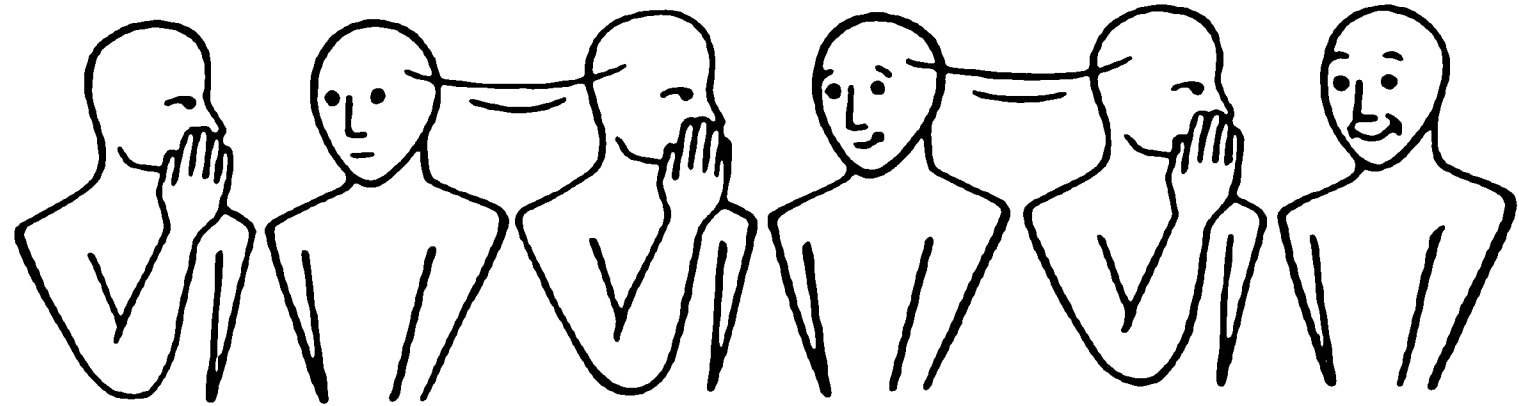


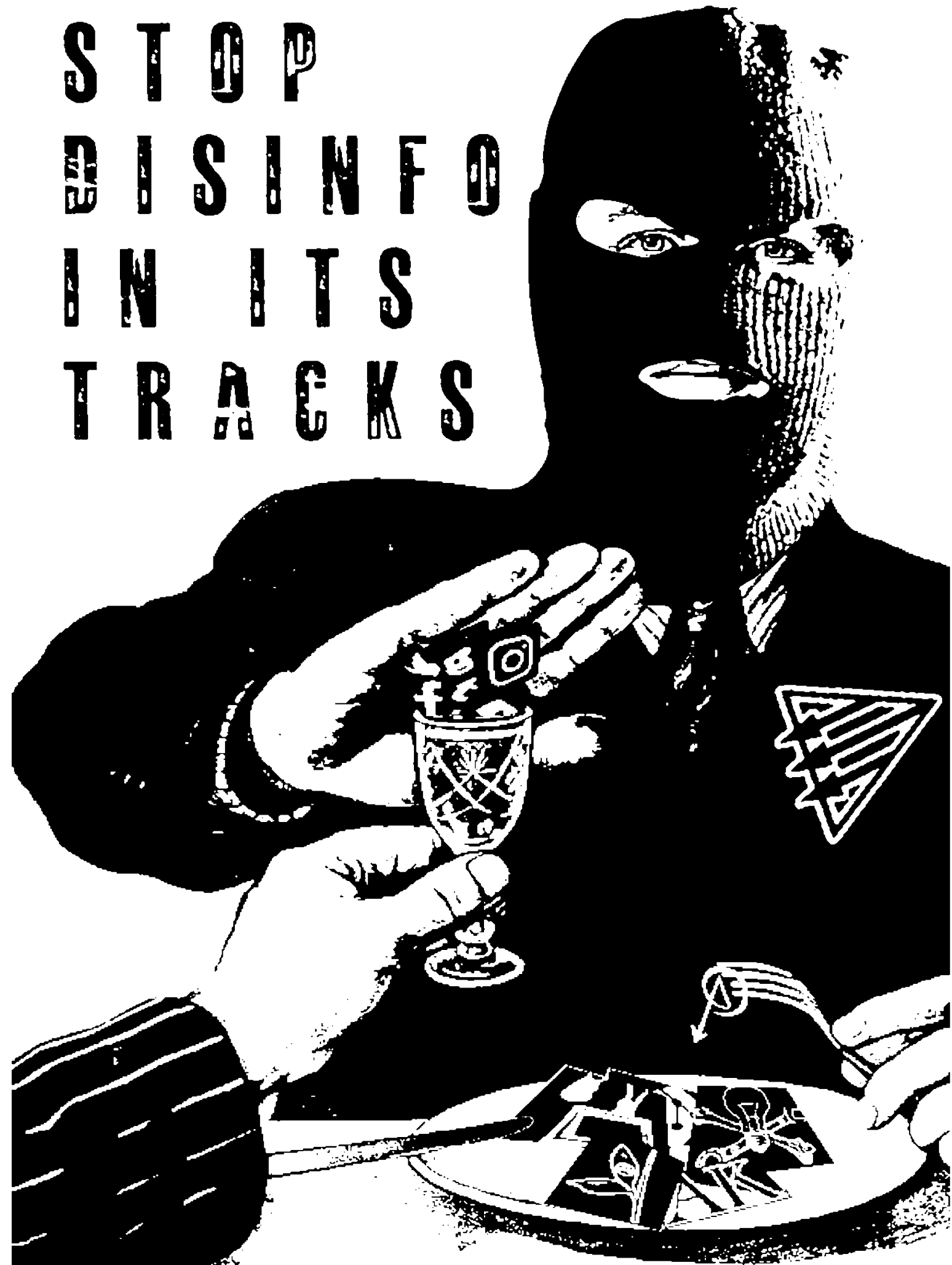
HOW WE THINK IT WORKS



HOW IT ACTUALLY WORKS



STOP DISINFO IN ITS TRACKS



This zine is intended for antifascist community defense groups to understand the importance of good information - and why it is necessary to stop bad information in its tracks

