

The Anightly Ruby

May 22, 2025



Abolitionist, anti-fascist journalism
PRODUCED BY ORGANIZERS
FOR ORGANIZERS



Editorial

UOSW-UAW Local 8121 vote 95.4% to ratify contract after 10 day **strike** ends with bang: 54-worker sit-in dispersed by riot police

Robin Bailey

Newsprint Editor

After a week and a half of 5 a.m. to 11 p.m. pickets and 11 months of frequent 9 a.m. to 2 a.m. bargaining sessions; after marches through the streets, dining halls, prospective student orientations and employee flourishing events; after taking back the produce drop, the craft hour; after club meetings set to steady drumbeats on the grave of the Mother Pioneer; after our five nail-biting hours in Alareer Hall covering ourselves in temporary tattoos, playing cards and singing Ed Wolf's labor songs all-the-while being leered at by the UO Police Department; after parting a black sea of riot gear clad Eugene Police Department,

From the cover: Mae Bracelin, a dining worker in Global Scholars Hall and UOSW-UAW bargaining team member, led chants during an April 28 march down Agate St. on the strike's first day.

Robin Bailey/The Knightly Ruby

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Madeleine Ford/The Knightly Ruby

Around 10:30 p.m. May 5, the Eugene Police Department showed up in full riot gear and gave student workers inside an ultimatum: Leave now — or face brutal arrest. Inside, student workers took a vote on whether to stay. We left. Days later, we won a contract.



Student Power Sweeps
Most union-pilled slate in student gov't history?

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Sanctuary campus now
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'Disability & Palestine'
Continued on 4

Staff

NEWSPRINT EDITOR

Robin Bailey

REPORTERS

Addison Otto

Alex Hiuhu

PHOTO/VIDEO

Ella Moriarty

Madeleine Ford

Topaz Taber

ILLUSTRATION

Alexa Cruz Abarca

CONTRIBUTORS

Chloe Gilmore

dogwithablog

Eclipse

Frederick Mason

Ian Mohr

Umbrella

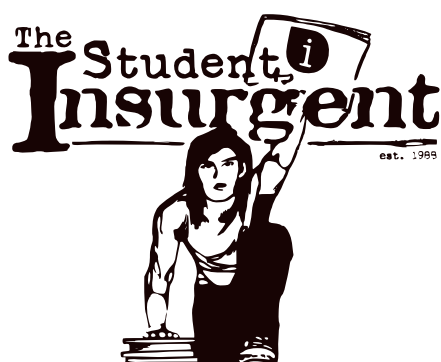
The Knightly Ruby is an abolitionist, anti-fascist pan-leftist monthly from your friendly neighborhood strikers: *The Student Insurgent*.

We take inspiration from *Insurgent's* history as a newspaper while supporting its present as a magazine, and hope to offer a more frequent leftist alternative to other campus news sources — we want to bring journalism *by* the masses to the masses. As such, any opinions or art presented in this paper do not necessarily reflect the viewpoint of *The Knightly Ruby* or *The Student Insurgent* unless otherwise stated.

But to do so, we need you: if you have any pitches, photos, pieces or otherwise newsworthy content, please direct submissions to insurgentuo@gmail.com (and mention the *Ruby* in your subject line) or the ROAR Center in EMU Suite 006 during regular business hours. We reserve the right to edit articles for length, content and clarity.

For corrections, concerns or tips, contact us on Instagram [@uo.knightlyruby](https://www.instagram.com/uo.knightlyruby) and/or [@uo.studentinsurgent](https://www.instagram.com/uo.studentinsurgent).

In solidarity,
—The Student Insurgent Editorial Board



ASUO

'What kind of power? Student Power!'

How your incoming student government plans to repair union relations, reshape institutional memory — and what happens when we 'trap ourselves' in our own rules

Addison Otto

Reporter

Known to some campus organizers as the most pro-labor slate, UO Student Power won 95% of the seats it ran for in the 2025 Associated Students of the University of Oregon election, with Prissila Moreno and Jordan Ackemann serving as president and vice president, respectively.

As part of their labor rights initiatives, SP plans to repair the relationship between ASUO and campus unions.



Robin Bailey/The Knightly Ruby

ASUO president-elect Prissila Moreno spoke among other Oregon legislators and public officials at a May 2 rally on day five of UO Student Workers' strike.

"It's vital that we have a student government... that really believes in the theory of change."

That change does not necessarily come from sitting in a room, making the best argument."
—Collin Heatley, GTFF vice president for external relations

Ackemann says an attitude of apathy has characterized these relations, but the new administration is dedicated

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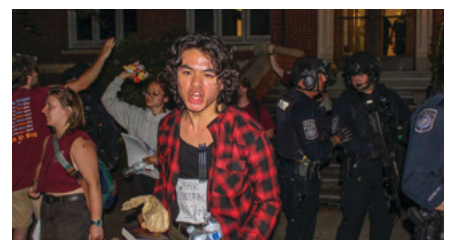
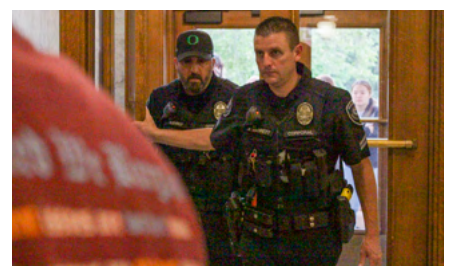
Madeleine Ford/The Knightly Ruby

UO Police Department corporal Steven Barrett was ever-present during the autonomous 54-student-worker-led sit-in May 5 — to the point where he said he was earning overtime. Joining him throughout the night to leer over the shoulders of students playing games, reading books and decorating themselves with temporary tattoos were officers Rebekah Galick (above) and Brandon Wehrly (top right, on Barrett's left).

chanting "Who do you protect? Who do you serve?" as we chased them off our campus; after so many programming, "comms," "exec" and "b-team" meetings; after another week of phone- and textbanking membership where we finally

put our three-year-long project up to its most pressing test: We are the first wall-to-wall undergraduate student worker union at a public university to win a contract — and we won't be the last.

So who's next?



Madeleine Ford/The Knightly Ruby

Outside, worker and non-worker comrades alike waved, joked, passed messages and sang through Alareer Hall's glass doors, keeping us company.



to change that by getting labor politics into student government to so far considerable success: Both the UO Student Workers union and the Graduate Teaching Fellows Federation endorsed SP in the election.

UOSW co-lead negotiator Victoria Piñeiro said, “(Moreno) was very close to our movement and understood what we were fighting for, and so she knew the needs of us before even having to have a conversation.”

Unite UO, SP’s opposing slate, argued institutional union solidarity is beyond ASUO capabilities. Regardless, Moreno approached unions on campus to address any concerns with SP policy and establish an open line of communication central to her campaign.

“This election cycle was the first time that leaders of a slate actually came to our executive committee to talk to us about our concerns with what was happening with ASUO and some of their policies,” said Mae Bracelin, dining worker in Global Scholars Hall and member of UOSW’s bargaining team.

