FREE MICHAEL KIMBLE!

ANARCHIST PRISONER SOLIDARITY
This issue of Fire Ant is dedicated to our friend Nuh Washington.

This is issue #12, Winter/Spring 2022. Fire Ant is a collaboration between anarchist prisoners and free roaming anarchists. Fire Ant seeks to raise material aid for anarchist prisoners while fostering communication between anarchists on both sides of the walls.

To support the anarchist prisoner war fund, please email bloomingtonanarchistblackcross@riseup.net. All money will go directly to prisoners. The fund currently supports Michael Kimble, Jennifer Rose, Eric King, Sean Swain, and Marius Mason.

To download this publication, please go to bloomingtonabc.noblogs.org.

Front cover by Bria. Back cover art by Michael Kimble.

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-Fire Ant

**Disclaimer**

This publication is for entertainment purposes only. All opinions and views belong to the individual writers and do not represent other writers or anyone involved in the production or distribution of this publication.

**To contact Fire Ant collective, write to:**

Fire Ant  
PO Box 164  
Harmony, ME  
04942

**Support the Clarion Book Project!**

Prison seeks to isolate our friends behind walls both physical and psychological. Separated from loved ones, anarchist prisoners are removed from the daily dialogue and exchange of ideas that give birth to liberatory projects and experiments. Imprisoned anarchists will find very little in prison libraries and network television to keep them informed on outside struggles, and, in absence of comrades on the outside mailing in magazines and books, they are left without access to subversive literature of any kind.

Since 2014, Bloomington Anarchist Black Cross has been sending monthly packages of literature to a handful of anarchist prisoners in the United States. These generally feature recently-published anarchist periodicals and zines, historical texts, and articles on current events. In addition, we send packages of books every other month. The project has fostered dialogue on current struggles, enabled US anarchist prisoners to express solidarity to anarchist prisoners around the world, and led to sharing of anarchist literature throughout the prisons where our friends are held captive.

While we have been happy to quietly work on this initiative without publicizing our efforts, we would like to expand its capacity. While we are able to print zines, we lack the funds to regularly purchase quality anarchist books for our imprisoned friends.

If you are an anarchist publisher who feels affinity with this project and would like to send us books for distribution to anarchist prisoners, please email us at bloomingtonanarchistblackcross@riseup dot net.

We are in this for the long-haul, and appreciate the help.

with toner in our DNA,

Bloomington Anarchist Black Cross  
bloomingtonabc.noblogs.org
Update from Sean Swain January 31st, 2022

Bria and Rob!

I got your card, great to hear from you! Quick update follows:

The fart goblins are at it again.

I got back here to Ohio October 5th. Since then, the fart goblin high command has planned to send me back out of state. Still haven't had a hearing, haven't gotten a reason. They even denied my appeal before I filed one.

The deal is, all of this is PRISON RAPE ELIMINATION ACT retaliation. In 2013, former ODRC lawyer Trevor Clark grouped me. His boss said if I didn't drop my PREA claim, they would create disciplinary actions and send me out of state.

Then, from 2013 to 2018, Clark wrote every one of my write ups. And, I was sent out of state as a result of them.

Now, they intend to continue this illegal retaliation.

Anyone who wants them to stop, can email Ohio officials:
(Director) annette.chambers-smith@odrc.state.oh.us
(Interstate Compact) earlena.shepherd@odrc.state.oh.us
(Classification Chief) jeffrey.mustard@odrc.state.oh.us

And tell Maryland they're part of PREA retaliation if they accept me:
(Director) lashonda.lee-campbell@maryland.gov
(Compact) interstatecompactunit1@maryland.gov
(Reception) padtuxent@dpscs.state.md.us

Council has filed for an injunction.

In the meantime, check out my comic book, "The Official ODRC Guide…" in the "zines" at detroitabc.org. Feel free to share everywhere.

Stay dangerous.

Freedom,
Sean

In Celebration of Black History by Michael Kimble

I present you with Stagecoach Mary, who defied the conventions of her time. A rebel indeed. Mary Fields, later known as Stagecoach Mary, was born in Hickman County, TN, around 1832. Liberated from slavery at the end of the Civil War, she headed North. She worked on river boats until she found steady work at a convent. Her gruff style and constant cursing raised eyebrows in the convent. Though she served the nuns, news of her habitual drinking, smoking, shooting guns, and wearing men's clothing, caused upheaval. Things came to a head when Fields and the convent's male janitor drew guns on each other during a heated argument. That was the final straw, and she was fired.

