



UMASS STUDENTS REJECT THE PROGRESS,
DEVELOPMENT, AND ACHIEVEMENT NARRATIVES THAT
THE UNIVERSITY IS INVESTED IN, FIGHTING FOR, AND
ENACTING, RELATIONAL WORLDS.

UMASS TELLS US...

BE TRUE.

BE BOLD.

BE YOU.

THEY ATTEST THAT...

BE REVOLUTIONARY™

"WE CREATE A POSITIVE, INCLUSIVE,
AND CHALLENGING LEARNING
ENVIRONMENT."

"[WE] PROMOTE INTELLECTUAL,
PHYSICAL, AND EMOTIONAL
WELL-BEING."

"COMMUNICATION IS RESPECTFUL,
OPEN, AND CONTINUOUS."



**There are countless post-capitalist projects emerging
in the UMass community.**

**One group of students created a collective free store
on their dorm floor, supplying tampons and other
necessities. Another group created a group chat where
individuals could reach out when they needed
material goods or emotional support. Undergraduate
students took it upon themselves to facilitate learning
circles that took place during their free time.**

**Additionally, the Mutual Aid Project hosts monthly thing
swaps where individuals can come to take and leave
goods in a non-transactional setting. Locally, the
Finders Collective in Turners Falls hosts a community
space and free store.**

**These queer economic bodies are not simply about
providing access to material goods, but also building
relationships with others within the community.**

Build community! Fulfill your queer desires!
Follow us on instagram @TheMutualAidProject!

This zine is an adaptation of a longer
article "Becoming Human: In Search of
Post-Capitalist Belonging at the University"
published online in the Amherst Indy. Check
it out!

UMass students are creating their own projects and networks to combat the University's inadequacy.

Many have realized that spaces meant for the community are over-surveilled and underfunded. Reclaiming these spaces has led many to the act of commoning. Commoning is defined as collaborating, opening spaces, and sharing resources to meet the needs of individuals within the community.

These projects and systems can be defined as "queer economic bodies." Every economic system can be viewed as a body – they create and excrete waste, they interact with each other and the world, they reproduce and die. These bodies can be large and abstract (such as the system of capitalism) and small and concrete (such as individuals, households, and neighborhoods).

These economic bodies become queer when they are motivated by queer desires. Queerness, in this sense, is non-normative and subverts capitalism. Queer economic bodies can be anything from trash picking, to shoplifting, to free stores, and really anything you can put your mind to.

To learn more, check out "Queer Economies" by Eveline Heiliger.

THE UNIVERSITY CLAIMS WE ARE "STANDING TOGETHER" WHILE IN THE SAME BREATH FINANCES AND FUNDS THE KILLING MACHINE RAYTHEON, ARRESTING STUDENTS WHO PEACEFULLY DISSENT.

WHEN YOU THINK ABOUT THE AMOUNT OF BLACK AND BROWN STUDENTS ON CAMPUS WHO FEEL THAT UMASS IS A HOSTILE ENVIRONMENT, YOU MUST UNDERSTAND THAT POLICE PRESENCE IS CONNECTED TO THOSE FEELINGS.

TERRELL JAMES

To learn more, check out "Queer Economies" by Eveline Heiliger.

UMASS IS A
BIT MORE

LIKE THIS...

- STUDENTS ARE LEAVING WITH MOUNDS OF DEBT.
- TUITION AND FEES ARE INCREASING AT AN UNBEARABLE RATE.
- THE IMPENDING THREAT OF ECOLOGICAL COLLAPSE PERMEATES EVERYONE'S MIND.
- THERE IS AN UTTER LACK OF HOUSING, WITH RENTAL RATES SKYROCKETING.

"hate"
HAS NO HOME
AT UMASS

CAMPUS IS COMPLETELY INACCESSIBLE.



"THE STUDENT SUCCESS MODEL IS PREPARING US TO BE WORKERS, TO MAKE MONEY. AND IN DOING SO, WE ARE NEGLECTING A LOT OF EMOTIONAL NEEDS... AND NOT GIVING TIME AND EMPATHY TOWARDS OURSELVES."

"I hate the rhetoric of success being tied to everyone wanting to make a whole lot of fucking money. I don't want a lot of money."

"Why do I need to completely squeeze myself dry during my time here, during what should be the most fun, and engaging, and interesting years of my life?"

"Putting more money towards police is especially egregious when about 900 students who requested housing are facing possible homelessness or being forced to drop out due to UMass' continual over-enrollment and housing shortage."