As for GTFF, vice president of external relations Collin Heatley said, “We’re super excited about the potential of building power together over the next year to come. The Student Power slate is the government we need for the moment.”

The organizing mindset SP brings to ASUO is integral to mobilize the decentralized campus toward shared goals against fascism, Heatley said. ASUO can leverage its financial power, connections

to university leadership and outreach resources to help shape the campus in ways that students deserve, especially those who are marginalized and targeted by the current federal administration.

“It’s vital that we have a student government with the Student Power slate that really believes in the theory of change,” Heatley said. “That change does not necessarily come from sitting in a room, making the best argument.”

Change comes from reaching out to people and organic community building, which was a key component to Student Power’s campaign.

ASUO inability spurred UOSW creation

Despite some optimism for SP, UOSW feels burnt from past relations, according to Izzie Marshall, a University Health Services worker and member of UOSW’s bargaining team.

Three years ago, student workers sought a student workers’ bill of rights that was shot down in ASUO’s constitutional court.

“That was one of the big drivers for us to start our union because we were like ASUO is not gonna save us,” said Bracelin. “ASUO is incapable of doing the things that a union can do. It is not a (student) union, and we need a union if we want to actually build the power to win the things that we need.”

UOSW files unfair labor practice over ASUO hiring process

This fall, Marshall applied to become an ASUO secretary of workers’ rights, formerly



Robin Bailey/The Knightly Ruby

Middle: Jordan Ackemann, Daphne Patrick and Prissila Moreno were inaugurated May 14 as vice president, chief of strategy and president, respectively. **Top:** Ninety-five percent of the Student Power slate will take office next academic year.

“If this ASUO... really focuses on archiving student knowledge on how to continue fighting administration to advance student organizing, I think there’s a chance student government will be able to make more progress than it has in the past.”

—Izzie Marshall, UOSW organizer

known as the labor secretary. In the previous two years of its existence, this position has been held by union organizers. During the hiring process, the job’s description was changed to exclude union organizers and bargaining team members.

Marshall only offered the job on the condition that they resign from UOSW’s bargaining team. “I think my values popped up there,” they said. “I would never quit the bargaining team. It’s far more essential.”

While ASUO argues the change occurred due to laws associated with the legal recognition of UOSW, the sudden exclusion of union organizers in the hiring process damaged the relationship between ASUO and UOSW.

Marshall’s experience is part of an ongoing unfair labor practice charge UOSW filed alleging university administration general council illegally discriminated against them in the secretary of workers’ rights hiring process.

To rectify this, Moreno says she will collaborate with unions to hire her cabinet’s secretaries and assign position duties. “I fully plan on (the secretary of workers’ rights) being somebody within the union,” she said, “and ideally somebody from the bargaining team or a lead negotiator.”

The major legal obstacle ASUO must navigate in their labor initiatives is ORS

243.670, in which public employers like ASUO “may not use public funds to support actions to assist, promote or deter union organizing.”

If not the law, SP may run into ASUO’s own rule on viewpoint neutrality, which was passed by the senate in 2006. ASUO officers are required to act “impartially” in government so students can equally experience the benefits of their incidental fee — which ASUO oversees — according to chief of strategy Ravi Collup.

SP may need to change this rule in order to meet the political climate. As Ackemann said, “Oftentimes our own rules, we will trap ourselves in — even though they’re very mendable.”

As SP pushes boundaries on what ASUO sees as acceptable, those involved say SP must hone their organizing mindset. Ackemann outlined a key issue standing in the way of sustainable ASUO power: their short institutional memory.

ASUO often relies on professional staff who have an administrative perspective on things, Ackemann said.

“If this ASUO administration really focuses on archiving and preserving student knowledge on how to continue fighting administration to advance student organizing,” Marshall said, “I think there’s a chance student government will be able to make more progress than it has in the past.” 

Editorial

Disability as ‘glue of oppression’

Reflections on Imani Barbarin’s ‘Disability and Palestine’

Eclipse and Umbrella

Contributors

Viewing the Palestinian genocide through the lens of disability is critical to understanding the mechanisms which power colonization, white supremacy and genocide, as explored by writer, public speaker and disability rights advocate Imani Barbarin in her April 8 talk in the Erb Memorial Union Ballroom. Barbarin was invited by the AccessAbility Student Union, Accessibility Education Center and the Women’s Center.

Around 90 students community members attended, nearly all masking up for accessibility for immunocompromised attendees, including Barbarin, who requested the provision.

A high percentage of Palestinian families have at least one member who is disabled, often due to injuries sustained during bombing, as well as mental trauma. Persons with amputations or other mutilations have extreme difficulty moving around due to the state of rubble to which Gaza has been reduced. This renders disability as another weapon by which a people may be oppressed — as Barbarin put it, disability is the “glue of oppression.”

In her talk, Barbarin expressed the importance of having Palestinians also get called to such events; although she is passionate and willing to talk about disability and Palestine, and as much exposure as possible is important, Barbarin said, lived experience is irreplaceable for the topic.

In an April 18 interview with AASU representatives spoke to some of their frustrations about the campus



Shahd Rajab/Flyers for Falastin

Shahd Rajab is a 21-year-old Palestinian woman and artist from Gaza in her third year as faculty of engineering and information technology. You can donate to her relief effort at chuffed.org/project/help-shahd-rajab-artist. Rajab’s art has been published through Flyers for Falastin, a Belgium-based initiative of global art freely available for anyone to download, print and share.

left’s generic questions on accessibility ending up in lack of implementation and follow-through.

AASU director Luna Fera, spoke to capitalistic mindsets which may inform the exclusion of people with disabilities. “As it stands right now, it all comes back down to capitalism and what you profit off of,” Fera said. “Can you profit off my body, my labor and everything? By comparison, you can look at me and say, you are less profitable, by virtue of what your physical abilities or mental processes are. So that puts a price tag on a human.”

“If you want to show that

you care, that you’re in it for the unity,” she said, “you need to get rid of that hierarchy mentality, get rid of that capitalistic mentality, and just start seeing people as people, who have different needs but generally speaking all want the same thing, which in this case is liberation for Palestine.”

Fera emphasized the importance of welcoming and showing solidarity with the disabled community, which she referred to as “the biggest minority.”

Though she recognizes exclusion may be unintentional, Fera identifies it as highly harmful to her community, and hopes leaders

can recognize the importance of demonstrating that disabled people are not an afterthought.

When we shut disabled people out of our spaces and we fail to make our movements accessible, then we perpetuate the same problems as the systems of oppression we fight daily, and can never hope to create a liberated world. Thus, it is integral to make movements accessible — a multifaceted issue which can take many forms.

Campus left, accessibility’s love-hate relationship

Barbarin emphasized the importance of online movements and protests,

Disability can happen to anyone, at any time, and immediately puts a person's body into the trust of the community.

