Please Elaborate

A 3 – Part Interview Series on Anthony Rayson

Conducted By: Coyote and Abigail (2008)

Comrade, first and foremost I extend my greetings of solidarity and respect to you and to your family and loved ones, always. Well Anthony, my dear, true and sincere comrade, I hope you don't mind, but I've noticed that it's been a while since you've put any new literature of your own out. I know and understand this is because you've been busy putting other people's zines together.

So, if it's alright with you, I've come to pick your brain, once again. If I can, I would like to try to dig deeper into the political abyss of your brilliant mind.

This is a written interview, so it gives you a chance to take your time and to do some study and research before answering these questions. So please take full advantage of this opportunity and use it as an avenue to produce new, serious and effective literature.

As you can see, the name of this interview series is called "Please Elaborate." Which I guess is a nice way to say "don't half-ass the question!" (smile) I don't mind doing serious interviews on serious comrades because it gives me the chance to bring out the best in people, and I understand I'll get good answers if I ask good questions, so I'm here to help raise the level of awareness and to contribute in any way I can. This is going to be a 3 – part interview series, the second part will come after this one is done and will have follow up questions to some of the answers you provide in this interview, along with other questions that we'll want to ask.

I really liked your 2007 "Free The Slaves" zine and I appreciated the answers to the questions Eric Smith asked you in the #7 series of "Each One, Teach One" especially the part on page 6, where you said, "Mostly, society hasn't embraced the ideas of anarchism because they haven't been explained well enough. They haven't been propagated at all effectively." That's real talk, my friend, so I hope this interview series will give you 3 chances to do just that. I want to dig deep into your mind, Bro, and I realize that it's going to take more than just one interview to do that I respect you and regard you in the highest of esteem and find you to be highly intellectual and politically (and radically) conscious of real life issues from the outs to the insides of these gulags.

I can't take all the credit for these questions, cuz a few of them are questions that Abigail from Burning River wanted me to ask you as well. But if it's not too much to ask, I would like you to get guerilla on this interview and take enough time to put a lot of thought, heart and dedication into your answers. I'm looking for a clear and true anarchist perspective of life, compassion and politics. I want to bring out the best in you, so do your thing and shine like the sun!

This is part 1 of this interview. The date is June 27th, 2008.

#1) I will start out with a somewhat "lightweight" question just to get you warmed up, even though I know you stay ready, so I wouldn't doubt it if you get deep and philosophical with your answer, but I would like you to elaborate in your own words, the Anthony Rayson definition of respect? Please elaborate.

Answer:

Respect is defined as: *"act of looking back, giving particular attention, consideration, particular, detail, concerning."* It's the attention to detail of life. It's the mastery of oneself to his or her surroundings. You deal in reality. You give *everything* its proper respect! Have a sensitivity to all the life and circumstances around you. Have a healthy respect for danger and a deep understanding of why things are the way they are and give proper respect to the reality and approximate an appropriate response to it. Help keep others from danger, intervene if they are in danger and otherwise work at having them thrive in your company. Pass on loving thoughts and strong ideas! Be yourself, react in real time to situations and be square with people.

Respect your own soul to know what the best way to look at some dilemma is. But, be in tune enough to change your mind, based on the sound argumentation from another person. Admit to yourself – and others – when you fail by getting lazy and being mean or stupid or something.

Respect is an unequivocal toleration for others but also the presence of mind to hear them out and respond to them with intelligent thought pertinent to what they have just said. It's a special gallantry towards *LIFE!* Inanimate objects are just that – things! They may be important but by themselves they can do nothing. It is all about how the dominant animals on Earth (humans) control everything down to human relations and thinking and how best we can help change the suicidal course this coercive society is on. It's living in your own realm of self-created humanity and not being poisoned by the cacophony of madness and hope-crushing thinking so prevalent around us. It's guiding (not goading) yourself to be good. Doing the right thing is rewarded by love and respect – the ultimate gift we are energized from.

Hey! Sometimes you just don't click with someone or something was

misinterpreted or got too heated or somehow ruined. OK. Respect that person enough to just forget trying to work with them. Don't badmouth them. Move on, don't get down and find other people. And again, man up and apologize if you were the dunderhead that screwed the relationship up.

We have to discover our humanity and put ourselves in the mix of society. We're highly social animals. We want and need and can only really thrive in groups. We should care about each other's needs and feelings first and foremost – especially those who have the biggest needs. That's showing respect for who we are – humanity! Once you cultivate this instinctual caring behavior – like all infants display – it can become a perpetual motion machine of how you live. Simply apply this attitude to other individual and group. Treat other creatures around you with this softly tread respect. Like the Native American respect for Turtle Island, it is appropriate to take on a calm, unafraid awareness and resolve for nature and the future.

What you can't respect is a lack of respect. Nothing demonstrates a lack of respect worse than coercive authority. Forcing someone to do something through intimidation, lies &/or violence is what all governments heavily lean on for their existence and perpetuation. We're taught to obey authority without question and bullies use these same tactics to coerce people into doing things they otherwise would not do. You can't "respect" power. You can only distain it! You respect those who "fight for the little guy.

Respect is like alacrity in your dealings with others, in conversations and so forth. It's important to show others you highly respect *yourself* by saying what you will be doing and doing what you said you would – in relation to those particular people. No one else has to know a thing about it. When you follow through on something for someone it shows them respect – for not lying to them and for respecting yourself enough to have it together enough to go through with whatever – *especially with alacrity!*

Alacrity is that extra special flair that takes that project to another level – in lickety-split time! It's that electric shock up and down your spine you feel when you read something marvelous and it opens new passageways in your wondrously expansive brain. It's a smile and a laugh and a talking to yourself while you're rereading what you just read. It's a Michael Jordan move in relation to the literature of understanding. It's respect with a capital "R!"

Respect is making long thought out decisions about how to spend your time – how to *manage* your time. Alright, respect is demonstrated solidarity and a willingness to engage in work-intensive yet potentially fruitful, mutual aid. Teaching yourself how to maximize your effectiveness in accomplishing these goals shows you have respect for the minutes and hours of your life and those of the people you associate with. People can feel this respect of yours to "the cause" even if they don't hear from you in a while and even if you

have certain disagreements. A mere mention of that respectful person sends a flood of memories and positive respect-infused dealings with that person in the past. How you appreciate to be treated is a good guide for your behavior.

It's a consistency and a doggedness but it's not an ego driven thing. It may seem like it to some, but they don't try to understand it or feel it – just dis it. Maybe they feel disrespected because they're not part of it. But you've got to make the connections yourself. They don't fall from the sky. Respect that person by overtly engaging them in conversation with that person. Go visit them. Call them. Write them. Question them. Even dropping a note blowing them off is better than nothing! 4

Sounds great, right? Problem is we're all damaged goods, some thrown together like worms in a box! Our whole lives we've been abused and lied to, mis-educated and threatened. How is anyone supposed to trust anyone to "respect" them? The way I see it, we're all human and we all feel the same way and all want the same things. We want to live freely, love our families, not be slaves and help contribute to a sustaining, fair and just society. Yet, we're thrown in a sick society of predators, inside and outside of uniform (military or regular suits). Being in survival mode, makes it kind of tough to trust somebody outside your own set. So, for me, showing respect translates into speaking as plainly and truthfully as possible about the concerns we all daily face. I try to make it freely available without stipulations.