- UMass Prison Abolition Collective

"The fact that they can't guarantee housing to students is ridiculous. I think they are not solving the problem. They should be ashamed that they can't do that, and they are [by building new housing] but say they are 'not solving the problem' and they are leasing out land to private companies that jack up prices."

"My goal is not to be a worker; it's to be a community member."

BE REVOLUTIONARY™



STUDENTS ARE FOOD INSECURE

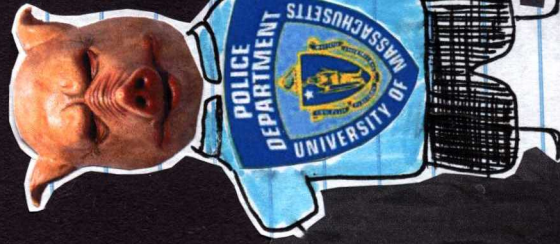
AND GROWING HUNGRY.

RAYTHEON COERGES STUDENTS

TO SIGN DEATH CONTRACTS.

POLICE OFFICERS ARREST STUDENTS

PEACEFULLY PROTESTING.



CUT TIES with war profiteers!

UMass complicit in GENOCIDE

RAYTHEON off campus Now!

THERE ARE MANY ADMINISTRATORS AND FACULTY AT

YMASS WHO CARE DEEPLY ABOUT THE WELL-BEING

OF STUDENTS, AND WHO SINCERELY WANT TO CREATE

YMASS AS A "PLACE OF BELONGING."

TOO OFTEN, THOUGH, THESE EFFORTS TOWARDS

CARE ARE PULLED THROUGH A MODEL OF STUDENT
SUCCESS THAT MEDIATES UNIVERSITY

IMPERATIVES—LIKE STUDENT RETENTION RATES, TIME

TO DEGREE COMPLETION, AND CAREER AND FINANCIAL

OUTCOMES—RATHER THAN FOREGROUNDING THE LIVED

REALITIES AND NEEDS OF STUDENTS. STUDENTS ARE

INSTRUCTED TO THINK OF THEMSELVES AS

INDIVIDUALS COMPETING AGAINST EACH OTHER OR AS

BRANDS TO SELF-CULTIVATE AND MARKET. THE

RESULT IS THAT MANY STUDENTS IRONICALLY

EXPERIENCE UNIVERSITY CARE AS COERCIVE,

STRUCTURING ANXIETY AND HARSHIP, AND STEERING

THEM AWAY FROM THE VALUES, RELATIONSHIPS, AND

WAYS OF BEING IN THE WORLD THAT THEY DESIRE.

WHITE SUPREMACIST, PATRIARCHAL, CAPITALIST

MODERNITY PRESUMES THE EXISTENCE OF

INDIVIDUALIZED BODIES; CENTERS INDIVIDUAL

ACHIEVEMENT AND COMPETITION; UNDERSTANDS

ECONOMIC GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT AS

COMMONSENSE PATHWAYS TO WELL-BEING; AND

TREATS NATURE AS A RESOURCE TO BE USED BY

HUMANS. THIS IS ONLY ONE WAY OF ORDERING THE

WORLD. OUTSIDE OF THESE COLONIALY IMPOSED

BELIEFS AND STRUCTURES EXIST OTHER ECONOMIES

AND OTHER WORLDS IN WHICH WELL-BEING IS

CREATED THROUGH THE NEGOTIATION OF NEEDS AND

DESIRES BETWEEN HUMANS, AND BETWEEN HUMANS

AND NON-HUMAN OTHERS.***

FACED WITH HISTORIC INEQUALITIES, INCREASING

ALIENATION, AND WARNINGS OF IMMINENT SOCIAL AND

ECOLOGICAL COLLAPSE, MANY STUDENTS AT YMASS

FIND THEMSELVES IN AN UNCANNY SITUATION. ON THE

ONE HAND BEING STEERED TOWARDS ACTIVELY

EMBRACING A WAY OF BEING HUMAN THAT IS AT THE
CENTER OF COLONIAL CAPITALISM, AND ON THE OTHER

HAND FEELING AND KNOWING THAT THIS MODE OF

LIFE MUST BE ABANDONED IF WE ARE TO LEARN TO

SURVIVE AND THRIVE.

*** See Robin Kimmerer's talk *What Does the Earth Ask of Us* for a reorientation away from the imposed experiment of capitalist modernity.