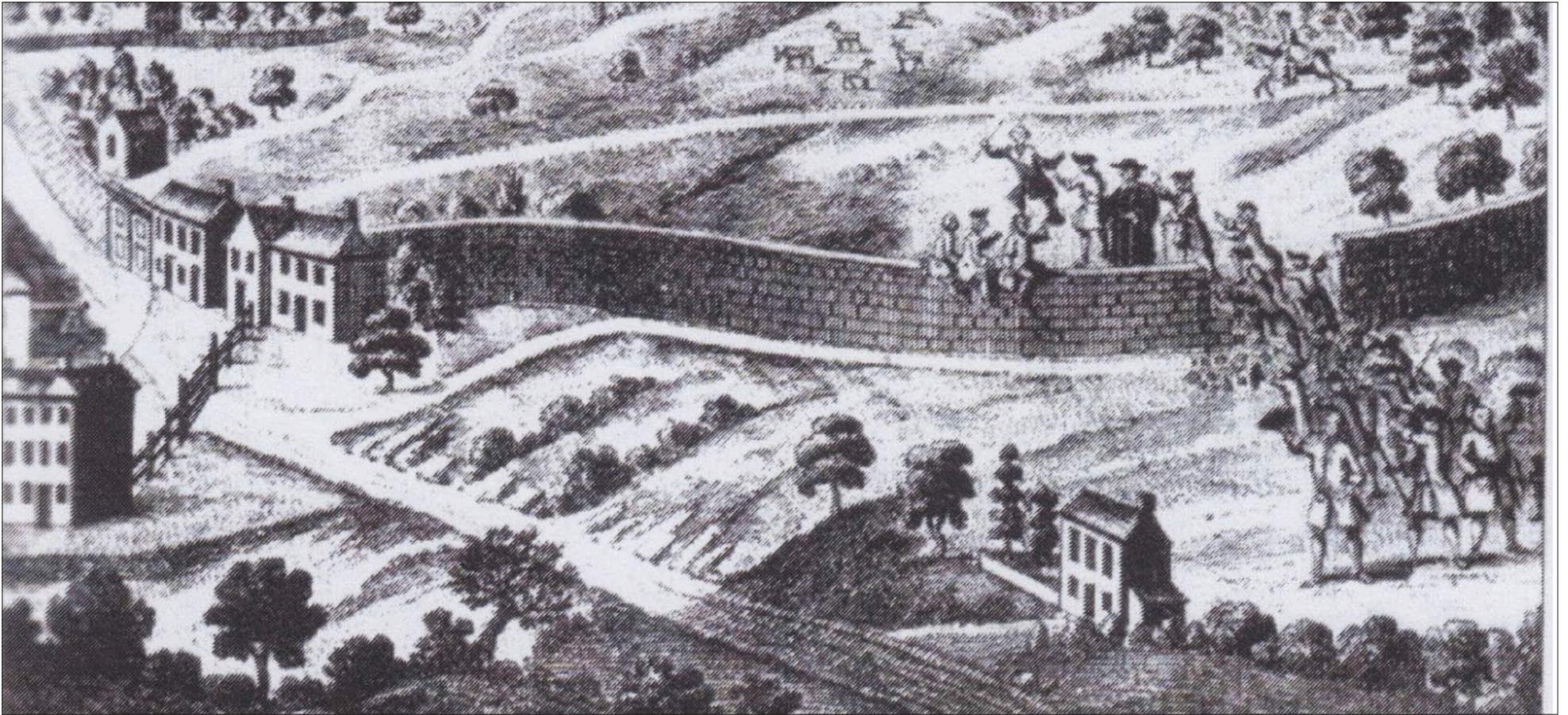


Des Moines Mutual Aid Monthly

JUNE 2025 — ISSUE #28



Des Moines City Council “Allows” Some Organizations to Shelter the Homeless

Capitalists and their politicians should not feel insulated from the violence they inflict.

BY COMRADE JORDAN

Our capitalist system is approaching the next cycle of crisis. The dual pressures of capitalistic downturn and continued gutting of state and national welfare support will push more people into camps. In reviewing the city’s response, clearly our homeless neighbors are considered less than human.

Last September the City Council passed an ordinance which allowed them to fine, harass, and jail people for being homeless. Mayor Boesen demands daily updates of the unhoused and seeks to justify their removal. And now, the City Council is allowing some groups to offer shelter to the homeless. They are not providing any resources. To offer shelter, a group must ask permission from the city that can be revoked at any time for any reason.

Performative “attempts” to provide support like this receive fawning coverage by the sycophantic corporate press, and so accomplish their actual objective: dressing the City’s war on the poor with a sheen of ‘charity’.

Property developers wield significant power over the city. In addition to direct bribes/lobbying, city leaders appease developers who decide where to invest their hoarded wealth (or not). Investment is tantalizing to the city leaders because it drives up the tax base and city budget, it increases the value of their own properties, and developers can threaten to halt investments shutting down economic activity. Homeless encampments drive down property values, and developers are incentivized to be rid of them as cheaply as possible: tax funded brutality and violence.

Performative “attempts” to provide support like this receive fawning coverage by the sycophantic corporate press, and so accomplish their actual objective: dressing the City’s war on the poor with a sheen of ‘charity’.

Politicians will only act in the interest of these capitalists unless they feel personally threatened. Egalitarian community investment will require expropriation of hoarded wealth and discarding of capitalist states. Until those tasks are complete, the masses should embody a constant readiness for violence in order to extract support and defend reforms. ■

Conservatives Want to Abolish Empathy

BY COMRADE JUDE

On May 16, 2025, Iowa district judge Stephen Locher ruled that Iowa can continue restricting education on sexual or gender identity in K-6 classes, claiming that, “It does not matter whether the lessons or instruction revolve around cisgender or transgender identities or straight or gay sexual orientations. All are forbidden.”

