



THE THISTLER

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ISSUE FIFTEEN ★ SUMMER, 2011 ★ FREE ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

A Message From The Thistle Collective!



art and words
by Sarah Lum

The collective would like to give a big shout out to all the incredible people who have participated at the Thistle this year! You are the reason we exist. Whether you dropped in to use the printer and internet, drink tea, learn some screenprinting, record an album with our humble facilities, participate in our workshops or events, or had the chance to get to know and work with our great mentors, you make the Thistle alive.

We saw lots of great changes at the Thistle really take form this year. Different pods have successfully run over the course of the year and will continue to work next year. The community kitchen has found a home at the Toast Collective, the garden has secured a new site and will continue to work on getting to know plants, growing food and soil remediation, the institute is launching this summer, and RAINzine turned into SLUGzine and put out a radical collection of writings and art from our varied communities. Carla Bergman took on her role as director with verve and the collective is ever grateful of and appreciates all her support and hard work. We look forward to her rocking out next year as our main anchor again!

We would also like to say thank you to all the community groups that utilized our space over the year making it really shine. Whether you just needed space for banner making or you ran a program through our space, like NYAC and Freewrites, we are happy that our space can be home, however temporary, to projects that are working so hard to make a better world and work in service of youth as creators of culture and radical change. We remain committed to being an open free space for your workshops, classes, events, happenings next year and can't wait to see you at our collective meetings in the fall.

Thanks also go out to all of our friendly anchors, mentors, and adult supporters! Especially Marla, Mike Jo, Sylvia, Anthony, April, Stephen, Weronica, Chris Bergman, Morley Faber, Afuwa Granger, our tech crew, Am Johal, the Dreamseeds program, both the participants and its incredible facilitators Ange, Manisha and Miriam and the long standing support of Matt. The Thistle as a youth driven space is healthy and enriched with the knowledge, skills, time and creativity all of you bring in your work at the Thistle. Thank you.



As a collective, we look forward to reconvening in the fall. And if any youth out there are interested in what we do as a collective and are thinking about joining in the fall, send us an email! Come work in the garden over the summer! Or just drop by a collective meeting this fall!

There will be lots of great collective members around to get in a good conversation with and maybe you'll find a reason to get your projects happening at the Thistle.

SUMMER RADICALS GARDENERS of the Purple Thistle



all ages work in the garden!

The sun is out and dancing about, and so are the plants! (they boogie in our dreams) Take a gander outside of the thistle and you'll see new creatures reaching for the light - kale, broccoli, beets, kohlrabi, carrots, chard, wildflowers, sunflowers, poppies, flax, borage, nasturtium, cilantro, chamomile, mint, lupin, tomatoes, peppers, pumpkins, raspberries, blueberries.. and even a fig tree! as always, we're looking for youngblood to help us tend and feast on these beasts, so join us if you're so inclined:

tuesdays 2-6 (weekly meeting at 5), fridays 4-6, and saturdays 12-3.
and if you're keen or just plain curious, come on in **fridays 2-4 for some permaculture food forest scheming, starting again on June 24** (adamthuggins@gmail.com for more info).
burning questions? thoughtful advice? encouraging words?
hit us up through marlarenn@gmail.com
sweet summer shenanigans to you all,
the guerrilla crew!

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BEES!



No an alien ship has not landed! This is one of our star beekeepers learning the wonders of a bee's life. These little critters do so much more than produce tasty honey and do handstand dances to show the other bees where the sweet cache of pollen is to be found...come learn about their amazing world and how to keep them happy and alive with the Purple Thistle beekeepers! We are open to new folks joining in the action, no prior experience necessary! For more information or to get updates on when we meet contact Hannah: hmjcarpendale@hotmail.com.



THISTLE SCHEDULE

Please visit our website for up-to-date information on our schedule

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The Purple Thistle Institute!

July 4-23!

There is a lot to be pissed off about when considering the state of contemporary universities. The high cost, the tepid classes, the bored students, the even more bored faculty, the grades, the shallow credentialism, the overwhelming corporatization - all of it so irritating/enraging that there is every reason to just say 'Fuck it. I'm not going into numbing debt for that BS.'

But there is something that's really great about university. Sitting around reading complicated and powerful texts with a bunch of good people who are really interested is awesome. Talking about ideas with people who are really jacked up to make an impact on the world is awesome. Encountering new and exciting ideas is awesome.

So the PTI is us trying to pull the best parts out of the university experience and ditch all the crap. We're hoping we've put together a challenging, exciting, inspiring three weeks that has some great classes, work experience placements, a bunch of really cool folks, some wicked evening events and lectures and readings - all of it for really cheap.

We're bringing together about 40 participants and 10 staff: anarchists, socialists, lefties, progressives, anti-colonialists, anti-authoritarians, ecologists of all stripes are welcome. The idea is to work, think and talk together - to articulate and comprehend differences sure - but to find common ground, get beyond factionalized pettiness and stimulate radical ecological and egalitarian social change.

It's open to all ages. It's not an alternative college, but an alternative to college. We'll be working clearly with college/university level material and a similar kind of intellectual engagement, but with a radical, engaged praxis. You'll be fine if you have never been to college, and fine if you have. It is for folks who want to revitalize and deepen their understanding of radical social change, meet other cool folks, build networks, get new ideas and also to communicate and build on our vision for the Thistle's core ideas and principles - horizontality, user-control, radical generosity, funk, collective action.

There may not be any spots left by the time you read this - we're almost full - but maybe. So if you're at all interested for this year or next, please do check us out: thistleinstitute.ca.



image by Sarah Lum "hero"

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