

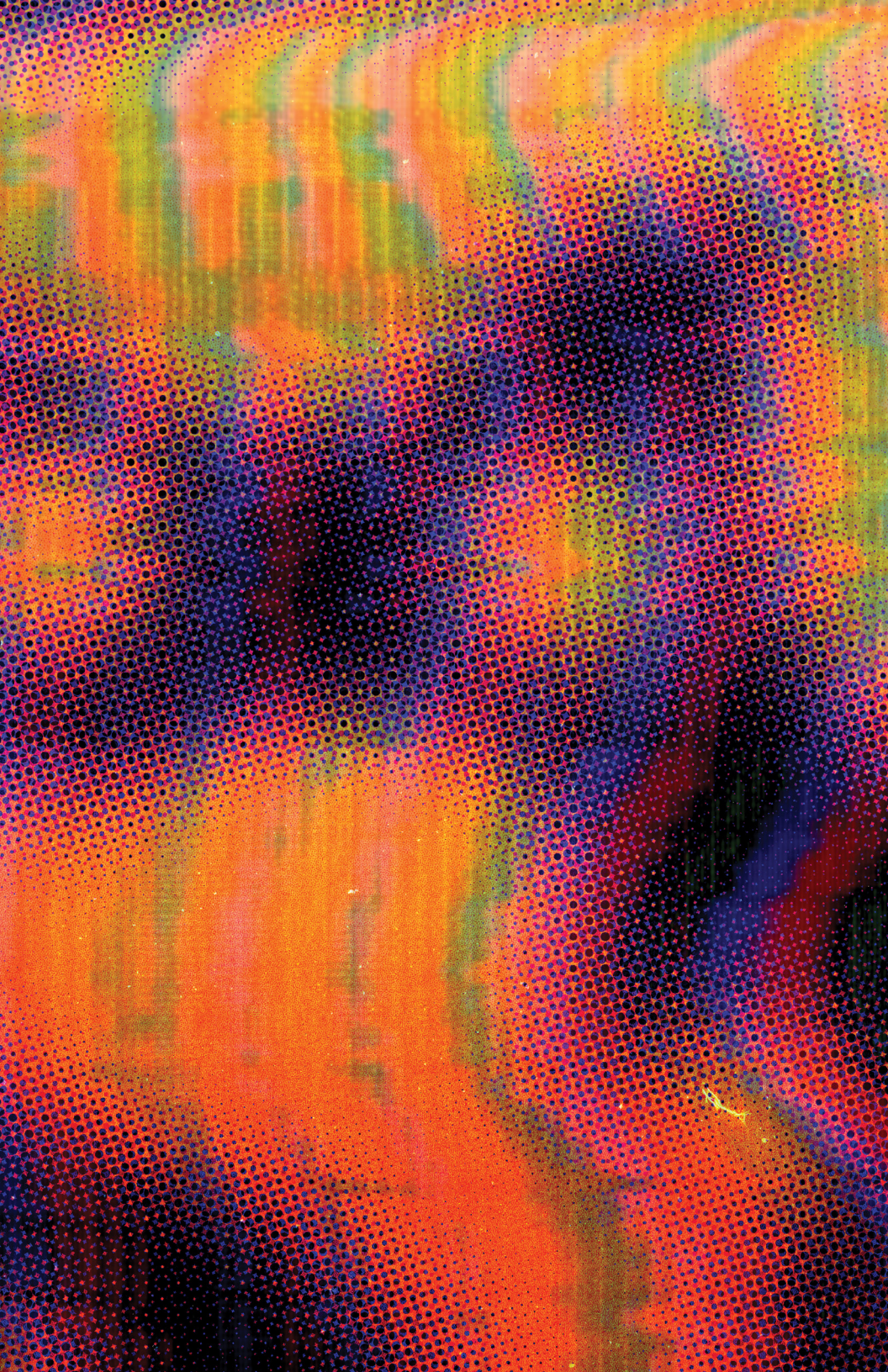
POWER U

**CENTER FOR
SOCIAL CHANGE**



**PRINCIPLES
OF
UNITY**

VOLUME 5



HAVE

YOU

READING

LEVEL

ABOUT OUR ZINE

This zine series began in 2021 in collaboration with Fempower Miami, created to unite art, social work, individual expression, and more. Our zine grew to include submissions from other organizations and creatives sharing our values as time continued. We have celebrated this unique opportunity to unite community members with others as we continue to build power. Now Our zine has had over 40 contributors and is back for its 5th edition. As an organization, we have seen this series grow, and we hope each volume continues to grow, inspire thought, and encourage you to join the efforts to create social change.

Our zine includes subjects that may evoke strong feelings or thoughts. We encourage you to talk about things and seek support from love ones or professionals

**DOWNLOAD THE PREVIOUS ZINES:
WWW.POWERU.ORG/ZINE**

OUR CONTRIBUTORS

Alejandro Gonzalez

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Kyris Lewis

La'Monique Reid

Miami DSA

Miami NAACP

Mya Postell

Progressive Caucus Of Miami Dade

Space Baby

PRINCIPLES OF UNITY

SELF-DETERMINATION FOR ALL COMMUNITIES

A community's people should have the right to control their own land, economy, politics and culture. They should be the leading decision-makers for their communities.

SOLIDARITY WITHIN AND BETWEEN COMMUNITIES OF COLOR

All communities of color face racial oppression caused by white privilege and white supremacy. Different communities of color experience racism and discrimination differently. Solidarity within a community of color and between communities of color creates greater power to confront white supremacy and racism.

ECONOMIC JUSTICE

The exploitation of working-class and poor people benefits the rich. Global capitalism has left the majority of the world's people in poverty while a very small minority prospers and controls everything. Working-class and poor people are at the mercy of rich people and a brutal system that seeks to strip them of their humanity. The resources of the world should be created, controlled, and distributed fairly to the benefit of all people.

