

VOL.4

NEWS



WHO WE ARE

We are a Pan-Left group that believes food is a right not a privilege

We are a non-profit grass-roots organization

We believe in solidarity not charity. We require no beliefs, backgrounds, or acceptance of any of our beliefs

Come as you are.

Our goal is to feed hungry people. We require absolutely nothing from our friends that come to eat with us

You will find the following at our serves:

- Vegetarian meals
- Beverages
- Toiletries/medication/etc.
- Harm reduction

WHEREAS the so-called State of Israel is an apartheid settler
state that violently has and continues to illegally and
immorally occupy the land of Palestine,
WHEREAS the so-called State of Israel is actively engaged in
the ethnic cleansing and genocide of Palestinians by means
of bullets, exposure, starvation, and indiscriminate bombing
campaigns with the help of extracted U.S. tax dollars,
WHEREAS Canton Food Not Bombs denounces all violence,
coercion, and authority of the state; but pursues and
struggles for the self-determination and liberation of all
under state and imperialist oppression.
LET IT BE RESOLVED that Canton Food Not Bombs
explicitly condemns the genocidal and fascistic actions of
Israel, rejects the ethno-state of Israel, denies its self-imposed
legitimacy, and stands in solidarity with the People of
Palestine, whether they be Muslim, Jewish, Christian, or
hold any other religion or belief system.

dancing on the edge of reality
not knowing the next step
i can only imagine the beauty of our
moves
without the boot of oppression
that subverts our grace

SERVE AT YOUNGSTOWN TEACHERS STRIKE

by Russell

We had an exciting first week of September in 2023 here at Canton FNB. We served two vegetarian meals in solidarity to the striking teachers of the Youngstown Education Association. The first meal consisted of 150+ humus sub sandwiches and the second meal was around 200+ bean and veggie build your own burritos. (we planned for a bit more)

Special thanks to everyone who contributed to this somewhat intimidating endeavor. Mayday was especially excited, stressed and overjoyed to help the striking teachers out. She did a fantastic job of planning and organizing everything.

And very super special thanks to Mayday's parents who made 5 gallons of delicious salsa for the serve and Pencil for his long hours, tireless dedication and cooking skills.

Solidarity forever!!



by Moss

QUESTIONS OUT OF LEFT-FIELD

DIDN'T THE FAILURES OF THE SOVIET UNION PROVE THAT SOCIALISM DOES NOT WORK?

by K

There are a variety of reasons for the failures we saw in the USSR. Some due to economic and social experimentation-a trial and error, some due to mismanagement or corruption we see in every government made up of people, and some due to external factors, like U.S. aligned powers undermining, sabotaging, and threatening the project. Regardless of our political tendency (and this author is not a Marxist-Leninist), we all must realize that the Soviet Project did not happen in a vacuum, but instead in an environment where external and internal capitalist forces were constantly hostile, from its inception to its fall. Each and every revolutionary or radical project should expect the same treatment.

Next, it is important to consider how we measure successes and failures. There is a habit of measuring any Socialist project with an exceptionally high bar and Capitalist ones with a surprisingly low bar; what we might call a double standard. When people go hungry and there is little opportunity in a Socialist project, it is diagnosed as an intrinsic system failure. When the same happens in an ultra wealthy and well-established Capitalist country (or a poor Capitalist country), it is due to the individual failure of the millions. Capitalist countries cannot hold up to much of the same scrutiny they give to Socialist projects, even without being undermined by hostile world powers.

Lastly, Soviet-style socialism is not the only form of socialism. Far from a single and unified theory, Socialism exists on a wide and complex spectrum. Some may include the social democracies in some European countries that may curtail the worst of Capitalism for its immediate citizens. However, this is not a good comparison and does not have the same revolutionary intent or plan. Some may point to the People's Republic of China. While a worthwhile discussion, it is a complicated one beyond our current scope. For now, let's consider some successful and modern but less known socialist revolutionary projects like The

EZLN in Chiapas, Mexico (since 1994) or Rojava in Northeast Syria. Or even successful but shorter lived projects in the past like Revolutionary Catalonia during the Spanish Civil War or Makhnovia during the Russian Revolution.

In conclusion, we need to be aware of the history of Socialist projects and the ways in which their powerful enemies responded and repressed them; how we define failures and successes and to avoid creating a double standard. Equally important, we must remember that every structure that involves human discretion, especially those that permit a central and concentrated hierarchical authority, will be prone to misuse and mismanagement and ought to be followed by rigorous systems of accountability. Finally, Socialism exists on a wide spectrum and the Soviet-style was only one. There were and are other Socialist projects to study and follow. If interested in this discussion and learning more, check out the A Club About Books recent readings and/or join the club!

