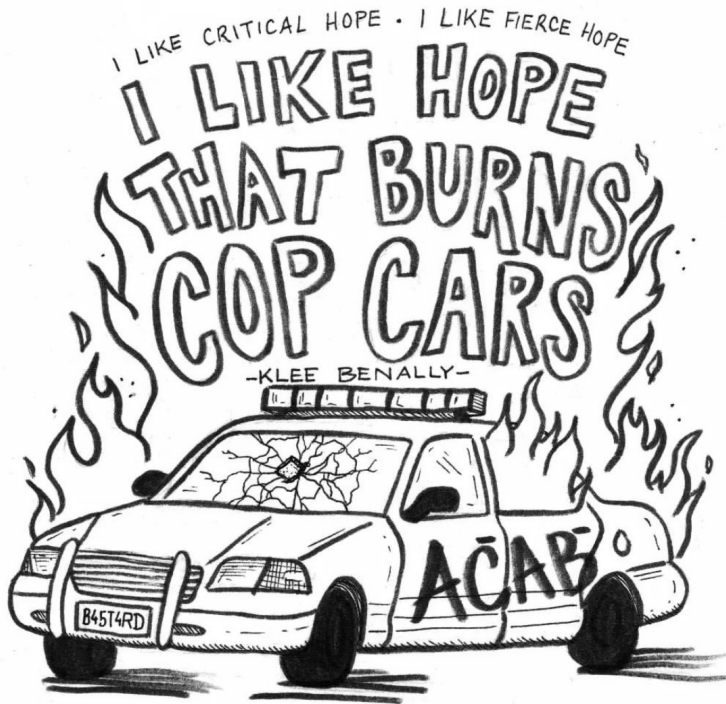


MILITANT STREET TACTICS:

PUSHING & PULLING



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WHY MILITANCY?

All across Occupied Turtle Island, our movements are seeing a massive rise in state repression and fascist violence. In so-called Toronto, those against the genocide in Gaza have endured escalating police violence even at supposedly 'low-risk' actions: we've seen multiple arrests at overpass protests, early-morning house raids in response to wheatpasting a corporate storefront, and even the deployment of the same brutal knee-to-neck restraint tactic used to murder George Floyd. Witnessing and experiencing escalating repression necessitates doing everything we can to keep our community safer.

Yet appeasement is not the answer.

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CHANGING CONTEXTS:

These tactics are all contextual, and may not apply in all circumstances. It's essential to be able to keep track of rapidly shifting contexts—for example, a situation might begin as a pushing contest but accelerate into a full-on brawl. Similarly, your opponent in a pushing match may attempt to catch you off guard by pulling you forward instead. Remain alert, keep an eye out to monitor how the situation may be shifting, and prepare in advance with your crew. Adaptability, awareness, and cohesion are just as important as good technique.

This post is an extremely abridged version of the zine. We highly recommend reading the entire zine in order to learn more and develop a more thorough understanding of each tactic mentioned here.

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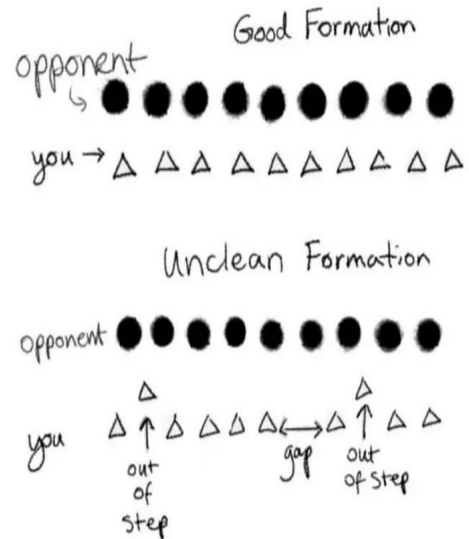
This is meant to introduce some fundamental concepts of enacting and defending from physical force in the context of community defenses, marches, and antifascist actions. This is not, however, a comprehensive guide to all forms of physical confrontation that can occur on the ground.

We specifically focus on two very common confrontational frameworks: pushing and pulling. However, there are many other acts one could face in such a confrontation, such as punches, kicks, thrown objects, and more—not to mention police munitions such as batons or tear gas. However, these remain outside the scope of this introductory zine.