BLACK LIBERATION

In the United States and across the world, the development of global capitalism and white supremacy has been and continues to be dependent on the exploitation and oppression of Africa, and African descended people. Therefore, Black people cannot achieve the fulfillment of our human rights by simply fighting to improve our position within the existing system. In order for Black people to experience true freedom, the entire economic and social system of society must be transformed of all people.

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WOMEN'S LIBERATION

Heteropatriarchy uses sexism and violence to degrade and exploit women. Women should be free from domination by men and have the power to exercise the full range of their human rights. Our freedom struggles have always relied on the leadership of women. However, even our social justice movements have subjected women to a secondary position. Therefore it is essential that the leadership and contributions of women be prioritized, uplifted, and honored.

EQUALITY FOR LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, AND TRANSGENDER PEOPLE

The queer community has historically been excluded and forced into silence by a society that assumes the superiority and normalcy of heterosexual relationships and also imposes heterosexual gender and sex roles. The LGBTQ community should share the same rights and privileges as heterosexual people and should be free from humiliation and degradation.

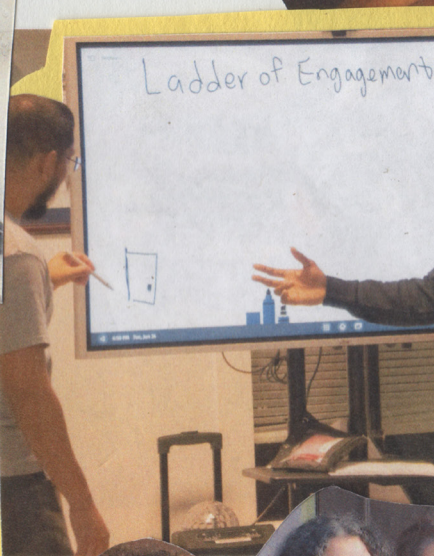
YOUTH EMPOWERMENT

Young people are dismissed, ignored, criminalized, and exploited by adults. Their ideas are not respected and they are denied a voice in determining the future of their communities. Young people have the right to be treated with respect, to have opportunities to develop their skills and ideas, and to have a space to enact their visions for the world.

INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY

The United States Government and American corporations exploit the people and resources of other countries for the benefit of Americans. This forces people from other countries to leave their homes and many of them migrate to the U.S. in search of opportunities. People of color and other oppressed people in the U.S. must support the struggles of oppressed people around the world to defend themselves from U.S. exploitation. This includes supporting their right to migrate to and receive equal treatment in this country

**CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE:
WWW.POWERU.ORG**

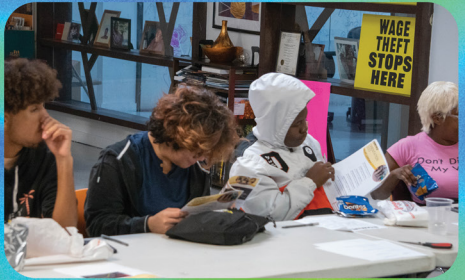




WHAT'S NEW WITH POWER U

The 2023 youth membership cycle began in October 2022; we held Affinity Spaces for prospective members.

In January, returning youth members and other high school students from around Miami-Dade were welcomed into our Orientation phase. This orientation phase was broken up into ten sessions; these sessions are workshops that begin building skills needed as a member. To become a member, each student must attend 80%. These sessions led up to our annual Membership Signing Day on February 18th.



"After joining Power U, I realized there's still a lot I don't know, and that's okay. I choose to stay, so I can learn and grow with others as we educate ourselves about what's happening. I look forward to more community involvement. I want us to expand our connections to immigrant community members about what we're trying to do and gain their support."

- KAYRON TUCKER
Senior, Miami Central Senior High



Our listening campaign generally focuses on two things: finding out the concerns of our community and building the skills of our youth. Previously, we've stayed close to home, canvassing around the Power U office and schools in the vicinity. This year we've decided to leave the community around our office and venture into the neighborhood of the schools we've been building with this year. We want to emphasize these schools' importance and utility to the community. Schools like Miami Jackson and Miami Central are opening up their doors to us after hours so we can effectively gather information about the community's needs and share information about the work happening and support available via the schools.



Over the past few months, we appointed leadership positions such as the leadership committee, co-chairs, and support teams for communications, social, and money, which handles member-voted dues and how they fund functions. We wrapped our initial canvassing cycle in April, and since our members have been working in their committees to develop campaigns for our summer mobilizations.

We've also grown our teacher and school staff support spaces; each serves as a space for folks to unite and discuss ways to build power at their school sites. In addition, we've also held happy hours for teachers to unwind. To learn more about these events, check out our website for upcoming events.



**SCAN
HERE FOR
COMMUNITY
MEETING INFO**



**SCAN HERE
FOR TEACHER
EVENTS**



If you are a parent or community member, there is also a space for you. These meetings are held monthly. Like the teacher support spaces, we discuss key issues that affect our community and how we can be informed and create change around them.

But Not Us

they want our lips, our eyes, our hips.
they want our nose , our style, our clothes.
they want our food, our tone, our art.
but not our attitude.
not our struggles
but our hair.
not our history
but our slang.
not our struggle for equality
but our “strong black woman” mentality
for if we don’t stand tall and smile
then we are not worthwhile

Poem: But Not Us by La'Monique Reid

Artwork: Jester's Privilege by Alejandro Gonzalez | @mcarthur.art





Artwork by Alexander de la Ossa | @alexander.art718

CANCEL RENT

BY SPACEBABY



SCAN TO LISTEN & DOWNLOAD

@OOHLALASPACEBABY

Local leaders of the NAACP commit to tackling issues that impact the Black community and accelerate the economic security of our future.

By: Daniella Pierre, Branch President

The fight to protect our human and civil rights matters now more than ever before.

