

I WANT YOU

To

DO



DIY!

DO IT YOURSELF

This is how we can survive this

On the week of February 24th I watched in horror as the legislature fast tracked taking away civil rights for trans people that had been in place since 2007. Their end goal? To erase us from public life, take away our healthcare, and to criminalize our existence in public. As I sat in the gallery watching the debate on the senate floor, I observed that instead of listening to their colleagues they were shopping for pants online. Iowa Starting Line published an article about the discovery that republicans were playing bingo in the chambers while the democrats made arguments to save our civil rights. We are not human to them. No one is listening. Writing to your legislators isn't working. Speaking in the subcommittee hearings isn't working. Non-disruptive protest isn't working. No one is coming to save us. We have to start looking at the ways trans life persisted prior to 2007 if we want to get through this. One of the ways we persisted was through self-managed healthcare.

I'm one of the few ICMA members that is old enough to remember trans life be-

fore 2007. I came out as trans for the first time in 2008, though I was forced back into the closet for my safety until after college. In the 2000's most trans care wasn't within the hospital system. It was given by providers who had independent clinics established across the United States. Some states, including Iowa, had only a handful of providers prescribing HRT to all the trans people who sought care within their borders. This was the best we could do for transition access at the time because most hospitals were not interested in serving our community until the mid-2010's. Independent providers had the freedom to treat as many trans people as they pleased without institutional scrutiny. However, it created a dark side: there were no checks and balances against them because they usually owned their own clinics. Providers could get away with treating patients however they wanted and withholding HRT if the patients didn't comply. For some of my trans friends in the aughties and 2010's, that meant enduring sexual violence and harassment from doctors just to get their medicine. I recall sitting with a

trans woman in a doctor's office as he asked "how is your transition going? I see you have a nice rack!" and I realized that my presence was the only thing preventing him from escalating further. As awful as this was, I carry dozens of much more violent stories about trans medical experiences that I won't repeat in this publication. As we enter an era in which our care is being scrutinized or outright banned, I believe we will see a return to private clinics holding all the power. Republicans in Iowa already have their eyes on re-introducing the ban on Medicaid coverage for gender affirming care, and I don't think they'll stop there. Hospitals across the US are capitulating to the Trump administration's nationwide ban on gender affirming care for minors. In the aughties there was one thing that saved my friends from enduring abuse and gatekeeping at the hands of clinicians and politicians: the ability to directly purchase HRT from other countries or from people they knew.

Self-managed medical care is a gateway to a life free from medical violence

DIY, cont'd on back

CAPITALISM KILLS

The subversive punishments of the carceral cash-cow

In last month's edition of ICMA Monthly I wrote about a heart-breaking tale of a young man too soon departed from this world as a result of the failure by a government agency to act during a time of emergent need for life saving medical care. Though, as anything in life, this article held a dualistic nature with its inspirational hope of perseverance by an oppressed population that refused to allow this festering grief to consume them.

History has shown us that the oppressed classes will always rise to the occasion when it becomes too much. Karl Marx brings attention to this age old struggle when he proclaims in his Manifesto:

"[The] organization of the proletariats into a class and consequently into a political party, is continually being upset again by the competition between the workers themselves. [However], it ever rises up again; stranger, firmer, mightier... Altogether collisions between the classes... in many ways... develop the proletariat. [Therefore], the bourgeoisie finds itself involved in a constant battle."

The question begs to be asked: When is it too much? The answer is simply always! However, it becomes no more apparent than when the oppressor class turns upon itself. When those who are above the lowest still aren't the unequivocal supreme of the superior class, they too fail. Marx speaks on this as well when he states:

"The lower strata of the middle class — the small trades-people, shopkeepers, and retired tradesman generally, the handicraftsman and peasants — all these sink gradually into the proletariat party because their diminutive capital does not suffice for the scale on which modern industry is carried on, and is swamped in the competition with the large capitalists, partly because their specialized skill is rendered worthless by new methods of production. Thus the proletariat is recruited from all classes of the population."