If the community... is not accessible, then disabled people quickly disappear.

which are not only rapidly increasing in relevance for today's tech-infused world, but are also extremely accessible.

As an influencer and activist of disability rights, Barbarin does much of her advocacy online (@crutches_and_spice) and reaches masses of people, launching viral hashtags such as #AbleDsAreWeird.

In-person activism must also be made accessible; with principles of universal design kept in mind, accessibility benefits everyone.

When looking to make an event, rally or march more accessible, think critically

and plan accordingly: What physical barriers are there on march routes? If events are held on grass, are there accessible viewing areas and routes to these areas? Is there literature to accompany the event? Is the literature as legible as possible? Is masking a viable option, especially for indoor events?

Signage may also be utilized: What foods have what allergens or are cross contaminated with allergens? Where are the accessible routes? Who can people go to for any questions or concerns regarding accessibility?

Additionally, organizing spaces and meetings must be as accessible as possible. Is the room itself accessible? Is there a remote option?

Plan as well as possible and do individual research before going to people with disabilities for help making accessible planning.

Disability as tool of genocide

Disability makes it exponentially more difficult to resist oppression, as every facet of life can be deeply affected.

As Barbarin said, "If you can disable somebody, you can

dispose of them." Oftentimes, their own community will dispose of them.

Barbarin pointed out systemic disabling is directed at targeted communities, both within and outside the U.S. Disability can happen to anyone, at any time, and immediately puts a person's body into the trust of the community. If the community — which includes the physical and emotional world we live in — is not accessible, then disabled people quickly disappear.

When basic needs aren't met, there is not enough time to attack systemic issues and self-advocate. If people spend most of their time trying to acquire food, shelter and clothing — which physical and/or mental disabilities already make more difficult — then when is there time to think of liberation for the community as a whole?

In this way, an oppressive force diminishes its victims' ability to resist by forcing them to constantly deal with basic survival needs, which leaves little time for larger resistance.

The American position

Another dynamic Barbarin described at length was what

she called "soft power," or "public relations" on behalf of the U.S. government.

This refers to actions the U.S. takes to limit another country's ability to provide services to its inhabitants. Then the U.S. will swoop in and provide the very same resources and services, under conditions that the country adhere to American-style — i.e., capitalist — participation in the global economy.

This allows the U.S. to maintain a facade of benevolence and philanthropy, worn as a guise over manipulation and large systemic involvement.

Barbarin references the backgrounding of the Congolese people as an example, who are involved in the dangerous extraction of minerals present in the country used in all of our technology, and the resulting violent political instability from the illegal exportations creating a deeply precarious economy.

The centuries-long, exploitative Western abuse of the people and rich natural land of the Democratic Republic of the Congo leads to an ignored genocide of the Congolese people: Barbarin points out how American comforts are built off the exploitation of people in the global south.

Additionally, when it comes to Americans with disabilities, the U.S. institutionalizes singular modes of accessibility that build off of the exploitation of these people, like limited choice for accessible tools and products in the market. Barbarin brings up the specific example of hearing aids, which often contain extracted minerals from the DRC.

Consequently, when the necessity arises to boycott, we must not **only** boycott, but also find viable replacements that are ethically sourced — for not everyone has the luxury to boycott, whether for economical, ability or other reasons. ¹



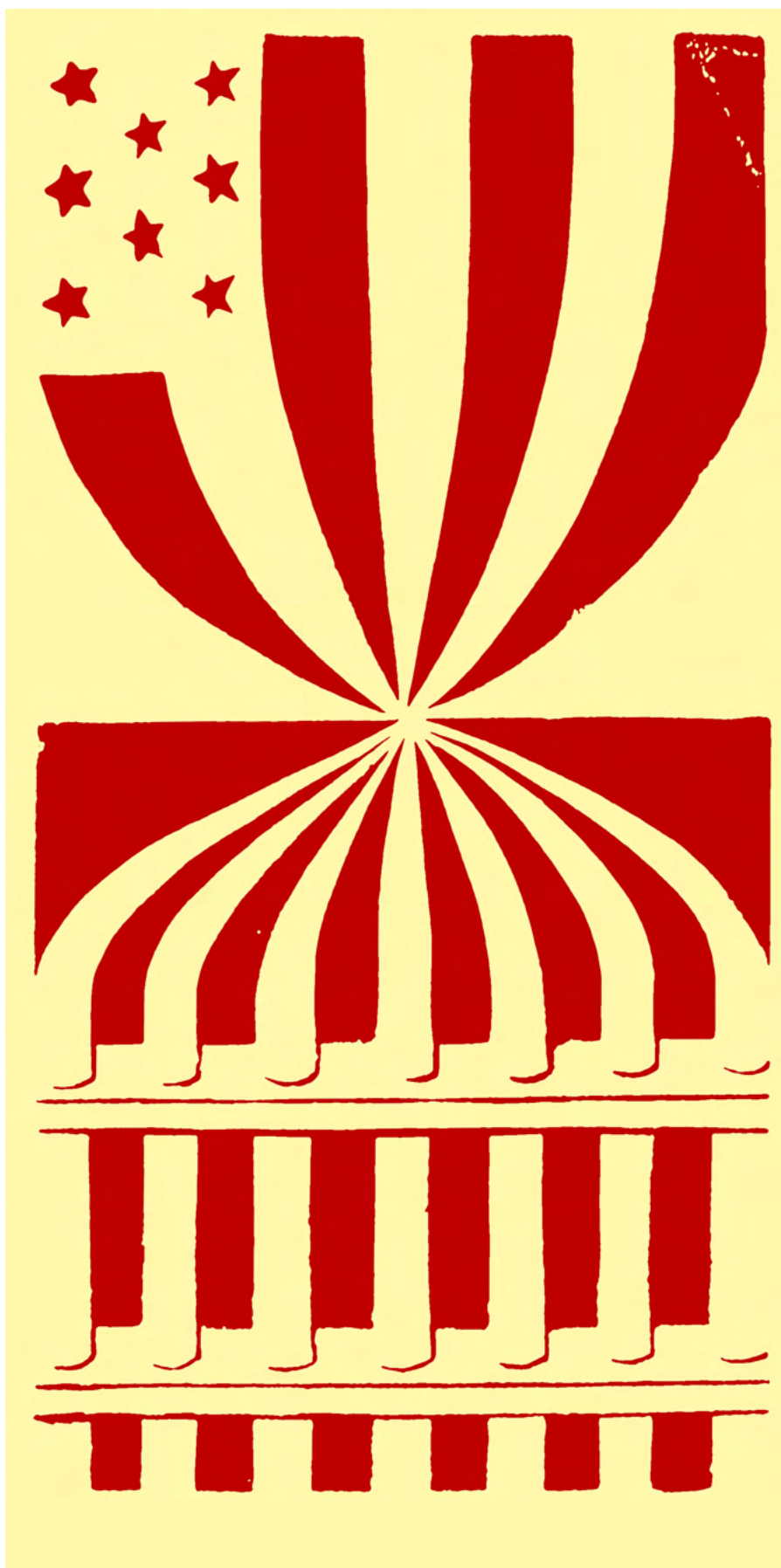
Robin Bailey/The Knightly Ruby

AccessAbility Student Union director Luna Fera frequently attends, organizes and advises on accessibility in events related to disability and Palestine on the campus left. She's pictured here at UO Students for Justice in Palestine and UO Jewish Voice for Peace's May 15 rally, march and vigil commemorating the Nakba, or "catastrophe" in Arabic: An event in remembrance and survivance of Palestinians subject to ethnic cleansing, mass displacement and dispossession in 1948 — and every day since.

