

EACH ONE, TEACH ONE Interview Series #9

**An Interview Conducted by the Chicago Local Organizing
Committee of the Black Autonomy Federation**

Hybachi Lemar is a former prisoner who Anthony Rayson introduced to Anarchism by means of handwritten correspondence and zines in 2006 while in solitary confinement.

Anthony Rayson is a firebrand writer, editor & publisher of South Chicago ABC Zine Distro.

*This is conducted as a part of the **Each One, Teach One** Interview Series by the BAF Chicago Local Organizing Committee, located on the South Side of Chicago.*

Hello, Brother! And, also hello to everybody in Chicago who may run across this exchange and anybody else around the country, whether they are held captive by this carceral state or in "minimal security" on the streets, in some form of detention, "mental health" facility or some flat, house or viaduct, somewhere. I appreciate the opportunity to be given a written "voice" in answer to these intensely relevant questions.

As Hybachi has mentioned, we got together via written correspondence, some sixteen years ago. Brother, you have proven to be a dedicated and brilliant stalwart of the struggle for truth and freedom, all these many years. This distro that I created in the late nineties, has at least a couple dozen of your unique and insightful works, that stand as powerful teaching tools for anyone interested in the unbridled truth!

You call yourself a "student" and I am older than you, but "mutual aid" also encompasses the complementary gaining of insight and knowledge, which you have provided me with (and many others) in selfless abundance. As well, it isn't just my rants and essays that you have gained from. Dozens of other conscious prisoners and other humanist thinkers that explode throughout this distro (and, of course, other righteous sources) make up ones' resume of synthesized understanding, which can (like you've shown) cross the "fear line" and evolve into ongoing, adaptable Anarchist *action*. So, kudos to you, MAN!

Question # 1. Greetings of solidarity, love & strength, Compa Anthony, and thanks for taking a moment to provide knowledge once more. It's a student's honor working with you. How have you been?

Please begin with a few words of revolutionary inspiration to our Englewood Liberation School students & to other grassroots Anarchist formations sprouting around the country.

Answer to Question #1. To answer your first question, I'm OK, for my age, now being 68. I've had a tough go the last few years, physically, with several surgeries and procedures, but the last say, six months, I've felt pretty good. I've lost one of my brothers and my Mother, during the last four years. I have a loving wife, two sons and two grandsons and they are all good, so I am happy about all that, intimately involved in their continuing well-being and am still able to function adequately.

Two years ago, my partner in this endeavor, Mike, suffered a serious stroke, the same day Kobi Bryant, his daughter and their crew were killed. He is now back to 90%, after lengthy rehab. I don't have the explosive amount of energy of years past, but I've learned to pace myself and peck away at this work, most every day. Sometimes, I have to drop everything and deal with other situations, mostly family-related, or to go out of town.

I must mention, we moved to another house in the summer of 2019, which was a tremendous effort, mostly undertaken by myself. My extensive distro was thrown into a jumble and I am still trying to sort it all out. I didn't do a yearly calendar in 2020 or 2021, due to this disruption, various maladies and covid-related problems. Lately, I've gotten a better handle on things.

Anyways, before I answer the next question, I'd love to give a shoutout to all those folks in Englewood who are struggling with Hybachi and others, and endeavoring to make Englewood a loving and livable community - not an easy task amidst such a police-state reality. Your fight is not only righteous but the main struggle here in the "belly of the beast." I'm sure many of you have experienced the racist "copitalism" that is daily facing us. Many of your family and friends have suffered greatly in the tombs of our oppressors and the bereft streets.

Hopefully, these liberating ideas will resonate and lead to increased activity in solidarity with your community and help you reach out to others across Chicago and around the world, who feel the same way you do.

Like an infant child, progress is made, step by step. Starting a liberation school is a great move! Genuine and effective activism is given birth by a few motivated individuals. "Learning the ropes" is a process of trial and error. You will find solid mentors along the way. I am glad to help in any way. As Malcolm X has said, something to the effect that the masses must learn their true history and the truth of the brutal reality that is being faced by their people - then they will move. Many great and successful movements began - often while still a prisoner - by one person who resolved to "not take it, anymore."

The harsh reality of many communities, such as Englewood, cry out for a conscious, anarchist group, who has the peoples' interests as the sole motivation for whatever they do. There is no "hidden agenda" or money-making scheme to detract from the goal - to educate and empower and assist in any way, those living in the community and by extension, folks similarly situated across the country and the world.

Chicago has a world-renown history of cutting edge Anarchist thinking and action. The Haymarket Martyrs cry to this day from their graves! They initiated the 8-hour day which the whole world has benefitted from. They developed the "Chicago School" of Anarchism, which resounds as clearly today as back then. Lucy Parsons, whose husband Albert, was one of the four murdered men, continued to be active and write in Chicago, until her death in 1942. She was born a slave yet was able to live her whole beautiful and long life in revolt! Thanks to these Herculean examples, we can "stand on the shoulders of giants" as we adapt anarchism to today's complex problems. Work local, think global. Indeed we have a world to win!

Take care! *@nthy of South Chicago ABC Zine Distro.*

anthonyrayson@hotmail.com

hybachil@gmail.com

Question #2. Thanks. Please tell us. What is an "Anarchist?" 4

Answer to Question #2. An Anarchist, to me, is a very focused and driven person. I would say such a person is motivated by trying to understand *why* things are the way they are, makes dogged efforts to acquire and study cogent argumentation about the world and this society in particular, and follows her or his natural inclinations, making adaptations of intellect and coming to the epiphany that "anarchism" offers the truest set of tools to use to wed thoughts and actions most effectively.

Anarchism is a sophisticated and highly adaptable set of principles, which anyone, anywhere in the world can feel comfortable with and that can be useful in dealing with local situations, no matter what those might be. Collectives of anarchists can form alliances with other such groups, regionally, nationally or internationally. Of course, they can also work with non-anarchist groups without sacrificing their autonomy.

Anarchism is pretty much universally reviled as nothing more than pointless banditry by all the governmental powers that be, around the world. All governments lie and in fact, they are the world's most horrific criminal enterprises, whose laws give them the "right" to commit any type of crime imaginable, without consequence. Anarchist literature is purposely very difficult to acquire, because once a serious student does run across the real deal, she or he is often quite impressed. The very word "anarchy" is a buzzword with negative connotations, like "gang-related." So, it's good to go to a real Anarchist to learn about it!