we have worked with several teams to compile this dense piece in a short turnover

this should not be considered all expansive nor does it cover excessive nuance

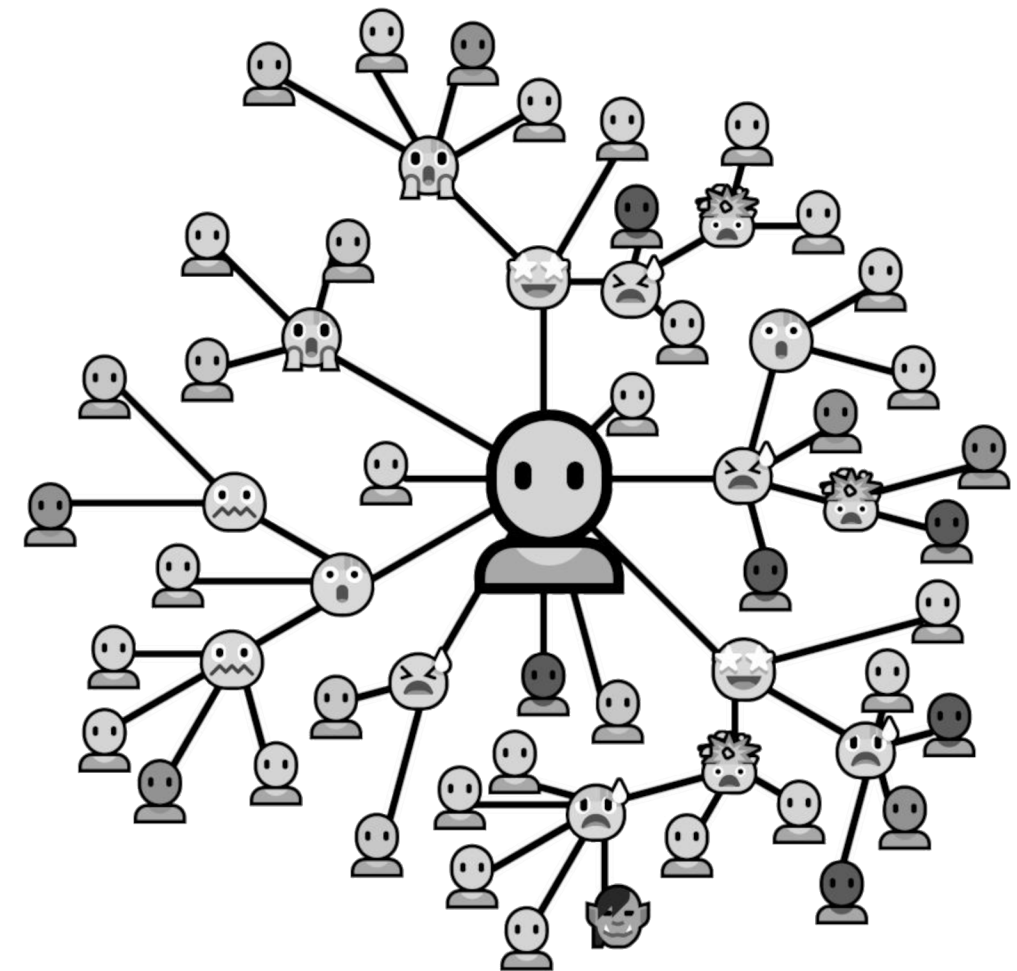
as we move into the eliminationist stage of genocide against the trans community - good information (and ending bad information) is more important than ever