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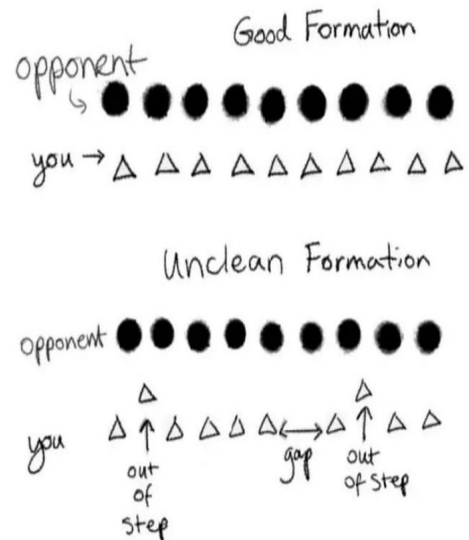
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FORMATION:



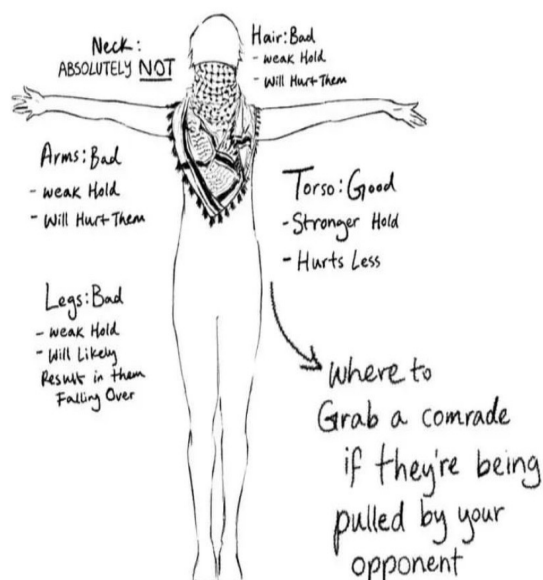
A good or clean line formation ensures stronger force and prevents overextension, reducing people's chances of being pulled by the opponent. It is also essential for maintaining a well-controlled space and ensuring it does not get breached. All members must take care to remain adjacent to each other, instead of maintaining a fixed distance from their opponent.

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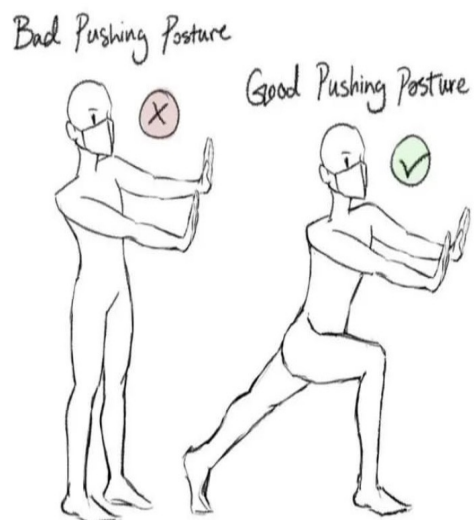
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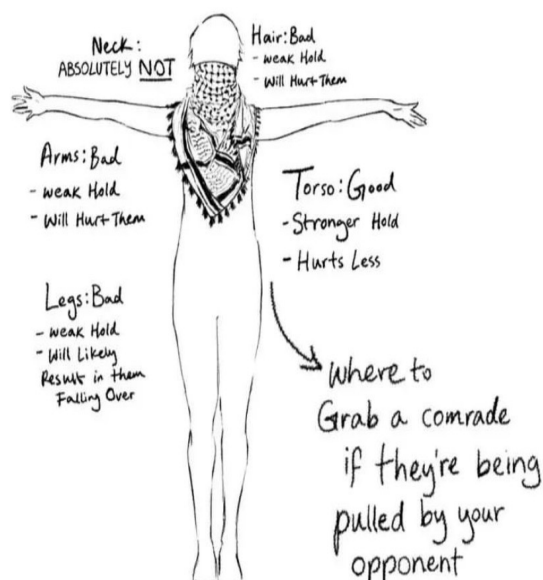
Pulling can be employed in preventing arrest. If a comrade is being grabbed by cops who haven't quite gotten hold of them yet, pulling them away may be an effective de-arrest. Get a hold of their torso; avoid limbs and sensitive parts. Maintain strong situational awareness: after any attempt, do not remain exposed.

PUSHING: POSTURE



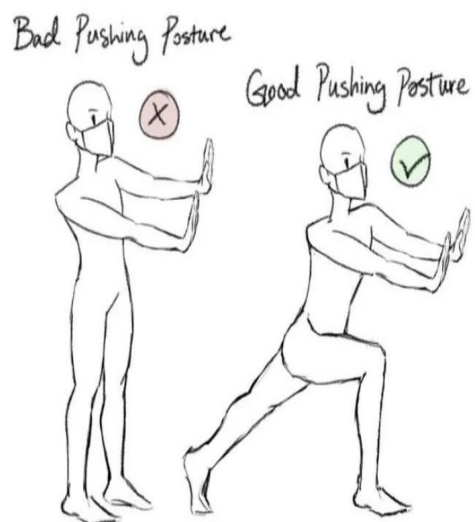
Take note of the legs here. Leaning forward with one foot in front of the other creates a stronger forward push because the angle enables your legs to end more energy forward. This posture also ensures more stability if you get pushed back. This is something many of us already instinctively understand, but sometimes seem to forget at actions.

