

DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL  
CONVENTION  
DENVER, CO

REPUBLICAN NATIONAL  
CONVENTION  
ST PAUL, MINNESOTA

# FROM REBEL COMMUNITIES WITHIN THE EMPIRE

It's up to us to shut them down  
and open up the horizons  
of another future.







# America

IS UNDER A SPELL.

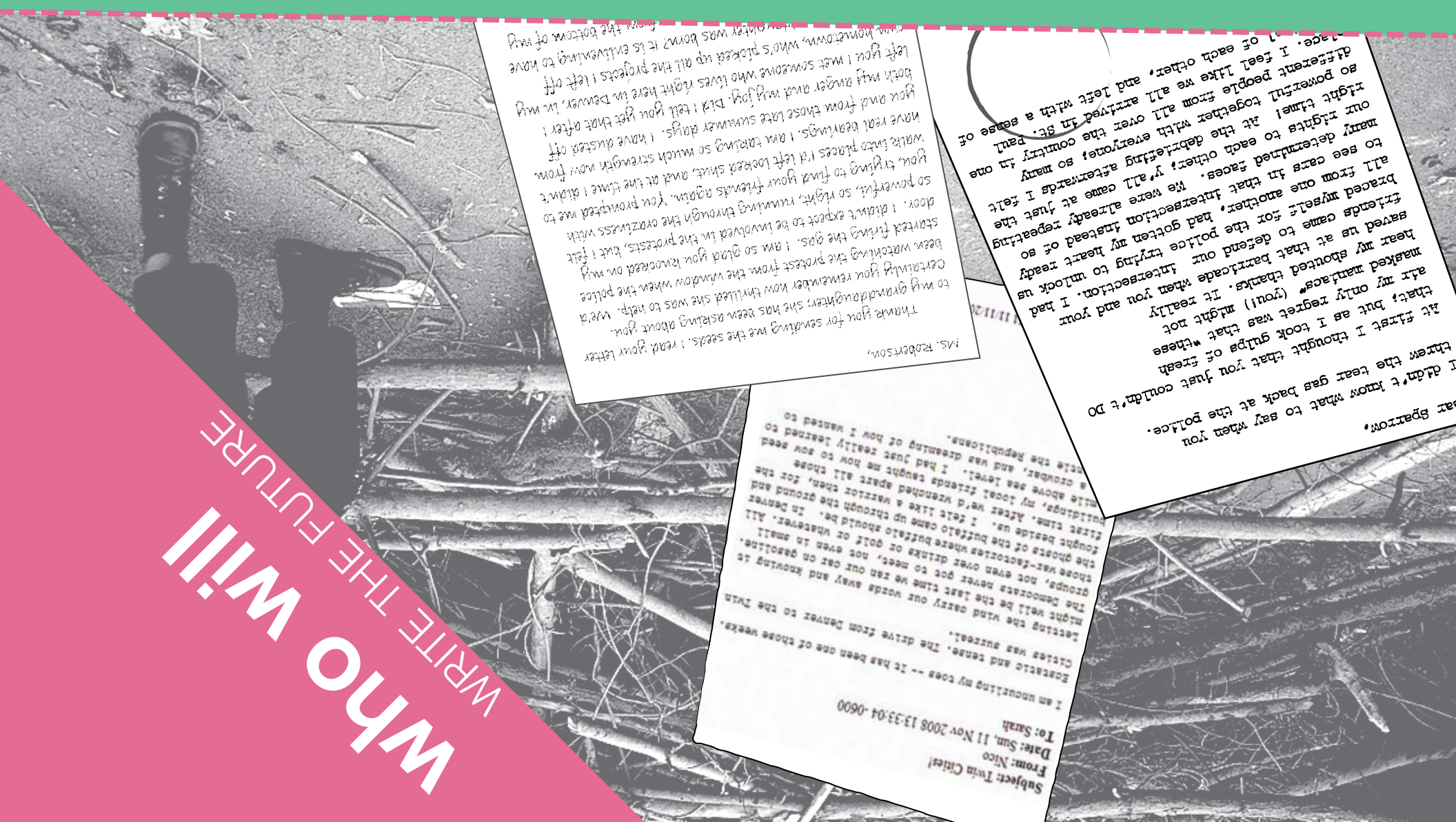
B EWITCHED BY THE SPECTACLE OF POLITICS, we confuse elections with freedom, representation with self-determination. We look to politicians to solve our problems, and when they fail we replace them with other politicians. These politicians have been unanimous in their support for a disastrous war based on false pretexs. They are unanimous in defending borders that tear up families and countrysides while enabling corporations to export jobs, exploit workers, and pillage resources. They are unanimous in pushing cutthroat competition as the only possible economic model, even as the gulf widens between rich and poor and profit-driven environmental destruction causes global warming to accelerate at a catastrophic pace.