The main difference between an Anarchist and a statist, is the fact that, as George Washington, said: "*Government is not eloquence. It is force!*" Anarchists are totally against coercive authority, wherever it rears its ugly head - whether by a government and its array of coercive institutions (such as the prisons, the military, the police, taxing bodies, laws, etc.) or other institutions, such as churches, schools, hospitals and so forth, who are bound to obey government strictures and pass the unfairness to those they alleged "serve."

We feel the lawyers and politicians who work for the elites and bend the laws to benefit the rich and plunder the poor, even to the point of instilled systemic racism (and slavery) into the very fabric of their system, have no real legitimacy, which people should cowtow to. 5

OK. I say that anarchists are socialists. What is a socialist? Socialism basically is the belief that the wealth produced should be evenly distributed. People have the basic right to life, quality medical care, adequate nutrition, housing and the right to pursue their desires and interests without interference, as long as others are not harmed by them.

Communism claims to believe in socialism, but it is not the way anarchists see it. Communism is basically, state-run capitalism. The Party runs roughshod over the whole country, coercively forcing people to do what they are told. That is not freedom. Nor is capitalism. They encourage the exploitation of labor, obscene profits for the rich, misery and prison for the poor and Black, no guarantee of health, welfare or even, life. During the bloody 20th century, it was said, "the only thing worse than communism was anti-communism." To this day, the whole world is disintegrating physically and every man, woman and child is held hostage by the threat of nuclear annihilation.

Anarchism proposes a set of pliable principles to help folks figure out a way to conduct themselves and their interactions with others. I don't have any resources to elucidate these, so I'll just go off the top of my head. Embracing these principles can lead to genuine personal accountability. Like any other avenue of thinking, some folks who call themselves "anarchists" or whatever, do not comport themselves as well as they could or should. I believe however, that the lucidity and directness of these principles, allow for people to pursue their talents and interests in the service of humanity, without the "strings attached" of so many other ideologies and religions.

NO MASTERS NO GODS. This is a slogan used to express the refusal to accept coercive authority as something to be mindlessly obeyed. This does not infer that decisions cannot be effectively made or carried out. The Native Americans usually had a "Chief." This Man or Woman attained a position of respect through a lifetime of community-conscious activities. They lived among their tribes, ate the same food and shared their fates.

Decisions were arrived at by consensus. Everybody interested in the issue was afforded a voice. All decisions were unanimous. There was no manipulated "majority rule." No edict from on high. Of course, not all tribes were so scrupulous. But, consensus decision-making is an anarchist principle. Some people claim to have a religion or a spiritual life and still be anarchists. But to me, Gods are man-made and almost invariably, the "sacred texts" are written by men, who had, you've got it - an "agenda." I can see the spiritual, by not any religion.

AFFINITY GROUPS. These are small units of autonomous comrade anarchists, who rely upon each other implicitly. Especially effective during fluid situations of struggle, they minimize possibilities of infiltration by fascist forces and make the day-to-day work they are doing, more quickly realizable. They can also be part of a bigger group, but they are mostly on their own and make their own calls on what and how to do what they feel is important.

PRISON ABOLITION. Did the Natives I spoke of earlier have prisons? Sheesh! Of course not! But, like any other society, they had to deal with aberrant behavior, fueled by whatever reason. The idea of dealing with "bad behavior" is to reach that person in such a way that he or she can transcend the accused infraction and rejoin the community. To allow "government" to commit endless legal genocide is not to be considered as crime, of course. But, the marginalized and denied and slighted in endless ways "offender" must be insanely punished? How fraught with evil! If a parent held their child in shackles, chained to a bed or put in a closet, they'd (justifiably) be considered the worst of scum. If the government does it, it's "corrections." Sane methods of dealing with harmful to self & others behavior are available, which I will elucidate about in a different question.

MUTUAL AID. Sounds simple, right? You help me, I owe you one. We're all in this together! If a natural disaster strikes, neighbors help each other. It's common sense. It's what humans do. Take it to the next level and make such a concept your everyday priority and watch the quality of your life improve! It's kinda like this zine - *Each One, Teach One!* Living this concept in all situations is an endless trek into the marvelous!

Instead of always being told what to do and not really learning anything, you are collaborating with brilliant comrades and everybody involved is learning lots! That's mutual aid, my 7 friends! In fact, doing someone or a group of people a good turn is beneficial for your own psychological health, anyways! Be human and be there for people and some folks will have your back. We should share everything and push the struggle!

VOLUNTARY COOPERATION. This one is pretty self-explanatory. In whatever situation folks find themselves, coercion, bullying, intimidation and so forth, are not to be tolerated. Any participation in any endeavor is only legitimate if that person consciously agrees to be a part of it. With folks who earnestly look to live as anarchists, gaining their willingness to participate in some group or particular activity, is based on their weighing the pros and cons in an objective manner. If however, say an individual refuses to be involved, for whatever reason, they have that right, once again, as long as what they do, does not end up infringing upon the rights of others.

SOLIDARITY. When people are being especially menaced, almost invariably by a government or government / business venture, those nearby especially, but also anyone with a conscience, should be in resolute support of these threatened people. It helps to build relationships and strengthens opposition to such abuse. People learn from others struggles, but they must get involved to find out the details. Soon, their own confrontations will occur and these ties will be important.

FEMINISM. Women are not only half of humanity, but they actually incubate, create and sustain life itself. Plus, they can do anything any man can do and more. It is preposterous to not think women as equals deserving fair treatment in whatever it is they may be doing. A big reason I despise religion is the galling claim that "God" is some kind of male! Ridiculous and totally stupid. People have suffered enormously because of these sick ideas. Women are in fact, quite "superior" to males, genetically. They live longer and comport themselves more positively.

ANTI-RACISM. Slavery, to this day, is baked into the ballyhooed *Constitution*. Slavery never really ended and it was meant to be a pro-slavery document. The U.S. is a uniquely hyper-capitalist country, underscored by institutional, systemic, centuries-long, slavery and "legalized" discrimination. People

have been forced to be racists since their childhood, if they are so-called "white" which is an absurd designation, as is "black." A mere 1/25 of an ounce of the skin pigment melanin separates the darkest African from the most translucent albino. People need to gather in solidarity and oppose their real enemy - the damned state and their myriad of oppressive institutions.

People are all equal and deserve to be respected and protected against deprecations, by the state, groups or individuals, no matter their gender preference or where they come from. Borders are artificial barriers that should be removed. Everyone has natural rights, including that of movement anywhere in the world, without restrictions.