I have once more acquired details of concern from reliable sources that further demonstrate this egregious level of disregard for the sanctities of life and safety in exchange for capitalist riches! Admittedly, this is the exact same governmental en-

tity and location as before; only now the ripples have reached wider shores than previously concerned: they have subjected their own member of its hierarchy to this heartless nihilism and deplorable treatment.

Like most all western based bureaucratic functions, whether corporations or government, the goal is "efficiency and profit" above all else. To reduce it to one word: Capital. This goal dishearteningly comes even at the cost of life and assured security. It may seem inconsequential on the grand scale and, given the gradual means by which employed, almost unperceivable — the reductions to resources in the effort to increase these financial margins has become dangerously disproportionate to their need! This governmental agency's local administration has decreased access to necessary and vital products and resources for those they are responsible for protecting and housing within their motionless concrete slave ships. This includes, but is not limited to:

1. Cleaning chemicals/sanitation supplies: In another vain effort to decrease costs, the directive given was to aggressively reduce the volume of cleaning and sanitation agents used, even in the most necessary of locales! Specifically, floor cleaner was completely removed from housing areas and shower facilities; sanitizer supplies reduced to inadequate diluted strengths and allowable amounts in comparison to labeled directions and population need; cleaning chemicals restricted in food preparation locations (kitchen); and the permitted style of products restricted to only one insufficient brand which is not properly utilized as no one is sufficiently trained in its application or required to use it as designed. To be precise, the label of this product overtly instructs the following for proper use: *"Use Dilution: Disinfectant: 3.5 ounces/5 gallons of water (479 ppm. Surface to remain wet for 10 minutes then rinse.)* This is not only never how this product is used, there is even signage that has been posted by this governmental agency's staff that states: *"Spray bottles will no longer be signed out for individual use. Cleaning attendants spray rags and sign out*

rags." This posting claimed to have been posted by an employee who has been absent on military deployment since prior to the sign being posted. How does wiping down the surface with a cloth allow the product to remain wet and in contact with said surface? It simply doesn't! This neglects to even address the adequate volume of fluid essential in achieving its task.

2. Meals: The quality of products, manner of sustenance, and quantity provided are significantly subpar and unhealthy. Though it is commonplace for such institutions to purchase items from 'secondary food markets', it is not commonplace to witness rotten foods and those infested with maggot larva being served! Additionally, the general compilation of these meals consist of an overabundance of simple sugars, preservatives, carbohydrates, and other fillers that hold little nutritional value. Rather, they are designed to ward off hunger rather than provide sustenance. Lastly, the portion sizes have decreased to a level that even relying on 'filler' items leaves individuals without satisfaction, giving way to either: 1) those capable feeding the capitalist cash-cow by purchasing items, or 2) those unable to afford these necessities resorting to theft to fulfill this basic human need. This is for the overall milieu, and does not account for those impacted even more by dietary restrictions. Suspiciously, adding insult to injury, the food waste and misappropriation of pre-packaged foods is astronomical in the amount that is disposed of or outright stolen, as opposed to being served to those whom it is intended for. In further aggravation, what little fresh produce that is made available is oftentimes plundered by administration or other members of the employed body and taken for their own personal wants at their whim and desire instead of being provided to residents who are otherwise without.

3. Denial of personal protective equipment: During the height of the global COVID-19 pandemic the issuance of simple masks and use of gloves became common. To date,

MARX, cont'd on back

Poetry

BACKWARDS

BY BOBBY MESSIER (PAWZ)

Red is blue
Black is white
The sun is the moon
This world ain't right.

Fast to slow
Up is down
Stop means go
To smile is to frown.

Right is wrong
Wet is dry
Hot is cold
You're happy but you cry.

This world is backwards
And we can't figure out why
Because we're backwards
Until we learn to try.

To truly love our neighbors
To put others before ourselves
And to stop the wars
and hatred
So the iciness of hatred
will melt.

Only then can the
backwardness be fixed
In this world that can spin right
and then
Red will be red
And blue will be blue again.

MARX, cont'd

this still remains a practice of countless people to either reduce or prevent transmission of several illnesses. This is never more applicable than with a population so closely housed and unable to avoid contact by distancing themselves due to confinement. Nonetheless, the denial of masks and use of proper graded gloves (to include during cleaning and food service) has taken place to promote profitable budgets! Making matters worse, a restriction was placed on the amount of

toilet tissue permissible per room, reducing the total to upwards of one-third of its previous allotment! Those in these dehumanizing environments are being denied basic human essentials the masses take for granted in daily life.