I show respect by spitting in the face of our common enemies and throwing my arms around my comrades and squeezing their chests into mine! I show it by spending countless hours, weeks and months working on complicated projects with brilliant writers, making tons of copies and spreading their work around far and wide to places they are astounded to hear from! I take my claims of who I audaciously proclaim myself to be, dead seriously! That's showing respect for *myself*. Where most driven people go wrong is that this high sense of self is poisoned by the search for money, power and fame. Your ultimate prize is gaining the "respect" from an ever increasing number of people. If you die, the respect stays and maybe even grows!

Durruti had respect! He wasn't "famous." He was infamous! The poor loved him. The rich, the church and the military hated him! He had respect for social revolution! He respects his beliefs and lived them out.

So, life is a process of endless reincarnations. We must constantly recalibrate ourselves wash out the bad influences and reinvigorate our dedication to living each day with a respectful awareness that prompts many conscious efforts that teach lessons to others by the mere doing of them.

For example, a few weeks ago a neighbor and I came up with this idea to "Clean up the Toe Jam in the Footprint." We'd organize a bunch of neighbors to help us clean up all kinds of trash along the roads in our area

and the creeks. We wanted to raise a bunch of issues concerning the Peotone Airport that we're fighting out here and that good citizens take care of their community, not destroy it (like the state of Illinois is trying to do to us.) It ended up we got 30 people out to help us. The township road crew came out – as did a representative from our enemies at the state "Compound!" The Green Candidate for Congress came out and helped us, too! We picked up three truckloads of trash of all kinds and dredged two creeks. It was hot, sweaty work, but we were all showing respect! We were serving as a role model for our fellow citizens. It wasn't a "government" thing. WE put the government guy to work! It cost nothing! Later, the township guys thanked us for saving them an enormous amount of money that it would have cost, had they had to do the work, themselves. 5

It's not just bitchin' or flexing your muscles or having a wad of cash or a bunch of fancy things to say. It's actually doing things that people need help doing because you enjoy *earning their respect* and seeing things get accomplished. It's personal. You respect yourself enough not to be ashamed or intimidated. You can be the way you want. You don't have to guard anything. You take things as they come. Don't hesitate to take the bull by the horns. Never be satisfied with anything. You and everything you do can always be improved. Respect the time you have while alive.

#2) Okay, okay, are you warmed up now? Are you ready to take the interview to another level? Okay, I want you to take your time and read chapter 9 of Alexander Berkman's *ABC's of Anarchism*. Chapter 9 is entitled "Preparation." Then, write me a written explanation on how you think we can start taking action right now to better prepare ourselves. I'd like you to write your own thoughts in your own words, but keep it in the spirit and theme of what Alex Berkman is talking about. Please elaborate.

Answer:

So, this is a sort of open book essay test, eh? Ok. Berkman wrote this I believe in 1927 or thereabouts – between the Russian Revolution and the Spanish Civil War. His point here is the main part of the "revolution" comes after the fighting is over. I'll quote what I think is his main point in this chapter.

If your object is to secure liberty, you must learn to do without authority and compulsion. If you intend to live in peace and harmony with your fellow-men, you and they should cultivate brotherhood and respect for each other. If you want to work together with them for your mutual benefit, you must practice co-operation. The social revolution means much more than the reorganization of conditions only: it means the establishment of new

He says that the "workers" are the main movers but "brain workers" are important as are technicians, doctors, and even those from the bourgeoisie who have forsaken their class comforts and privileges to follow their moral understandings and have cast their lot with the downtrodden and contributed their efforts to the cause. Is that about right?

Conditions are vastly different than they were in the twenties. The "workers" can no longer be broken down as industrial proletariat (cities) and farm workers (peasants.) Everybody in the whole world is subject to the dictates of the coercive authority of capitalism and their vicious governments – except the few who pull the levers of the system. What I think we need to do is educate ourselves intensely about present day reality, recent history, how others are living and what we need to learn how to do to function without the modern day amenities such as electricity, grocery stores, running water, cars and so forth. We need to learn skills and become self-sufficient.

Personally, I think it is of vital importance to feel the first few words of the Berkman quote. We need to get to the point of giving a damn as much for the liberty of others as we do for our own liberty. In fact, our own liberty is incomplete unless everyone else enjoys that same amount of liberty. Our liberty is only as real as that experienced by the lowest of the low – those starving, being murdered &/or incarcerated. So, seeing as our liberty is so false really, we can only enjoy it by striving to help others acquire the liberty that is rightfully theirs. Otherwise, you're suppressing your conscience.

When the Spanish representative went to Moscow in the early 20's to determine whether the Spanish socialists (anarchists) should join the Bolshevik orchestrated International organization, he asked Lenin, "Where's the liberty?" Whereupon, Lenin replied: "Liberty? What for?" So, a major understanding we need to be clear about is that Marxism is not about liberty or freedom or cooperation. It is state capitalism under the false guise of "scientific socialism." Marxist communism is neither scientific, nor "socialistic" but rather, horrifically totalitarian and monstrous. They have done a very good job, comparatively, of railing against capitalism and even fighting capitalism, but if and when they have succeeded, they have erected as horrible or worse an oppressive state as they tore down.

So, we not only have to watch what the capitalists of the world are doing to our minds and bodies but also what the fellow resisters are scheming on doing – work with us to depose capitalism and then erect a hideous state of their own, where the anarchists become the next victims of torture and murder. Those aspiring to statehood rely on lies and murder – mass crimes!

An anarchist prisoner recently wrote to share a few observations and to request a favorite zine that the goons had stolen from him, namely, *The Last Act of the Circus Animals* by Travis Washington & Sean Swain. He said:

"The best way to change the peoples' thinking is to change their literature." Man! I couldn't agree more! This to me is the number one job we need to do as a prerequisite of any kind of successful social revolution – change peoples' thinking and therefore, their behavior.

When Franco launched his evil assault on the people of Spain, many were ready, willing and able to rise up to stop him and his armies in their tracks. How were they able to do this with a highly developed anarchist consciousness – and promptly move right into social revolution and the creation of functioning cooperatives? Spain had a valiant anarchist history to draw from of decades of intense struggle. But they also had something we do not see in modern-day Amerika – countless anarchist newspapers, journals, magazines, pamphlets, books, coffee shops, book stores and so forth. Many people learned how to read and write by being taught with anarchist tracts! They had dedicated and brilliant writers, editors, publishers, orators and whoever it takes to spread the *written* word!

What do we have? We have scant few genuine anarchist writers and editors who actually give a damn about educating people about things they need to know, that they can relate to and access easily. We've got "anarchists" who riff off into esoteric tangents divorced from real life situations, thrilled to see their own gobbledy-gook, tied in knots writing, but really don't seem to care about those without liberty. We have emailers. We have next to nothing! So, until we get people who actually *feel* what the oppressed feel, work directly with them and help the oppressed get their own anarchist writing out there so people can be energized by it, we don't have much of a chance now do we? Good books are available, but are pricey.