Fields love of hard drinking and gun fights eventually paid off, when in 1895, she won a contract from the Postal Service to become a star route carrier, making her the first Black woman to do so.

Please imagine the times, and what it must have been like for a Black woman, ex-slave, and stagecoach postal carrier. It's obvious that she practiced self-determination.
On My Parole Hearing by Michael Kimble

On December 16th, 2021, I was considered for parole in an open hearing. I was denied and hit with another 5 years before being eligible again for parole. My attorney and supporters attended the hearing with certificates of achievement earned during my incarceration, and many letters of recommendation and support. My home plan and employment plan were in order, and I’ve served 36 years on a life sentence. The reasons for the denial were that I had disciplinary infractions for refusing to work back in 1987-1988 on the prison farm, and an assault on a corrections officer in June of 2021. This pig had been harassing me, and was fired later for smuggling contraband into the prison. No investigation into the circumstances of my record was done. The pigs are always in the right, and prisoners are non-human things to be exploited and tortured. My attorney and a supporter also sat in on all the hearings taking place that day. No one was granted parole. Some of these prisoners had disciplinary-free records, support systems in place, but still denied parole. I’m angry and bitter about the denial, but not really surprised about the decision.

The Alabama Parole Board has been in the news lately regarding the refusal to grant parole to prisoners who have been incarcerated for 30 years or more, and the racial disparity of who is granted parole and who is not. Last fiscal year, 23% of white prisoners considered for parole were released, but only 9% of Black prisoners. In fiscal year 2017, 54% of parole requests were granted. This was a high rate for the state. By the fiscal year that ended this past June, the approval rate was just 15%. So far in fiscal year 2022, the rate is 10%.

The current parole board is led by Leigh Gwathnegia, a former prosecutor. Other members include a former probation officer and a state trooper. Victims Of Crime And Leniency, an influential victims' group (known as VOCAL), sends volunteers to testify against nearly every prisoner up for parole. A representative from the state attorney general's office does the same. In late September, only 4 of the 31 prisoners up for parole were granted parole. It really does not matter what one has done while locked up to better themselves, they are still being denied parole.

During the December 16th, 2021 hearings there were a number of prisoners who had received no disciplinary infractions in 10 years, or ever, but still denied parole. That's a feat that is not common, believe me. You have pigs that will write disciplinaries arbitrarily. The reality is that the denial of parole is about revenge, racism, and the housing and control of bodies for state slavery.

To My Comrades

Fire Ant is a publication to build material support for anarchist prisoners. Many of us have no family and have been recipients of that material support. Fire Ant is our publication. It is our voice to the world. So, let's transform Fire Ant into a publication of love and rage by filling its pages with passion and dedication.

Love you all!

Michael Kimble

Letter from Thomas Meyer-Falk 12/21/21

Dear Comrades,

Thank you so much for issues 9 and 10 of Fire Ant. It was so great to receive them and read all the interesting statements by inmates. Such an important publication. Thanks for your 9/23 letter also. I hope that you and all your friends get through this pandemic. Please find the rest of my articles enclosed, which were translated a few years ago. I also attached a little statement for the next issue of Fire Ant.

Comrades, I wish you all the best for 2022, and many thanks for your important work and support for people kept in the dungeons.

Love and Respect,

Thomas
Dare and Risk Awakening!

Millions of people are kept in dungeons all over the world, often for years, and often for life. But, there is a movement to abolish prisons, fighting for a better world which does not incarcerate millions of people. Often it seems that a world without prisons is unthinkable. Those that do, get labeled utopian.

Something which is denounced as "utopian" isn't something that has no place in the universe. It is that which is hindered by the ruling class.

Although it is important to struggle against the worst living conditions, we should not lose sight of a world without prisons.

This world is not so far away as the stars we see in the night sky. It is the mission of all of us to fight for a change.

No one is an island, we are all involved in mankind.

*For a world without prisons!

In the trenches….