4. Alcohol-free hand sanitizer: As a product manufactured and created by an adjacent fellow agency under the same conglomerated umbrella, this has been entirely removed from the resident population's access under the assertion that it costs too much – though other locations belonging to this agency aside from this particular one still provide it without disruption. Once supplied freely at nearly every doorway, it is now absent even in essential areas (i.e.: kitchens, health departments, near restrooms, etc.). Contradictorily to the capitalist's goal, the item has been discontinued for personal purchase as well from their own supplier operation to the housed populace! This has led to the increase and prolongation of illnesses to those held in unavoidable close quarters with one another. As such, the costs for health care would naturally rise due to a lack of preventative measures, if not for the fact such services are denied or delayed at great efforts resulting in either inaccessibility or futility. This is evidenced by the following...

All of these reductive actions and attempts to bolster the bottom line of financial lucrateness results in one general conclusion: an increase in health concerns and illnesses, some chronic. However, these worries are likewise ignored or delayed by the agency! If one is tenaciously persistent and achieves being seen, they are

then charged a co-pay for such essential services even though they are enslaved captive of the State (though dental care seems unavailable in almost all instances). The dire conditions of this situation has led to either those in need not seeking medical services (as they must choose between health care, sustenance, contacting loved ones, etc.) or worse.

Most recently, this columnist witnessed a colleague of the herein oppressive agency be denied services and therefore sent away unwell and in pain! If the supreme class is unwilling to take care of their own with such deliberate disregard, how are they trustworthy in taking care of the far too often willfully ignored and forgotten lower class?!

We readily see this level of heartless action in our medical communities arguing over insurance and cost of care in their efforts to be profiteers in the area of essential services. However, more consciously shocking is the stark reality that this is happening on a daily basis in governmental agencies responsible for housing individuals against their will that have no other means of addressment for their illness and medical needs. This dangerous reality is lurking in our backyards, ignored and allowed to persist with impunity.

Over the last five years this agency's single specific location of focus has recorded the demise of not less than ten human beings. That's an average of nearly one death every six months. This is a disproportionately high number in a short period of time given the size of the populace (1,000), especially considering each one has been considered to be of suspicious yet still "nat-

ural" causes. Many of these appear to have been either preventable, or at the least delayable with proper attentive care. These conditions include cardiac complaints indifferently dismissed as 'gas', appendicitis, pneumonia, and other complications that produced a premature expiration of a valuable life.

What is taking place here? What is at work that has placed vulnerable individuals at the mercy of an emotionlessly apathetic conglomerate? Capitalism. Greed has once more corrupted the humanity within society that is inherently empathetic and compassionate. To what cost? Money before maturation! Capital over health care! Lucrativeness instead of liveliness!

Remember, the solution to this merciless machine is socialistic mutual aid. We must water the seeds of kindness and generosity so that we may never turn a blind eye to the atrocities faced by the oppressed when we ourselves are not so. For we too will one day be subjected to the same if no changes come to fruition. We must love one another, even those distracted by the greed of riches, and strive in transitioning our world toward a safer, healthier, and more welcoming existence in all aspects. We must open-heartedly teach with patience those enmeshed in profiteering without consideration for the sanctity of our interconnected human experience.

Let me leave you with this revolutionary claim from Karl Marx: *"Let the ruling classes tremble at the Communist revolution. The proletarians have nothing to lose but their chains. They have a world to win. Working men of all countries unite!"*

— MISCHIEF MARX



AUTONOMY IOWA CITY

Supporting bodily autonomy, right here in Iowa.

Assistance getting abortion pills for a self-managed abortion or miscarriage

Assistance with out of state travel for abortion related medical care

Support and education for people choosing self-managed abortion

autonomyiowacity.org

DIY, cont'd

and state oppression for more than the transgender community. People choosing unattended home birth (or "free birth") often do so because they fear obstetric violence, which occurs frequently in hospital birth settings. Before 2022, people chose self-managed abortion to avoid unnecessary tests, invasions of privacy, and unanesthetized surgical abortions. People order at-home lab tests for everything from routine STI checks to evaluating their cholesterol, all because the medical system is designed to take away the power from patients and perpetuate violence. Self-managed care isn't new or unique to the trans community.