DIRECT ACTION. Well, this is rather straightforward! Deal with crises in real time, directly! When things are at fever pitch, it's time to drop everything and get going! Like Frederick Douglass said, "*Without struggle, there is no progress.*" Anarchists especially, have a heightened desire to hit the streets and challenge the state & / or their nazi friends, when the shit has hit the fan. We must be ready. The state has unfathomable weapons to oppose us. We need many, many people to stand up to these evil bastards! You saw what happened in 2020!

Well, there are other things to say about what an Anarchist is, but there are twenty questions here and I don't want to burn you all out on just one. So, suffice to say, being an anarchist is a serious, awesome and intense, life-long responsibility to those willing to take on the task. Just remember, it all hinges on your own innate take on any situation and your reasoning turned proactive. Work hard all the time, whether it is tedious "behind the scenes work" or out in the streets in front of thousands of cameras. Do what needs to be done as you learn more daily.

AUTONOMY. We are all individuals. We alone have control over our lives. As well, if we become part of a group, that group is the arbiter of what happens with said group. No one, most especially, some governmental agency, has a right whatsoever

to try to tell us what to do or how to do it. As well, another organization, which we may or may not be somehow affiliated with, cannot dictate our behavior, or how to even respond to a particular situation. Say a group decides to organize a community collective. Whether you decide to join and enter into various agreements as to what your participation entails, you can opt out. The only caveat (as always) is, you can do whatever you want, as long as you are not oppressing other people. But, if you do, you will no longer be left alone - at least by anarchists. Freedom is free, until you hold hands with fascists! Then you have a problem because anarchists will come to the defense of those being menaced. No co-optation, either!

Question #3. When did you first acknowledge yourself as an "Anarchist?"

Answer to Question 3. Well, the answer to this question is amazing even to me. I'd been a sort of anarcho-teenager and really never stopped feeling the way I felt when I was fifteen. I always hated the government and stupid, coercive authority. But, I was born in 1953! As I got to be an adult, I learned all about communist thinking. I read all the bigshot commies. I agreed with their class analysis, but not their brutal oppressiveness. That, sure as hell wasn't "freedom!" But, you really couldn't find out much of anything about "anarchism." I'd heard about it, in a negative, desultory manner, but I never really saw it manifested in any real way. Sure, there were the "Yippies" but explanatory texts didn't seem to exist.

So, it wasn't until I was forty, that I came to the epiphany that I was, indeed, an "Anarchist." I found the "zine" underground and the anarchist underground. The internet appeared, as did AK Press and other quality sources of anarchist information. Anyway, coming to this conclusion, spurred me on to an unbelievable avalanche of activity, co-founding grassroots groups, writing my brains out and starting my distro. I went to countless demonstrations and meetings, all over the country,

organized all kinds of events and so forth. So, I took the fact that I was an anarchist to mean, I had zero time to waste, fooling around, doing nothing! I no longer had an excuse to be a schlub. Time was a-wastin' so I got on the stick and self-taught my way to figuring out how to use my talents effectively. Luckily, while you go headlong like this, mentors will show up along the way to help guide you. Trust your instincts and what you feel is most important. Invariably, others will feel the same way. 10

Question #4. Why do you think so much of the writings you print are banned in so many states in this country?

Answer to question #4. Well, look at the sorry history of this slave-drenched country. Teaching slaves to even read was a serious "crime!" As slavery is still the linchpin of the hallowed *Constitution*, the same mindset holds sway. Sure the *Bill of Rights* recognizes "free speech." But, if you're not just a regurgitator of standard beliefs, you'll have problems. No one will hire you to write your true opinions or publish your work into a book, if they feel the blowback isn't worth the hassle. OK. I get it. To genuinely express yourself, you must "go off the grid" thus the reason why I decided to go the zine route. Prisons demand that any publication "come from the publisher" outside of personal letters, which is also "from the publisher" or at least writer. So, the deal is you have to become a "publisher." Weirdly, becoming a "publisher" is ridiculously easy. You don't have to go to school or even pay some kind of fee. All you have to do is proclaim yourself the publisher of whatever and whammo, you qualify. Simply, create a name and put it on the envelope as a return address and put that same address in whatever publication you are sending.

I believe that the real reason zines are allowed into the prisons is because they allow all kinds of religious tracts in. Plus, the First Amendment to the *Constitution*, calls for "free speech." Of course, the prisons have a laundry list of reasons why publications are denied, mostly a vague reference to the inference that said publication makes problematic the fascistic

running of said gulag. They rarely even cite a particular page or phrase that worries them so. It's quite pitiful, actually. //

There's a whole different set of rules for books. I kind of felt that zines have no respect by people in general and that goes for the schmoes that I call "gulag censor trolls." They're lazy and rather ignorant and everything is arbitrary. Mostly, they let stuff slide, because they don't want any hassle and feel nobody can learn anything anyway about anything by reading. The educational system itself is structured to crush mental development and most people hate reading after going through the miserable experience of mainstream "education." Sometimes, it's just a personal vendetta against the prisoner receiving the zine. He or she may actually be a writer for this distro or whatever. They just don't want the cat out of the bag of people realizing the details of social reality. Because, once they do get a grasp of it, they invariably become liberation-minded and this is the opposite of the television-dulled bunch they want.

Question #5. Please provide a general outline of Anarchist teachings.

Answer to question #5. Well, I kind of answered part of that question earlier. Anarchist teaching is basically energizing folks to begin the journey of self-actualization. People are imbued with an innate sense of empathy. We're social animals and thrive in the company of others. We want things to be good for ourselves and those around us. Anarchists take it to the next level and care about everybody, wherever they may live. I wrote a zine several years ago, entitled: "*Anarchism - The Advanced Studies of Giving a Damn!*" That's what anarchism teaches. Give a damn about injustice, wherever it may rear its ugly head. Tap into your humanity and liberate yourself and deal with things as if it is being hurtful to you, those you're close with and so on. The dying, starving person in Africa - that person's life is as important as anyone in this world. You believe in freedom and justice? Great! Live your life as if every single person on Earth is

you and your efforts matter. Anarchist "teachings" are impressive suggestions. As with everything else in life, what your brain compels your body to do, is what your life is all about.

They teach us to respect ourselves and to use your own reasoning powers to figure out a response to anything you are involved with. Whether it is dealing with your own turmoil, that of your family, your neighborhood, community or anything going on anywhere on Earth, the response should be the same. Be loving, be thoughtful, be giving and live your truth that you feel without any restrictions. Life is most lived in the "doing!" Doing good work for others benefits you, actually helps you, immensely. Just because we live in a sick society, doesn't mean your one life on Earth has to be truncated. Go for being the best person you can possibly be. Anarchism welcomes you, friends!

Question #6. What is your take on "the importance of education?"