A note, handwritten, from FM:
I wrote for years for (the Center for Transformative Action's Durland Alternatives Library) at Cornell University, sharing my experiences with faith and prison. Some include the COVID-19 pandemic, some on the unfair treatment of inmates.

I do what I can because I am convinced that God loves us all, and does not like seeing anyone mistreated. So I try to be a voice for inmates who don't know what to do.

I hope I can share more with you in the future.



Josh MacPhee/JustSeeds

Prison Project

Hell is empty All the devils are here

Frederick Mason

Contributor

We know that nobody is perfect; we all make mistakes. Some lead to a person breaking the law. For this reason, we need a justice system. But we need an **honest** justice system. We don't really have one, especially when it comes to federal prisons — thus the Shakespearean title.

Indulge me a few moments as I explain — through this true-life exhibit — why. As I often say, “Sometimes the worst people in prison aren't the ones in the cells; they're often the ones coming out the parking lots of those prisons.”

Consider: Inmate “Adam” has been working on his appeal for nearly 10 years here at United States Penitentiary, Tucson. Adam contends he was not fairly tried or sentenced, and that his public defender did the bare minimum — literally facilitated a conviction — since public defenders lose 98% of their federal cases.

So Adam works furiously in the law library, trying to learn law, so he can properly and timely file his appeal to the courts in hopes to have a fairer retrial.

But Adam notices that his legal work coming into USP Tucson is being delayed and sometimes “lost.” He has heard that USP Tucson, under mailroom officer Ms. Molinar, has been illegally tampering with his — and other inmate's — mail.

(Note: It is **illegal** for any staff member to violate an inmate's legal mail. There are numerous case laws that protect an inmate's right to his legal correspondence.)

Adam confronts Ms. Molinar about his legal mail, asking her why she's been opening his court documents without his

presence.

Molinar tells him that she can do what she wants, thereby ignoring the constitutional right of inmate's legal mail.

Adam responds by writing and filing a complaint through the administrative remedy program — a type of grievance the Federal Bureau of Prisons barely recognizes — and turns it in, claiming that Ms. Molinar and the mailroom of USP Tucson are violating the law by illegally opening legal mail.

Molinar responds to Adam's complaint by making up a false charge, and putting Adam in the Special Housing Unit for an “investigation...”

(Just to clarify, all this is true, except the name of the inmate.)

For a month, Adam is illegally held in the SHU, while USP Tucson does nothing. Worse, this allows Molinar the opportunity to do something more sinister.

Using her authority as a member of “security,” Molinar takes Adam's name and illegally adds it to a list of high-risk inmates; those known in the prison for attempting to smuggle contraband into USP Tucson.

These names are on a more intensive mail monitoring list, meaning the mailroom has the “right” to ignore inmate constitutional rights regarding mail.

For **years**, Adam wonders why all his legal mail is late, delayed, opened, copied and sometimes “lost.”

For years, he wonders why his family's letters and pictures aren't getting to him — sometimes late, sometimes never. Adam wonders why the mailroom keeps tampering with his mail.

Finally, after hundreds of complaints by inmates, all on Ms. Molinar and the mailroom, the prison “moves” (not fires,



Colin Matthes/JustSeeds

A scratchy drawing featuring an incarcerated person, shown from the shoulders down, wearing an identification number, "49295." In the person's abdomen is a large barred window, and lighter figures can be seen inside. Below, hand-drawn text states: "My cousin was locked up in maximum security for a non-violent offense. Seeing stabbings, murders, and becoming a stronger fighter was his reform. When visiting I wait with wives in makeup, high heels and tissues. Mothers with their church outfits, children crawling across the visitor waiting room. It all seems so routine." Created for the 2008 Critical Resistance ten year anniversary conference in Oakland, California.

as they should have done) Molinar to another location. Shortly after she leaves, Adam is talking to his case manager, and tells him about his frustration with the mail.

Adam's case manager tells him what he had feared: Molinar, in malicious retaliation, illegally put Adam's name in a more intensive mail monitoring list, to prevent

Adam from timely filing his appeal.

Devil revealed... yet, still more

The case manager admitted that USP Tucson **knew** what Molinar did was wrong, but said nothing. So, for years, staff at USP Tucson saw — and allowed — a man to be tormented, and not one of

them lifted a finger to help him.

Horde of devils exposed

Who would have thought that the worst people in a prison aren't always the inmates: It is the heartless, malicious men and women who abuse their authority and hide behind a uniform.

With the understanding that

not every officer is wicked, neither is every inmate.

But when there are people like Ms. Molinar, who abuse their authority for years — with the permission and support of USP Tucson — how could anyone possibly believe there are devils in Hell right now?

They're all here, camped out at prisons like USP Tucson. ⁱ

Labor

Who do you protect? Who do you serve?

A hit piece on police from a (soon-to-be) former UOPD employee

dogwithablog

Contributor

Content warning:
Descriptions of police violence, murder.

I sat on my phone late at night, scrolling Handshake for UO student jobs, before seeing one titled “Student Library Security Assistant.” Working as a security guard at the Knight Library sounded perfect, so I clicked to apply.

After applying, I received a follow-up saying my interview was at the University of Oregon Police Department.