It's also not as dangerous as it sounds (at least to white Americans). In some countries most medicines are over the counter, safely manufactured, and cheap. Self-managed healthcare is the default method of care in many parts of the world. The insistence that medicine from these countries is unsafe is white supremacist ideology. Just because it came from a country that's mostly inhabited by brown people doesn't make the medicine unsafe. The people who live there and take the medicines are fine, why wouldn't you be?

The same goes for the homebrewers who source their chemicals from trusted laboratory manufacturers. Don't believe that medicine can be safely manufactured at home? Look up the Four Thieves Vinegar Collective. Read Boobs Not Bombs. Anarchist chemists are out there and they're saving people's lives. Maybe you could become one.

The pathway to preserving trans care must take as many approaches as possible to create abundance and ensure care for the poorest people who can't afford out-of-clinic care. It's not just about anarchist chemistry or foreign medicine. If you have money, perhaps the redistribution of wealth starts with you. Ensuring care for your trans friends can mean sending your poor friend money on Venmo for "groceries." Maybe you're a cis man who walks into the doctor and knows all the symptoms of low testosterone, and how to say them convincingly enough to get a prescription filled- which you intend to be generous with. Maybe it means giving to a mutual aid fund that doesn't discriminate about where an individual gets their healthcare from. Or maybe it means you start your own project to help your friends. Survival is going to be a group effort, but it can't just be trans people looking out for other trans people. We need cis people working with us too.

Do you intend to survive? Do you want your trans loved ones to live? Do you want to keep our access to transition care? The future will require your willingness to do something clandestine no matter what path you choose. Maybe that path is anarchist chemistry, maybe it's going into a bathroom you're banned from because of the sex marker on your birth certificate. You're already in for a penny, you might as well be in for a pound. We can survive this, but we have to get to work, lock in, and organize. You need to learn the skills that will be necessary to help your community survive.

— A PILLAR OF THE COMMUNITY



BIG UNIVERSITY IS WATCHING YOU

Iowa City weakened its long-standing privacy ordinance, but one law enforcement agency has always been exempt from following it.

In January of 2024, for a price tag of \$114,469, three Automatic License Plate Readers (ALPRs) were installed in the Chauncy Swan, Harrison Street, and Capitol Street parking ramps. The cameras were deactivated from the time of their installation until August, when the city created a loophole in a 2013 city ordinance meant to protect residents' privacy.

The original ordinance banned these cameras from being used to identify a vehicle, its operator, occupants or owner, but has since been amended so that the new cameras can be used for parking enforcement.

City Manager Geoff Fruin said "We should have, at the time of purchase, updated this ordinance," but instead the city waited until the cameras had

already been purchased and installed. This backwards order of operations seems like a way to put council between a rock and a hard place: having already spent the money, it's easy to justify updating the ordinance, despite residents' concerns about surveillance.

The original ordinance was vague about whether or not police could pull footage from the cameras, but the new amendment makes it clear: police CAN pull footage for criminal investigation, and in fact have been for the past decade, as admitted by Fruin.

Because of the 2013 ordinance, the City of Iowa City doesn't use ALPRs outside of these three parking garages. The University of Iowa Police Department, however, has 28 ALPRs installed

around Iowa City. UIPD says the cameras are used to investigate and prevent crimes, not to enforce traffic violations, but it must be noted the UIPD is exempt from the city ordinance and is under no obligation to follow it.

UIPD's jurisdiction covers "campus and property adjacent to campus," which includes a significant portion of Iowa City. The Pentacrest borders downtown and there are University buildings nestled in the heart of it. Soon the University's reach into the busiest part of our city will include the entirety of the Old Capitol Town Center, which the University is set to take full ownership of in October 2027. With education and healthcare campuses also in Coralville, Des

Moines, Cedar Rapids, and elsewhere, the scope of the University and thus the jurisdiction of their Police Department extends across the state.