To some, leaders of the NAACP are known as Freedom Fighters, agents of change, and at times, the only voice in the room that stands up to disrupt the status quo.

That's not an easy job for anyone, but it is vitally important and necessary for such a time as this.

Building upon the Branch's 34-year legacy, speaking truth to power, fighting against racial injustice, and being a proactive voice for a more equitable Miami-Dade requires not only collective action and support but accountability too.

Those are all reasons why, with over 500 volunteers, a strong, devoted team of executive committee members, an active youth council, and a progressive president, the NAACP Miami-Dade Branch is on a bold mission to steer the efforts toward building back a stronger and better community.

Our overarching goals and objectives of the Miami-Dade Branch are rooted in our mission and address the following six major areas of inequality facing African Americans:

- *Economic Sustainability*
- *Education*
- *Health and Environmental Climate Justice*
- *Public Safety and Criminal Justice*
- *Voting Rights and Political Representation*
- *Youth and Young Adult Engagement*

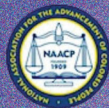


We urge everyone to join the NAACP today and to become active members and supporters of the Miami-Dade Branch. To check the status of your NAACP membership, to renew upgrade, please contact Mrs. Gale Cunningham, Membership Committee Chairperson at 786-636-4084 or 352-405-0551 or thomasgaleolivia@gmail.com.

Additionally, we welcome everyone to get actively involved with the Miami-Dade Branch, unite with one of our standing committees, and attend our meetings held on the third Monday of each month from 7 PM to 9 PM at New Way Fellowship Praise and Worship Center in Miami Gardens.



For more information on ways to get involved with NAACP Miami-Dade Branch or to arrange a meeting, contact President Daniella Pierre at 754-222-2837 or email presidentofmiamidadenaacp@gmail.com.



Miami-Dade
NAACP

Born under the sun
And cradled by the moon
I sprouted from firm roots saturated in wisdom
Entangled in lush leaves
embraces from the ancestors
Nourished by Strange fruit
Caressed by violent winds mimicking wails of worship
Planted with intention of abundant harvest
Generations feast from the gifts of time
I am the elements, the cosmos, the lush of green the earth bares, the barren hollow
basin of earths imperfections

Initiated





WE RECOGNIZE THAT CORPORATE INTERESTS HAVE PERMEATED BOTH MAJOR U.S. POLITICAL PARTIES AND THAT AT THIS MOMENT WE DO NOT HAVE A TRULY WORKING CLASS PARTY IN THIS COUNTRY.

BECAUSE OF THIS, WE ARE ORGANIZING PROGRESSIVE MINDED PEOPLE IN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY IN ORDER TO ADVANCE A WORKING CLASS AGENDA THROUGH THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY, WHILE DEVELOPING NEW PROGRESSIVE LEADERS IN THE PROCESS.



TRUE POWER LIES IN US, THE EVERYDAY WORKING PEOPLE



MIAProgressives



miaprogressives



**People's
Progressive Caucus
of Miami dade**



**Interested In joining?
Scan the QR code
It will direct you to our
linktr.ee! Fill out Membership
Form
Pay Dues with Actblue link
Sit back and we'll reach out!**