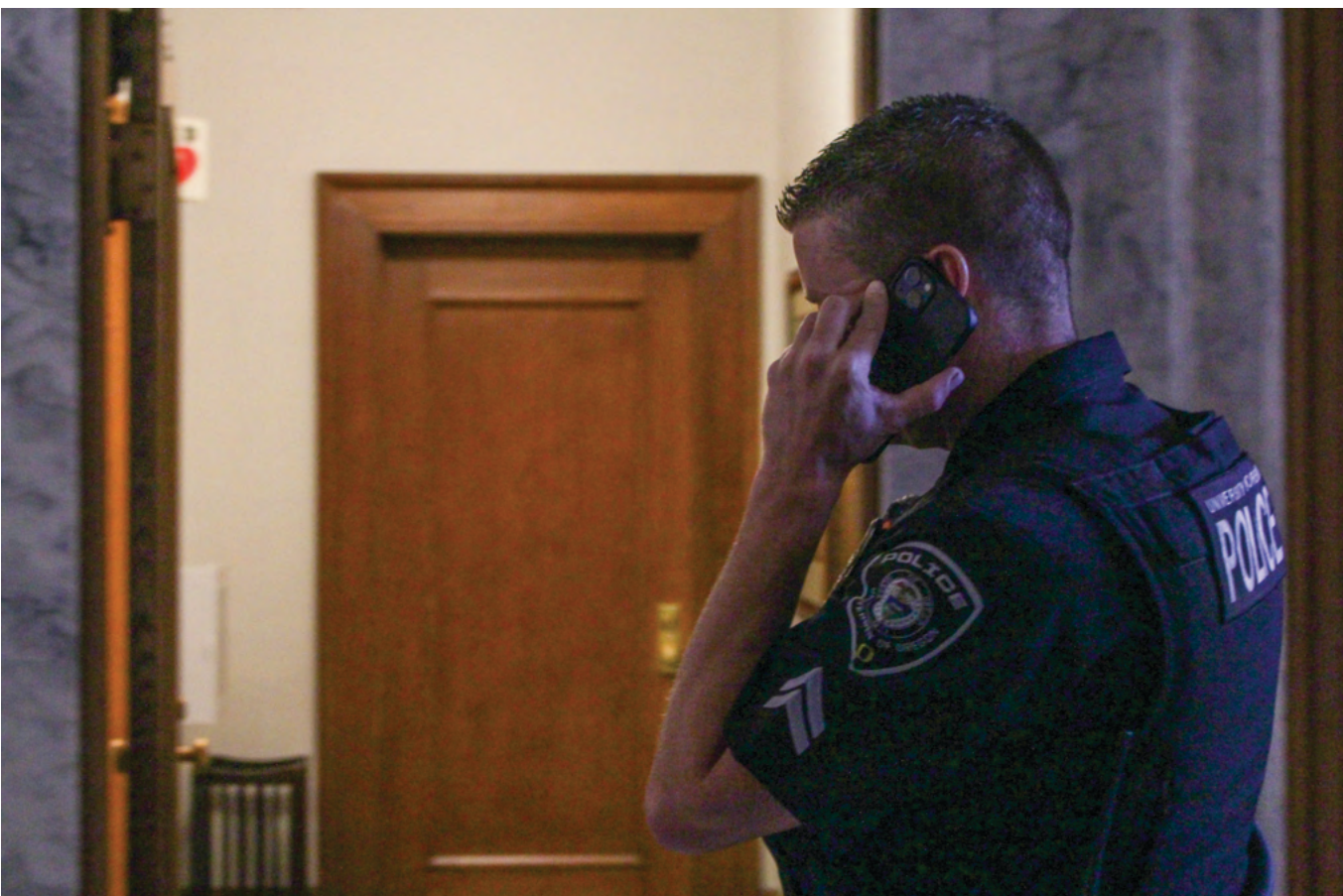
I needed a job, and this was my first chance at an interview — I convinced myself that it would be good to get interview experience, no matter the result. Unfortunately or not, I got the job.

Weeks later, I sat in UOPD’s briefing room, making sure to be there before 7 p.m., the designated starting time for the collective night shift’s meeting. These briefings were filled with student workers, police officers, community service officers (non-sworn and unarmed) and a representative from dispatch Zooming in.

The room is awkwardly stuffed with a large, rectangular table that seats ten. A large TV is mounted on the south wall, at the far end of the table. It drones on, and the small talk between officers drowns out some basketball game.

When the clock strikes seven, officers cease small talk as the sergeant grabs a metal binder with notes from the day shift to pass around. Inside is a notice of warrant for an unhoused person.

An officer sitting across from me chuckles before making a disparaging joke about the person, cutting through the tension of the room; other officers join in, laughing and



Madeleine Ford/The Knightly Ruby

ragging on the person.

This type of joke was common — perhaps necessary — for these officers to maintain their distance from the people they police. Some shifts were worse than others, one officer even asking the student workers their opinions on abortion while being personally pro-life.

Recently, I sat in the briefing meeting and went through the normal tasks, listening in and providing input when asked. Abnormally, the briefing did not conclude after discussions and input from dispatch.

Instead, the sergeant said that we’d be watching a video and interacting with it as a form of training. I was excited; something to break the monotony sounded great.

He cast on the TV and pulled up the video on YouTube. He pulled up a twenty-minute video and cracked a joke about “getting comfortable.”

I sat at the far end of the table, near my fellow student workers, who were busy eating their dinners while watching

The video’s title makes the subject clear, it is bodycam footage of the shooting of an unhoused man.

In the video, an individual is in the midst of a mental breakdown, as he sits flipping a knife in his hand while insisting that he did not punch a man in a nearby restaurant.

It became incredibly clear that the man, named Steve, knows the officers well, as they all refer to each other with first names.

As the video continued, Steve gets more and more agitated, standing up and pacing. Then our sergeant stood up and paused the video.

Acting as an instructor, he asked the room whether or not Steve’s display could be seen as a threat. After hearing notes from officers, he argued that he simply would’ve declared him a threat sooner, allowing him to be arrested or an escalation of the situation.

The video continues. Steve charged an officer after they fired blank rounds, angry and hurt, resulting in

officers shooting Steve with live rounds after they fail to deescalate. The video itself displays the shooting in turn from all nine body cams, a voyeuristic display of violence.

My fellow student workers sit complacently, eating as a man is gunned down.

By the fourth bodycam perspective, nausea had set in me as his execution was replayed, over and over. The briefing room was silent besides the sergeant’s occasional comments.

I walked out, sickened by the indifference displayed by every other participant in the briefing. Instead of any worry, the same sergeant said, “He’ll get over it.”

Will I get over it?

It has been over a month since watching that video, yet I still hear the cry of a bystander, screaming, “You killed him!”

I can still picture Steve’s dog, confused by the shouting, attempting to run to him before being pushed back by police.



Robin Bailey/The Knightly Ruby

Senior executive assistant to the president Maggie Bosworth let us know Alareer Hall would begin locking internal doors just ahead of 5 p.m., depriving us of access to restrooms.

I can still remember the bystander who walked up to Steve while he wielded the knife and hugged him, whispering “it’s not worth it” before walking away, the argument ensuing.

Maybe I won’t get over it. I will continue to see demonstrations of police that sicken me, that demonstrate who they protect. Not once during the whole discussion did the mention of “deescalation” enter the conversation. Instead, **escalation** was the only thought on their minds.

UOPD as extension of state violence

One of the largest red flags, as someone who operated within a police station, is the outsourcing of police training.

Police are not trained onsite; they are sent to other departments, such as the Eugene or Springfield Police Departments. These departments do not provide extra training on deescalation or campus safety; they train University of Oregon officers just as they would their own.

On a setup day for a football game, I was riding with a CSO when I asked about why he

didn’t become an officer.

He winced slightly, before saying, “I guess I wasn’t cut out for it.”

I asked him to elaborate. He said he failed to respond in high-stress situations, and he wasn’t authoritative enough to become an officer. He told me EPD wanted officers who were robots, enacting orders without critical thought. He simply wasn’t cut out to be a brute.