we hope these visual aids will serve your work well

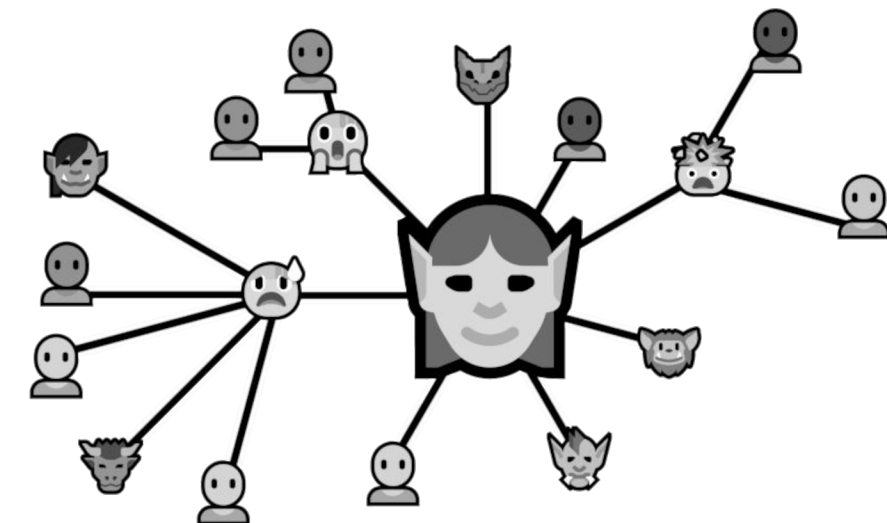
pride was a riot sacramento



social network with a lot of reach and influence providing an abundance of resources and support



Limited social network with less comparative reach providing relatively fewer resources and support



MISINFORMATION DISPROPORTIONATELY HURTS THE NETWORKS OF MARGINALIZED COMMUNITIES

Harm becomes exceptionally worse when an already targeted marginalized community exists under a disproportionate amount of negative attention and controversy. During popular uprisings for the civil rights of Indigenous Sovereignty, Black Liberation and Trans/Queer Liberation, it is common for media spheres to further the "othering" of these targeted groups until they exist as caricatures and stereotypes inside the dominant social culture.

These social cultures can position themselves as allied or opposed, however, play equal parts in furthering the damage inflicted on, and inside of, marginalized networks. Social activism, as opposed to militant resistance organizing, is dominated by disaffected socialites with access to capital, disposable income, and a surplus of resources. This can make the integration of militant formations inside of social networks a crucial tool for the defense and support of marginalized communities.

The perveyors of our repression know this too. So while on one hand, they fight for the popular support of their cause (be it law enforcement, Neo-Nazis or other opposing factions), they also further their cause by disrupting public support for marginalized groups and militant community defense formations through the exploitation of misinformation inside of social groups. While bad information can always be distributed by accident, there is no shortage of bad actors, from recuperated "social leaders" to criminal informants (C.I.'s) who will seed well-crafted narratives into social spaces on behalf of organized intelligence groups.