Answer to question #6. Education is a fundamental prerequisite in all facets of life. A child comes out of babyhood into toddlerhood craving to learn all that she or he can. This should be a lifelong desire, but all too often, this drive is blunted and misdirected by the authoritative controllers of what is really miseducation. The government controls standard education and it is a miserable force-fed avalanche of lies and slanted "teachings" extolling the alleged virtues of said government. Mostly, it turns people away from seeking knowledge and stifles their reasoning powers. Religions weigh in with their various brands of untruths and threats to those who would question their dogmas.

The real truth is lied about and hidden. It's no wonder that teaching slaves to even read was such a dread to them; that it was a crime. For prisoners, modern-day *legal* slaves, much the same attitude continues. They want zombies, who take the mind-melting drugs forced upon them, who sit in front of the idiot box all day long - *not* educated thinking human beings. For, once you've been exposed to the brutal truth, you are looking for effective ways to challenge such an oppressive

system. The great Malcolm X said something to the effect that people need to learn their identity - their past and their place in the present - then they'll move towards the future with a revolutionary consciousness. Fascists burn books. Anarchists write them! It's why I work closely with conscious prisoner writers and artists. They are in the know, being in the belly of the beast. So, a person like myself can be a useful conduit of ideas.

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Question #7. Who are some of the thinkers who've had a particular impact on your intellectual life and in general?

Answer to question #7. Well, I feel a well-rounded education from different strains of thinking is very helpful. You can learn a lot about other cultures and ways of looking at things that can expand your perceptiveness. I've always read a lot of books throughout my life. When I was young and in my teens, I read a lot of R.D. Laing, a radical psychiatrist. As well, I got heavy into existentialism, such as Jean-Paul Sartre. I read a lot of classic writers, especially the great Russians, such as Fyodor Dostoevsky, Nikolai Gogol and Leo Tolstoy. I read many Black writers, such as Claude McKay, W.E.B. Dubois, Frederick Douglass, Richard Wright and many others. Lorenzo Kombo Ervin is very big! JoNina Abron (Lorenzo's partner) was one of the last editors of the original Black Panther Newspaper and is a brilliant professor and writer, as well.

As I got older, I read all the communist classics and appreciated their class analysis and condemnation of racist, capitalist oppression, but could never warm to their own brutal methods. Mostly, I wanted solid history and cogent analysis. For the best, in my opinion, ranked the anarchist thinkers - Bakunin, Kropotkin, Emma Goldman and many others.

These days, I enjoy the writings of conscious prisoners. Folks like Sean Swain, Coyote Acabo, Talib Rasheed, Lisa Savage, Khalfani Malik Khaldun, and Hybachi Lemar! Lately, I've been reading a lot of civil war books. Why were so many young men murdered in this country defending one bad system or the other? Basically, they were heavily brainwashed and coerced into doing so.

But, education is also in the doing, not just reading. Involving yourself in struggle is a huge learning experience. Living a life of truth-seeking and involving yourself in the lives and struggles of others brings a deep meaning to life, plus the fruit of wisdom.

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Question #8. Which books / zines do you recommend every sincere student of anarchism absorbs? (Please list 10 books and 10 zines.)

Answer to question #8. Well, obviously, like any other subject, you must go to the shining lights of that belief system. We all know that governments and mainstream media, schools etc. lie incessantly about what anarchism is and what anarchists actually do. So, here's a list of books and zines, with a brief description of each.

A great place to start is the book, **Direct Action Against Capital**, by Peter Kropotkin. It's a lengthy anthology of his writings. **Chomsky on Anarchism**. Even the mainstream recognizes Chomsky as the most brilliant thinker the world has seen these last several decades. **The Great Anarchists, Ideas and Teachings of Seven Major Thinkers**, by Paul Eitzbacher. First, he outlines the problem. The second chapter is "Law, the State, Property. Then each of the seven is given a chapter. These are: William Godwin, Pierre-Joseph Proudhon, Max Stirner, Mikhail Bakunin, Peter Kropotkin, Benjamin Tucker, and Leo Tolstoy - also recognized as the world's most outstanding novelist! In the last two chapters, he summarizes the teachings of anarchism and clarifies the various strains of anarchism and debunks the lies told about it. Good stuff!

Killing Hope - U.S. Military and CIA Interventions Since World War II. The work, by William Blum, is succinct. **The Most Dangerous Superstition**. Written by Larken Rose, this little beauty hammers away at the "superstition" that most folks hold dearly to, that society *needs* coercive authority to function. **DURRUTI**, by Abel Paz tells the story of the Spanish Revolution and Durruti's central role in it. **My Disillusionment in Russia**, by

Emma Goldman gives an eyewitness account of the failure of the Russian Revolution to actually liberate Russians and others the Bolsheviks swept over. **The Divided Self**, by R.D. Laing is a stirring rejection of mainstream psychiatry, written in 1960. **A Little Matter of Genocide**, by Ward Churchill. It's subtitled, ¹⁵ Holocaust and Denial in the Americas 1492 to the Present. He was drummed out of his teaching professorship in Colorado for being much too honest about America's culpability. **ABC of Anarchism**, by Alexander Berkman. Written over 100 years ago, it's clarity is still very relevant for our world's complex reality.

As far as zines, I'll select from those I distro, although I'm sure there are many great zines, besides these. *Principles of Anarchism*, by Lucy Parsons. An awesome firebrand in her own right, her husband, Albert Parsons, was hung as one of the Haymarket martyrs in 1887. *Against All Odds: My Transition from a young street thug to a socially conscious, politicized prisoner*. Written by Uhuru Baraka Row, an Afrikan anarchist prisoner in Virginia, it details how a genuine education can transform a person into a solid @ - even while held captive. *Zero to Anarchist in 1.2 Seconds*. Here I interview Lisa (Lee) Savage, then held in maximum security in a prison in Florida. She was under terrific abuse from prison authorities for defending her sisters. Another brilliant woman prisoner writer is Anastazia Schmid. She wrote, *Shackled Sex: Gender Disparities and the Continued Criminalization of Female Sexuality in Prison*. Happily, I can report both women are now out and positively engaged. *Interviews with Russell Maroon Shoatz*. This zine includes two separate interviews and three of his excellent essays. He recently passed away, after decades of harsh imprisonment. He was in the Black Liberation Army.