PEOPLE'S
— PROGRESSIVE CAUCUS OF —
MIAMI-DADE





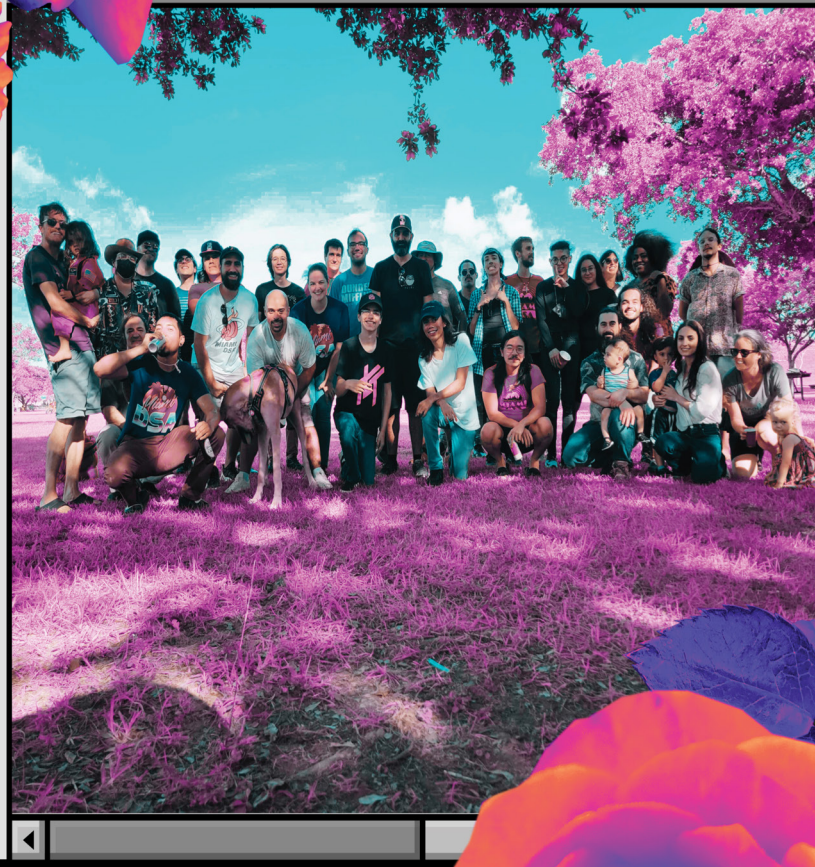
Artwork: The Call Out by Alejandro Gonzalez | @mcarthur.art

@miamidsa

miamidsa.org

Miami
DSA

♪ ♪ FUČk a pIT a Lis m ♪ ♪ ♪



togetHeR, We ARE stRoNgER



go to dsausa.org/join

OK

Growing Pains

Amaya Sheftall

Find what you need. Its intent is to remind people of what they may have forgotten. As always, if it doesn't apply, let it fly. If it wasn't meant for you, it's meant for someone else

Toxic Environments

You will never be enough for the wrong people. So don't go looking for love in the wrong place. You may be worth 100 dollars in one store until another finds you and wonders why you've been displaced. In their store your priced at 1,000,000. Find that second store. Life is too short to suffer. Life is too short to sit in pain. Life it too short to wonder what if and what not. Accept the past and change the future. You did the best you could with what you knew. Yesterday is not today. You didn't know then what you know now, and hindsight is always clearer. You'll Never be enough for those that can't see your value.

For Those Who Are Unfairly Hated, Mistreated, Disliked

Often times, others treatment of you is a reflection of themselves. It is a reflection of their pain, anger, or confusion towards themselves or a past they may grieve. They might hate their smile and crooked teeth while you don't care to hide yours. Their dented self-image projects to you. They can't possibly understand why you love something they hate so much. So, they hate you. They feel jealously because you have something they don't. Love for what they hate.

Struggles With Lack of Self-Acceptance and Comparisons to Others

There is no one who can be you like you can be you. That sounds corny I know. Everyone is a collection of their past and their experiences. You might be jealous that someone is farther along in the race but didn't see them cheat and take a shortcut through the forest. They might have been given opportunities that you weren't. You might have been given hard ships that they didn't have. Or maybe the opposite is true. The thing about life is.... you don't know. There is no one who will ever truly understand you like you understand yourself. You will be you for your eternity. No amount of wishing and praying will ever change that. But that's good news. It means you have all your eternity to try and fail and try again and succeed at accepting and loving yourself. Eventually you succeed. Your journey encompasses so much more than what's in the present and the past.

