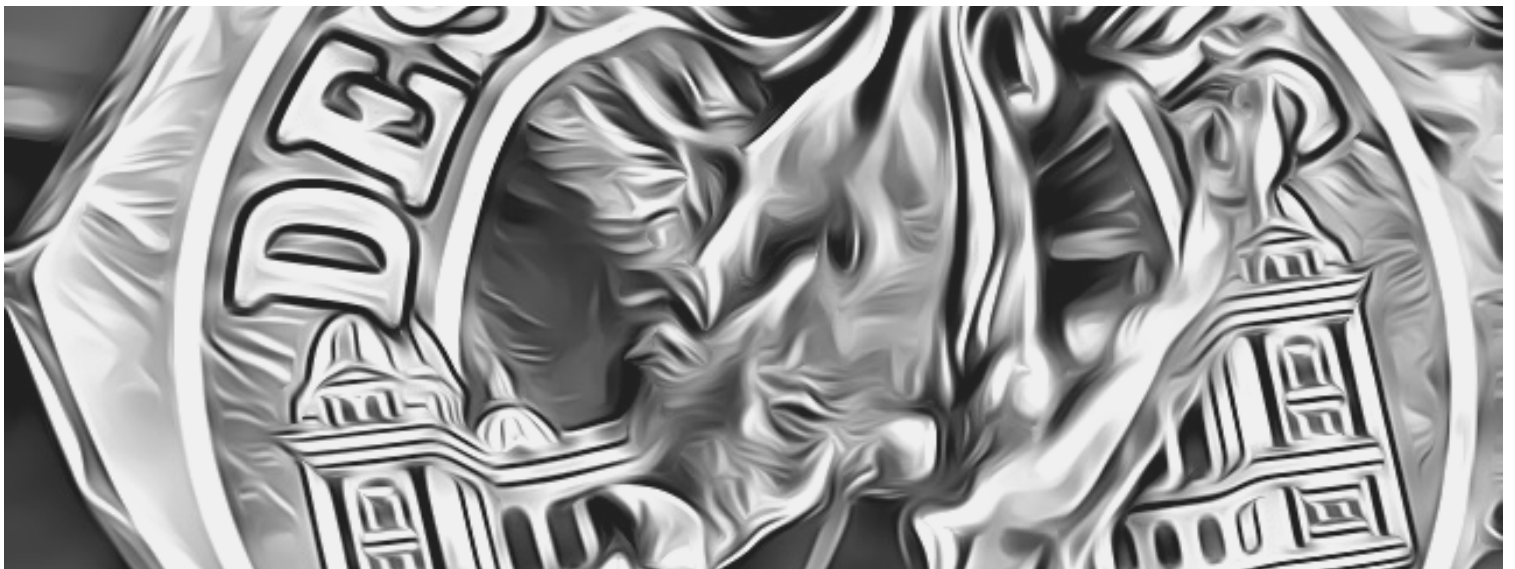


DES MOINES DEFENDER

Community Zine

SUPER SPREADERS! RAVAGED BY VIRUS DMPD REFUSES VACCINATIONS!



In the most delicious twist of irony in recent memory, the Des Moines Police Department is on the verge of defunding and abolishing themselves, thanks to an inability to differentiate between self harm and far right conspiracy theories. The department has been devastated by an influx of positive Delta variant cases and is experiencing an all time record in call outs and hospitalizations, according to our source with the DMPD who spoke to the *Defender* under strict conditions of anonymity.

COVID-19 remains the biggest cop killer in the United States by a wide margin. The spokesman called the Delta wave the most important officer safety issue the DMPD has ever faced. Still, well over half of the police force remains unvaccinated or outright refuses to do so unless required.

Private encouragement from Mayor Frank Cownie and City Manager Scott Sanders to mandate department wide vaccination requirements have been rebuffed by Chief Wingert and both police unions, bringing into question just who is making public safety decisions on behalf of the city. Critics point out the US military is requiring members to vaccinate under threat of discharge.

A recent city wide effort by cop watchers failed to yield a single photograph of a Des Moines police officer wearing a mask or abiding by social distancing recommendations. Retired DMPD Sergeant Dave Brown confirmed that local police work often involves close contact with the general public.