While the most common perveyor of bad information is well-meaning allies with poor security practice, and not a psy-op, these socialites are vulnerable to spreading bad information indifferent of how hand-crafted it may be. So while the conditions of these socialites might survive a targeted disinfo campaign, the damage they can inflict on marginalized networks by spreading disinfo can prove deadly to targeted groups, who already live under a scarcity of resources and support.

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SPREADING DISINFO HAS A HUMAN COST

Far-right propagandists know this, and use this to target members of hyper-marginalized communities.

Disinfo can have a dire-cost when the moment strikes ripe, and propagandists such as Charlie Kirk, Michael Knowles and Andy Ngo specialize in this opportunism as a career. The goal of disinfo, for them, is not a matter of being right-or-wrong in conveying information, but in instrumentalizing their platform to paint a convenient narrative during a window in which the target is receiving disproportionately high-attention.

Often the worst legal consequence a disinformation propagandist will receive is a demand for correction or retraction, long after the social gaze has passed. This short-sighted restoration, or "page 10 retraction," will protect them from lawsuits with no meaningful impact on restoring the damage their disinformation has caused on the front page.

In tandem, the impact of targeting hyper-marginalized communities results in nebulous and organized social forces re-confirming their existing biases, and furthering their convictions and beliefs.



CHALLENGE INFORMATION

Who told you that? Where did you get that?

CONFIRM SOURCE

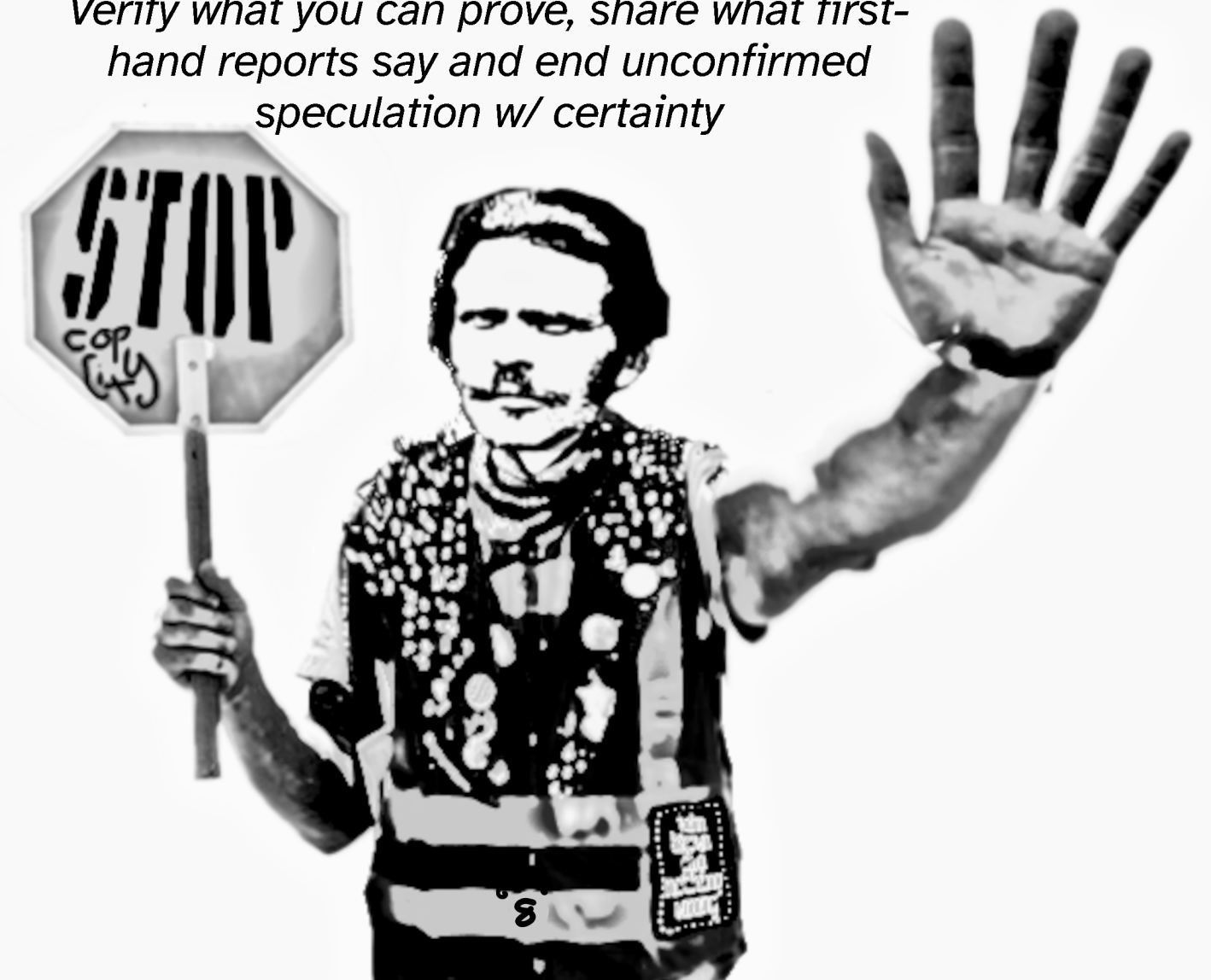
Were they there? What was their involvement?