Toxic Parents

There is no pain like being misunderstood and feeling unloved by those who were supposed to love you most. All children deserve love but not all parents deserve children. As a child you look to your caregivers. They are the first people to teach you what love and care is. However, for some it is not that simple. Your inner child may have been met with judgement, cruelty, and mistreatment. Your love returned with your parents hate and resentment. That does not define you. Their words are not fact. Their statements are not law. Their treatment of you is not a reflection of your worth. Their lack of love doesn't mean no one else will love you. Their harsh treatment isn't something you deserve. Family isn't always blood. Some must build their own families from the ground up. Sometimes blood doesn't mean kin.

Feeling Lost

Your journey is your journey. Eventually you will figure out which direction you want to take and which path you want to go. For now, accept where you are and the progress you have made. Look at your accomplishment's and appreciate how far you've come. If you have none, accept that. Then understand that the future is a beautiful thing. Why? It's a path unwritten. You can do whatever you want in it. Whatever you haven't accomplished now, can be done then. If not....you can always have new goals and new dreams. Somethings just aren't meant to be. Trust that eventually you will figure it out. Remember, the formation of a diamond can't be rushed.

Fearful Of Outside Judgement

Everyone's opinions reflect who they are. Everyone perceives things based on what they have experienced. The best advice I've ever gotten is "don't ever not do something you want to do out of fear of what others might think." Don't allow yourself to be old and shriveled up, wondering what could have been. The same ones who judge you for trying, wouldn't have dared to even attempt. They'll laugh at you for doing something, that they do behind closed doors. Don't let the fear of failing come between you and your desires. Everyone's been embarrassed. Everyone's made a fool of themselves once. No matter how perfect people seem on the outside we all hold our own mistakes, trials, tribulations, and rejection. Don't ever not do what you want out of fear of outside judgement. Life is always going to have anxious, embarrassing, and foolish moments. Every failure is a step closer to success.

**“WE NEED,
IN EVERY
COMMUNITY,
A GROUP OF
ANGELIC
TROUBLE
MAKERS.”**

-BAYARD RUSTIN



Artwork by Kyris Lewis

God Made Guns

by Mya Postell

In January of 2023,
another man was fatally shot in the Pork n' Beans and one of my friends
actually saw it

With his own eyes he watched the liveliness rush from the pupils of that
man's eyes and said "It's no way he's alive."

but you never know the miracles God could work
He opened the eyes of two blind men and even while blind they could see
he was a miracle worker

He rebuked the winds, the waves, the most inevitable of things looked up
to the sky and said "BE STILL." and calmed a storm

A woman subject to bleeding for over a decade had touched his cloak in a
nick of time

Jesus transformed water into wine

revealed his glory

So why can't he turn gun wound into intact flesh?

Then he said "I can tell by the gun. With a semi-automatic you click the
trigger once and it'll go off once. But with a fully-automatic it's rapid,
it'll fire as long as you hold the trigger down."

