

**“THERE
WILL
BE
NO
MAGICAL
DAY
OF
LIBERATION
THAT
WE
DO
NOT
MAKE”**

Over the years, it has become unavoidable that locking down to shit and being a thorn in the side of industry has led a few EF!ers to jail once in awhile. But outside of short term support for arrestees (shout out jail support for calling friends and family, and having a warm beverage waiting for that brave soul who stopped construction for the day), there wasn't always a meaningful engagement in abolition work within Earth First!. Our movement hasn't always been forward thinking about abolition but we have really grown since the Green Scare and the increased awareness that abolition goes hand in hand with resisting capitalism. More recently, Earth First! has been made up of people who have been fighting the prison industrial complex, and centering abolition as an ethic within that work. But this Earth First!er will admit that some of these ideas are big, scary concepts. What do they look like in real life? Personally, I am a victim of violent crimes and it was hard for me to approach prisoner solidarity work. So I wanted to be brave and take down some thoughts to reframe the efforts and maybe bring some new people into the work.

I feel like the devil's advocates we end up running into (bio family, or community who may be less aware of abolition) always wanna come at us about this scary world "if we didn't have cops", but the reality is, there's a lot of scary people out and about anyways. It's not like cops or prisons are keeping us safe. And when it comes down to it, if we really think we will ever move toward peace and health as a society, torturing people in prisons as a twisted excuse for rehabilitation is not the way forward.

We know for a fact incarcerated folks do much better when they have connection and genuine care for their well being. I came to a place where I questioned my support for people who may have done terrible things. And when it comes down to it, I'm not here to hand down a decision about what that is. As a survivor, I whole heartedly embrace that it's true that the people I'm sending journals to in prison could have hurt someone like me. But I believe in this form of revolution, I believe that sitting on my bedroom floor and stuffing envelopes to correctional facilities across the country, may reach people and help them live a more compassionate life.

It's an act full of forgiveness.

Because someone told me once forgiveness isn't for the other person, it's for you.

And while I may never forgive the people who hurt me and my loved ones, I believe in fighting for a world where gun violence and assault are not as frequent, that there are resources and care for everyone. Because with care and joy we can start to fill in the cracks of the brokenness that grief leaves us in.

Quote from Rachel Herzing and Mariame Kaba

We wholeheartedly apologize for not including a prisoner support section in our first issue. No excuses but context being that it was our first lil journal and it's true things slipped through the cracks. But maybe that's also illustrative of the ways that society in general has let prisoners fall through the cracks. Anyways, this section we have a few folks you could write to, and we would love help. We would love to know if you know a prisoner who needs support. We would love to feature letters or writings. We admire folks like the group Fight Toxic Prisons, even if it grew out of a lot of Earth First!ers getting into that work. Critical Resistance is another such group that has definitely paved the way for this work. Big gratitude for leading the way on fighting this bullshit.

After reaching out to another homie to work through some of these ideas, (because that's how we grow right?) there was also an observation made about how we are also trying to build a world that doesn't need prisons just as we're working to stop construction of new prisons and shut down existing ones. It is important to acknowledge the cultural work around transformative justice is just as important as the prison-specific work, two sides of the same coin kinda deal.

Write to us:

prisoner support
c/o ef!j
PO Box 459
Athens, Ohio 45701

Help us build out this project so we can provide more support and not leave our relatives to feel forgotten.

Write to the following incarcerated folks, remember always use good security culture (don't mention any specific acts in the past, present or future. just say hello, talk about the weather, share news or animal facts)

John Bramble - #450202
Delaware DOC - 1101
PO Box 96777
Las Vegas, NV 89193

Jessica Reznicek # 19293-030
FCI Waseca
PO Box 1731
Waseca, MN 56093

Instructions: All correspondence needs to be on white paper and white envelopes. Do not use stickers, return address labels, tape, or markers. You cannot send Jessica unused paper or stamps.

For more information look up the Waseca mail instructions www.bop.gov/locations/institutions/was/.



WOLF PELTS ARE BEAUTIFUL
by Fiona Kathleen Natalie Stewart-Campbell

Shining winter day, Interior Alaska.
Anchorage celebrates Fur Rendezvous.
Traders gawk at swinging pelts, finger death.

Depth of winter, maw of cold.
Brilliant sunshine gathers light and sparks off ridges pearly white

Cold wraps my feet in frigid boots
But I am spellbound, rapt in awe
At the wolf pack displayed before me!

This magnificent display of fur
Here! Golden honey tipped in black
There chocolate marble,
Striking gray
My fingers long to stretch and stroke
These variegated regal coats
Belonging to the Lupine clan.
See a breath of wind catch silver blue ruff on display
It ripples over shoulders taut with sinew
And length of throat
Swollen with a thousand unspoken songs.
Round balanced toes
That dance on air
Black gums rolled back
Incisors frozen in a steaming breathy grin.

I am one hundred miles away from Anchorage
I stand encircled by these lupine beings
Rendezvousing with the Wild!
Happily lost in the wilderness, surrendered to stillness,
I shelter from a shower of snow crystals
Within a silent birch glade.
I breathe in freedom, purity, touch a snowbound footprint.

There stands a solid white wolf
Mystic in tone
Set apart, alone.

He turns and regards me
With eyes of molten gold
Full of liquid ancient knowing.

Yes, wolf pelts are beautiful:
On wolves.

11/02