Conservatives have been targeting both the LGBT+ community and education in general for decades. This ruling serves not only to continue that attack but to prevent current and future generations of children from developing something incredibly important to overcoming societal biases: empathy.

Biases like homophobia, transphobia, and gender stereotypes are developed at as young as preschool age. As they grow up, children naturally begin to recognize the differences between themselves and the people around them. The way they view those

differences will be entirely a result of the environment they grow up in. Even if this ruling is applied as stated—to “all” sexual and gender identities—the goal is clear: to isolate queerness and transness as inappropriate topics for young children. This will lead those young children to see non-normative identities as taboo when they discover these identities later on, creating the sense of otherness that often forms one of the hardest-to-break barriers to empathy.

The goal in this decision is not to protect children, it is to control them. It is to insulate and indoctrinate them into conservative ideology, and it is to make the world hostile enough toward queer and trans people that we eventually shut up. Queer and trans people will continue to exist. How future generations treat us will be determined by how we educate them.

Conservatives want to gradually weed out empathy from politics, from social relations, from education, from everyday life. Don’t let them. ■



ASK

DES MOINES
MUTUAL
★ AID ★

Dear Des Moines Mutual Aid,

I read your Points of Unity and I need to ask, is it true that to help the homeless you have to hate the cops?

-GM

Dear GM,

Yes, that is true. Let us explain.

To end homelessness, you would have to end capitalism. The reason our society has humans with nowhere to live is because housing is a commodity in capitalist society, something to be bought and sold rather than distributed according to need. The existence of the real estate capitalist and his profits is only possible if people cannot access housing for free. These same elements require policing of a class society, to protect the capitalist class from the rest of us as they force us to compete to acquire the basic needs for survival.

Consider that there are far more empty homes than homeless people, then consider who violently enforces that those unused dwellings stay empty while we die in the street.

Simply put, the systems that create homelessness are protected by the pigs.



Dear Des Moines Mutual Aid,

You write often of revolution, do you understand that would require violence?

-LSB

Dear LSB,

Yes.



Thanks for the great questions everyone, keep sending them to us at **desmoinesmutualaid@protonmail.com**, and we will keep answering them.

As always, in Love and Rage,

—Des Moines Mutual Aid ■



“For the master’s tool will never dismantle the master’s house. They may allow us temporarily to beat him at his own game, but they will never enable us to bring about genuine change.” — Audre Lorde



Movie Review: Ready or Not (2019)

BY COMRADE JENOTS

You don’t need to seek out obscure films to get a good anti-capitalist horror experience. Indeed, the best one yet is a mainstream American film - Bettinelli-Olpin and Gillett’s 2019 horror-comedy *Ready or Not*.

The main antagonists throughout most of the film are rich idiots, but more importantly turn out to be puppets of an *actual demon*. Plenty of movies show us that rich people are stupid and that the ruling class are confused by their situation (Buñuel’s

Discreet Charm of the Bourgeoisie). Fewer movies show us that *the capitalists’ fundamental drive for survival* is controlled by an inhuman entity (capital itself) that has its own motives and puppeteers the bourgeoisie to act in its name. *Ready or Not* gets this right. This isn’t a game the rich idiots made up: it’s real, it’s alive, it controls them, and every time we go to work to make them richer it controls us, too. The bourgeoisie are a delightful cast: loveable goofs, people just like you and me. Except, y’know, indebted to a demon, and everything else that requires.

Ready or Not lays out the relationship between powers very clearly. It shows a protagonist who fights tooth and nail for her survival. Though out-gunned, she is clever and careful. Most of her assailants manage to kill themselves and each other, while she dodges, hides, runs, and attacks like a dignified creature with a will to live. She doesn’t stage much of a protest, and her tears give way to purposeful acts. She comes to terms with her situation quickly, and then proceeds to survive. We could learn a thing or two! ■

Des Moines Mutual Aid Points of Unity: Updated 2025

o. We believe in working shoulder to shoulder and standing in solidarity with all oppressed communities. We ourselves are oppressed, and our mutual aid work is a fight for our collective liberation. We do not believe in a top-down model of charity. Instead, we contrast our efforts at horizontal mutual aid, the fostering of mutually beneficial relationships and communities, to dehumanizing and colonizing charity.

1. We believe in community autonomy. We believe that the communities we live and organize in have been largely excluded from state social services, but intensely surveilled and policed by the state repressive apparatus. Capitalism is fundamentally unable to meet people’s needs. We want to build self-sustaining communities that are independent of the capitalist state, both materially and ideologically, and can resist its repression.

2. We are police and prison abolitionists. Abolition and the mutual aid that we practice are inextricably linked. We don’t rely on capitalist institutions or the police to do our work. We believe in building strong and resilient communities which make police obsolete, including community systems of accountability and crisis intervention.

3. We work to raise the political consciousness of our communities. Part of political education is connecting people’s lived experiences to a broader political perspective. Another component is working to ensure that people can meet their basic needs. It is difficult to organize for future liberation when someone is entrenched in day-to-day struggle.

4. We have open disagreements with each other about ideas and practices. We believe there is no formula for resolving our ideological differences other than working towards our common aims, engaging with each other in a comradely manner, and respecting one another, whether or not we can hash out disagreements in the process.

5. We are a revolutionary organization. We are united in a basic agreement that the ultimate goal of revolution is the abolition of the state and of social classes, and that the state’s institutions are not a means to achieving that end. We are against participation in electoral politics, because we are for the development of mutual aid as an alternative and widespread institution. ■



In Loving Memory of Comrades KT and Gary