Anybody can figure out how to use a copying machine. Anybody can try to write about what they are experiencing and get better at it to the point where they can create thrilling literature of the oppressed – if they really want to. Where is the will to do this? Where is the will to help facilitate this vitally important prerequisite to consciousness raising?

It's true that this society has scooped up all the really good nazi propagandists and psychological manipulators and torturers and so forth at the end of WWII and mixed in their home-grown fascist spin, but c'mon! People don't have to allow themselves to be so addicted by the idiot box or an ipod or a computer game, a movie or any of the other garbage used to turn their thinking brains into obedient mush! It's a contest of wills. Self-respect is all about resistance to this shit so you can begin to respect others and work with others turning people on to the dangerous truth!

So, until some real momentum is gathered in this field of genuine education, I don't see the point of even thinking about what we will do "after the revolution." For, if a "revolution" is launched under these unknowing conditions, the few who even attempt it will be easily crushed while the many stare on in blank apathy. Each individual has to go through a huge

process of transformation – from apathy and disinterest in the lives of self and others to one of acute concentration on the subject. We need to learn to *want* to do what people need to have done because it improves their liberty, thus our liberty, and yes, our sense of accomplishment and self-respect.

Must we continue to let these bastards brutalize and destroy the whole world just because we were afraid that our efforts wouldn't meet the approval of those the way we might have hoped? How utterly insane is that??? Don't be afraid of rejection or ridicule – or even of brutal suppression. Be afraid of not trying that's all. Try, get better, seek assistance and be a part of the international chain reaction of revolutionizing our relations with each other and disarming those who would factor into the equation of their profit-making a billion starving children and a doomed planet! Through struggle we find meaning and enduring relationships.

Preparation is an all the time thing. You need to be aware of every little sound inside and outside of your head. You can learn to anticipate situations and how to avoid bad situations, for yourself and others. Learn to be proactive in all activities and make yourself extremely useful at all times. These demonstrations of mutual aid have a lasting effect on those who witness &/or benefit from them and *become* the joy in life for those who perform them, especially in a timely manner that are genuinely needed to have been done. It's a joyful time doing things with people - and learning.

It's a form of love. You love someone (hopefully) they will love you back for it. It becomes a "win-win" type deal! Even if they don't seem to reciprocate or appreciate what you have done, it is still a demonstration of unconditional love as well as having needed to be have been done, anyway. How better to spend the moments and minutes, hours and days of your life? There will be plenty of time for you yourself to do whatever, in your own company. Find your real human voice and listen to what it says and follow through with your own instructions. Trust your innate humanity. Selflessness is a celebration of self after all (and a bird call to your mate!)

I guess you would like me to give a sort of instruction manual for how to proceed? Each person has to figure that out for themselves, really! I don't know what their particular talents and interests are! Whatever they are, pursue them diligently! If you want to sing, well then, sing! Keep your attention on what is truly happening around you, in your neighborhood, in your town, in this sicko country and around the world. Seek out the most concentrated and useful education on whatever field you feel the most need to understand thoroughly. Have an eye to pass whatever you find the most instructive and enthralling in order to pass it along to others – like prisoners passing zines! There's no shame in realizing others have valuable insight.

#3) Okay, okay, let's take it down a couple of notches. Here's 3 questions in one, Abigail asked me to include these in this interview.

What are your thoughts on:
1) College?
2) Television?
3) Professional Sports (and the hype surrounding them?)

Answer:

Hey, Coyote, that's a low blow. You get two points taken away for that! What's wrong with Abigail's questions? I like them! I know what you mean though – cut with the earnest crap, eh? You want me to be less shrill, write better and really jack it up, make you laugh and think and get hot and bothered. You want to be able to read this stuff to somebody else without them thinking its some boring bs. Ok! I'll try to hit the hole running.

College is like high school. I hated and loathed both acutely. I barely dragged my way through high school and I dropped out my second semester of college. A few years later, I went back for a semester. Twelve years later, I finished my associates degree, was valedictorian, told off the administration and the government in my address, almost had a fistfight with the president of the university, took an astronomy class and stopped doing college anymore since. It's a rather strange "academic career." I guess that's my attitude towards it. I certainly could take or leave it and I see what it has done to other people – given them a hoity-toity attitude, no real increase in any skills (unless you consider buckling under to the system a "skill.")

It's a way to keep people from 18 to say, 25 in confining dorms instead of collecting on the streets. It's a depressing bummer to be in college, in my opinion. But, it sure as hell is better than being in the military, being in prison or having a low wage-slave job. I hated to have to read and study boring textbooks when I could have been learning so much more useful stuff on my own! It was real depressing. At the time they should be flowering in their wildness, they're cheering for their school's colors. How morbid! They're getting real drunk and stupid on 3.2 beer, so they can get a degree to qualify for a low-level duck suit and tie job. They get to get their "yaya's" out before succumbing to becoming democrats or republicans. They're against the war and help spend college $ to do so! They may live near poor people and are "poor" themselves, but slowly become more detached from real people. They get "pc." They have to buckle under to pay back student loans and conform in various ways through school and forever after.

The good professors are drummed out and even the radical ones are full of "airs" and look down on street organizers and normal people. It spills into publishing. Only "approved" writers end up in various "radical" publishing houses and they treat the salt of the earth as if they don't exist! Boring, detailed and properly footnoted insomnia medication gets printed but not the explosive cry of revolt coming out of the gulags in real time! I blame the whole "academic" mindset that claims to be superior to the street taught

geniuses and poets and writers. To me, they are inferior because they don't talk like real people, but rather like people with pool cues stuck up their highbrow asses! They're in fact, inferior because people don't feel like throwing whatever it is in their hands down and exclaiming: "That's it! Rayson's fuckin' right! I ain't gonna be no slave no mo'!" It's what makes the gulag censor trolls so busy, not the academia stuff! Those guys went through college. I shoved my middle finger in the face of it my whole life! Fuck college! It sucks totally! That's not to say genuine education is bad. I'm sayin' that college is not genuine education, no matter what you "study." My best papers I got "F's" on! A diploma means nothing! Stupid as hell people have them and can't write their way out of a paper bag! Home schooled kids are every single one of them way smarter than even the "smartest" person who gets stuck going through school all the time. Don't believe me? I don't care if you believe me or not! I'll still say and write what I feel like and never worry that it isn't "vetted" or some such nonsense! Academia and even rad-lib types pooh-pooh what I say. Why would I care??? I don't have to conform to their rules or anybody's! I can just live, think, react and write. As long as I'm honest with myself, others who are capable of appreciating such a thing will give me my props. No one's ever even asked me to see my ½ assed associates degree nor have I ever been invited to hang out with other valedictorians from that school! It's because college is bogus and degrees mean nothing!

But that's me and how I feel. My son's going to college nowadays. He was smart. He did two years in one and now he'll be a junior in the fall. I went to college from August 1971 until the end of 1995 – over 24 years. And Stanton has the same "degree" as me after *one year!* Sheesh! He can handle dealing with mainstream stuff, I can't. He's not an anarchist. But his best friend is! His best friend is a Mexican national, a brilliant kid in his own right, who the goddam government is trying to deport. He's having trouble gaining entrance to a college because of his "status."

