How the fuck are you?



Stimulator:

Happy, in love and fuckin hectic. Putting the final touches on the west coast tour, editing a section of END:CIV and ready to rock another motherfucking sediton.

TRP: What the fuck inspired you to start ITEOTWAWKIAIFF?

Stimulator: I used to work with some bad ass motherfuckers on TV Radio show called "Democracy Now!" I got hooked on news, but felt the news I wanted to see/hear, news about resistance, alternative lifestyles, solutions etc, were hard to find. And when I did find them, the formats were pretty lame. So I said "wait a motherfucking minute! I can do this from my closet." So when I moved back to Vancouver, I took my beat up laptop and my camcorder and got to work. That was about 60 episodes ago.

TRP: Why the fuck do you announce the end of the show at the end of each season? It makes us sad, and then happy when another episode comes out.

Stimulator: Heh! I think it was poor choice of words on my part. One time I said it was the last episode.... Until the RNC and DNC klusterfucks, then after the conventions I was so fuckin burned out that I announced a hiatus

ie an extended break. But it was never my intention to quit altogether. Not doing the show is akin to not taking a shit. If I don't take one in a while, my insides could explode. In any event, it feels good when people email you crying that they are pissed that "I'm quitting." I always email back to chill motherfuckers out.

TRP: You must know a lot of motherfuckers in the resistance, how do you think the revolution is shaping up?

Stimulator: Revolution is moving and growing. I see it every motherfucking day. Peeps are waking up to the fact that industrial capitalism is not working, that we are destroying the planet and that there's not a lot of time left. With that said, we

need to spread the word like our life depended on it, because with the economy collapsing, things could go in a bad direction right quick. People could start to blame immigrants and what not and racist Bible beaters could form legions of Jesus Zombies with Mack 10's and well... you can see how bad that would be. Heh!

TRP: What the fuck is an anarchist and why do they need their own media like ITEOTWAWKIAIFF?

Stimulator: To me an anarchist is a motherfucker who is on a constant path to finding and creating freedom. Anarchists don't wait for revolution, every day is time for revolt and creativity. So taking on that philosophy I try to be an anarchist all the motherfucking time and the fuckin show is part of that. We need more anarchist media to remind ourselves that we are out there, that there's a shitload of us, to not give up, give in, get co-opted and to keep on, keeping on. Life! Fuckin Eh. Word.

TRP: What is fucking new at Submedia?

Stimulator: Fuckin interns man. Peeps who

"STIMULATOR" ON PAGE SEVEN

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For a New 9/11 Investigation
We need your support now. www.NYCCAN.org**



"STIMULATOR" FROM PAGE TWO

dig what I'm doing and want to learn some skillz while helping spread my potty mouth around. I've been rocking shit solo for years and I felt it was about time I asked for help. And I got it, tenfold. So big upz to Rosalee, Paul, Annette and super bigs to Linda of 4ZZZ in Aussie who's been pimping me like Flavor Flav on VH1. Muah! Also other peeps are writing on submedia.tv - ShiftShapers, Zoe Blunt and Isaac. Double fist pumps for those kids.

Also, organizing video ninja's for the anti-Olympics convergence in Feb of 2010 in my motherfucking town. Go to no2010.com for more info

Finally, editing a film about environmental defenders called "END:CIV" inspired by the writings of Derrick Jensen. Go to endciv.com for more info

TRP: Any words of advice for up and coming media revolutionaries, and those in the fucking streets?

Stimulator: Media nerds gotta get working on free software solutions for postproduction. A lot of the options out there are super basic and we need to stop sucking Steve Job's cock. People on the streets fuckin shit up must continue fuckin shit up but we need to have a conversation on how to best cover street

actions while protecting people's identities. See you in the streets of occupied VanCity on Feb 2010•

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FASCIST, FANATICS, AND ESCAPIST

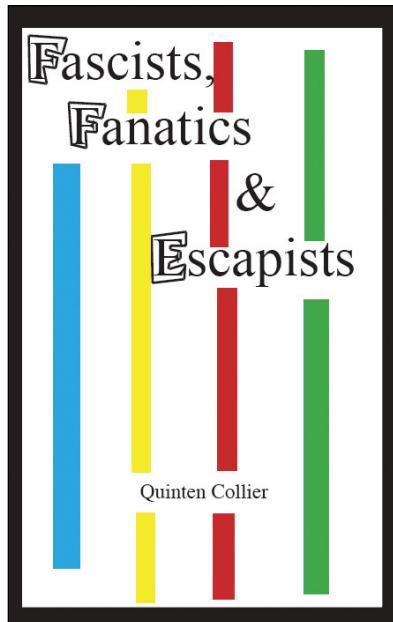
In April 2009, Grand Junction Alternative Media released its first published book. *Fascists, Fanatics & Escapists*, written by local author/artist Quinten Collier, is a collection of poetry.