ALPRs aren't the only cameras utilized by UIPD. Testimony from UIPD Detective Ian Mallory in a March 2024 trial detailed UIPD's use of Pan Tilt Zoom (PTZ) cameras on and around campus. UIPD does not provide any information on their website about the number of PTZ cameras in use. The Video Surveillance Policy can be found in Section V. Chapter 45 of the University of Iowa Policy Manual.

If you are a resident of Iowa City (or any other place with a UI campus) — even if you have no other connection to the University — you are subject to surveillance by UIPD.

- ICMA MEMBER

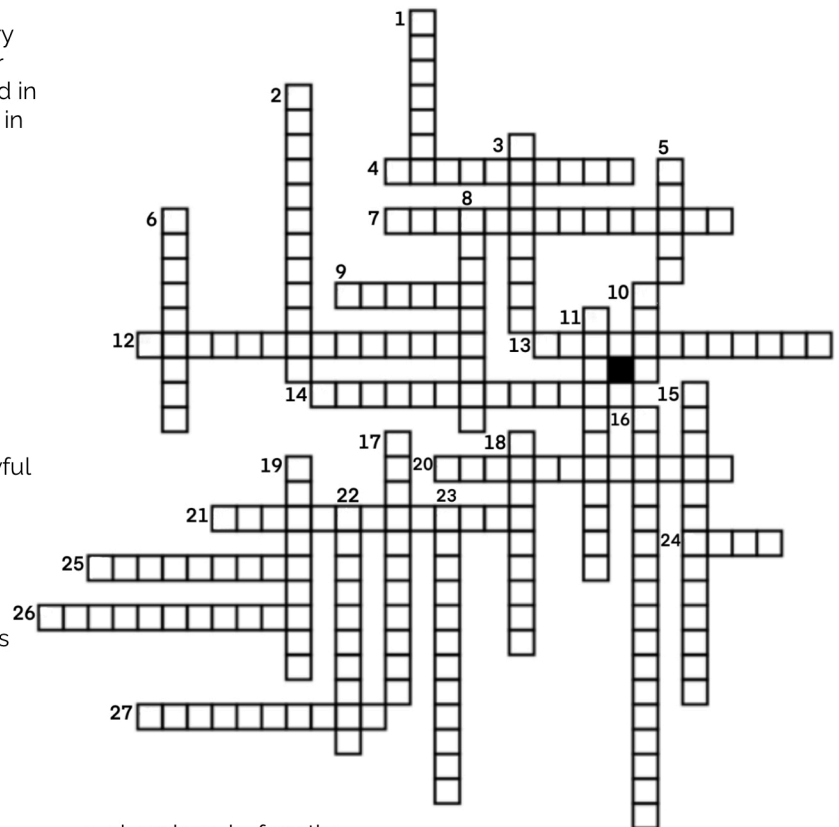
DOWN

1. collects mobile phone location data and eavesdrops
2. something the FBI and NSA do
3. edited in order to obscure or remove information
5. NSA program that allowed telecommunication companies to turn over customer data
6. group of seven judges picked by the Chief Justice who review government requests for warrants to authorize electronic surveillance for foreign agents or American citizens suspected of involvement in espionage
8. something that the FBI and CIA and NSA claim to protect us from
10. group of lawyers that has struggled to rein in the illegal surveillance by the government
11. carry out a systematic or formal inquiry to discover and examine the facts
15. the practice of protecting systems devices and data from cyber attacks
16. this group was surveilled under the COINTELPRO program
17. secretly monitoring and recording a person's communications

18. house leader who was very critical of the FBI and J. Edgar Hoover who later disappeared in a mysterious plane vanishing in Alaska
19. collects and analyzes real time internet data
22. this group was surveilled under the COINTELPRO program
23. director of the NSA

ACROSS

4. FBI surveillance and neutralization program of lawful political dissent
7. a key reason for the COINTELPRO program
9. something the FBI and the CIA commit
12. transmits a mobile phone's location via hidden text message
13. president who signed the Executive Order 12,333
14. in 2013 this whistleblower leaked NSA documents
20. what the FBI did to MLK
21. this group was surveilled under the COINTELPRO program
24. profoundly immoral and wicked



25. how long before the parkland shooting that the FBI received a tip
26. this person was murdered by a member of the KKK who was also an FBI informant

27. act that allowed the government to collect a record of every single phone call made by every single American "on an ongoing daily basis"

NSA SURVEILLANCE

The NSA uses illegal tactics of surveillance to silence dissent.



