



RNC 800 <rnc800@gmail.com>

RNC800: December 21, 2008

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Sun, Dec 21, 2008 at 6:17 PM

To: rnc08arrestees-announce@lists.riseup.net

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THE RNC800!

Newsletter of the Community RNC Arrestee Support Structure (CRASS)

Hey everyone! Welcome to the sixth edition of the CRASS newsletter! Check out the amazing array of information below. And remember...

WE'VE GOT YOUR BACK!

**Next CRASS Spokescouncil:
Sunday, December 28th, 12:00-1:30pm
Hosmer Library, Minneapolis**

**Next CRASS General Arrestee Meeting:
Sunday, January 4th, 1:30-3:30pm
Hosmer Library, Minneapolis**

WINTER IS COLD BUT END OF YEAR ACTIONS ARE HOT!

As temperatures dipped below freezing this week, we turned up the heat on St. Paul Mayor Chris Coleman's re-election campaign. Below are some highlights from the December 15th fundraiser at Mancini's Steakhouse as well as the December 19th sledding party at Como Park.

Mancini's

On Monday, Dec. 15th, Coleman had a fundraiser at a steakhouse in Downtown St. Paul. We had planned to have a dance party outside, but it was freakin' cold, so we all (20-30 of us) went inside, had a drink, and waited for Coleman to show up. When he did, we raised a toast to him for everything he's done for St. Paul: militarizing the streets during the RNC, congratulating the cops on doing such a great job of terrorizing and brutalizing us, etc. And we reminded his supporters that their donations supported the police state he allowed and fostered during the RNC by chanting, "Your money, your fault! Your friends, your fault!" For some reason, Coleman's goons and the owner of Mancini didn't like this display of solidarity with RNC arrestees (go figure), so they escorted us out of the place. The owner even threatened to assault someone, and we have it on tape! Once we were back out in the cold, we held up poster-sized photos of police brutality from the RNC and asked the people going into the fundraiser, "Is this the most livable city in America?" (that's how St. Paul sells itself).

Sledding with Mayor Coleman

On Friday, Dec. 19th, Coleman hosted a free family sledding day at Como Park in St. Paul. Since we love the snow, we headed out to join the fun. Good thing we did, because there were just about as many of us (about 20) as parents sledding with their kids. Inspired by the festive feeling in the park, we sang carols such as "Coleman the Facist Mayor" (to the tune of "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer") and "Projectile Shells" (to the tune of "Jingle Bells"). We also held up signs with snowpeople, reindeer, and "DROP THE CHARGES" in big, bright letters. Since Coleman didn't seem to be in a festive mood (he didn't help the kids sled and he left early, before we could give him his box of coal), we also helped the kids with the tow-rope so they could get back up the hill. It was a great time!

CRASS WORKING GROUP UPDATES

Court Solidarity/Media/Outreach/Pressure: We sent out a press release as well as a media advisory for the December 15th trials and press conference. The press conference was not well attended, and we're changing our strategy. Email our new listserv for Court Solidarity/Media/Outreach/Pressure (rnccourtsolidarity@googlegroups.com) for more information and to find out when and where our next meeting will be.

Courtwatch: We have a light week of court watching this week, but January 5, January 12 and January 20 are big trial days. We need you in the courts! Email us at RNCcourtwatch@gmail.com to get involved. Or join us at our next meeting: Tuesday, January 6 at 6pm at Caffetto on 22nd and Lyndale in Minneapolis.

Felony Support: We've already learned a lot about court solidarity for felony arrestees from our experiences so far, but we're learning as we go so we can provide more support and put more pressure on the courts to defend our comrades. We'll keep the pressure up as the trials progress! You can contact us at rnc08felonies@riseup.net or check out our little space on the web at <http://rnc08arrestees.wordpress.com/arrestees/felony-info-and-support>.