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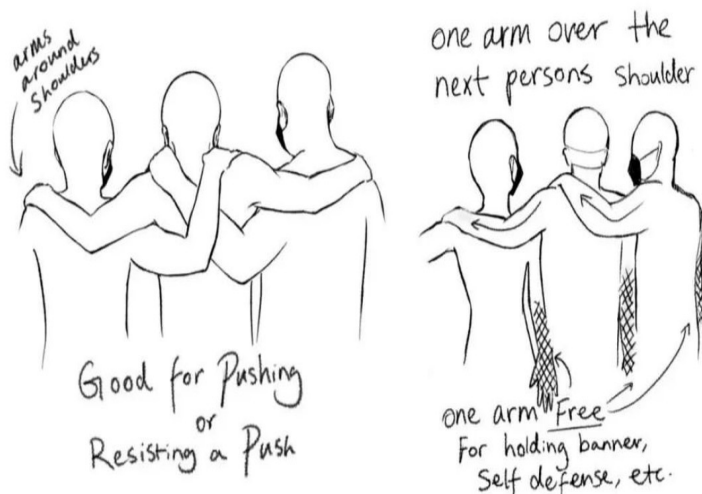
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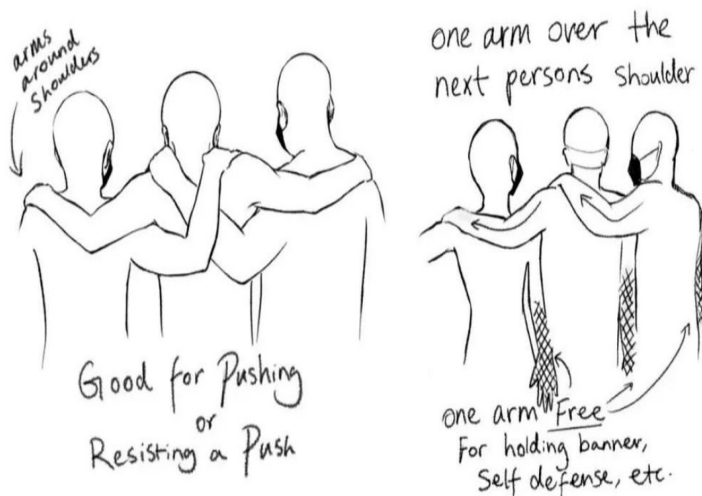
PUSHING AT ACTIONS:

At the front line of action, consider not pushing your opponent with your arms, instead applying force with your full body while your arms maintain a hold on the shoulders of the comrades on your left and right side. If you have to hold a banner or umbrella, keep one arm free and use the other to maintain your grip. This is more efficient and more stable as a formation. Moreover, cops are less likely to consider it assault if you don't use your hands.



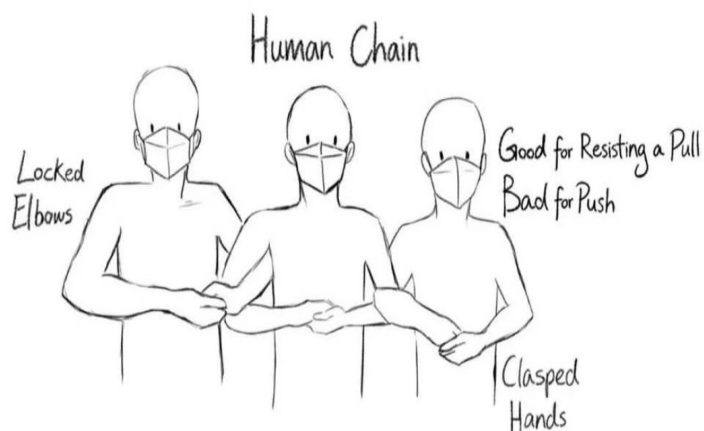
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HUMAN CHAIN:

The 'Human Chain' has almost universally become a very popular formation for symbolic resistance. However, this is a bad formation for pushing against an opponent, or for confronting a push. A long chain of linked arms can help protestors hold onto each other and can be effective in resisting a pulling/separation attempt, but can become a liability when pushing is involved. It is inefficient for pushing and unstable for defending against a push; moreover, if one person falls, everyone falls back with them.



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