“For the most part 99.9% of the work that any (cop) does is up close and personal. (I) think back about some of the lovely residences we went into when we were working. There wasn’t enough Lysol being manufactured back then to remove the stench that many of these places often put out.” Sgt. Brown said.

Readers are still encouraged to avoid close contact with these plague rats at all costs and never speak directly to them without the presence of a lawyer. Recording them in their habitat is of particular importance, “If there’s a platform we’d ask those running for city council to adopt,” said a spokesman for North Des Moines Mutual Aid, “it would be mandatory vaccines for all police officers. They supposedly serve and protect. Prove it.”

WORKERS SPEAK: VOLUME I

You realize there is more to life than just going to work and making money. COVID was literally the eye-opener. I worked from home, made a very cushy salary, but couldn't go anywhere or do anything with it. So I did what a lot of other people do; I spent it on comforts. First it was the big television set and the new living room set, then it was the nice new mattress, then I upgraded my kitchenware and my computer... and then I kind of realized, I don't need anything else. From there, it was just making money to make money.

And that's when I realized, I wanted to actually do other things, things I had neglected before COVID. I wanted to travel, but I can't anymore due to closed borders and lockdowns. I wanted to see friends and focus on enhancing relationships, but it wasn't possible. The hobbies I had lost, the adventures I hadn't taken, the dates I didn't go on; I was ignoring my life for a paycheck.

I think a lot more people had this same sort of crisis of conscience. If we all died in a week, would we be happy with how we chose to live? Consumerism only goes so far; what about actual life experiences? Culture, discovery, experimentation, exploration, etc. So much of our life is working towards something, that we often lose sight of the fact that we don't have forever to achieve that something. Then, you start thinking about how little employers care about you.

Need a day off? Tough shit, be at work. Have an emergency? Tough shit, figure it out and be at work. Not feeling well? Tough shit, suck it up and get to work. Need an extension, a CoL raise, a promotion? No, get back to work....and you kind of realize "Why am I killing myself for these fucking people who won't even bend for me...?" All the while, hearing how you're overpaid, ungrateful, not committed enough, blah blah blah. And you just kind of decide to say "Fuck this, I'm out." I think a LOT of employers have lost sight of the fact that they are nothing without the people who make them great, thinking that everyone is just a cog in the wheel, everyone is replaceable, blah blah blah. This pandemic, it has proven how untrue that is, and as people choose to stop putting their lives second in favor of these soul-sucking entities, everything is grinding to a halt. It turns out that people do matter, and we're going through a massive crisis of productivity as directors and executives who have ASSURED owners that they have everything under control are being exposed for most definitely not having any idea what is happening around them. A lot of fraudsters, liars, and smooth talkers can't bullshit their way through this one, and the cracks of a very fragile, very volatile system are being exposed.

In a sense, everyone is downtrodden, exhausted, leary, and weary of being pushed to maximum productivity for minimum incentives and pay, and we're having a sort of societal "Fuck this shit I'm out" moment, and it's going to change everything. For better, or for worse, is yet to be determined, but I fear the worst has yet to arrive.

FUCK FIJI

FUCK MAX HELM

& FUCK THE ORGANIZERS WHO SILENCE SURVIVORS' FURY

This is an open letter from survivors of sexual assault to the organizers & attendees of UNL's recent protests. We wish to make one thing known: **We are fucking angry** about the cooptation, disempowerment, & outright *defeat* of the movement on this campus at the hands of activist clout chasers.

We want to *act*. Like us, thousands of people in this city are ready to *do something*. Yet, when we take to the streets, we find nothing but police: rapist cops who protect the brothers of FIJI & those cops' opportunist "activist" cronies who pop up incessantly to stop people from displaying their collective strength. The endless, cowardly speeches calling for petitions & emails to university officials are a slap in the face to survivors.

IF IT WAS YOUR SIBLING, YOUR PARTNER, WOULD YOU BE CONTENT TO BEG FOR ACTION FROM THE IMPOTENT OLD MEN WHO RUN THIS INSTITUTION?

If you stood at the house of your rapist & had thousands of people ready to fight beside you, would you merely sit across the street & listen to speeches? No. You would do something.

Thousands have gathered at the house where people have been raped, & those crowds have been told to belittle themselves by politely asking the university to ban the frat & take down the letters. **Why are we allowing ourselves to be robbed of our power?** Instead of helping people act, the organizers - who no one elected - have stolen the show for themselves. While they call everyone else clout chasers & denounce people who try to do *anything at all*, they excruciatingly spell their names into the mic & tell us to find them on social media.