They've created these problems, and now some of the same politicians offer to solve them for us. They try to maintain our attention by debating whether to change this or that detail. But it is foolish to expect different results from appealing to the same class of people: we can only extricate ourselves from the mess they've made by acting for ourselves, without so-called representation.

In 2008, we will interrupt the Democratic and Republican National Conventions—the biggest electoral spectacles of all—AND BREAK THE SPELL.

Our protests against war, global warming, and exploitation must be directed against the electoral system itself, so they are not reabsorbed and neutralized when new politicians offer to “represent” us. Our protests must interrupt the practical activity of the politicians—otherwise, they can be brushed off, to remain in the sphere of personal opinion. Even if we do not throw off their power entirely, the most efficient way to exert leverage upon politicians is by bypassing them to make the changes we desire ourselves, so they can offer us nothing and must struggle to catch up.

We are proposing a strategy for each convention, a general framework to coordinate our individual efforts so they add up to something powerful. This must be public, so thousands of people can take part: a good strategy is effective regardless of whether the authorities are forewarned. This framework must offer space for a wide range of tactics and plans, so a diverse array of people can participate. Inside this framework, participants can craft their own roles, retaining as much privacy as they need to play the parts they choose. If we succeed in disrupting the political spectacle of the conventions, politics in this country will never be the same.



# DENVER CO

QUEEN CITY OF THE PLAINS

UNCONVENTIONAL DENVER is committed to creating a framework to facilitate direct action for the DNC protests. Unconventional Denver hosted a consulta in early October to discuss the role of these protests in the mobilization against the conventions and in the larger context of struggle. Their goals include:

- SHUT DOWN, DISRUPT, OR DELAY the convention and associated events
- PROVIDE A FRAMEWORK of ongoing direct action against the DNC that will also build momentum for the RNC protests and links between anarchists that will continue beyond the conventions
- FURTHER EFFORTS TO STOP RACIST DEVELOPMENT and the targeting of immigrant communities
- WORK IN A MULTI-RACIAL COALITION with a multi-racial turnout for the events
- HAVE PARTICIPANTS LEAVE FEELING MOTIVATED and inspired about direct action and the anarchist movement
- HAVE SUCH A GOOD TIME and create something so magnificently awesome that no one will ever want to leave. Ever.

RECREATE68, a group that includes people who have been organizing in Denver for decades, plans to provide logistical support for the mobilization. Their goals include creating a resource center for action medics with a free clinic, staffed by doctors and nurses, that will be open to all. They also plan to maintain two convergence spaces and a 24-hour occupation of the Civic Center Park for housing, events, and information. Visit their website: [WWW.RECREATE68.ORG](http://WWW.RECREATE68.ORG)

Recreate68 has scheduled an anti-war march through downtown for Sunday, the day before the convention begins. There have been discussions about a day of coordinated action on Monday, the opening day of the conventions. The next step is for on-the-ground organizers and activists across the country to communicate and hash out a plan.

To participate in this discussion, visit [unconventional-action.pbwiki.com](http://unconventional-action.pbwiki.com) or join the listserv [unconventionalaction@lists.riseup.net](mailto:unconventionalaction@lists.riseup.net).

Another consulta has been scheduled for January 18-21 in Denver, where a strategy will be finalized. To contact local Denver organizers, email [unconventionaldenver@riseup.net](mailto:unconventionaldenver@riseup.net).