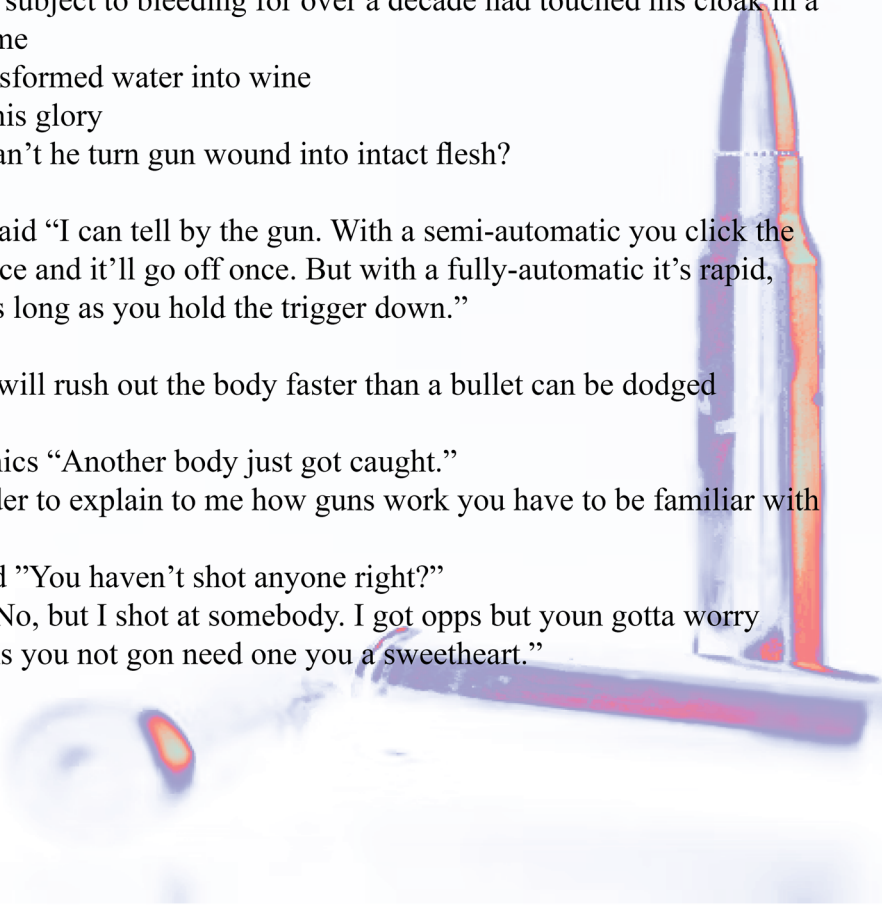
So blood will rush out the body faster than a bullet can be dodged

or in ebonics "Another body just got caught."

See in order to explain to me how guns work you have to be familiar with
them

So I asked "You haven't shot anyone right?"

He said "No, but I shot at somebody. I got opps but youn gotta worry
about guns you not gon need one you a sweetheart."



Fact is in order to survive humans from the hood
turn reckless
scratch off bodies they caught
like a checkless
become thieves not only in the night but in daylight
scamming
finger on the trigger tight grip
defense mechanism programming

At birth we sacrifice black boys to the God of the Dead
strip them of their spirits
leave them soulless
nobody can get through to them
but a bullet can

Confusion turns into crossfire
leaving bystanders wheelchair bound
and dead men in the street

Devastated mothers and grandmothers pray for better times
right at God's feet and while on knelt knees
they summon angels to guide their boys
but the only angel that a black boy from the hood will ever know is the
angel dust blown into his face
until he cannot see
until he cannot breathe
until being an addict
becomes a part of his being

Lost gangsta boy turned demonic
soul snatcher overnight
truth is I lied

The "Friend" I mentioned earlier is actually more than a friend to me
I was just too embarrassed to reveal that earlier on in the story
But maybe if I get lucky enough he'll get to see me in my prom dress
before I see him in his funeral attire

Maybe he'll whisper his dreams to me at night before God whispers his name and says

"Come home to me, my child."

Maybe he'll get to see me walk down the aisle

from the opposite end and smile

because I saved him from walking down the aisles of death

Because why should a bullet get to caress his skin in the same ways that I do?

His hopes and dreams will bleed into scripture form a story of its own with texts