Your friend and comrade,
Thomas Myer-Falk

Forbidden History by Michael Kimble

I titled this "Forbidden History" because the history books by Black historians/academics have failed to document this history until recently, due to homophobia in Black academia. If Black historians/academics want to write about, and document, the lives of Black slaves, but refuse to document the lives of queer slaves, I can only surmise this is out of shame and their own sense of warped morality and homophobia.

So, queer folks have to document and write about this history on their own.

William Dorsey Swann was born into slavery around 1858, and was living on a plantation in Hancock, Maryland. Swann was known to his friends as "The Queen". It is reported that Swann reigned over the secret world of drag balls in Washington, DC during the 1880's. He led a group of former slaves, and rebel drag queens, known as "The House of Swann". The Washington Post reported how Swann resisted police on April 12th, 1888. "Negro Dive Raided. 13 Black Men Dressed As Women Surprised At Supper And Arrested" they reported. In 1896, Swann requested a pardon from President Cleveland for holding a drag ball. His request was denied, but was the first recorded time someone took legal action to defend the queer community.

I encourage everyone to check out the new biography "House of Swann: Where Slaves Became Queens- and Changed the Word" by Channing Gerald Joseph, for this exciting rebel history.
There is a lot of statecraft tactics, attempting to mind-fuck whole communities right now. Like, Governor Abbott, AKA, "Neanderthal Greg". Threatening the "woke" generation. (Black community) saying he will "destroy" them. Woke people know they are poor. Why aren't we asking legislators to destroy poverty? Increase taxes on the rich and less on the poor working class. Why not destroy "class" in general? Why not destroy coverts that hold slaves/directly and use them for reparations in instead of elections of white-supremacist slaveholders? Why not end prison's that do not have to abide by laws of the land... or OSHA guidelines...? Why not boycott "BarBQ" that is making billions on inmates and their families, only making them richer... Who? The "Bush" family. End these contracts with billionaires and give the colored entrepreneurs a chance to advance in Texas. This is "Texas", the land of rope and honey. How indoctrinated are you to not see you are a slave to the system... We need to purge the system, and by any means necessary take back what's been stolen.

Redeem your lost and taken at the hand of cuentaed ass lawmakers. The people's voice isn't heard for shit, only the sound of taxes, echoing those chambers. Now is the time to destroy the whole house of Texas. And allow the future with it's innovations to educate the people of what kind of corruption goes on in the state capitol. Recently in a radio interview, "Marshall Project" journalist Keerl Blackinger, finally spoke out about the "H-Pylori" Outbreak - Attack on a unionized unit, "The Industrial Workers of the World - Incarcerated Workers Organizing Committee - Local 123 #1. have campaigned for all inmates to get tested for water contaminants and high metals."

Hundreds tested positive for "H-Pylorii", and they refused to test the prisoners for high metals, and still are. Prisoners are not feeling "deliberate indifference", "Malice", "Discrimination"/"retaliation" by the state of slavery. These are my thoughts of the day... For anyone who gives a f**k, and I invite you to contact me to fight with me, to help me in destroying these oppressive political parties. Anarchism is not the problem, it's the solution... those of you out there who are orthodox anarchists know it is not chaos we seek... it's equality, fraternity, and liberty.!! Dismantle your indoctrinated mind, dismantle the authoritarian communist mindset you practice subliminally. Stop pretending you haven't been fooled by the state... jokers on you! Count your household items that say "made in China", and you will see who your government is in bed with. This anarchist is "made in the image of rebellion", against statecraft, slavery, mass-incarceration, Texas Department of Criminal Justice; Texas Board of Criminal Justice"
The "Belly of the Beast" has been ripped open by the spirit of Anarchism and Liberty. We are the people, we must overcome the racism, violence, white supremacy, and the state government.

The violence we use is the only way these parasites understand... up them in their pockets, day in, day out... refuse to stop! Resist! Their split tongue's heat some lies of understanding and reform... their rehab hasn't been invented yet, stop the bullshit.

Let this be a call to "Solidarity" to "Action". Direct or indirect, our ideas, our goals, are for the advancement of slaves in Texas... help us "emancipate" "organize" "educate"... give freely to our cause, as they continue to shower our oppressors with blood money. Industrial workers of the world, non-member supporters... we have so much love for you... keep up that spirit, for it gives us the inspiration and motivation we need to carry on.