“THE TRUTH IS THAT BOTH PARTIES, the Elite Republicans and the party of promises, the Democrats, operate for their own selfish interests. They are both ruled and controlled by money and racism... the two party system is one animal with two heads eating out of the same trough. Check out the country clubs and you'll find that the two-party boys drink together and vomit in the same toilets.”  
Chicano activist Corky Gonzalez, 1970

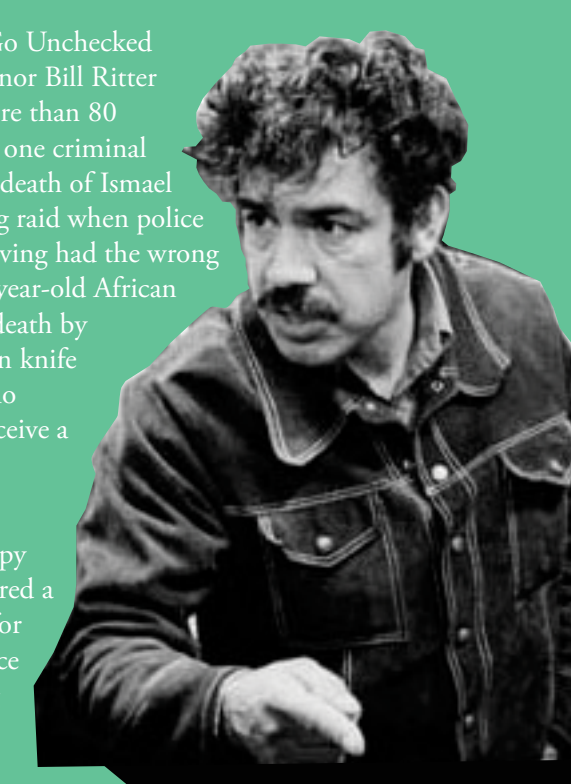
## elements of denver's story

March 17, 1973} Downing Street Bombing- An explosion went off at the Crusade for Justice headquarters. By the end of the night one Crusade member was dead, and 17 people were injured including 12 police officers. The incident made way for bogus charges against Crusade members as well as stepped up harassment, brutality, and frame-ups from the Denver police against Crusade for Justice and the Chicano community in general.

October 12, 1991} Columbus Day Parade Confronted by AIM- After broken promises by Columbus Day parade organizers, American Indian Movement activists blocked the parade route, setting off resistance to the celebration of Columbus and its legacy of genocide, slavery and racism which continues to this day.

1993-2004} Police Murders Go Unchecked In the 11 years that Colorado Governor Bill Ritter was District Attorney to Denver, more than 80 people were killed by police without one criminal charge being filed. This includes the death of Ismael Mena, shot in his sleep during a drug raid when police barged into his house by mistake, having had the wrong address, as well as Paul Childs, a 15 year-old African American special needs boy shot to death by police after refusing to drop a kitchen knife clutched to his chest. The officer who murdered Childs later went on to receive a promotion and a raise.

March 11, 2002} Denver Spy Files Uncovered- The ACLU discovered a database kept by the Denver Police for over 50 years monitoring social justice and environmental groups including Food Not Bombs, the Direct Action Network, the American Indian Movement, and the Breakdown Books collective. Two years later FBI agents would harass anarchists planning to attend DNC and RNC protests.





# NO ISN'T ON THE BALLOT

**CRASH THE CONVENTIONS**

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**Democratic National Convention**

Denver, CO

August 25-28

**Republican National Convention**

Minneapolis/St. Paul, MN

September 1-4



**2008**

.....