His other best friend is already dead – murdered by a cop two years ago! He didn't even get a chance at going to college or to even finish high school. Because a pig murdered him! What good did high school and college do for him? The whole town let such a situation occur without a real uproar. They're tame and acquiescent – products of the various institutions, prominent among them being the schooling system. It seems most kids who leave high school hate to read books. Thanks a lot, "education system!" So, it is up to us underground educators to give them the real deal, which of course, once they are exposed to it, they love it and crave it. That's what real education is capable of – turning kids on instead of off.

As for television, what Newton Minnow said decades ago still holds true. He said: "Television is a vast wasteland." Again, it doesn't have to be like this. It in all in who controls what is on it. Mostly, it's used to baby sit

people – little kids, prisoners, mental patients, regular patients, housewives, workers, people pumping their gas or buying their groceries... It's everywhere and every few minutes are a series of commercials to get people to buy junk. It hammers away on the Amerikan "ethic" of cow-like ignorance and obedience. The news gives you what the government wants you to get. Even cable is the same with a little titillation thrown in. All the "hot" shows feature cops, prosecutors, judges, lawyers and more cops. Such depressing and vile propaganda! They don't go near real news or strong, liberating ideas. It's a type of real strong addictive drug – like crack! They are everywhere too – in laundromats, at restaurants – even in some bathrooms!

Television is different in other countries. Even in Britain, the telly gives you more truth and reality than in the U.S. of Amnesia. Al Jazeera is never seen in the U.S. After all, they show genuine footage of what the U.S. military does to people. Since people can't afford to go out and be part of a real community, they must settle for a sedentary life of television watching. They get fat, less able to think usefully, and experience everything merely virtually. Their "opinions" are regurgitated from the fascist pundits they watch on TV. What could have been a marvelous media tool of education and culture has been dummy-downed to any number of idiotic "reality" shows. It's a deep reflection of the escapist consumerist "culture" here.

It beams out the bankruptcy of American life. Consider the insane coverage "Nipplegate" received as compared to say, the endless slaughter of hundreds of thousands of people in Iraq! Many people have a television on at all times – even during meals and while they sleep. Your brain atrophies because of it. It's a one-way bombardment of images and electrons that afterwards, your brain seeks not stimulating conversation and the attaining of insight from, but rather, merciful sleep. Once awake, the same dreary procession of work and TV repeats itself the next day all the way to your grave. One third of Americans can't find Iraq on a globe. 100% of these people watch a lot of television! Dylan (who was murdered by that pig) never watched television. He was 17 when he was killed and already a brilliant piano player. Not burning out on the idiot box really helped him develop his playing.

As for professional sports, I must say, I grew up rooting for Chicago teams – the Bears, White Sox, Bulls and to a lesser extent, the Blackhawks. My Dad was a big fan and got us kids into it. We also played a lot of sports games as kids, so it wasn't just watching all the time. I still follow the teams, usually listening on the radio some, reading the sports pages or watching the occasional game on TV. I have never paid for cable so guys like me are sort of squeezed out, which is fine by me! I'll be damned if I'm gonna pay for TV! I may not even buy the converter box by February of '09, so my analog 13" TV can get the (only) digital feed. I'll just not have one. I'll play tapes!

I don't buy any sports paraphernalia or take my kids to games. My kids aren't into sports at all, nor is their mother, although on occasion I sweet talk her into the bedroom to "watch" a basketball game with me now and then. It doesn't much matter to me what happens because I have no real stake in it like so many do. But, I think it is such a rip off for the fans. They pay an enormous amount of money and time and their "loyalty" but the players and owners don't return it. The players are overpaid and often surly and the whole thing is a corporate owned, money-making enterprise. It's hard to even get tickets to the games anymore. The big shots have corporate suites and everything is tied to a corporation – even the 7th inning stretch! 12

I remember when I was a kid. We went to the Sox games a lot. It was cheap and kind of fun. We'd sit with all kinds of other people and a sort of crowd roar and murmuring was a part of it. I remember all the cigar smoke and the guys hawking popcorn and hotdogs and stuff. Nowadays, you sit in these cookie cutter seats with Andy Frain guys watching your every move. It used to be like being in a gigantic saloon but now it's like being in detention.

I feel bad for the people that expend so much of their lives worrying about their teams. In the meantime, they're not living their own lives and have nothing to show for their life here on Earth. Some like to be buried in their team colors. The sportswriters are just as self-righteous as the dullards on the editorial pages. They drill into us all the "work ethic" which of course is "do your job and shut the fuck up about anything meaningful."

Recently, we are supposed to be so happy that Brian Urlacher got a bunch of more money. He's a stupid, surly prototype athlete of today. Like many, he can't get his personal life together and has never uttered an intelligent thing. But, who cares, right? He tackles guys and stupidly, many love him.

Sports are a huge means of keeping people from thinking about their situation or the human condition in general. Like TV and religion, etc. it acts as a sort of seconal for life. It's a substitute to help you forget how horrible everything really is and how truncated and messed up people all are. It gets you to the next day, which means, you get up and slave for the man again, come home and (if you're a guy especially) turn on the game or go drink with your buddies and watch it somewhere. Very, very few athletes are politically conscious or at all articulate about politics or anything outside of their own sport. It's pretty sad really.

But, it's really the only time people can get together to be together in large numbers. Of course, the government gets involved and tries to glom onto it such as inviting the winning teams to the White House or having the President throw out the first pitch of the season. They make a big deal of having their troops watch the games on occupied territory overseas and have the announcers fawn over their "service." Like any other public gathering, everybody is required to say the *Pledge of Allegiance*, first, before the game starts. Our "national pastime" comes with force-fed *foie de gras* patriotism!

Occasionally, a glimpse of humanity will tug at out heart strings and we all crave human interaction and the emotions of being social animals. Like television, sports are another way we can live vicariously seeing as we have so few opportunities to actually live real lives. So, over the water cooler, people can talk about Carlos Quentin's three run homer the night before – instead of the nuts and bolts of preparing for social revolution!

#4) A lot of good people that I talk to and consider to be good friends of mine, think that anarchism is the political philosophy that makes the most sense, but they don't think it's realistic because according to them: "anarchism almost by definition implies a populace that is so sophisticated, smart and selfless, which doesn't define any population that has ever existed." Holler at my people for me and let them know your thoughts on this? Please elaborate.

Answer:

I think people are naturally smart and selfless – at least more than they're given credit for. Sophisticated? The definition of sophisticated is "not in a natural, pure or original state: ADULTERATED." Before priests and other liars and bullies figured out how to hoodwink people into obeying them and slaving for them, people lived in anarchistic living arrangements. They managed to evolve from monkeys into homo sapien sapiens!

The peasants of Russia and the workers and peasants of Spain weren't all that literate or "sophisticated." They didn't need or want to be. They wanted freedom and fairness. People instinctually feel it is the right thing to do to share things with each other, both the chores and the fruits of their labor. When you go to the dinner table the food is shared. It's natural anarchy of everyday life. True! Society is a complicated mess of confusion and coercion. But this is not because of anarchism. It's like that because we are as far away from it as possible.