People often joke about the FBI agent that is in our phones, listening and watching us. Although the FBI uses tactics of surveillance, the government agency in charge of surveilling is the NSA. The National Security Agency is the largest and most secretive intelligence agency in the United States. Although the NSA was established in 1952 its existence was highly classified until 1975.

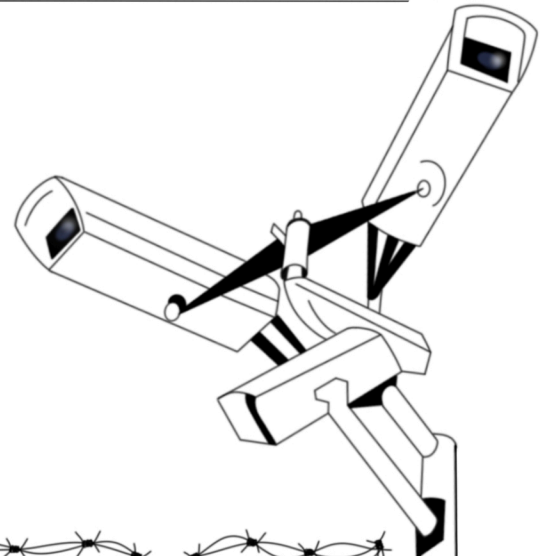
The NSA uses computers to surveil us. Their surveillance tactics claim to be used to assess for foreign threats and terrorism, yet they often use resources to surveil US activists, journalists, and civil rights leaders who are legally voicing dissent. Under their program, PRISM, the NSA asked telecommunications companies to turn over customer data. Under FISA, a court of seven judges, the FISA court, was created to review government requests for warrants to authorize electronic surveillance. The NSA has an elite group of hackers who have access to a catalog of hardware and software hacks. MONKEYCALENDAR, which transmits a mobile phone's location via hidden text message. PICASSO, which collects mobile phone

location data and eavesdrops. XKEYSCORE, which collects and analyzes real time internet data. Those are only a few examples of ways that the NSA hacks in order to surveil.

The FBI is not innocent though. They also have used surveillance to imprison, murder, and destroy activists, journalists, and civil rights leaders. Beginning in 1956, the FBI started operating an illegal espionage program to "expose, disrupt, misdirect, discredit, or otherwise neutralize" American organizations that it deemed subversive, usually leftist groups. Although this program's illegal activities were uncovered, the FBI continues its surveillance of organizations. Targets of that surveillance include, Occupy Wall Street, Standing Rock Water Protectors, Abolish Ice, Free Palestine, and Black Lives Matter. Both Viola Liuzzo and Hale Boggs were murdered by the FBI. Liuzzo was killed by an FBI informant who was also in the KKK. Boggs was a House member who was very critical of the FBI, his plane vanished over Alaska and he was never seen again. The FBI not only seeks to assassinate people exercising legal dissent, they also will murder those in office who simply disagree with how the FBI is run.

Did you know that the NSA isn't allowed to surveil US citizens domestically? Yet they continue to do so. The NSA has described their own surveillance program as "disreputable if not outright illegal." Not only are federal government agencies surveilling us, but local agencies continue to surveil us as well. Most notably, the police.

- ICMA MEMBER



CITIZEN SURVEILLANTS

In 2019, ICPD became one of hundreds of law enforcement agencies to partner with Ring, Amazon's doorbell-camera company. Through the Neighbors app, officers can send a request for video footage to potential users in a specific area, but they can't tell who has cameras or where those cameras are. ICPD also has a Camera Registry program, with the goal of mapping private surveillance systems across the city for collaboration with law enforcement. Residents and business owners who utilize security cameras are encouraged to register so that ICPD can add the location of their cameras to the registry and contact them for video footage in the course of criminal investigation. ICPD can access video footage from private security cameras with permission of the owner or a court order.