CORROBORATE DETAILS

Who else was there? Did they see the same thing?

RELAY THE FACTS

Verify what you can prove, share what first-hand reports say and end unconfirmed speculation w/ certainty



BAD INFORMATION KILLS COMMUNITIES

The passing of gossip, participation in rumor mills, and the intentional disregard of care around the handling of sensitive info tends to manifest immediate negative impacts in our communities. Lack of respect for the handling of inflammatory information, like many inflammatory things, can quickly blow up in the face of the holder.

Bad information, when spread maliciously, is designed to play into common biases and blind spots inside community channels. Like a virus, it counts on well-meaning agents to carry it to others to ensure the most effective spread and harm.

Often, bad information will initially gain momentum because of deference to trusted figures or social influencers who lend it unwarranted legitimacy. Moreover, when disinfo reflects pre-existing fears, biases, or even important shared concerns, it can quickly go viral, achieving the status of a general truth before it can be properly challenged or contextualized.

When bad information travels into larger, more credible bodies, or becomes widely known, it is often legitimized by the very nature of its spread. The totality of the damage that bad info provides proves impossible to measure or fully undo once it reaches this degree of exposure, and will even serve to eclipse the source point of the info entirely.

EX: Everyone knows Marilyn Manson removed several ribs for oral masturbation. Despite overwhelming acceptance of this belief, there has never been evidence to support this, and the origin of the rumor remains unknown. The fact that MM has been abusing sex workers and underaged concert goers for years however was only recently made public knowledge- showing that the information that gets passed around is not always the information that is needed to keep people safe- without due diligence, it is often just the opposite.



Information is a weapon, and it is not inherently neutral. It is important to set clear boundaries around information you do not want to receive, and for sources you do not want information from. Knowing something you shouldn't know can be a liability to yourself and others. Information from loose lips, passed through insecure channels, may already be compromised.

Information from "trusted sources" is not inherently credible just because the messenger is. You are solely responsible for the information you share, and the impact it has on your sphere of influence. It is your duty to act with intention, diligence and the considerations of others before reproducing info that can damage human life.

When someone says, "From a trusted comrade," ask yourself, trusted to who? If they must ask for your trust, you must ask for theirs. Do not concede to the instrumentalizations of others. If your contact says they cannot share their source, ask them if their trusted comrade has corroborating info. If they can not verify who, and they refuse to verify how, this person clearly does not trust you and should not be giving you this info in the first place.

What you've been told should not be shared, distributed, or reproduced. Additionally, when you see others with this info, you should encourage them to verify it.

“so did you hear about what went down with Lex and that whole scene they were rolling with?”
“No what? Lex? With the burning bridge patch who does the pitbulls not police night? What happened?”
“yeah, well, as it turns out they actually completely fucked over the people who got arrested at the march.”
“wait, really? I thought they were down.”
“yeah, apparently, they ended up laughing in my friends face and threatening them over the bail money and no one has heard from them since, and that’s why people got stuck with charges.”
“are you fucking kidding me? Fuck that! My friend’s life got ruined from that!”
“yeah, like, they apparently said that they don’t care at all about what happens now.”
“fuck that, fuck Lex, taking money from your comrades bail fund is as bad as working with the fucking police!”
“honestly, Lex and that whole group, what was it called? Instigate or some posturing bullshit like that? That group they run with has been on thin ice for a while now, a friend of mine said that members of that group have been badjacketing people to get revenge on their ex they claimed abused them but there all clearly just abusing vulnerable people who don’t know any better. Like, cult behaviors.”
“wow, yeah, any one who excuses that kind of shit is fucked, I gotta let people know, way too many people have already been trusting people in that group and this puts them in a bad spot.”
“yeah, anyone with one of those bridge patches is not someone I want around me.”

a few days later...