People think that common sense ideas such as a society without prisons, laws, cops and bosses would be better. Of course it would be better! They also think that it is all or nothing. You either have to have this fascist reality or (almost magically) you have a libertarian paradise. So, to get to this dream world is such a far stretch (and the Nazis and fascists are so indoctrinated and armed to the teeth) that it could never be attainable. But, that's the sort of ultimate goal. Anarchism is a process of awareness in applying social experiments. It is valuable in everything we do, from dealings with ourselves to those close by us to any social setting. It doesn't have to involve this titanic clash with the death ship all the time.

People have been conditioned their whole lives, mostly with consumerist brainwash, religious nonsense, dog-eat-dog survivalism, and generally, the

hopelessness of trying to use your mind, body and spirit to accomplish something valuable without a price tag on it. In other words, being a humanist is not part of this sick system, but it has everything to do with anarchism. Anarchism is the articulated response to all forms of coercive authority. Yeah, a lot of people are suffering from the bad effects of this miserable deal, but they came into this world just like anybody else – 14 immensely curious, loving, naturally giving, able and willing to learn almost anything. The fact they have been konked with cynicism and defeatism and are alienated is really not on them. They have been victimized. Sure, many cover themselves by a false bravado and acceptance of their enslavement and don't seem to have the guts to try to find their way out of it.

Don't you think anarchism can help these people? Using the consciousness for good is what it's all about. If they had a broken arm you'd help them get it set right, wouldn't you?? Same with a diseased mindset. You try to help them figure things out so they can have a chance at utilizing these useful concepts to improve their own lives, their own understanding and deal positively with their own dilemmas.

Cynicism and defeatism and self-loathing are exactly what bastards like Dick Cheney want people to be stuck thinking! If you think like this, you will do nothing to 1) improve your own knowledge and understanding and 2) do much to help anybody else. If we are all atomized, Cheney and a few of his thug pigs can lord over us all. Allowing them to do this so easily and not be challenged on all levels is a gutless way to live a life. Many people suffer and die during this. This suffering and dying is on those who are "conscious" but gutlessly decide that nothing can be done about anything.

A few months ago, no one in their right mind would have given Barrack Obama any kind of chance at all! But a funny thing happened. He touched a chord in people and here to fore cynics and couch potatoes found themselves waiting in long lines for hours to vote for him like people in some third world country! Not that I think very highly of him, but look at what supposedly deadbeat people up and did! If you really bring anarchism to people, they'll rise up like the Spaniards of 1936. But, you've got to earn their rising up! It doesn't happen with a lazy attitude, a beer in your hand and no real effort at education. Durruti and the boys didn't fuck around! They worked their asses off every single day -- and *this* demonstration of anarchy in action is what set people off! How do you know something can't be accomplished if you don't attempt to accomplish it??? I'd *much* rather deal with everyday ordinary people (who are much more militant and pro-active) than with cynical, do-nothing know-it-alls! If you don't want to be part of a thrilling, life of revelation, energy, struggle and meaning, fine! We'll just ignore you and seek people who do have the cahokies for it!

Anarchism is like anything else. It all emanates from the individual himself or herself. There is an enormous amount of valuable transformation

that needs to take place in each and every individual on a continuous, never-ending basis. So, worrying about what other people, whom you don't even know what they know and think, know and think, is a huge copout and piss poor excuse why you don't feel you need to work on your own self, 15 anarchism-wise. Such a type of thinking is just another form of self-induced intimidation. It's another vague surrendering to the bullies and their threats of hurting or killing you if you get too meaningful.

If you really believe anarchism is the best solution but refuse to run with it, you have surrendered everything about yourself to Cheney and his swineherds. You're not really an anarchist but a scared rabbit. Anarchism is not about being afraid or scared or scaredy-catty. It's about resolve and moving forward and not letting these jackals bum you out or distract you in any way.

This kind of argumentation reminds me of a cartoon I saw (and printed.) Two somewhat elderly people, a couple, were sitting on lazyboys with sort of defeated looks on their faces. The man turned to his wife and said: "I'd have been 64 today – had I *lived!*" Anarchism is about anarchists actually living their lives. What ultimately happens to civilization or whatever, is not what should determine how we live the minutes, hours, days, weeks, months and years of our lives. What we can struggle to accomplish with ourselves and those around us should concern us most acutely. It provides a life of accomplishment and satisfaction, love and respect. What could possibly be more important for each and every one of us to be doing otherwise? Hey, Coyote! Is the horse dead yet?

#5) One at a time, break down the Anthony Rayson definition of each of these words:

1) **affinity**
2) **action**
3) **autonomy**

Please be sure to keep in mind, not only is this an interview but it's also an avenue of opportunity to create new and effective literature. So, please be sure to get deep and elaborative in your definitions, and break it all the way down, Bro!

Answer:

So you want my twisted take on things, eh? Two of my punk buddies once tried to get me to write an Anthony Rayson dictionary. I make up a lot of words too, when I banter and have fun with my wife and kids. Anyways, OK here's a little paragraph or so on each word.

Affinity is that special relationship with certain individuals. It's real nice if that person you feel an affinity to is also an active anarchist who shares

your interests and feels the same about you – that you have each other's back! I have an affinity to several people on many different levels. It reminds me of a music video I saw recently with Jeff Beck blistering his guitar while the other main guitarist (a woman) was answering him lick for lick with a huge grin on her face. They had a musical affinity! 16

I love anarchist writers! We blast writings back and forth to each other, like these two brilliant guitarists. I have a dear brother who works with me on my distro as often as he can. His name is Mike and we are on the same page. We both work our asses off and share interests – politics, sports, social justice. He worked so hard the other day his wrist got real sore. He came back today to do some more work. He just had to wear a protective brace on his wrist. He's one of these "get things done" types. Little setbacks don't stop him.

I also have an affinity to ideas. I strive to have those ideas' back! Say a brilliant (anarchist) idea was articulated decades ago but doesn't seem to be in vogue lately. I'll take that idea and dust it off and apply it to modern-day reality. I have an affinity to that brave anarchist thinker of yesteryear who gave that so much thought and effort. I'm not gonna let him or his awesome thinking just be stuck in some dusty book! Screw that! What she had to say is too important not to sew into the fabric of my own thinking and doing!

It means checking up on people you care about. Writing them letters and talking to them and asking them what they need to have done. Not, "what might I possibly help you with, if possible?" But rather, "Just tell me what it is and I'll get right on it!" Of course, during a project of some sort, a trip or a demo or action or (more likely for me) a writing project – you have a tight group to work with and rely upon. With this tight group you *know* you can be totally candid and honest. You can be yourself without worrying. You can say anything you want and know the other(s) won't take umbrage. You can have fun and do have fun while you joke around while accomplishing what you've set out to accomplish. And when you're apart from each other, you just know they are busy accomplishing very cool things and you can't wait to find out what they are and share what you've been doing so you can revel in it and do something with it. It's that relaxed feeling and a happiness to be lucky enough to be around such an awesome comrade!