This same department trains the police who “safeguard” our university.

These policemen are actively employed by the University of Oregon, and yet they are not focusing on deescalation tactics. UO houses nearly 20,000 undergraduate students, many of whom have already had bad experiences with police. We cannot expect students in high stress situations to act rationally.

Cops undergo years of training that **should** teach them violence and escalation are last-case scenarios, yet “video trainings” such as the one above do nothing but reinforce a systematic form of oppression that cops carry out.

As students, our tuition pays for their salaries, yet

we are forced to wonder whether or not the metal pens we use might be deemed as a “weapon.” Police training should be specialized around the college campus.

During the sit-in: Cops at Alareer Hall

UOPD, alongside their EPD counterparts, arrived at Alareer Hall on the night of our sit-in. Within 15 minutes of after-hours occupation, two officers strolled in — both of whom I knew.

After admonishing the crowd, saying we’d be trespassing and possibly arrested, corporal Steven Barrett looked at me and said, “Hi, **dogwithablog**.”

During that sit-in, I had a unique perspective of knowing both sides. The police, my “colleagues,” who stood in there watching our every move, waiting for a slip-up — and the students, my peers, who sat playing cards and reading.

During that same sit-in, Barrett told me he empathized with our situation and understood what we were doing, but suggested we do it legally. After this pseudo-bond between Barrett and I was

formed, we as a collective felt comfortable enough asking him to unlock a bathroom for us; the doors to the basement and upper levels were locked, which meant we had no access to food, water or bathrooms.

I went up to Barrett and asked, making sure to mention he said he “empathized” with us, and he flat-out refused.

I bartered, asking if an officer could accompany us to the door — which he denied.

Barrett’s personal appeal to our movement was nothing more than a tactic taught within police training. There was no empathy behind it, and certainly no truth.

This operation, as a physical embodiment of police training and loss of character, should be a red flag within a campus-oriented police station — yet it is commonplace.

We will continue to see new generations of “campus police” who receive no specialized training, nothing to help mitigate the risk factors associated with college students.

The responsibility will continue to rest instead with the masses, as the state and its limbs both control and relinquish accountability. ¹

Labor

Cooking up *class consciousness* in my dining hall

A socialist analysis of pre-strike strategy



Chloe Gilmore

Contributor

Robin Bailey/The Knightly Ruby

While on strike, UO Student Workers marched through DeNorval Unthank Jr. Hall, one of UO's most populous dining halls. Ultimately, UOSW won a premium base pay of \$16.35 for dining workers — 35 cents above our new minimum wage.

In late April, the University of Oregon Student Workers union went on strike as the largest undergraduate student workers' union in the country.

On May 14, workers voted to ratify our first contract with 95.4% approval. We won strong articles:

- Grievance and third-party arbitration procedures to address harassment and discrimination,
- a minimum wage increase to \$16 per hour,
- paid sick leave for work-study students and
- improved health and safety accommodations.

In light of such a historic moment for labor organizing on college campuses, I've been reflecting on socialist strategies in our movement leading up to the strike.

Talking shop (floor)

Wall-to-wall organizing is hard, especially when “wall-to-wall” means thousands of college students working part-time jobs in vastly different departments with varying working conditions and high turnover rates.

When I was first hired this fall term, I didn't know anything about union organizing. Unsurprisingly, my workplace was not “strike-ready.” Many of my coworkers didn't even know they were part of a union, let alone how our union functioned or could serve workers like them.

In the first week on the job, two of my coworkers complained about how union organizing had led to low retention raises and stagnant bonuses. Although the university was to blame, the

tide of resentment landed on our union.

Classified staff members and management told us “you can't talk about that,” “unions don't do anything,” and went as far as kicking out organizers during workplace visits — protected under labor law.

It seemed union busting had won at my workplace, and I was terrified — to the point when I woke up one morning after a nightmare where I was one of only 10 people on a picket line.

With an awakened sense of urgency, I was eager to get involved. I began attending organizing committee meetings, going on the ground

In weeks prior to the strike, I visited my dining hall over 20 times off-the-clock to ensure every single one of my coworkers felt supported.

to visit various workplaces and engaging in difficult conversations with coworkers.

I noticed that some workers disengaged with me when I asked them to show up to meetings or sign letters of support for UOSW's proposed articles.

That's when I realized that I was not successfully organizing; I was merely asking workers to sign a sheet of paper.

I needed to build stronger



Robin Bailey/The Knightly Ruby

UOSW's April 16 practice picket was a huge vehicle by which workers strike-readied themselves, their coworkers and their workplaces.

relationships. The articles proposed in our contract directly connected to the personal stake of every worker in my dining hall; I just needed to build enough trust so workers could see this truth.

When I prioritized listening in conversations, I heard coworkers' stories of financial hardship, racism, transphobia, sexual harassment and verbal abuse.

Trust the people; they become trustworthy

From a Marxist lens, my workplace was growing in class consciousness, seen in the structural analysis of power and exploitation between workers and

employers.

Every shift, more workers began to realize their lives were seen as disposable numbers by management. I had countless conversations with workers who were angered that upper management made six figures while many dining workers scraped by on close to minimum wage.

I tried to connect our struggles felt in the workplace to articles in our contract that would materially impact their conditions, from harassment to wages. This empowered organic leaders to help circulate knowledge and start having conversations in their own social networks.

Building on a radical tradition

What led to pulling off this massive achievement were the years of on-the-ground work done by organizers in their workplaces over the course of weeks, months and years prior.

In weeks prior to the strike, I visited my dining hall over 20 times off-the-clock to ensure every single one of my coworkers felt supported. But it wasn't just me.

UOSW had hundreds of organizers spread across almost every department, from resident assistants to personal trainers to bookkeepers. Student worker organizers poured their entire

souls into this campaign. I observed firsthand the grit, determination, and militancy of the rank-and-file that paid off.

The most rewarding moment of our strike was seeing my coworkers show up to the picket line. Even coworkers who had initially been anti-union were screaming, "UO works because we do!"

Through community and class consciousness, my coworkers felt empowered by the collective action embodied in our strike.

Collective action that many, including myself, never thought we could participate in — let alone lead. 1

National

**Signal shenanigans
Alcoholic
of defense**

Alex Hiuhu
Reporter



The highest level of fuck-up imaginable. That's how former Secretary of Transportation Pete Buttigieg described Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth's staggering

Alexander C. Kubitz/DOD
Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth tours the USS Thomas Hudner during a visit to Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, Feb. 25, 2025.

mishandling of classified Yemen strike information — leaking it not once but twice — in Signal group chats with his wife, brother and personal lawyer. This is not just a disastrous gaffe. It is a bold display of white male entitlement, political cronyism,

Continued on 12

Continued from 11



Alexander Kubitz/DOD

Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth rides in a U.S. Army UH-60 Black Hawk en route to the New Mexico National Defense Area to assess its role in the operational control of the U.S.-Mexico border, Santa Teresa, N.M., April 25, 2025.

and a destructive disregard for the lives of people caught in the crossfire of U.S. foreign policy. This disregard could have catastrophic consequences, and it's a situation that demands our immediate attention and action.