One thing I did with several books was turn them into zines. Hybachi Lemar's compilation, The Deprived and Depraved was first published as a book by the Chicago IWW. I zined it up (smile.) He takes us through his life before, during and after prison with a unique literary dynamism. Check it out! Another book turned zine is by Lorenzo Komboa Ervin, titled, *Anarchism and the Black Revolution*. Lorenzo makes anarchism relative to Black folks. His mentor, while in prison, was Martin Sostre. His

"crime?" Running a revolutionary bookstore in Buffalo, NY and serving his community. *High Risk Potential*, by Coyote Acabo, is one of several excellent projects we worked together on. He was a prisoner in Nevada, but now he is out!

There are so many, many more I could talk about but I'm up to #10. Here's where I give myself a shoutout. I put together, *Agitation / Education - Activism Using Zines*, right when the pandemic hit, published on February 5th, 2020. It's kind of a journal of my work and how zinemaking can be of use during various grassroots struggles. OK, folx! Start reading.

Question #9. Do you believe people, including those in prison, can evolve and make better choices in life?

Answer to question #9. Well, just because the rotten government classifies prisoners as deserving of slavery (thanks *Constitution!*) doesn't mean prisoners are any less human than everybody else. So, of course, prisoners can evolve into productive sisters and brothers. It may be more difficult to find mentors, amidst all the repression and predation from, inside and out, and once the resolve is made and strides commenced, the heightened repression does not mean that people will be stymied in their quest. For, people have an amazing reserve of fortitude, if they only tap into their own inner strength. Just as living our lives is ultimately completely up to us, so do our life-changing corrections hinge on our ability to weather change and learn more and do better.

Bakunin said something to the effect that children are not created by or beholden to government or religion, but rather, are created by their parents, and are unique individuals whose sole course in life is determined by themselves. Also, as Leo Tolstoy proclaimed, the sole purpose of education is freedom. So, a person's personal quest for freedom and meaning is all on her or his shoulders. Of course, legitimate mentors and teachers are of tremendous value. But, their epiphanies and revelations and the incorporations of those new insights, can and are weighed.

thought through and sent forward due to the mental and physical efforts of these individuals, themselves. You know how some nights you have some lingering unresolved issues. Once awake, the solution presents itself. Your brain is figuring these things out, while you are in repose! The same thing happens when revelatory information strikes a chord and leads to a better way forward.

I get letters every single day that go out of their way to explain how the acquisition of my zines has helped them to see and think more clearly and commence the journey towards their futures' positive development. Sure, some folks are too ruined from trauma or via a defense mechanism (or timidity) and can't be reached - at least at that point. But, even the most incorrigible person can become golden.

Check out the history of Malcolm X. As a low-life criminal tossed into prison, he became, perhaps, the most eloquent of teachers. I've seen it happen, over and over. It happened to me! It can happen to anyone!

Question #10. An estimated 90,000 prisoners were mass-released in the 1905 Russian Revolution. Over 1.5 million more were set free following the 1953 amnesty declared in post-Stalin Russia. How would society outside the walls best receive a mass release today here in amerika?

Answer to question #10. They'd be overwhelmingly mortified! We're real close to the situation here in America, so we may not see this country as a whole, maybe like other people do. The brainwashing and fear-mongering from media and government, schools, etc. is unrelenting and has been since the beginning. Prisoners are "the bad guys" and most people don't want to know about their situation and don't care about any type of relief. Again, they've been severely maleducated.

Remember when the U. S. was ramping up to unleash genocide in Iraq (the most recent one in 2003)? Well, Saddam Husein released almost all of his prisoners, who, like the prisoners here in the U.S. were "political" prisoners. The people

were overjoyed. That bum Colin Powell, then Defense Secretary to Bush II, called the move "political." Yeah, it was political! It was also smart because those released prisoners formed the bulwark against the occupying U.S. "coalition" forces. They willingly gave their lives to defend their country. 18

Of course, the people whose family members were mass-incarcerated feel a lot more realistically about their loved ones in prison and sure, want them released. But, that's not how the U.S. government does things, is it? I remember visiting Ali Khalid Abdullah in Trenton prison. He was very ill and his wife and others tried to get him a "compassionate release" to die among those who loved him. Did it happen? Shit, no! So, until the outside support for prisoners is really ramped up in this country, nothing good is going to happen. Only when the government is very desperate, will this idea even surface in their thinking.

Sure, a few brave caring people will be thrilled if such a mass release happens, but where is the "safety net?" Hell, this country can't even take care of people on the "outs!" Mental health sufferers, shell-shocking veterans, the homeless, so-called "minorities" - whole huge areas of cities - these people can't get any relief. And when prisoners are released (after serving draconian sentences, often for piddly "crimes") they face a society that has nothing for them, except laws that basically insure that they will become recidivists.

So, until the "revolution" has advanced significantly, such a scenario is but a pipe dream and would be a death sentence to many of them. Let's remember, this virulently racist society is armed to the gills and most of these weapons are in the hands of the police-adoring crowd. I'd love to see mass release of prisoners amidst joyous reunions, but until people get a helluva lot more busy organizing and educating, there's no chance - at least not yet! This doesn't mean we should be bummed out and slacken our efforts. Who saw the explosion in the street of 2020 coming? So, work hard every day and be prepared for things to move quickly, some day, hopefully in the not too distant future.

Question #11. How could we deal with crimes committed against us in a society with no more prisons? (Can you list any alternatives?)

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Answer to question #11. This is a very good question! We know that incarcerating an individual in this brutal system only pours gas on the problem and (usually) makes things worse for not only that prisoner, but society in general. Sometimes, people gain a consciousness while in prison and come out the better for it and do positive things, once out. They sort of slip through the cracks. But, without a job, housing, money, food, even family support for many, serious education - it is extremely difficult.

Earlier, I spoke of the Native Americans and their society of consensus decision-making and "leaders" who could be genuinely expected to do right by her or his people. Of course, some groups were terrible or bad. But, did these enlightened societies treat aberrant behavior by encaging them? No, they didn't. The idea was to treat them with care and love and help them transcend their criminal tendencies. It's kind of like drug abuse. You can treat them horrible and things get worse. Or you can treat them sanely and they have a chance at returning to the community in good stead. OK, here's some alternatives to aberrant behavior that have those same goals of returning these people into normal society.

Humane and much more effective methods of helping people return to society, after veering off into criminality include: ostracism, denunciation, payments in some form by the wrongdoer to his victim(s), persuasion, education, social pressure, non-compulsory therapy, the help of friends and neighbors, non-collaboration and nonviolent resistance. It's like they suffer from COVID-19. They need special care.