Action is a thing done. It's getting off the dime and actually following through until the project is accomplished. It can be physical or mental. It's exciting once you involve yourself in it with a mindset of determination. A lot of "actions" take a lot of preparation. Some are spontaneous. But it takes an overcoming of inertia and a thought process to think it through. Some actions (like doing this interminable interview) take a lot of psychic energy that you build up in order to make sure that you *will* see it through completion!

So many people spend so much time writhing in foreboding gloom about an impending action. They spend way more time worrying and fretting and sulking about whatever it is they are letting them feel morbid about than actually performing said action. The stupid thing about that is almost 17 invariably when the person finally does stop wasting time and actually does whatever he or she was so worried about doing, they usually find that it is 1) easier than they had dreaded and 2) actually fun! A big part of anarchist consciousness is forcing your sometimes unwilling &/or lazy mind and body to go through with what you had told yourself (and possibly others) that you were going to do. You must compel yourself to follow through with it. You may be tired or this or that but once you get going you find it is meaningful that you went to be with those people or whatever. People need examples of selfless, joy-fueled, courageous and impressive a-c-t-i-o-n!

Autonomy is self-directed freedom and moral independence. Like Ben Franklin says in the oatmeal commercial: "Nothing is better for thee than me." That's of course, as long as the "thee" is ye! You're totally on your own in this world when all the water boils off. You need to have total affinity with that person (yourself) rely on them 100% of the time, work closely with them to develop talents and interests and find your happiness therein. You can accomplish the most fantastic stuff if given the luxury of your own autonomy mixed with some unfettered time. I so dream and pine for time alone so I can do cool things with and by myself. Sometimes you need other people, but most the times you don't! People all too often think that they have to have other people around or nothing happens. That's not the case, but a lot of times it's very scary when you're alone. So, an ideal situation is having the luxury of being by yourself, having some time to accomplish something and knowing that your loved ones will soon join you.

And of course, it can apply to a group of people that want to not be fucked with by a surrounding bunch of people. Like the Basque people. They want their autonomy and who can blame them? Same with the Kurds! Screw those repressive states around them! They deserve to have their own say so about their own affairs. Why should they be gassed by the Iraqis or bombed by the Turks? Why should the Basque people have to answer to the assholes in Madrid and Paris??? Their language is like nothing else in Europe even! I can't stand fuckers who think it is within their right to lord over somebody who just wants to be left alone!

Anarchists support peoples' right to their autonomy. Of course, we're against all states anyway, so everybody could and should have the option to group themselves any way they see fit! Look at the Gypsies! They've been hassled (and murdered) by any and all governments (and pogrom-minded fascists) wherever they've had to live. Where's their natural right of autonomy? Outrages like these should ignite the desire to revolt in the hearts of people to the point that they stomp out every last goddam government!

We've been menaced in my community for years by the state government nd leechy business interests about a stupid mega-airport the airlines want nothing to do with. We've talked about seceding from Will County! We'd all it STAND County! We want our autonomy – our moral independence!

6) What is the problem with America? And why is the radical radition so ineffective?

Answer:

Well, we're all zombified, mainly. We've never had an indigenous go in this country. The natives *did* – and look what happened to them! So, we're all historical nomads. It's then and to this day a "settler" state which brutally overtook and committed colossal genocide against and throughout two whole continents, and we've been held as worker/hostages ever since. The inability to even think is pandemic for a very sick reason – control.

The government prides itself on a (relatively) high "literacy rate" in America. That just means a huge percentage of kids were forced through their hideous school system. Home-schooled kids are still rare. Notice how those are the smartest and best able to deal with their young adult lives? That's because they actually got a chance (and naturally took it) to learn what they needed to know. The country is heavily psychologically locked-down mentally – as far as the articulate expression of our own reality is concerned. It's fear and it's ignorance. They claim Columbus is cause for a holiday! Columbus, a monster himself, unleashed the savage monsters from *all over* Europe!

We've had our goes at insurrection. The Maroons fought for centuries – as still exist, somewhat autonomously. But, the lesson is "you take a stand, we'll come and kill you!" So, Native resistance was squashed with a blood curdling slaughter of almost every tribe. Slaves were bought and sold and slaved – for centuries! It's a slave system to this day!

People see the Branch Davidian children burned to death – by America's finest sharpshooters – and *tanks*! The Panthers, the Haymarket Anarchists, Wobblies, any and all "underground" groups, have gotten nailed, killed or shoved *into* prison. They have many nuclear weapons and everything else and have used them! They engage in serial genocidal murderings in other countries and run a wild, runaway gulag archipelago here at home.

So, even the people with the best of intentions, insight and desire to engage in constructive action are in a difficult situation. There's no "autonomous zone" to find safety in this country. We need to build psychological safety zones. The constant pressure of everyday brainwash is unrelenting and has to be dealt with on a daily basis. All around are similarly suffering people. Coordination of the finest of these communal intentions is

always being hacked at by the forces in control. We're atomized and super-busy trying to provide for our families and ourselves.

"Ideologies" from around the world – and religions, funnel people into that way of thinking. The world screams for solidarity and effective world-wide action to eliminate tyranny, stop pollution and degradation, end human and animal slavery and build a world based on love and respect and not payment and death! People are tied down a myriad of ways and have never felt what participating in a collective even feels like, much less, engage in progressive &/or revolutionary ones. It's all "Greek" to everybody!

This stark reality is too much for many people to even attempt to deal with. The few who do are ignored and scorned and not helped very much. Be that as it may, what needs to occur is that we take this whole struggle to the next level on an ongoing basis. Like August Spies said: "Cowards to the rear!" Make the details of the struggle crystal clear and a mind-blowing blast to read and contemplate. People crave the unmistakable truth! It's the only thing that can get those unshackling their own minds to get acquainted with their self-confident, sensitive to others, motivated selves. We have to help mend each other!

Look at the great Abolitionist Era! Those men and women laid it on the moral line! Human eloquence and clarity is for *every* generation! Like Franz Fanon said: "Every generation has their chance to find and live their destiny." Something like that, anyways. We need to strengthen ourselves mentally and build the connections between conceptualization to actualization – on specific projects, unexpected happenings or everyday long-term stuff. We as writers should summon the power from the swirling winds of the tornadoes and hurricanes – the molten fire from exploding volcanoes! We need to be sensitive to the suffering – and revolutionary solutions – from everywhere and spread the word in every way.

America is Hitler's Dream. This "white colonization" – of basically two whole continents, was "successful." So, he figured it would be a helluva thing if he could spearhead that happening in Europe. He used the same recipe – invade, slaughter, lie, enslave – mass murder... take over the land and make a nice "white" petit-bourgeois insane culture and chat over morning pastries!

I'll quote Hugo Pinell, who is a longtime comrade/prisoner for forty years, now!

"Our oppression and dehumanization, and our living conditions worldwide, are worse than ever because we are dealing with the most vicious, malicious and inhumane forces in history. They control just about every aspect of our physical and social lives, and that is a reality we can't deny or ignore. But as agonizingly painful as this reality is, the biggest

damage these monster criminals have inflicted upon our Humanity is the one to our mental faculties, through a systematic process, generation to generation."