We ask the community to help us, give the community it's voice back in Texas. FUCK GREG ABBOTT, FUCK TDOJ, LONG LIVE ANARCHY, LONG LIVE EQUALITY, FRATERNITY, LIBERTY.

This is my thought of the day. Thank you for listening.

Thank's go out to:
IWW-INOC NEW MEXICO
IWW-HTX-CAMPAIGN
IWW-INOC TEXAS LOCAL 613 #1
MONGOOSE DISTRITO.COM
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TEXAS PRISON REFORM.COM
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THE PRISON SHOW-KPFT.ORG
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TRUE LEAD PRESS.COM
SOUTH CHICAGO ABDZ
FERAL DISTRITO.COM

SOLIDARITY

AND

SABOTAGE

2/14/22

SIDE NOTE: matt share this with "robcat", and send him photo of me. please tell him i want this in the newsletter! thank you. long live "mongoose"
Left-wing and Anti-Fascist Politics Behind Bars  By Thomas Meyer-Falk

The question we wish to discuss here is whether it is possible to become politised and engage in antifascist activity within the prison system, particularly in Germany.

In many West German prisons from the late 60s and into the 80s as well as in East Germany around the time the wall fell (for example Brandenburg and Bautzen prisons), prisoners took action to highlight on the one hand the desolate conditions behind the bars and walls, but also to express a left-wing critique of society. They could also rely on solidarity from comrades outside the institutions, who were able to create some, limited, publicity for them.

Although the number of inmates has grown over the 90s from around 52,000 (31/12/89) to more than 81,000, prison capacity has only increased from about 59,000 beds (31/12/89) to about 75,000 today. This constant overcrowding has not instigated the prisoners to reflect on their situation and place it in a wider social context, to then make the appropriate conclusions and take action.

This means that the actual situation is a fairly sad one. Being prepared to take action, to become aware of your own value as a subject, the willingness to break away from the objectified status of being a prisoner to be re-socialised, and to fight for your own autonomy (which are all goals and paths intrinsic to left-wing and antifascist politics), seems to be broken. This may also be due to those behind the walls feeling that those on the outside are largely disinterested. See for example, the Rote Hilfe’s ‘Red Help’ campaign Freedom now! for the RAF prisoners. There are actually comrades who are surprised and astonished to hear that there are still RAF prisoners who are locked up. And without good public relations, any action is relatively ineffectual and unsuccessful.

However, prospects and possibilities do exist, if only they were effectively utilised. The times are gone in which the taz or RHI newspapers [German left-wing media] would not get through prison walls or if, then only without certainArticles (censored by the prison). I.e. there are certainly opportunities today to acquire critical literature and to educate yourself. It is also possible to pass on such materials to other interested inmates (as long as you are not in solitary at the time).

Admittedly, sanctions by the institution or ministry of justice may always be expected; especially since the informant system is so well developed. If there is a lack of close and well-functioning connections to comrades outside, dissident prisoners may easily be broken by the wheels of justice. The author can testify to how this justice ‘works’ through his own daily life in prison. One method is strict censorship of mail; in this case, the content of this article was reviewed by one of the prison’s ‘representative’ judges before it left the facility. If she had disapproved of something in it, the article would have been confiscated. Mail to or from comrades in Switzerland or France was at times only ‘approved’ after the Higher Regional Court intervened. Through this censorship, the judicial system has a large degree of control over the inmates and can intervene (George Orwell sends his greetings).

And then there is the strategy of discrediting the inmates by accusing them of ‘querulous paranoia’; in the author’s case, they only stopped using this allegation after a renowned university psychiatrist confirmed that no such ‘paranoia’ was to be found. Then came the argument that “those who antagonise the state and its representatives in politics and the justice system in a critical and rightful manner” may lose their right to appeal to the court and seek legal protection. With the help of a lawyer, we successfully appealed to the Constitutional Court against this strategy. These examples are meant to show how prisoners are lost without solidarity from the outside due to the totality of the institution that watches, takes note of and memorises every expression of life. To discuss one last aspect, the diverse ethnicities and cultures within the prison population offer a great opportunity to globalise antifascist activity behind bars. This calls for the willingness of all involved to place intercultural conflicts aside (it would be even better yet to solve them, which may not be possible though in a limited environment such as prison), to fight together and united for the goals we have in common. It is a question of the internal willingness to also accept potential personal disadvantages – but also of the practical solidarity form the ‘outside’!
ANARCHIST PRISONER ADDRESSES