All of these methods hold within them the idea that the goal is not to consider these people irredeemable! The whole point is to get them back to where they belong - not to throw them in a cage, located in some out of the way hellhole and throw away

the key, which is what happens here. These methods are about love, redemption and a quick return to a forgiving and encouraging society, much like a loving family tries to do when one of their children (or a parent) goes astray, somehow. 20

The sad reality is that this society is coercion-based so that those in wealth and power can stay that way and those who chafe at such a dreadful system are made to suffer horribly, as an example to those contemplating not toeing the line, but rather, meekly be exploited their whole lives only to see their children suffer. "*Land of the free and home of the brave*" is bullshit!

See why government so hates genuine education? Yeah! It can be dangerous because once hipped to reality, peoples' basic humanity has a chance to unfetter itself and compels that now enlightened individual to rebel against "normal" life. It's now time to rage against the machine!" So, yeah! A great measure of genuine rehabilitation is the level of dedication by that once offender, against the system that has warped him and harmed all of those around him. It's now time to deal with the *real* criminals!

Answer to question #12. Well, I look back at the sixties when a lot of people were conscious to a much more unified degree against the U.S. government, which was waging genocidal war in Vietnam and harsh repression, here at home. What was the government freaking out about? They raided progressive bookstores, implemented COINTELPRO against serious opposition, such as the Black Panthers, tried to sow divisiveness and lies and so forth. They did not want people to become educated to the reality of how the government operates.

When the Pentagon Papers came out, which were written by government employees, they went after those who leaked them. Same thing these days. Chelsea Manning, Eric Snowden and Jeremy Hammond exposed what the government was doing in Iraq and the U.S. using the governments' own documentation!!! The "crime" was not the hundreds of thousands of people being hideously murdered or otherwise oppressed, but those with the courage to expose it!

So, they fear people being made aware of their insatiable bloodlust, greed and lie-based evil. I call it "crossing the fear line." Once you gain a certain level of consciousness, you come to an epiphany. You can't go back and be unknowing of the ways of government, anymore. Your conscience won't let you play the fool, anymore. You must **act!** You overcome your fear and trepidation and start learning just how wonderful a **21** freedom-loving life can be. You meet wonderful people and learn while doing positive, life-affirming things for those around you, elsewhere in the community, even across the country and world. You've become your true self and stop self-policing yourself into timidity.

Look! We've all done things we regret and wasted time due to lack of self-respect and proper education. But, life goes on and it's incredible, once you resolve to "do the right thing" how exhilarating and beautiful your life can be, once dedicated to truth, freedom and genuine justice. Life is in the present. We can't change the past, but we can live full lives in the present, going into the future and build a life that others are grateful to have run across. Let's do it! The hourglass is running low...

Question #13. According to the World Health organization, approximately 70,000 people commit suicide every year. What should everyone mentally suffering right now intimately come to understand?

Answer to question #13. Well, this subject is one that I am intimately familiar with. I come from a big family and I was smack dab in the middle of a family of seven. My brother just younger than me, Leland, was pushed through the "mental health" system starting at about age seventeen. He was hospitalized at Michael Reese, brutalized and shipped off to a place in Washington D.C. where he was institutionalized for several years, until about age 24. He was diagnosed with schizophrenia, addicted to horrific drugs, electro-shocked and physically assaulted.

When he returned, he lived in a halfway house for several months, and then he moved into my house for a few years. Like many such people, he became heavily addicted to cigarette smoking, which eventually overtook him at age 62. All the other members of our family pretty much turned their back on him. Our Mother had become a psychologist at Michael Reese! She was from the mainstream school and signed off on this brutal regimen for him. Lee finally got section 8 housing nearby, as I had remarried. He lived with another brutalized man in a rather dangerous apartment complex. I tried to help him as much as I could. A few years later, he even married. I was his best man. His wife was similarly tenderized and vulnerable. They couldn't really work and their SSI money was meager. They ended up addicted to gambling, mostly by stupid lottery tickets. 22

They were under the "care" of the psychiatry industry and he was a sort of a guinea pig to an unscrupulous psychiatrist, in the administering of new, dangerous and powerful drugs.

Before his lifelong nightmare, he and I were sent to a shrink to get us to stop smoking pot - as if *that* was our problem! The shrink didn't care, which was a sort of positive. Look at how weed is viewed these days! It is "*medicinal!*" Of course, we knew that all along.

Anyway, they got divorced, he moved to another couple, few places and they both ended up permanent residents of "nursing homes." I tried to be a real brother to him, but it was not enough. He needed real friends, real comrades and real help from his other family members, which he rarely ever got.

So, people labeled as "mentally ill" need the support of friends and family and most certainly *not* from the psychiatry racket and their horrific "treatments." They need to know and genuinely feel from those around them that they are loved and their fears and confusion is not some sort of disease or failing of their life. It is actually a sane reaction to the insane and brutal treatment they have been subjected to, in the name of "treatment."

Read R.D. Liang and you'll understand what I am saying. The thiorazine, stelazine and myriad other horrible drugs they were

purposely addicted to destroys the minds' ability to function, really. As well, they combine with nicotine in such a way as to make tobacco addiction basically impossible to quit, and actually makes them smoke it much more than a normal 23 smoker would.

People in this vulnerable condition need to have friends around them who have their best interests at heart and who are willing to look after them and prevent them from going through such a psychological, drug-drenched money-making endless hell that the system subjects them to.

Your brain is a primary part of your body. When it seemingly malfunctions, it does not deserve to be bludgeoned. Say you broke your leg. Would you feed your body with mind-melting drugs??? Nope. You'd need it set and with proper therapy, work it back to a functional state. The same holds true with "mental illness." Their lives most certainly matter as much as anybody else. They need treatments that will actually *help* their brains overcome dysfunction, as much as possible. They need tender loving care and personalized attention. They needed to be treated as equals. They need to not be menaced and marginalized by society. They need their pain and suffering lessened - not increased by their interactions with others.

Nowadays, most "mental health patients (victims)" are harshly incarcerated in regular prisons. This is the most hideous "treatment" possible. This whole social nightmare is another big reason why the whole system needs to be overthrown and a sane, humanistic, de-centralized anarchist approach created to deal with this and every other social, psychological, physical, mental, economic and environmental problem. Reality needs to be totally rethought and dealt with, with genuine healing and support being paramount. I think about Lee every day and can still hear his desperate, pleading voice, beseeching me to help him.

Question #14. What are economic alternatives to the current dog-eat-dog capitalism running amok that we can use today and for the post-capitalist society we're organizing to build?