Quentin has been writing since the age of twelve, and some of his influences include: Jose Saramago, Pablo Neruda, Eugene O'Neill, the Beats, Gabriel Garcia Marquez, Tom Waits, Leonard Cohen, Bob Dylan, and Federico Fellini.

In April 2009, Quinten won the Mark Fischer Poetry Prize for his poem "Thirty Years Till Birth", which is published in *Fascists, Fanatics, & Escapists*. Quinten has many projects in the works, including another poetry book, several plays, and numerous songs.

So keep your eye out for more awesome writing from Quinten Collier. Support local artists! Support local, independent media!

You can purchase your own copy of *Fascists, Fanatics & Escapists* or any of our other titles at Confluence Books at 600 White Ave. #302 in Grand Junction or on-line at www.gjredpill.org.



ACTIVIST CALENDAR

Every Tuesday • 10am

Housing First! No More Deaths! meets to devise creative grassroots solutions to homelessness, and prevent homeless related deaths.

Whitman Park

Wednesday, August 5th • 5PM

Drinking Liberally gets together to drink and talk politics the first Wednesday of the month.

Kannah Creek Brewery, Grand Junction

Friday, July 31st • 6PM

Critical Mass. Bring your bike or skate for a community ride. We are traffic.

Lincoln Park, Grand Junction

Tuesday, July 14th • 1pm

Know Your Rights When Dealing With Law Enforcement training/workshop.

Whitman Park

RED PILL LOCATIONS

You can pick up your copy of The Red Pill at the following locations: Planet 9, Heart of the Dragon, Planet Earth, Moe Ping's Kool Things, The Hot Tomato, Kleen Sting, Colorado Java, Contemporary Glass Works, Orr's Trading Post, Coffee Muggers, Triple Play Records, Dream Child Entertainment.

Download the Red Pill at: <http://www.gjredpill.org>

Become our friend on myspace.com @ http://www.myspace.com/gjam_theredpill

HOUSING FIRST! NO MORE DEATHS!

The Red Pill has been covering homeless issues for many years. Finally, Grand Junction is seeing movement from and for the homeless community. A 'Call to Action' has been distributed by the Housing First! No More Deaths! campaign, and the city put fuel on the fire last week.

On Monday June 29th, the City of Grand Junction tried to pass two emergency ordinances outlawing "soliciting," also known as 'flyin' a sign' or spanging. What stopped the city from moving forward with these ordinances was a strong, large, and loud group of homeless people, younger radicals and other concerned community members.

No one came to support the proposal, and over a hundred people came to oppose it. Solidarity Not Charity (our FNB out here in GJ) provided food and water serving on City Hall's lawn. Live tunes were provided by local band Fast Food Kings and out-of-towners Chicken Little.

The ACLU sent a letter to the City Council just hours before the meeting stating the ordinances' unconstitutionality and its underlying intent to criminalize an entire class of people. The comments made from housed or non-housed folks touched on many of the same subjects.

The city voted unanimously against one statute and 5-to-2 in favor of the other one, but since they were trying to pass these laws without the usual democratic process they needed to pass unanimously. The city will now begin the process of bringing these ordinances through the proper process.

While people ate food and listened to the music outside of city hall, others were speaking to the council. A banner appeared on an adjacent building that read "We are Everywhere."

Those in opposition held signs during the meeting saying things like "Homelessness is not illegal. God Bless." and "Will Work For Free Speech." and "Asking For Help is Free Speech." They also booed and cheered and were, according to the GJPD Sergeant, 'relatively civil.'

The grandest victory at this event was that many people felt empowered and started to see some hope. It showed a lot of people on the street that it

really is possible if we stand together.

Little did the city know, a coalition of radicals and homeless people had been forming quietly for months, and were about to start publicly organizing and agitating for necessary reforms. Housing First! No More Deaths! had its first generally meeting on Tuesday July 7 in Whitman Park.

The homeless, the activists, the local media, the concerned spiritual community and many others from all walks of life made up the over 70 attendants. The meeting was filled with community building, cheering, excitement, diversity, a sense of action-ready-to-happen, and it made for a great start to the campaign.

Housing First! No More Deaths! introduced their four demands:

- No More Deaths!
- Housing First!
- Housing Now!
- Homelessness is Not Illegal!
- Housing, food, water and medical care are basic Human Rights!



They

also encouraged those suffering from police harassment, which usually takes the form of petty tickets, to plead not guilty to all charges in hopes of clogging the injustice system. One man had four tickets in his wallet, and claimed to have three more in his other wallet. He said that he plans to plead not guilty to all of the charges. TRP also found that he plead not guilty, and some of the ticket were immediately thrown out.

The group also plans on attending City Council meetings every other Monday and Wednesday at 7pm at City Hall in order to educate through public comment and keep the issues fresh in 'our leaders' minds. They also plan on having workshops/skill-shares in the park to educate themselves and the community.

