



Des Moines Mutual Aid Monthly

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Polk County Spends Millions Defining a Problem It Won't Solve

County Leaders Entirely Unserious About Getting the Shit Out of Our Water

BY COMRADE JORDAN

The county presented the results of its Central Iowa Source Water Research Assessment (CISWRA) August 4th of this year. The presentation and assessment will not have a material effect on our water quality, and this is because of a fundamental unwillingness to acknowledge the nature of the problem.

The highly credentialed presenters led an enthusiastic audience through the research which studied, to a new degree of detail, the known problems of how the many pollutants get into the water, the horrific effects, and the worsening outlook. There was even a nod to the source of pollutants—which was characterized as an inherent impact of modern agriculture.

The vast majority of contamination comes specifically from farming practices that consider only profit. Land and agricultural production continue to be consolidated into huge units for investment; the majority of Iowa is consumed with no regard to people, ecology, or sustainability. The problem has been well documented for decades, and the capitalist owners of the state have no interest in solving. No amount of detail or explaining will change their minds.

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the capitalists.*

This problem was demonstrated clearly when the presentation addressed the “second step” of the assessment: recommending actions to be taken. This portion made up seconds of the hour-long presentation and emphasized individual actions and money for additional studies. The lack of courage to even acknowledge the structural inability of our agricultural mode of production to resolve this demonstrated incredible ignorance or complicity.

Control over agricultural production must be ripped from the grasp of the capitalists. Agriculture must be run to maximize human and ecosystem flourishing instead of maximizing profits at the expense of every aspect of existence. Without addressing this fundamental contradiction, no one is serious about solving our environmental disasters. ■

Happy Birthday Chairman Fred

“If you dare to struggle, you dare to win. If you dare not struggle, then damn it, you don’t deserve to win.” —Fred Hampton

BY SUBCOMADANTE RONNIE

August 30th would have marked Chairman Fred Hampton’s 77th birthday, if the pig’s hadn’t murdered him in his sleep when he was 21 years old.

Hampton was a Deputy Chairman of the National Black Panther Party for Self Defense and Chairman for the Illinois chapter based in Chicago. He is primarily known for radicalising street gangs of all races to shift their focus towards meeting the needs of their communities and organizing towards revolution.



His major contributions to radical history was a focus on organizing Survival Programs, meeting the needs of those that the state attacks or ignores through food, educational, and medical programs, and demonstrating we don’t need a capitalist economic model, and in fact would thrive without it.

His success in radical organizing across racial divides was so successful, culminating in the first Rainbow Coalition, that it scared the shit out of the pigs who determined he was a national threat, which indeed he was.

In 1969 the pigs, with the help of snitches, drugged Fred, raided the Panther home he was asleep in, and murdered him next to his pregnant wife.

Hampton’s legacy is still strongly remembered and directly inspires many members of Des Moines Mutual Aid.

Happy Birthday Chairman, we need you now more than ever. ■

*“Why don’t you live for the people?
Why don’t you struggle for the people?
Why don’t you die for the people?”*

Palestinian Journalist Anas Al-Sharif’s Final Message

This is my will and my final message. If these words reach you, know that Israel has succeeded in killing me and silencing my voice. First, peace be upon you and Allah’s mercy and blessings.

[...] I have lived through pain in all its details, tasted suffering and loss many times, yet I never once hesitated to convey the truth as it is, without distortion or falsification—so that Allah may bear witness against those who stayed silent, those who accepted our killing, those who choked our breath, and whose hearts were unmoved by the scattered remains of our children and women, doing nothing to stop the massacre that our people have faced for more than a year and a half.

I entrust you with Palestine—the jewel in the crown of the Muslim world, the heartbeat of every free person in this world. I entrust you with its people, with its wronged and innocent children who never had the time to dream or live in safety and peace. Their pure bodies were crushed under thousands of tons of Israeli bombs and missiles, torn apart and scattered across the walls.

I urge you not to let chains silence you, nor borders restrain you. Be bridges

toward the liberation of the land and its people, until the sun of dignity and freedom rises over our stolen homeland. I entrust you to take care of my family. I entrust you with my beloved daughter Sham, the light of my eyes, whom I never got the chance to watch grow up as I had dreamed.

[...] Do not forget Gaza... And do not forget me in your sincere prayers for forgiveness and acceptance. ■

— Anas Jamal Al-Sharif, 06/04/2025
Killed by Israeli Forces on 8/10/2025,
along with four of his colleagues



ASK

DES MOINES
MUTUAL
★ AID ★

Dear DMMA,

I have noticed a lot of houseless folks and sign flyers have pets, how are they able to care for them?