- ☐ WAR
- ☐ CAPITALISM
- ☐ PATRIARCHY
- ☐ ECO-DEVASTATION
- ☐ WHITE SUPREMACY
- ☐ BORDERS
- ☐ SURVEILLANCE

capitalism ≠ freedom : representative democracy ≠ self-determination

WWW.RECREATE68.ORG WWW.NORNC.ORG

**WWW.UNCONVENTIONALACTION.ORG**







# RE-SOURCES

## Tactical Skills

- Unpermitted Marches and Collective Anonymity [www.why-war.com/guides/2003/11/blackblobs.html](http://www.why-war.com/guides/2003/11/blackblobs.html)
- Direct Action Survival Guide (general safety at actions) [www.zinelibrary.net](http://www.zinelibrary.net)
- Bodyhammer (body armor and self-defense guide) [www.zinelibrary.net](http://www.zinelibrary.net)
- Road Raging (excellent in-depth guide for road blockade tactics) [www.eco-action.org/rr/](http://www.eco-action.org/rr/)
- Non-Lethal Disabling Weapons (analysis and guide to tools of State repression) [www.anti-politics.net/distro/#se](http://www.anti-politics.net/distro/#se)
- Guide to Public Order Situations (classic guide to pre-empting police control tactics) [www.schnews.org.uk/diyguide/guidetopublicordersituations.htm](http://www.schnews.org.uk/diyguide/guidetopublicordersituations.htm)
- Recipes for Disaster: An Anarchist Cookbook (624-page tactical manual) [www.crimethinc.com](http://www.crimethinc.com)
- Blockades and Lockdowns [www.unconventionalaction.org/resources/blockades.html](http://www.unconventionalaction.org/resources/blockades.html)
- Communications Technology [www.unconventionalaction.org/resources/communications.html](http://www.unconventionalaction.org/resources/communications.html)

## Medic

- Action Medical (international network of street medics) [zena.secureforum.com/ontheground/action-medical/index.htm](http://zena.secureforum.com/ontheground/action-medical/index.htm)
- Black Cross Health Collective (excellent source for street medic trainings and online publications) [www.blackcrosscollective.org](http://www.blackcrosscollective.org)
- Health and Safety at Militant Actions [www.blackcrosscollective.org](http://www.blackcrosscollective.org)
- Street Medics and Emergency Healthcare [www.unconventionalaction.org/resources/medics.html](http://www.unconventionalaction.org/resources/medics.html)

## Legal

- National Lawyers Guild (local chapters do legal observer and Know Your Rights trainings, and their site contains an excellent legal observer manual) [www.nlg.org](http://www.nlg.org)
- Midnight Special Law Collective (a great selection including know-your-rights

pamphlets, trainer's materials, and resources on legal observing and jail solidarity) [www.midnightspecial.net](http://www.midnightspecial.net)

- Legal Support for Direct Actions [www.unconventionalaction.org/resources/legal.html](http://www.unconventionalaction.org/resources/legal.html)
- Chicago Anarchist Black Cross (willing to travel to different areas to do legal trainings) [chicagoabc@riseup.net](mailto:chicagoabc@riseup.net) or [myspace.com/chicagoabc](http://myspace.com/chicagoabc)

## Facilitation/Consensus

- Direct Action Handbook (guide for using consensus in affinity groups) [www.gipfelsoli.org/rcms\\_repos/Tools/DA\\_Handbook.pdf](http://www.gipfelsoli.org/rcms_repos/Tools/DA_Handbook.pdf)
- Consensus Decision-Making (a basic introduction) [www.casagordita.com/consensus.htm](http://www.casagordita.com/consensus.htm)
- Consensus by Peter Gelderloos [www.seesharppress.com](http://www.seesharppress.com)
- Consensus is Not Unanimity: Making Decisions Cooperatively [www.rantcollective.net/article.php?id=9](http://www.rantcollective.net/article.php?id=9)

## Security Culture

- Activism and Security Culture. [www.why-war.com/guides/2003/09/security.html](http://www.why-war.com/guides/2003/09/security.html)
- Security Culture [www.huntsab.org/safety.htm](http://www.huntsab.org/safety.htm)
- Creating a Culture of Security: Preparing for a Raid Before it Happens [www.huntsab.org/safety.htm](http://www.huntsab.org/safety.htm)

## UNCONVENTIONAL ACTION ROADSHOWS

Unconventional Action collectives are organizing tours to circulate up-to-date information about strategy proposals and logistics from both Denver and the Twin Cities. These roadshows will be geared towards helping affinity groups and individuals acquire the skills and information they need to plug into the direct action strategies at both convention protests. We will be scheduling one-night stops or multiple-day trainings in each town, as needed. We can offer various skill-based workshops including direct action tactics—like scouting/planning an action, blockades, de-arresting and breaking holds, street tactics—and other useful skills like consensus, working with an affinity group or cluster, and possibly medic trainings.