FNB NEWS

In September of 2023, Canton FNB's Committee of Propaganda launched a local education initiative in the form of a book club. It is intended for any and all working folks in Canton, and beyond, that are interested in educating themselves through Leftist literature alongside members of Canton FNB. The book club is appropriately named A Club About Books (ACAB). We explore a wide variety of Leftist literature, from short stories and newer guides on organizing to the classic tomes of theory, covering most tendencies of the Left. The book club remains a program of Canton FNB but itself has put into practice some of the very principles we have been studying like: consensus-decision making and leaderfulness, allowing it to become self-sustaining and member-led with little need of external interference.

Over the last few months ACAB has grown significantly. It collectively decided to meet and discuss its readings every 2-4 weeks, length and difficulty depending.

ACAB Updates

In December, we read **Mutual Aid: for this Disaster (and the next)** by **Dean Spade**, which covered a more modern interpretation for the application of that word Leftist love so much: Mutual Aid. The short book focused on evaluating mutual aid efforts and their internal structure for Leftist organizations particularly through the height of the COVID-19 pandemic in the U.S. Additionally, the author discusses the massive need to consider ourselves as well as the work we are doing, while in the process of providing aid. The work cannot be done without “us”, so we need to take care of “us” as well. We discussed questions like: how do we prevent and deal with burnout and how do we deal with conflict and harm inside of our collectives? What can we do so that this movement and what we have learned continues and grows beyond just reacting to this crisis. All of this while trying to avoid recreating hierarchical and coercive structures: our inheritance.

Through October and much of November, we read a selection of essays from **Emma Goldman** from her collection **Anarchism and Other Essays**. Our collective had a great time reading through these monumental Anarchist writings. In our meetings we discussed the foundations of Anarchism, what it is and what it is not, and the importance of individual sovereignty meshing with collective action and interest. We learned of the heavy anarchist critiques of organized religion and the call for the abolition of private property and the state. Between us were held long discussions on youth liberation and how to educate the youth properly (or how they ought to educate themselves), and how the state will always co-opt education to hide its sins and propagate its supposed self-imposed legitimacy. ACAB has the honor of always having four generations of Leftists present and so we were able to further recognize the intergenerational propaganda campaigns that we have all been exposed to.

In January ACAB read a selection of socialist short stories from **Worker's Tales by Michael Rosen** and **The Castle of Truth and Other Revolutionary Tales by Hermynia Muhlen**. While these readings were a reprieve from other denser readings, there was still a tremendous amount to learn from them. The allegories were very accurate, which allowed us to view the class struggle through a different and fresh lens. Some of these short stories are a hundred years old or more. So, it is very interesting to see how even a hundred years ago working class people were able to see the inherent failures of Capitalism and looked to organize themselves to defend their community. It reminds us that we were passed a very old torch and, therefore, we need to look back and learn from the successes, failures, thoughts, and experiences of our predecessors so that we may build upon what we have inherited instead of from scratch.

Through February and March ACAB read through the **ABC of Anarchism by Alexander Berkman**. Although heavier on theory than our other books, many of us found this selection very interesting and a necessary step to better understanding the basics of Anarchist principles, its application in the real world before, during, and after revolution, and some of the different tendencies of Anarchism. We found this reading to be perfectly complementary to Goldman's Anarchism and Other Essays and not redundant. A criticism was that some of the initial writings may be too simplified and general, possibly leading to some misunderstandings by folks very new to Anarchism. However, the writing style is fairly short and decisive and not long winded, unlike many writers of political theory.

If you would like to join A Club About Books or get more information, please reach out to Canton Food Not Bombs via our email: cantonfnb@gmail.com.



SLAVE PATROLS AND MODERN LAW ENFORCEMENT

by Silence Dogood

The political establishment is quick to claim that “a few bad apples” have caused the issues with law enforcement we now see, and in a prior News Not Bombs article we endeavored to blame the barrel makers. Here I examine the origins of the wood and nails which make up our barrel to show the controversial reputation of this criminal justice system and reveal that the issues of the system come from its deepest roots.

Slave patrol statutes were laws enacted in the southern states beginning in the late 1600s. These laws formalized the “slave patrols” and regulated their activities. The purpose of these was to control enslaved people, prevent escapes, and maintain “law and order”.

This wasn’t an unruly posse of rednecks, these were sworn-in agents acting within an official criminal justice system, the first non-urban force of its kind and the father of each that came after it.

Slave patrols were empowered to stop, question, and search enslaved people at any time. They were empowered to use force. Slave patrol statutes were a crucial part of the system that upheld the institution of slavery in southern states. They served as a precursor to our own “modern” policing and contributed immensely to the development of law enforcement agencies in the post-Civil War era.