-KM

Dear KM,

That is a good question, thank you. Many of our houseless neighbors suffer from assumptions by many that just because they are poorer than them, they must not be able to take care of their beloved four-leggeds. Sometimes this results in animal control and other pigs being called, or the pets being stolen.

Fortunately this is an ignorant assumption and we have can say with confidence that our friends love and care for their pets as well as anyone and sometimes even better in that their pets have a full life being cared by a whole camp and living outside, rather than stuck alone in a carpeted box made of toxic materials 22 hours or more a day.

One of our favorite things is when the pigs are called and animal control shows up and tells the pet owners that their animals are healthy and loved.

★★★

Dear DMMA,

What’s your thoughts on George Jackson?

-LA

Dear LA,

Hero.

★★★

Dear DMMA,

I have read your writings and observed your activities, but I can’t figure out what your political ideology is. Could you explain it to me?

-SM

Dear SM,

Nice try pig. Just kidding, as our Points of Unity explain, we are a revolutionary abolitionist political organization attempting to determine where mutual aid’s role is within revolutionary organizing.

We are primarily made up of revolutionary communists and anarchists who believe that the electoral processes are dead ends that prevent liberation at best and are the release valves that allow all manner of capitalist atrocities, like genocide and starvation.

In short, we are united by the ideology that horizontal organizing, mutual aid, may be our best path towards liberation.

Love,

—Des Moines Mutual Aid.

★★★

Send your questions to **desmoinesmutualaid@protonmail.com**. This edition’s Answer Committee was comprised of Subcomadante Amenaza and Subcomadante Ronnie. ■



When Our Turn Comes

BY COMRADE CRIXUS

One hundred and ninety-four years ago in August, a slave rebellion engulfed Southampton County, Virginia. Led by Nat Turner, the rebels battled against slavery and the nation which optimized its use for the purpose of profit: the United States. Nat Turner and his warriors were defeated, and he was executed after spending a month on the run. What are we to make today of the attacks his forces carried out, with many women and children being killed? Self-identified radicals have chalked these killings up to a religious frenzy, so the anniversary of their heroic struggle is a chance to mount a defense of Turner’s actions.

Indeed, Nat Turner’s rebellion killed whites, with “...neither age nor sex to be spared” as a conscious policy. The “religious frenzy” argument is undermined by the rebels’ discussion of this policy prior to the revolt. It was neither a crime nor unwise. While a sober calculation, the fact that these actions were the

result of hundreds of years of torturous confinement precludes any moral judgement of Nat’s fighters. Even if they were unnecessary and soberly taken, these acts reflect the character of slavery, not the character of the slaves who broke their chains. More importantly though, these killings were tactically necessary to avoid word of the revolt spreading before a critical mass of rebels could be mustered. Additionally, terroristic acts of this type would spread a massive fear when word did spread, accelerating the drive towards the apocalyptic conflict which Turner envisioned. The latter reasoning was incorrect in the short term, but prophetic in the long term, as the rebellion helped precipitate the Civil War.

Fear is a weapon. To wield it requires a basis in the masses, creativity, and deliberation. The masses in this country lack the conditions to create a sustainable mass movement which a structure could be built around. For now. When our friends and coworkers are soberly deliberating like Nat Turner’s rebels, we will know our turn has come. ■

For Matt, In Memoriam

BY COMRADE EVA

On August 23rd, Matt (known cordially by many as Moose) passed away, likely from his improperly treated heart condition resulting in a heart attack. Matt was the first camper I really got to know and was befriended by when I first started frequenting that area of camps back in 2020. He always had some sort of joke or quick quip at the ready, always managed to get a smile out of me.

For the five years we knew each other, I always looked forward to seeing him. He was quite the engineer—the first summer I knew him, he fashioned a cold plunge/mini pool out of an old feeding tub to keep himself cool, built a moat around his camp to help prevent flooding, and always had a collection of riding lawn mowers he was fixing up, swapping parts around until he could get the discarded machine working again. One year, he spent most of the summer building an entire cabin out of scrap wood, to help keep himself warm that winter. When the city came to bulldoze that camp, his cabin was the first thing the bulldozer operator went for.



Matt’s death fills me equally with grief as it does rage. Grief that we’ll never see each other again, grief that his life was cut short, grief for his children he leaves behind, and an insurmountable amount of rage over the lack of care he received at the hospital when he got his diagnosis, and near constant harassment by the city over all the years I knew him. He deserved so much better. I hope he is resting in peace. ■

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In Loving Memory of Comrades KT and Gary