TO THESE SO-CALLED ORGANIZERS: YOU ARE THE ONLY CLOUT CHASERS WE SEE. STOP CONTROLLING THE CROWD & THE SURVIVORS WITHIN IT. WE SPEAK FOR OURSELVES.

WHAT WE WANT

- **NO MORE PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZERS.** This is not about activists or their organizations. Advertising social media accounts at protests is insulting.
- **GATHER IN FRONT OF THE HOUSE WHERE RAPISTS CALL HOME & that symbolizes our oppression.** Marches and assemblies on empty campus streets with police escorts do not make people in power uncomfortable or change anything.
- **STOP PEACE POLICING.** People express their pain many ways. Do not tell us how to express ours or delegitimize our actions. We have heard countless calls for petitions & emails - & they haven't done shit.
- **IF THE CROWD WANTS TO DO SOMETHING, STEP ASIDE & SHUT THE FUCK UP.**
- **STOP WORKING WITH THE COPS.** Police protect rapists and rapists' property. **THEY DO NOT KEEP US SAFE.** If the police are escorting your march, it means your march is not doing anything to challenge the structures that protect our rapists. **FUCK THAT.** We do not need PERMITS or PERMISSION to protest.
- **SHUT OFF THE PA SYSTEM & let us organize ourselves.** The crowd is not stupid. We can figure out how to change things without you telling us what to do.

THIS IS ABOUT SURVIVORS

It is not about organizers who bounce between protests gaining social media followers & institutional legitimacy. They need to step aside & let the people speak. At the very least, they need to stop pacifying this movement. People stop coming to protests because they want to *do something*, not sit on the Union steps & be commanded by opportunists. So, we ask these activists one last time: **Get out of the way.**

Sincerely,

Too Many Names to Count

YOUR BOSS NEEDS YOU

*YOU DON'T NEED
YOUR BOSS!*





SUITED & BOOTED

FIVE POLK COUNTY DA'S EJECTED FROM COURTROOM FOR JURY TAMPERING

Five Polk County DA's were kicked out of courtroom 420 for jury tampering during testimony from an 18 year old defendant on trial for tapping a cop on the shoulder. The group of unwise men showed up suddenly before day two proceedings, answering a desperate call from prosecutor Thomas Tolbert to intimidate a key witness and counter unrelenting public support for the defendant. A bizarre scene unfolded where prosecutor Bradley Kinkade exchanged awkward hellos in the gallery with citizens he had prosecuted earlier this year.

The removal came after Polk County DA Tom Miller was caught addressing the jury from the gallery during sidebar, saying "There's video. Of course she's guilty." The angry contingent stormed out of court after the ejection, dropping files and gesturing to the cops, urging further arrests, just as trial support walked into their backyard and was beating them at their own game. The violation was reported by a lone courtroom observer.

Barrister Miller descended to the third floor of the courthouse and resumed practicing law after flirting with disbarment. The Des Moines Register failed to report the expulsion of five of the most powerful people in the city from open court in their final story of the case.

The defendant was subsequently acquitted of all charges by the working people of Des Moines after a laborious two day affair. The verdict was met by loud applause from the gallery, who later declared "All Cops Are Bastards" and "Fuck 12" as they rubbed the decisive legal victory in the faces of mall cops defending the Injustice Center.

Lead prosecutor Thomas Tolbert left the courtroom in a rush following the loss and declined to comment on the humiliation while running out of the Draught House later in the evening.

We have to grasp onto our
leaders and protect our leaders
before they're taken away. You've
got to stop identifying people with
being your brothers because they've
got the same skin color
that you have. And
you've got to stop
getting hung up
in a whole race
question,
because this
is a class
struggle,
whether we
want to face it
or not. The
Black Panther
Party hears alot
of people saying
let's fight fire
with fire. But we
say, "No, no, no!
We're not gonna fight
fire with fire. We're
gonna fight fire with
water. We're not gonna fight racism with racism,
we're gonna fight racism with solidarity
we're not gonna fight capitalism with
black capitalism, we're gonna
fight capitalism with socialism"

Fred Hampton



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