Answer to question #14. What's the matter? Billionaires and beggars, endless wars and Earth literally melting down, is not doing it for you? How do voluntary collectives sound? People working together for a common purpose, sort of like a well-run family. Everyone shares the fruits of their labor and has their basic needs met. Sounds like "socialism" right? Yes! Technology could be harnessed to meet real needs instead of weapons of mass destruction. People could be legitimately educated instead of brainwashed and lied to all their lives. 24

If unfettered from coercive authority, incredible opportunities would arise to enjoy life, be creative, help self and others and pursue one's talents and interests, which would benefit all of humanity. Real global problems could be meaningfully addressed without shoving all the talent, time and energy into some bastard's profit-making scheme.

The Spanish Revolution of the 1930's gave us a glimpse of how such cooperative efforts would work. The first thing they did was empty the prisons and make them storage facilities for various goods. Services for food and other needs were streamlined and offered freely, most especially to those most in need. Workers had their economic and social needs based through their unions (syndicalism.) Popular and accountable representatives were sent to deliberate and work on problems, subject to frequent recall. The "means of production" were in the hands that actually did the work - without bloodthirsty Bolshevik types lording over them. It was a lot of work and responsibility, especially since the fascists, the communists and the alleged "democratic" governments were all at their throats. But for a brief time, it was what real liberation is all about!

It gave us a blink at what real people power can do. These days, there are "autonomous zones" all over the world. Even amidst such endless tyranny. Wouldn't it be amazing to see all coercive authority melt away and let basic human instincts and creativity finally have a chance to grapple with our suffering world? Is it actually possible to save this enchanted planet? I'd say, it is certainly worth any and all efforts to that goal we can make! What's the phrase? "Think global and work local."

Question #15. What are some examples where oppressed people were overthrowing the government successfully through an Anarchist revolution?

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Answer to question #15. Maybe I should have read all the questions first before I commenced to answer them, eh? Well, the Russian Revolution had a huge anarchist component. Néstor Mahkno and his anarchist armies and communities did tremendous work throughout the Ukraine and Caucasus before being bludgeoned to death by the Leninists. Spain brought forth a glorious example, before Franco, Mussolini, Hitler and Stalin murdered them by the million. Subcomandante Marcos and his group the Zapatistas fought the Mexican government and their U.S. masters and turned all of the province of Chiapas into an autonomous zone that exists to this day!

There are anarchist groups in Nigeria, South Africa and in every country of the world, who have set up areas of cooperative, anarchist-driven zones and collectives. Sure, we don't know much about them, as any and all governments don't want people to know about them, and some may react brutally if these areas of liberation were known to them. But, we have the internet these days. People can google any subject and find out what enlightened people are doing. There are videos and books and zines and music that explain what anarchists are up to. It is incumbent upon us to seek out this information. For, just as marijuana was so demonized for so long, but it is now a miracle "medicine" so too is the very idea of anarchism. Weirdly, we're the "bad guys." But, those are like Trump - endless lies. Do your research and see where it takes you! There's a world to win!

Question #16. What are fundamental tactics of guerrilla warfare every freedom fighter should know?

Answer to question #16. Well, I'll tell ya. That's a hard question. Guerrilla and freedom fighter are sort of buzz words. They mean different things to different people. I pretty much understand what you are getting at. However, I must confess,

I'm no expert on guerrilla warfare. I've read various accounts by those who were actual guerrillas, but I don't feel as if I'm someone knowledgeable about this subject. For, I have to admit, I am not someone who has gone anywhere near those desperate straits. 26

I understand the importance of knowing how to function under such societal duress, but I haven't been there, myself. I'm just lucky, I guess. I "struggle" amidst the "battlefield of ideas" instead of actual armaments. But, I would say those compelled to take such activities, that the anarchist principle of affinity groups will stand them in good stead. Dangerous operations necessarily need a tight bond between those directly involved. You cannot allow the chance that an infiltrator, government snitch or whatever, will compromise those involved. Some societal situations demand such a response. Look at Cuba! A dozen or two revolutionaries were able to escape a brutal dragnet and spearhead a country-wide revolution. How could this happen? The country was supremely ready for such a thrust.

Perhaps the most impressive example of "guerrilla warfare" was waged by the amazing "Viet Cong" in South Vietnam. They took on the gestapo-esque U.S. military and whipped them, totally! Fearlessness, attention to detail, rigorous community connectedness were vitally essential. A history of struggle against centuries-long invasive forces, set the tone.

In America, these types of examples are very rare, except for the native nations. Brainwash has been ultra-saturating. Many people do not realize what their true best interests are or where their sympathies should lay. Guerrillas need pretty much total support from the community. This cannot be guaranteed in the country we now live in. Other methods of struggle seem to me to be more immediately important than armed struggle against the government.

There are various levels of struggle, such as physical, meaning armed struggle and to me, more importantly these days, psychological. Is it the sword or the pen? Well, we would need both, but to get to a physical victory, you first need to set the table. You need the pen. You need people to know what is truly

at stake here, otherwise there is no focus, but rather, isolation from the people and annihilation by a ruthless and well-armed adversary.

Guerrillas can lose every battle, yet win the war. But, certain conditions have to be met. What Fidel & Che accomplished in Cuba, did not work in Bolivia. As much as it would be wonderful to see a successful anarchist-led revolution succeed, here in the U.S., it's not going to happen due to the intense earnestness of a few conscious individuals. ²⁷

Let's look back a year or two. 2020 saw an enormous uptick of social activism, across the country. Portland went to war every single night for several months. What do they have to say? There are opportunities here. I'm Joe Egghead. What are the 'rads on the streets, sayin'? Make yourself useful to your community and go from there.

Question #17. What kind of individuals do you feel the world is in dire need of today?

Answer to question #17. The people in this world are fine! They have the capability to make things right. For pretty much their entire lives, they have been manipulated to believe things that do not ring true to their real being. All people have natural empathy towards others and a hope and dream that people everywhere are happy, well cared for and given a fair chance in life. The vile brainwash that drives the capitalist ethos is quite unrelenting and starts pretty much as soon as one is born.

When people face severe hardships, they necessarily take on a mindset that upchucks all the preconceived garbage and focuses on what needs to be done to deal directly with the crises at hand. Sadly, most people do not come to this level of clarity and selfless action, until the problems they and their communities are forced to deal with, are pretty much beyond salvaging. So, the fascists will destroy them because they were too late in implementing an anarchist response of genuine and effective resistance. Sad, but oh so too often true!