Eric King # 27090045
CANNOT RECEIVE LETTERS

Marie (Marius) Mason
#04672-061
FCI Danbury
Rte 37
Danbury, CT 06811

Michael Kimble #138017
William E. Donaldson Correctional
100 Warrior Ln
Bessemer, AL 35023

Jennifer Rose #E23852
Salinas Valley State Prison
P.O. Box 1050
Soledad, CA 93960

Sean Swain #A243205
OSP Youngstown
878 Coitsville-Hubbard Rd
Youngstown, OH 44505

Noah Coffin #1795167
O.B. Ellis Unit
1697 FM 980
Huntsville, TX 77343

Julio Zuniga #1961551
Darrington Unit
59 Darrington Rd
Rosharon, TX 77583

Thomas Meyer-Falk
c/o jva freiburg
Hermann-Herder-Str. 8
d 79104 Freiburg
Germany

Bill Dunne #10916-086
FCI Victorville Medium I
PO Box 3725
Adelanto, California 92301

Scott Bodnar #25434-014
USP Lewisburg
Satelite Camp
PO Box 2000
Lewisburg, PA 17837

John Paul Wootton
HM Prison Maghaberry
17 Old Road
Lisburn, BT28 2PT
UK

Alfredo Cospito
C.C. di Terni
strada delle Campore 32
05100 Terni
Italia – Italy

Anna Beniamino
C.C. di Roma Rebibbia femminile
via Bartolo Longo 92
00156 Roma
Italia – Italy

Samantha Faulder A1209CF
HMP Foston Hall
Foston
Derby
Derbyshire
DE65 5DN
England

Gabriel Pombo da Silva
Centro Penitenciario Mansilla de las Mulas, Paraje Villahierro,
4210 Mansilla de las Mulas (León), Spain

Claudio Lavazza
n. d’écrou : 11818
Centre Pénitentiaire de Mont-de-Marsan
Chemin de Pémégnan
BP 90629
40000 – Mont-de-Marsan
France
Davide Delogu
Via Roma Verso Scampia 350
80144 Naples (NA)
Italy

Panagiota (Pola) Roupa
Eleonas Women’s Prison (Gynaikeies Fylakes)
Thebes
T.K. 32200
Greece

Nikos Maziotis
Dikastiki Filaki Domokou
D’WING (Δ’ΠΤΕΡΥΓΑ)
T.K. 35010
Domokos
Fthiotidas
Greece

Francisco Solar Dominguez
Complejo Penitenciario Rancagua - Modulo 2
Calle La Gonzalina s/n
Rancagua, Region O’Higgins
Chile

Giannis Dimitrakis
Sofronistiko Katastima Domokou
TK 35010
Domokos
Fthiotida
Greece

Giannis Michailidis
Malandrinou Prisons
TK 33053
Malandrino
Fokidas
Greece

Joaquin Garcia Chanks
Complejo Penitenciario Rancagua - Modulo 1
Calle La Gonzalina s/n
Rancagua, Region O’Higgins
Chile

Konstantinos Giagtzoglou
Dikistiki Fylaki Korydallou
Ediki Pteryga
TK 188110
Korydallos, Athens
Greece

Kostas Sakkas
Dikastiki Fylaki Korydallou - A’Pteryga
TK 18110
Korydallos
Athens
Greece

Monica Caballero Sepulveda
Centro de prision preventiva de mujeres de San Miguel
San Francisco 4756, San Miguel
Region Metropolitana
Chile

Toby Shone A7645EP
HMP Prison Parc
Heol Hopcyn John,
Coity,
Bridgend CF35 6AP
UK
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Fire Ant shirts available at TheFinalstrawRadio.bigcartel.com designed by, and benefiting, anarchist prisoner Michael Kimble. Makes a great holiday gift for that conservative uncle!! Thank you to Final Straw Radio for taking on this project!