“Yeah, like, thanks for messaging me, but I don’t think I want to head into town for that counter-demo like we talked about.”
“What? Why?”
“I mean it’s kinda *the wrong vibe*.”
“Wait, this is weird, what are you talking about?”
“Well... it’s just that I heard that there’s like a whole group out there that’s protecting police and harboring abusers and honestly I just don’t feel safe showing up when I can’t trust organizers to have people’s backs.”
“oh yeah, that burning bridge crew? Yeah that shit was fucked up, apparently they were using pitbulls to intimidate people and stole someones bail fund?”
“yeah, that’s not okay, like, how does that even happen?”

a few days later...

“honestly, its pretty fucking bold of you to still be trying to be showing up to this food distro group- we have a lot of vulnerable people counting on us and we are not about to have our resources stolen.”
“I uh... what? What do you mean? I’ve been showing up for this group for the past 8 months?”
“that burning bridges patch, that’s some fash shit.”
“What? This? I just got this from a friend of mine...”
“yeah, I’ m not cool with someone who keep friends with people who send people to jail.”
“I what? I mean, look I don’t know what this is about but I can take the patch off? My friend is cool, what are you talking about?”
“nah, I’m not here for this, sorry you seemed cool but we have too much to lose and, I mean, the fact that you’re even playing ignorant right now and defending your ‘friends’ is really upsetting to me, it’s just really manipulative.”
I ... what?”

a few days later...

[a comment thread under the story titled: “Protests dry up, but for some people, the court battle is just beginning]

161farmedjoy says:

“yeah actually the real problem here is that the organizers didn’t want to deal with the group *cough pitbulls against police cough* that stole all the bailfund money from the organizers and now everyones fucked because the march organizers are cowards. We cant keep letting this type of shit happen”
437 repeats **2840 <3’s**

brickthebanks says:

“sounds like some infiltrator shit tbh, we’ve had groups like that and inevitably their on some fash- adjacent shit if their not just outright cops. Any one with a bridge patch is sus”
28 repeats **18 <3’s**

NOPASARAN says:

“thats because anyone whos doing this IS an infiltrator”
4 repeats **67 <3’s**

a few days later...

“Fuck! Some how Andi fucking Gno is putting all of **insert town antifa name** on blast for ... “robbing Black people who were arrested?” and “threatening children with pitbulls?” and apparently he has sources from in the community?? What the FUCK is happening???? Why are we always so fucking bad at solving these kinds of intra community conflicts?? god this is so fucking sad...”

later that night...

Text from Lemon:

“YO LEX WTF I HEARD YOU ROBBED INCARCERATED PEOPLE AND FED THEIR CHILDREN TO YOUR PITBULLS I HOPE YOU LITTERALY CHOKE I CAN’T BELIEVE THIS I THOUGHT WE WERE FRIENDS AFTER MARK WAS SO FUCKING KIND TO YOU TOO FUCK YOU”

Lex:

“what? Why are you defending mark? 4 of his former ex’s also came forward about him assulting them too....Is this about the thing where someone mixed up sending me the email to call the legal observers instead of the email to transfer the bail fund???? I thought that was solved a month ago? Like, me and the other organizer laughed it off it wasnt a big deal I don’t understand....”

Text from Lemon:

“GET FUCKED YOU COP COLLABORATOR I GOT YOU FIRED FROM YOUR JOB AFTER I SHOWED YOUR BOSS YOUR NOT SAFE AROUND KIDS YOU FASCISTS FUCKING DISGUST ME GOOD LUCK TRYING TO PULL THAT SHIT IN THIS TOWN AGAIN”

a few months later...

“yeah, I don’t really know what happened with shit, one moment everyone was out fighting and doing real shit, the next everything seemed to just fall apart and I guess a bunch of those folks ended up leaving town or something so now the scene’s just dead...”