A concerned global studies student at UO said this is what you get when you appoint a Fox News personality to run the Defense Department: "The rot isn't just in his messages; it's in the people who put him there."

In the Trump administration's second term, Hegseth's reckless behavior perfectly encapsulates the chaos and corruption that have become defining features of this era. As secretary of defense, responsible for overseeing the country's military operations and national security, Hegseth's casual, family-style broadcasting of imminent airstrike plans exposes a grotesque level of incompetence and contempt for the rules that protect national and global security.

The Pentagon is reduced to a reality TV circus, run by a man who treats war planning like group chat banter with emojis, gossip and snarky commentary. His use of unsecured "dirty lines" to transmit sensitive information isn't just negligent; it's an abdication of responsibility that jeopardizes U.S. troops, allies and countless innocent

civilians.

What message does this send to Black and brown soldiers? Reckless white men get a pass while you're held to impossible standards. No matter the risk, no matter the lives on the line — white supremacy protects its own.

This isn't an isolated incident, but rather a symptom of the Trump administration's broader pattern: Elevating loyalists without regard to competence or ethics, normalizing corruption and abuse and weaponizing white male privilege to shield the powerful from consequences.

Hegseth's immunity is supported by a political culture that prizes loyalty over responsibility, and optics over actual governance. It's high time we require accountability for such actions, and your voice and demand for change are crucial in this process.

While congressional Democrats scramble to investigate and call for resignations, the reality is the system itself is rigged to protect figures like Hegseth. The revolving door of incompetent appointees, the collaboration of senate Republicans and Democrats, and the lack of genuine institutional reform mean these failures will continue unless we demand radical change.

At stake is not just uncomfortable leaks or political scandals, but the

safety and dignity of human lives worldwide. Our secretary of defense should be the steward of national security and military integrity, not a glorified gossip spreading war plans over family group chats.

Hegseth has treated the Pentagon like his personal reality show. He fires anyone who questions him, replaces experts with yesmen, and then broadcasts war plans like he's chatting about weekend plans.

His excuse? That the Houthis "weren't surprised," so it's no big deal. He said that he's a victim of leaks and smear campaigns. That attitude? It's the same arrogance that keeps our government broken.

It's time to admit the military-industrial complex and the deep state are

strengthened by the very same structures of privilege and entitlement that let men like Hegseth run roughshod over national security.

Real change demands dismantling those systems, holding perpetrators accountable and shifting the conversation toward demilitarization, justice and proper protection for all people — not just the elites.

We need systemic change to prevent such incidents in the future, and we need it now.

We deserve a defense policy that serves peace, not spectacle; responsibility, not reckless loyalty; and competence, not chaos. Until then, the highest level of fuck-up imaginable will continue to threaten us all. ¹



Alexa Cruz Abarca
/The Student Insurgent

Stay tuned for the release of Insurgent's next two issues, *Genocide* and *Americana* — and come to meetings to contribute to next year's *Flesh and Fantasy*!
For more, see our Instagram @uo.studentinsurgent.

Labor

Civil disobedience, administrative repression

How UO fails to protect its students



Ian Mohr
Contributor

The recent ratification of the University of Oregon Student Workers union's first official contract signified a profound shift in power relations on campus. For the first time, student workers are represented by a concrete

voice for our own interests, following in the footsteps of our faculty union, United Academics; our graduate employees' union, GTFF; and our classified staff union, SEIU; along with Starbucks Workers United and Teamsters, which represent other workers on campus.

Ian Mohr/The Knightly Ruby

This is a version of this article I wrote shortly after one of the most pivotal moments of the strike: when dozens of student workers took action into our own hands, engaging in direct, peaceful, and nonviolent action, taking up space in support of our goals of a fair contract, fair pay, protections from harassment, and ultimately further control over the university as an institution which has periodically betrayed the students it claims to serve. The ongoing privatization of the University of Oregon directly coincides with the levels of repression it wages against students who fight for what we deserve, whether in the form of increasing protections for our low-paying, exploitative student jobs, or in an academic space which feels increasingly unwelcoming.

Our position represents a stand against the ever-encroaching repression of privatization and academic consolidation, prioritizing the needs of donors over those of students and the broader community. We took action into our own hands for this reason, and many others, and this action resulted in tangible changes for the strike and the campus as a collective. The university was scared, and they responded in turn. I'll leave it at that. Here's the story:

On Monday night, May 5, 2025, a week into the strike, following painfully slow negotiations with the university administration, a group of nearly 60 students participating in an afternoon study-in autonomously decided to stay in Johnson Hall past 5:30 p.m., closing time. I was one of them.

Why did we decide to escalate? Student workers had been out picketing in the streets for a week, many of us spending hours if not our full days on the picket line trying to get the university to

agree to some very reasonable raises and protections. The university notably refused to move on some of our most important demands: refusing to even entertain the notion of independent grievance and arbitration for cases of discrimination and harassment, instead preferring to investigate themselves. This clear conflict of interest is something which us as striking workers refuse to tolerate as it would essentially sweep some of the most serious instances of workplace harassment under the rug, as the university would, as they have done many times before, cover it up in an attempt to protect their much-cherished reputation, as they did when several members of the UO men's basketball team were reported for sexual assault in 2014, or as they have as staff and management accused of harassment have been moved from dining hall to dining hall rather than the issues at hand being properly addressed.

Additionally, progress on wages was painfully slow. Our initial demands, \$24 per hour as a starting wage, had been negotiated down to \$17.50. The university barely budged in the other direction, keeping their proposed wages at \$15.80. For some context, the minimum wage in our part of Oregon is set to increase to \$15.05 on July 1, 2025, while in the Portland area it will sit at \$16.30.

So we sat in Johnson Hall. ⁱ

Read in full on Ian's Substack



YDSA

Sanctuary campus *now!*



I believe a true sanctuary campus is more than just a label. It means protection, but also investment in safety that doesn't rely on policing and supports education free from fear.

Ella Hayden

Contributor

I stood before hundreds of passionate students, faculty and community members April 11 for the first time as a YDSA organizer and delivered a rally speech at our “ICE Off Campus” rally.

Organizing this rally alongside peers and community members reminded me of the power of collective action and the urgency of our demands.

We called for true accountability, real safety and a university that lives up to the promise of being a sanctuary for all. In reflection I feel extremely proud to be part of an organization and community who put in the work to meet this political moment of urgency. The energy of the gathered

crowd transformed my initial nervousness into determination and excitement.

The rally emerged from student organizations, community advocates and concerned faculty who recognized the urgent need to protect members of our campus community. Working alongside dedicated peers taught me that effective organizing requires both persistence and flexibility, qualities that became essential as we solidified demands, coordinated speakers and mobilized supporters.