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As we are alive now, we are the generation entrusted to deal with this tsunami-like situation. So, until many, many people take it upon themselves to engage in genuine mutually beneficial brutal truth reality education, people won't have basic understanding skills to deal with situations effectively and begin to build positive social connections. They'll still be zoned out somehow. Concentrate your argument and apply it to the main themes those you wish to get the ear of, actually care about and have to deal with. Everyone's in a cocoon of their own spinning! The government then can just go around like a person taking eggs from the hens.

A lot of progress is being made but you're not going to read about it in the *Tribune*, nor can you expect to. We should be making many more of our own media networks that tell the truth, instead of parroting the pro-U.S./business line. This could help people develop their own neighborhood groups. Every community needs a conscious expression and a way to involve people in their own liberation. These efforts are always hampered in their development by the state, in this country most thoroughly. We need to develop more lasting groups, effective on a micro level yet plugged into the strivings of all.

7) What are the various strains of anarchism and why are they so ineffective?

Answer:

I can't really explain the types of anarchism that I don't feel that drawn to. They have their argumentation. They have their focus and particular interests and way of looking at things. You could probably find almost every type of thinking around and hyphenate it with "anarcho" and someone would feel comfortable describing their beliefs in this way. There are "Christian" anarchists, New Afrikan, Muslim, Green, Red, Black, animal liberationist anarchists, environmentalists, intellectual anarchists, prisoner anarchists, anarcha-feminists, all strains, really. "Ethical" anarchists and "gangsta" anarchists exist, as well.

I'll touch on a few. Anarcho-syndicalists believe that a social revolution can be had through a huge, inclusive worker's union. A general strike would signal the beginning of this transformation, the elimination of the state and so forth. Militias to repel the fascists would come from the union organizations, so would the technical expertise, the wherewithal to run society – the utilities, the work places, the hospitals, etc. There aren't many of these types left, as the "working class" has become so fragmented and anything but

"class conscious." Workers, like everybody else, need to develop a genuine consciousness, and yes, a "class" consciousness, as this is most definitely a class society. 21

The "green anarchists" are another somewhat recent wave. I can't really speak for them. Some are nihilists, some are primitivists and some are... I'm just not sure. They see this sick system of decadence leading to a huge catastrophe and that we need to get with nature, learn how to live with nothing and survive the upcoming holocaust to live as humans were intended – as "hunter / gatherers. It seems to me to have an almost contempt for humanity, though. I want to focus on humanity, as only humans can affect the situation. Mother Nature most certainly will have her say (and is, with hurricanes, tornadoes, tsunamis, earthquakes, etc.) Animals can't really do anything about anything. It's rotten that they are so exploited and deserve their freedom, but focusing on them and ignoring the plight of humans doesn't have much of a chance at success.

The anarcha-feminists have a certainly legitimate strain of thinking. Women are 51% of humanity and exploited in every society. They also take into consideration the plight of transgendered people, gay, bi, lesbians – and of crucial importance – the awful oppression of children. We all could learn a helluva lot by studying what these anarchists have to say – and actually strive to weave their insights into our own thinking and subsequent behaviors.

Fred Woodworth spearheads what he calls "ethical anarchism." He's a straight up guy. He abhors the use of violence and criminality by those who claim to be "anarchists." Ethics and morality are very important to maintain. He's also a solid atheist, which I feel is part and parcel of being a good anarchist. Some people don't have the "luxury" of being able to be strictly "ethical" all the time. In a cesspool of corruption, danger, poverty and so forth, sometimes decisions can't be so cut and dried. Survival is at stake sometimes – and keeping from being captured somehow. Sometimes you have to work with people who may not be Johnny Goody Two-Shoes all the time if you want to have some effect in certain sectors. Avoiding people who aren't up to snuff sort of shuts them out of a chance at development. I'd love to always make a clean, ethical decision, but doing that prevents me from many areas that I want to have a say so about. I think you should be as honest, ethical and moral as you possibly can be – but it's tough to expect that of others all the time.

There are other types of anarchists, those who believe strongly in "direct action" a basic anarchist tenet, and confront the global cops wherever they may be. This is struggle alright, but not my cup of tea. I think it's a much better use of your time and energy to try to painstakingly educate people about situations, so they can develop their own anarchy. We need many, many more serious and dedicated, knowledgeable and active anarchists to

mix with the populous and anarchize them, not an alphabet soup of strains that only attract small numbers of people.

The pro-religious "anarchists" are contradictions in terms in my opinion. How can you believe in some kind of "God" – the ultimate Boss – yet still claim to believe in anti-authoritarianism? It doesn't make sense. You can have anarchist types of thinking mixed in with your choice of religiosity, but it's a conflicting jumble of beliefs.

I feel drawn to "Black Autonomy" anarchy of guys like Lorenzo Komboa Ervin. Lorenzo's *Anarchism and the Black Revolution* written in the 1980's, is still about the finest example of anarchist analysis, theory and practice in several decades. He jump started the whole modern day ABC (Anarchist Black Cross) movement and legitimized anarchism in the eyes of conscious Afrikans and others of color, when it was becoming a Euro and even "punk only" phenomenon. He gave it its teeth back – the explosive truth that so energized the Spanish and Russian people.

This country has a uniquely racialist component, unlike European countries. Where in Europe, it's always been a class conflict amidst capitalism, here in this country, slavery plays a major role. Afrikans play a vital role in whatever develops here. You've got to factor in Afrikans in any anarchist analysis. They are the most oppressed in this system, there's no way to deny this stark fact. And they are the ones most likely to become the most conscious anarchist revolutionaries who accomplish great changes – much like the ex-slaves who rose in revolt, before and during the Civil War.

I am also a disciple of the Haymarket anarchists, who were so class conscious, active in propaganda and social agitation. I believe in the application of basic anarchist tenets and applying them where they are needed the most and where they are most likely to strike an enthusiastic chord. Thus, I keep my attention on the gulags, where societies' most oppressed (and often most brilliant) are being held. The Haymarket Anarchists were writers and propagandists – thinkers! They were nose-to-the-grindstone anarchist *educators*, which is the kind I am most impressed with. Teaching others the explosive truth is the highest expression that you have learned and are now applying your anarchist understanding. It is fundamentally imperative in today's Orwellian nightmare world that conscious anarchist address modern day situations in plain language that so many people are dealing with. It's not an intellectual parlor exchange, but a tooth and nails dealing with stark reality.

In days of yore when anarchism was strong – the 19th and early 20th century, who were being enthused by the message of anarchism? That's right, the poorest and most menaced of society. How it has morphed into this sort of "privileged" information and pastime of intellectuals and college students and punks, is another example of how this country warps everything. Anarchists worth their salt to be really considered anarchists in

my opinion, should try to emulate the effective organizing methods used in the past, updated and fit to be relevant with today's issues and today's youth and today's realities. We must create anarchy anew! 23

Most "anarchisms" are sort of stuck in a small, closed loop of people and don't seem to have the desire, will or know how to transcend that situation. Until the genuinely salty Earthlings get a chance to get hipped by relevant to their lives anarchy, it won't have much impact, which is a ridiculous shame, seeing as they do indeed respond enthusiastically if given this real effort at connection.