So, I still believe that transforming anarchist insight is

seriously necessary to help folks struggle through the mis and mal education they have been saturated in, their whole lives. They must come to the realization that to save the world, the evil systems must be stopped and replaced by a genuinely free society of caring, thinking and doing people. It's a beyond difficult possibility. But, isn't life itself such a stretch? Who else is going to have a chance at making things right? It's all up to us! All we can do is try our best. Luckily, we get to stand on the shoulders of giants, who have faced similar dilemmas in the past. We cannot be afraid or downcast. We must try our damndest! Our voice and actions matter to those next!

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Question #18. If farmers in the rural area would be able to aid our community with donatable harvest, what are some things (including Time-Banking) that'd be particularly resourceful that worker co-ops in the city could provide through Mutual Aid? What are folks in rural Chicagoland generally in need of at the moment?

Answer to question #18. Well, I'm not a farmer, myself. I have worked with many in Will and Kankakee Counties, fighting off government intrusions such as a massive unneeded airport, a privately-owned tollroad and a regional immigration detention prison complex. As well, the folks in Hopkin's Park (a black farming community in Kankakee County) also had to fight off a women's prison, touted to "uplift" their community.

Starting with the folks in Hopkin's Park. Now, they are quite progressive (except the Mayor, Police Chief and a Preacher.) These three were in favor of a women's prison - and they were the only three. Jesse Jackson chimed in from Chicago trying to encourage them to accept the prison, which they refused to do. Later, they were menaced as a site for the regional immigration prison. The authorities had gotten to the point of putting down a \$1 million foundation for the women's prison, before they had to pull the plug.

As I said, these folks are progressive! They had people come from Cuba to help teach them methods of organic farming, not using harmful chemical fertilizers. Some farmers provided

vegetables for city activists, when we put on a Prison Abolition Conference, held in Chicago that lasted 3 days. Also, every summer they put on a sort of festival they call "Marcus Garvey Days." So these people would be perfect to outreach to. 29

Other (mostly so-called "white") farmers out here couldn't be considered very "progressive" but they did come up with many interesting tactics, while fighting off the airport and tollway. After decades of attempting to impose these unwanted behemoths, they still have yet to build anything, although at one point Jesse Jackson, Jr. bussed a group down and turned a symbolic few shovels of dirt.

Many of these farm towns put on farmer's markets once a week and some would be willing to help provide fresh produce to our brothers and sisters in the city.

At one point in challenging the state of Illinois over the airport proposal, we suggested that, on the property already confiscated for it, could be better used as an agricultural college, where children from the city could come down and learn sustainable farming methods.

So, I could see an opportunity for skills sharing of farming methods and organic farming knowledge could and would be very beneficial to those in the city. They could start their own freedom gardens! How do we take care of the land in a sustainable manner, from year to year? How are we to use water to irrigate crops in such a way that does not pollute the water or the land? How do we get these groups to learn from and get to know each other in a solidarity-minded manner?

There's an enormous amount of talent and vibrancy to be learned from people living in Chicago. Quality, healthy food is a basic need of everybody. These connections would be beneficial to all involved! It takes outreach, much like organizing these people into a powerful grassroots group to help them fight for their farms and farming communities, for many years running. I'd be glad to be a conduit for just such a project!

Question #19. What's your brief political assessment of Chicago & its surrounding suburbs right now?

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Answer to question #19. Well, we're all still stuck with various levels of authoritarian rule. Private property creates homeless and hungry people, everywhere, including the suburbs. Churches trade off nightly to house the homeless. They were even sleeping in the post office building in Homewood, but have since been shooed off. People still struggle to make enough money to buy their children food and pay bills. Police are ubiquitous and the laws are written to support the already rich.

But, things are not all bad! More and more grassroots groups are taking form and dealing with local issues with an emboldened attitude. I would say it is a sort of flexing of political muscle after the country-wide upheaval of protests and activity in the wake of George Floyd's murder, up in Minneapolis.

Look at Portland, Oregon! For months, every single night they battled the police and their fascist buddies in the streets! A whole new level of mutual aid was needed for dealing with the victims of tear gas, beatings, jailings, etc.

Early on, when the authorities were being overwhelmed, they talked of making minor concessions, but rarely actually did or they just reneged, as things calmed down. The reaction has sort of set in. Right-wing pro-police candidates are trying to mock and lie about what Black Lives Matter and other groups were saying. There is a newfound boldness in the hearts of our young people and this bodes very well for the future.

Yeah, they're trying to squelch black voters, but we've gone past merely worrying about which schmoe is elected to some local or national office. We want fundamental change! We want genuine equality and real freedom, not some damn law words that are ignored or soon obfuscated. We must learn to be totally self-sufficient and not rely whatsoever on the government to see the changes in our lives and our communities. That's the beauty

of Anarchism. We are not out to rule over anybody! We want to help facilitate the flowering of people in non-exploitative relationships with each other and our surroundings. Like a wild forest, trees, plants, water animals - all live in a marvelous synergy. It doesn't mean there are not dangers. Predators exist but the reality is *sustainable!* Everything living or dead or inorganic is not something to be exploited by the greedy few or heartless corporations! We are at a very crucial time, on Earth.

Question #20 Are there any parting thoughts you'd like to share with the Committee?

Answer to question #20. Yes! Our problems are quite serious and are crying out for practical, lasting solutions. But, we can still live, learn, love and enjoy our journey through life. Anarchist ideas are applicable no matter what you are doing or who you are with. It's a selfless way of thinking and doing. It helps the soul to treat people with respect and work shoulder to shoulder with them on whatever is being dealt with. Doing good things for others helps *you!*

By doing things with awareness and alacrity, you revel in the experience of shared struggle. The day-to-day interactions form the fabric of our understanding and bring us friendships and pleasant memories. You do someone a good turn, often they will come back at you when you need them to.

Years ago, when I started out with this educational project, I was a sort of "Lone Wolf McQuade" - even to my immediate family. Now, I've learned a lot of things, people know about me all over the country, DePaul University carries my whole archive and sends zines to prisons. I'm appreciated for what I can provide (mainly zines to prisoners) and am more-or-less accepted for what I am - a hardworking, kind, intelligent grandpa who also happens to be a serious anarchist.

Let's Organize The 'Hood!



Black Autonomy Federation

The ideas of the present Let's Organize the 'Hood-BLACK AUTONOMY FEDERATION (BAF) go back to 1994, when the Black Autonomy Collective was created in Atlanta, GA, by seven black college students and five community activists. The collective soon spread to ten other cities in the U.S. and Canada and eventually involved several hundred people.

We believe that poor and working class people of African descent are the ones who can free us – not traditional civil rights leaders or politicians.

South Chicago ABC

Zine Distro

P.O. Box 721

Homewood, IL 60430