The demonstration's demands went beyond symbolic gestures. Speakers outlined concrete actions the

university administration must take: Defend students, defend free speech and defend higher education.

I believe a true sanctuary campus is more than just a label. It means protection, but also investment in safety that doesn't rely on policing and supports education free from fear. I hope this rally was just the beginning. I'm holding onto that hope tightly, and I'm ready to keep showing up for it — for as long as it takes.

As chants and cheers carried across campus, the demonstration showed the depth of community support for these demands. The rally's impact continues through campus conversations and has gotten administration's attention. However, it is crucial to remember that

Robin Bailey/The Knightly Ruby

YDSA Socialists of Color Committee chair Isaak Ordaz, SOCC organizer Ella Hayden and YDSA chair Mae Bracelin listen to speeches during the April 11 “ICE Off Campus” rally.

this demonstration was just the beginning of a sustained campaign.

I was filled with hope after the event. Hope that our collective efforts will build a campus where immigrant students, faculty and staff can thrive without fear. Hope that this rally marks the start of persistent, student-led action. And hope that we continue showing up for each other.

For those who stood together that day, the message was clear: True change requires not just individual conviction but the power of community organizing — something YDSA and our supporters are committed to building for the long haul. ¹



**SANCTUARY
CAMPUS
NOW**
**SCAN FOR
FULL DEMANDS**

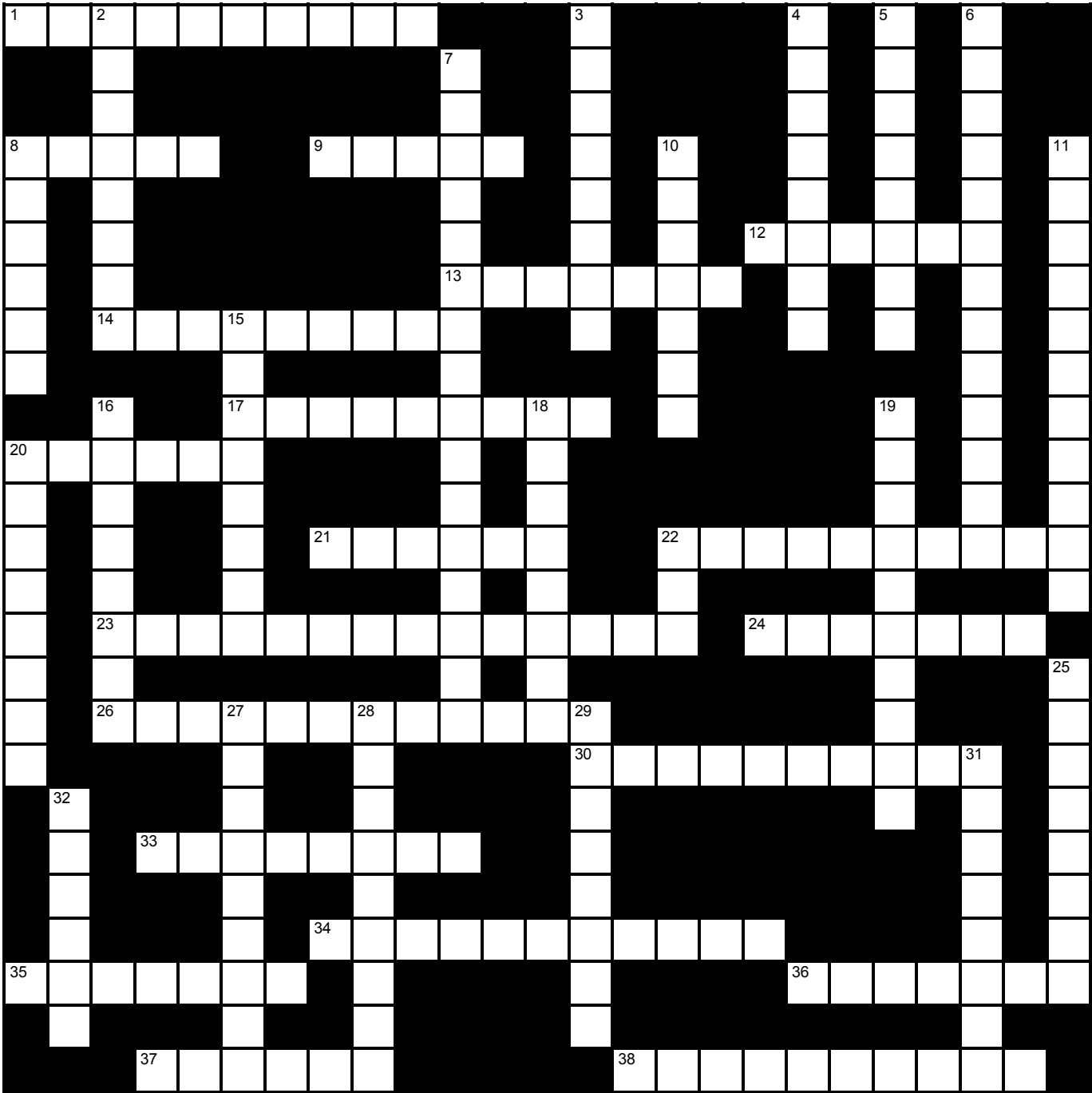


Robin Bailey/The Knightly Ruby

Down

- 2. what the hanging ropes will be made of
- 3. all of us
- 4. aka Rive Gauche, home to the Latin Quarter
- 5. British for “department”
- 6. they’re trying to show something
- 7. state of being without a core
- 8. best kind of street protest fodder
- 10. a course of action intended to achieve a result
- 11. involvement without thought of consequences
- 15. don’t let what this is be what limits you
- 16. groups called together for consultation, management
- 18. the only (barely) socially acceptable radicals
- 19. aka Dany le Rouge
- 20. more than 20,000 marched toward this police occupation
- 22. streets had posters of this motorcycle rider
- 25. extended goals
- 27. Aufheben, LibCom could be described as this
- 28. to have an effect on
- 29. one of the founders of French New Wave, the Gravedigger
- 31. the university that was closed
- 32. liberals want a lot of this fair, open talking

May of '68



Across

- 1. _____ must change
- 8. usually small talk, drugs & cruising
- 9. underneath the paving stones
- 12. location of May '68's first factory occupation
- 13. battle plans
- 14. where workers associate
- 17. collective ownership, usually state-based
- 20. fodder from those streets
- 21. considered the most radical French filmmaker
- 22. “first they came for the _____”
- 23. the song
- 24. the best kind of strike
- 26. Guy kicked out most of them
- 30. it's supposed to fix all our problems
- 33. the state of being unexceptional
- 34. an attempt to reach agreement
- 35. a boxer does these
- 36. to damage utterly
- 37. what has not yet taken place (& may never)
- 38. a kind of blockade

answers available by request
@uo.knightlyruby



The Anarchistnews Book of 50 Sectarian Crossword Puzzles/Ardent Press