Fundraising: We are getting ready to screen our initial run of CRASS t-shirts and buttons; more details before the end of the year. We still need more volunteers, so e-mail rnc08fundraising@gmail.com if you want to hang out with us.

Hospitality: Helping arrestees survive their stay in the Twin Cities while fighting court charges. Offer housing or find some for yourself at www.nornc.org/stay. Coming into town to fight your charges? Need help paying for your travel? Apply for funding through the Travel Fund at <http://www.rncaftermath.org>. So far, we've helped around a dozen arrestees pay for travel to and from the Twin Cities to fight their charges. We'd love to help you too! E-mail rnc08hospitality@riseup.net for more info.

The Spokescouncil: The spokescouncil is made up of the bottomliners from each of the working groups, and is also open to anyone who wants to be involved. We plan the agenda for the general meetings, share information between the working groups, and formulate proposals to bring to the general meetings. We meet every Sunday, and the time and location of our meetings is posted on <http://www.rncaftermath.org>.

The Zine Project: We're doing interviews and want to do more! Email crasszine@riseup.net and we'll set up an interview with you. To get involved in this and other sweet projects, join us at our next meeting! The next one is on Wednesday, Jan. 7th at 6:30pm at 2nd Moon Cafe in Minneapolis. Email us for more info. And you don't have to live in Minneapolis to be part of this project--email us to get involved.

OTHER GROUPS AND THINGS

RNC 8: The RNC 8, Luce Guillen-Givins, Max Specktor, Nathanael Secor, Eryn Trimmer, Monica Bicking, Erik Oseland, Robert Czernik and Garrett Fitzgerald are still facing four felony charges (two with terrorism enhancements). To learn more about this and to get up-to-date information about the 8, check out their website at <http://RNC8.org> and sign up for their announcement listserv.

Coldsnap: Coldsnap has a regular schedule for open office hours for December. Note: We will be closed for most of the week of X-mas cuz most of us will be out of town. But we still need volunteers for when the office is open, so email coldsnapoffice@gmail.com if you can help. And don't forget that the jail support hotline number--651.356.8635--is always open for your jail support needs. If you have general questions, please call during normal daylight hours.

TCSA: We are a group of Twin Cities residents who formed during the summer of 2008. The influx of protesters coming to our town for the 2008 Republican National Convention made a group dedicated to sexual assault awareness and advocacy a necessity for our community. Our collective desire has always been to be long term and sustainable. Right now we are building our capacity. We are challenging the effects of our own experience of living in a patriarchal rape culture. At the same time that we challenge ourselves, we strive to create a community in which healthy relationships, consensual interactions, and sex-positivity are cultivated. We are not offering support services at this time.

We are working toward:

- creating a culture of consent!
- survivor support

- perpetrator accountability
- continual community outreach
- preventative education
- taking care of each other, within our group
- commitment to self-care and our own restorative healing

To get involved, contact tcsaa08@gmail.com

RANDOM ANNOUNCEMENTS

If you have local RNC-related events going on in your community, email us and we will include them in this section of our newsletter.

Artists Needed: Are you an artist? The fundraising group has one kick ass design for fundraising t-shirts but could use some more. Send in a design to RNCfundraising@gmail.com

Pretty Please: *This is our oh-so-clever section for volunteer requests and general begging.*

Please give us your money at <http://www.rncaftermath.org>

Please volunteer to work in the office at coldsnapoffice@gmail.com.

Please give us free office supplies (especially printer paper).

Please fight your charges.

How to Contact Us

<http://www.rncaftermath.org>

RNC800 newsletter- RNC800@gmail.com

Send checks, courtwatch forms, and inspirational messages to CRASS c/o Coldsnap- P.O. Box 50514, Minneapolis, MN 55405

Coldsnap jail support hotline: 651.356.8635

CRASS working groups: Contact info is in their blurbs.

Yay! You made it all the way to the bottom of our fabulous newsletter. Thanks and way to go! Send us feedback and suggestions. We're here for you.