similar to that of what the Bible says

because God is always right

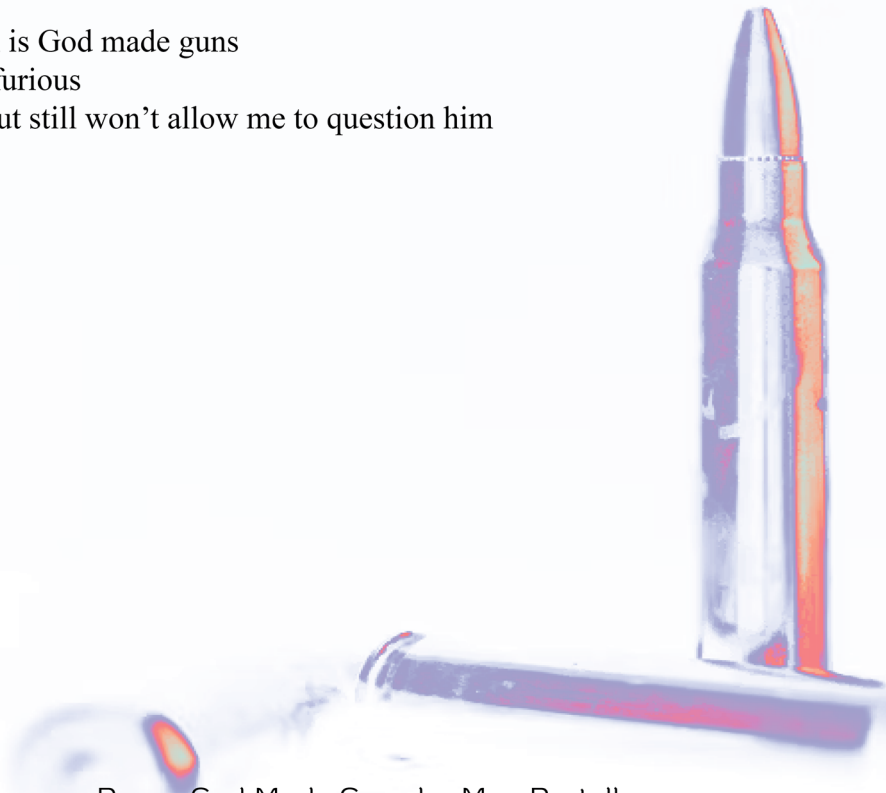
follow with faith even if he can't be seen with sight

Well, maybe this is what God intended because in order to provide his healing destruction must exist

The truth is God made guns

and I'm furious

but my gut still won't allow me to question him



Poem: God Made Guns by Mya Postell
@ NObabies.mya & poison.poetryyyy

WILL HAPPEN.

IS POSSIBLE.

CAN'T BE CONTROLLED.

IS NEITHER GOOD NOR

BUT A GOOD .

DOESN'T DISCRIMINATE.

IS CONTINUOUS.

underground by kathlyn belizaire

past the surface lies
healing circles, workers rising,
queerness, the portal of the Caribbean.
altar formations and safety planning,
dance rituals and lovemaking.
baptisms in sacred waters.
the Harlem of the South.
the underground Miami.

What do we owe Mama Tubman?
commitment, commitment, commitment
to the underground.
the path of love,
our reason to stay.

INTERESTED IN SUBMITTING TO OR SPONSORING OUR NEXT ZINE?

This zine is released twice annually, and we aim to gather as many submissions as possible. We aim to include works in various media forms worldwide that share our values. Learn more about our zine and download previous volumes on our website www.poweru.org/zine.

You can also sponsor our zine and release events with 1/4 page to full page ads. All specific instructions can be found on our zine webpage.

SHOP POWER U APPAREL

WWW.POWERU.ORG/SHOP



WOULD YOU LIKE TO DONATE
TO POWER U?



ABOUT POWER U

Power U is a grassroots organization founded in 199 by Denise Perry and Shelia O'Farrell. We focus on organizing students, parents, teachers, and community members across Miami for a better future. At this moment, we know that it requires us to organize to support public education and civic engagement in all communities. Currently, our central focus is on organizing our community to fight for safe and supportive schools & neighborhoods. Our work involves building connections with students & teachers in different high schools, fighting for schools prioritizing human development over profit. We know that all social issues ultimately lead back to a line item on an elected officials budget, so we work to popularize Miami Dade County School Board Budget Hearing through our campaigns and promote a culture where everyone is informed to advocate for the resources our families deserve.

WATCH THIS VIDEO TO LEARN MORE:



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@POWERU305





ISSUED MAY 2023