To set up a date in your town or help out with fundraising, contact us at [roadshow@unconventionalaction.org](mailto:roadshow@unconventionalaction.org)

## JOIN THE PARTY-CRASHERS:

- Recreate 68: [info@recreate68.org](mailto:info@recreate68.org), [www.recreate68.org](http://www.recreate68.org)
- RNC Welcoming Committee: [rnc08@riseup.net](mailto:rnc08@riseup.net), [www.nornc.org](http://www.nornc.org)
- UA Central NC: [centralNC@unconventionalaction.org](mailto:centralNC@unconventionalaction.org)
- UA Denver: [unconventionaldenver@riseup.net](mailto:unconventionaldenver@riseup.net)
- UA in the Bay (West Coast): [UAIintheBay@unconventionalaction.org](mailto:UAIintheBay@unconventionalaction.org)
- UA Chicago: [unconventionalchicago@gmail.com](mailto:unconventionalchicago@gmail.com)
- People's Networking Convention (Madison, WI): [pnc2rnc@gmail.com](mailto:pnc2rnc@gmail.com)
- Iowa Organizers Against the RNC: [velocipedeinfoSHOP@riseup.net](mailto:velocipedeinfoSHOP@riseup.net)
- MKE to RNC (Milwaukee, WI): [mketornc@yahoo.com](mailto:mketornc@yahoo.com), [www.mkeanarchy.bravehost.com](http://www.mkeanarchy.bravehost.com)

WWW.  
UNCONVENTIONAL  
ACTION.ORG

Up-to-the-minute news, inside information, and downloadable maps, posters, pamphlets, and guides

Additional copies of this paper and other materials are available from:

Unconventional Action *Shipping & Receiving Dept* | PO Box 765  
Winona, MN | 55987-0765 | [distro@unconventionalaction.org](mailto:distro@unconventionalaction.org)

In March, April and May 2008, **COLORADO STREET MEDICS** will be touring the United States offering trainings focused primarily on the Midwest and the West Coast of the United States. These trainings will be updated to include information specifically about Denver (altitude protocol, police tactics, locations). Trainings will include basic 24 hour courses, advanced 7-9 day medic trainings, a 48 hour refresher, and affinity group trainings. All lesson plans include emergency protocol, aftercare, herbal techniques and a few skills derived from Traditional Chinese Medicine.

Colorado Street Medics is one of the oldest medic collectives in the US with roots back to the original Broom Street Collective. Our trainers are experienced as medics, EMTs, first responders and doctors, and have been present at the Seattle WTO, Los Angeles DNC, Quebec City and Miami FTAA, and New York RNC protests, among dozens of others. To organize or attend a training, or to participate in the Denver DNC Medics, contact [zoethemedic@gmail.com](mailto:zoethemedic@gmail.com). They also have a training scheduled for January 23-26 in Lawrence, Kansas. For more info contact Jordan at [scritch@riseup.net](mailto:scritch@riseup.net).

**SEEDS OF PEACE** is a collective of dedicated individuals working to support activists on the front lines of the struggle to bring about economic, environmental, and social justice. We will be spending most of our time preparing for the RNC, sending a few members of our collective to Minneapolis months before the convention to help with the organizing efforts already underway. We will also be working with other groups and individuals to provide food and medical support at the protests, as well as a variety of trainings for large actions and ongoing campaigns.

We are currently in the process of setting up a week-long certified Wilderness First Responder course—with a focus on action first aid—to take place this summer; contact us for details. In the weeks before the conventions we will be providing introductory street medic trainings and advanced action medic trainings for those with medical backgrounds who lack experience in action first aid. We will also be offering direct action trainings before the convention and would like to collaborate with other groups to organize an action camp this summer. If you or your collective have any questions, are interested in learning more about our trainings, or would like to collaborate with us, please email [seedsofpeace@riseup.net](mailto:seedsofpeace@riseup.net) or visit our website at [www.seeds-of-peace-collective.org](http://www.seeds-of-peace-collective.org). See y'all in St. Paul!