With over 70 people in attendance at the first meeting, most of the local media in town, a strong spirit of resistance, and the desperate need to get the four demands met, the kick-off to the Housing First! No More Deaths! campaign was a huge success. The people are riled up and ready for action. Housing First! No More Deaths! will meet again on Tuesday at 10am in Whitman Park.

Will you join the movement?

take off your brain
put it on the mantel
beside the virgin
of Guadeloupe candle
we are that we may desire
to be as we are not
i am that i may desire
not to be at all
our lady of capricious light
your self proclaimed
yet uninhabited radiance
gives me a dull
throbbing bit of skull ache
full of vipers
from a sulfur landscape
shattered by the twinge
at the end of a wet dream
& i'd rather not understand
glory is practicing
our clean faces in a magazine
constantly on the phone
with someone we'll never know
locked in the chemical compound
where nothing but smog grows
our prophecy is carving our
likenesses in icicles
if you are just
trying to impress me
knit a woman out of clouds
a tiger out of leaves
pull a man out of water
a panther out of moss
so i can watch them devour
then become each other
then consume
& become themselves
princess, darling,
your handwriting is illegible
the voice in the whiskey bottle
attempts to convince me
that i'm clinging
to a hopeless dream
for the sake of clinging
to something hopeless
but i ask the
whiskey in response
what else should i be doing?
& no matter how long i sit
talking backwards
to an empty shot glass
i still don't get an answer•

REBUILDING NEW ORLEANS

—AN ESSAY IN VERSE—

BY QUINTEN COLLIER

I was in New Orleans volunteering after Katrina and I found an old tape recorder in the school which our organization, "Common Ground," was using for a base of operations. I decided to write and record some songs on it during my stay. Here's the lyrics, in chronological order, to five of those songs. The rest, I'm sure, has been explained.

The Spell of Utopia

at the laundromat
the clothes in the machine
spin into a white vortex
like a hurricane contained within a bubble
like clouds in a blender
everyone here is tripping through the revolving
doors

of innocence
on a tight rope of experience
yet none of us are naive enough to believe our-
selves
in my pocket i have a New York quarter
one from South Carolina
& one from Maryland
the three bald eagles
wrap their talons around rockets
what fitting emblems of a power
i have no need to possess
the heat from the dryer warms my feet
the tv elevated above our heads
serves as a reminder
that the only way to kill a comedian
is to stop laughing
no matter how austere or elegant i dress
i always feel that my outfit is inappropriate
on days like this
when it's too cold to be Louisiana
i stand in the parking lot
& let the wind smoke my cigarette•

Unification & Prosperity

home is a door that hangs on its hinges
the paint that peels from the wood
youth is a bed where you first learned to pray
to the cross & the girl from church
a shadow is a watermark high as the ceiling
that occupies all time & space
age is a lament, a plea to the endless
for a scrapbook that can't be replaced

what is the essence
of each breath you take
in this world where you no longer fit?
there's no where to go
& nothing to hold
huddled with all souls adrift

a door is a universe unto itself
not a barrier to be traversed
a bed is the end & beginning of consciousness
where we're born & where we'll return
water is a gasp & a plunge to the depths
of a sea that's devoured its shores
lament drifts between sad ecstasy & grief
& cares not whose lips its upon

if our lives were silent
then let our deaths
ring on forever

what is the essence
of each breath you take
in this world where you no longer fit?
there's no where to go
& nothing to hold
huddled with all souls adrift•

Compassion

i was long gone
before i got here
& i didn't come
to rescue anyone
i played my part
the same fool i've always been
& i recognize
that don't mean a whole hell of a lot
Compassion- where did it go?
we're wrapped so tight in self defense
finance & logic
Compassion- where did it go?

of these cruel laws

we are casualties
point your guns at me
my brothers in arms
living's so hard
it makes dying look easy
but when the veils drawn
the blind still don't see how they've been
wronged
Compassion- where did it go?
we're wrapped so tight by politics
or just plain cowardice
Compassion- where did it go?

i was born broke
& i still ain't rich
is life the pursuit
of fast cars & women?
i would jump ship
but i don't know where i'd land
is there paradise
in my hands but i still can't touch it?
Compassion- where did it go?
we're wrapped so tight by social tricks
pleasure at love's expense
Compassion- where did it go?•

Spiritual Extortion

what the hell are we fighting for?
laws to enforce & wills to defeat?
new order in a chaos that will never cease?
the blind are leading the sick into the inferno
what the hell are we fighting for?
madcap judges & circus justice?
to die by the gun or live now on crutches?
the weak are hidden & the maligned reported
what the hell are we fighting for?
genius guerillas waiting to explode?
captive students watching a bitter coup unfold?
we are bound to lose but we will never conform
what the hell are we fighting for?
the taste of oil or the scent of gravel?
a wheelchair in the sun or a bandage in shadow?
the reflections by the water have been contorted
what the hell are we fighting for?
no way out now the trains run backwards
just relax & gorge yourself on horror
while those who fought bravest are deemed
unimportant
what the hell are we fighting for?•