According to the NAACP, Slave patrols continued until the Civil War ended and the 13th amendment limiting slavery was passed; however, during the Reconstruction period, the Slave patrols were replaced by militia-style groups who subjected liberated individuals to continued oppression by enforcing Black Codes

targeting labor access, fair wages, voting rights, and general freedoms. A force that was empowered to stop, question, search, and capture people at any time



Slave patrol badge, 1858

After the Civil War, the Reconstruction Era saw the “Black Codes”, laws which, no longer able to assume that they were property, were designed to control African Americans. These included vagrancy laws, labor contracts, curfews, test oaths to hold certain jobs, and restrictions on guns, land ownership, and education access, and restrictions on guns, land ownership, and education access.” Without freedom seekers to catch, former slave patrollers began swelling the ranks of their local police forces, and these codes used the newly growing “pure” police force to enforce many of the same constraints they always had. Scholar Michelle Alexander, author of “The New Jim Crow; Color-Blindness in the Age of Mass Incarceration,” emphasizes, “Law enforcement in the post-Civil War era played a central role in enforcing discriminatory Black Codes that restricted the freedom of newly freed slaves.” These methods and empowerments quickly spread

across the entire country, and became the “modern” systems we see today.

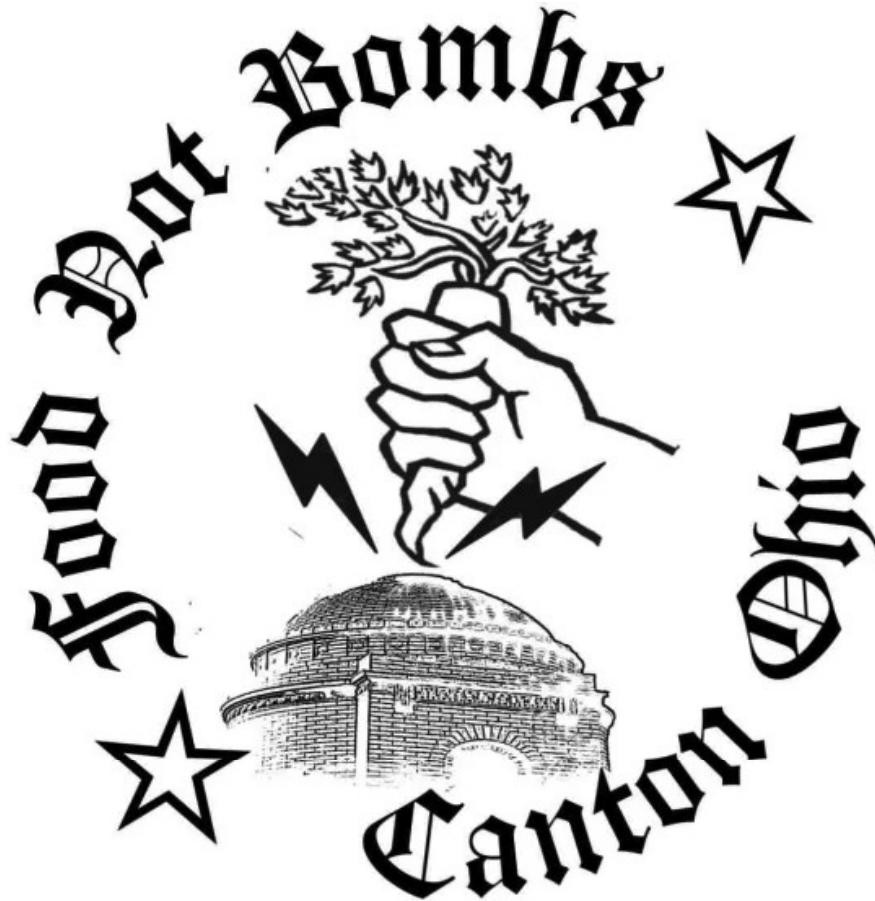


Sheriff's Office patch, Modern.

Sam Mitrani, historian at the College of DuPage, has said, “Stop kidding yourself: the police were created to control working class and poor people.”

When we look at this system and hope it can be reformed, we are essentially asking the impossible. The criminal justice system is not pure-but-damaged; it was always unjust, and is working exactly as intended.

Stay tuned for the next part of this topic exploration in our next zine that will delve into alternatives to our modern policing system!



**LOCATION: GREEN SPACE ON THE CORNER OF
WALNUT AND 6TH ST NE
SUMMER HOURS: SATURDAYS 4:00-5:30PM
WINTER HOURS: SATURDAYS 3:00-4:30PM**

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