So, I guess the two kinds of anarchisms are 1) the ones genuinely trying to involve and include the most oppressed among us and 2) the ones who aren't. That's not to say that what they have to offer is not valuable or important or even more insightful. It's just to acknowledge that the outreach isn't effective enough to have a fundamental impact like we think is necessary to change the basic dynamics. We all need to improve in this vital area. Those who aren't interested in this aren't going to do it, so we need all new people who *are* willing to do it!

Without a groundswell from below of people determined to move things forward – and willing to do all the nose-to-the-grindstone work for an open-ended amount of time - we're still be at this handcuffed state of struggle. What comes to mind is this: some animal rights anarchists were fretting over Fred Hampton, Jr.'s use of the term "pig." They thought it was offensive to their squealing, curly-cued tailed, four-legged friends! The oinkers themselves had no inkling of any pc problem! We need to get our heads out of the trough and get real about dealing with social struggle.

#8) Why is the U.S. so crime ridden and what's the deal with the U.S. economy?

Answer: From the outset, criminal behavior was the modus operandi of the Europeans who came over to stay. They brought slaves, they brought indentured servants. They butchered, tricked and massacred the natives, broke every treaty they ever signed and virtually went on a total extermination campaign. They claimed Central & South America as their back yard, intervened countless times to support U.S. capitalist interests. They built an elaborate legal system systematizing slavery and inequality by race, by sex, by income. A whole huge continent was "taken" and surveyed into plots of ownership, which the laws were then based upon – stolen land! People were brought in for slave labor, such as the Chinese to build railroads, others to work the mines and factories, etc.

America is a uniquely "extreme" or "hyper" capitalist country. There is no safety net (welfare) like in Europe or elsewhere. Everything requires the almighty dollar and if you don't have it, you have to steal it, somehow. If

you have working capital, you can arrange to steal it off the labor of others and the laws help you do that. If you don't, if your skin is dark and you get inferior everything coming up, you won't have much, yet still need it. For the lack of it is a crime. You will overload credit cards, not pay your rent, "forget" to pay for your groceries, car parts and etc. You almost necessarily turn into a thief! Plus, addiction to a wild assortment of drugs is heavy in this country as is depression, psychosis, suicide, etc. 24

The country is pregnant with armaments, and *things*. With 4.5% of the world's population having access to 30% of the world's resources, we are awash in products. Many people are still poor though and can't afford these items, even though they are everywhere around them. The culture is one of violence-glorying, conspicuous consumerism and flaunting lavish life-styles. Juxtaposed against bitter poverty, racism, inequity, a racist court system, a racist educational system, a racist everything system, etc. and you have a situation ripe for temptation, desperation and hedonism to take place everywhere, along with the day to day theft of government and business, massive corruption of officials, etc. Yeah, the whole thing is a massive crime – on the rest of the people on Earth. For, to support this vast farce of excess, costs the lives of thousands of people every single day who starve to death and die horrible deaths due to the denial of basic medical attention. And finally, we pollute the whole Earth at an unbelievable rate, which is a crime upon the planet herself!

Look at Columbus! The first thing he did was demand gold and start murdering people!

The U.S. economy is a world class viper upon all peoples. Big business relies upon the brutal heavy boot of the U.S. military to ensure their profits – and tax payer paid for bailouts when they do go down! The layoffs and so forth are no concern of business or government, but they do certainly drive criminal desperation though, don't they!?

A huge percentage of the gross domestic product (the fruit of our labors) goes to "defense." This means a gigantic resource is made to create sophisticated weaponry for the U.S. government to wield against foreign peoples to insure U.S. company dominance. All this could have been used for food, shelter, genuine, useful education and rehabilitation, environmental clean-up, health care, etc. It's made to force the opposite – dead and napalmed bodies, destroyed infrastructure, eternal uranium poisoning, etc!

At home, it means a vast incarcerated nation, many ghettos under virtual lockdown, a scared and brainwashed citizenry (to insure blank compliance) and a steady flow of people to be their police, prison guards and military personnel. So, every year our "work" makes everybody's lives more stressed, more deadly and more finite. The U.S. economy must be shut down for the survival of the people on the rest of the planet.

#9) How do we deprogram and educate people? And how do we establish useful community organizations that go beyond providing basic goods and services to the desperate and are capable of incubating and actually hatching dedicated revolutionaries?

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Answer:

You do it by *attempting* to deprogram and educate people! You do it by making it your business to learn how to be effective at doing this. You listen and you learn! You ask questions of those who seem to have some knowledge in these areas and you ditch, once and for all, the anti-learning nonsense you picked up in high school as a defense mechanism against the miserable school you swore to hate until your dying day. Knowledge and insight are your friends! You be square with people and solicit their opinions and advices, their insight and stories. You get accustomed to writing longer and longer pieces of conversation, analysis, letters or whatever. You actually decide to use the language you learned how to speak and think in when you were a toddler.

It's often a frustrating experience. Many people may be interested in what you have to say, but next to none of them want to deal with it much less work with you in any real capacity. You have to keep looking for these types of people – those who *will* get off the dime and participate in this. You may find that you'll have to go to the most desperate, those who have nothing left to lose (or fear.) These are people in prison. They will start study circles and look to work with you as far as deprogramming and education. So, work with them!

We're at such an atomized state right now. Look at the explosion of iPods and cell phones and all those little gadgets that keep people individually pre-occupied – even in public! Everyone is so intent on not having to deal with stark reality it's scary! So, it's going to take a sustained effort to start to see results. You must continuously educate people, entertain them with the facts, even, before they feel that socialization even has any benefits. Be pro-active. If you want a "community organization" – start one out of your own home or apartment. What would you provide? Clean needles? Condoms? Clothing? Food? Books? Resources for possible jobs or skills to learn? Child care? What do you want to do? In other words, what are the real needs of those around you? Determine them and start figuring out ways to meet them. Always, and I mean *always* have an ongoing educational component to this type of work. Explain why you are in existence and how this situation deteriorated to this point. Explain what it will take to uplift everybody. Teach them things they need to know about themselves, about their reality, about their history. Give them the education, love and support they never got at school (and most likely) anywhere else.

Network with other hardworking community organizers and grassroots dedicated people near you or not even near you. Pick their brain. Find out where you can get "free" stuff and make it available. Like anything else, it takes sustained willpower to make any headway. Be resourceful and frugal. Always have an "eye out" for things you or people you are dealing with, might be able to put to good use. Don't be lazy or ever satisfied. Make it so it is a genuine rush to be at this place, so people will want to come back – and maybe help. Make it your life – not just a "job" or pastime. You're being this real will not go unnoticed and leads to people emulating your joyous, confident and cool behavior. Mind over matter – have a mind to *make* it matter! People really do feed off this kind of energy. 26

Play music, sing, laugh, tell stories and jokes – actually live while you are doing this stuff so it becomes a life being lived and doesn't degenerate into laziness or apathy or cynicism. Shore up whatever needs it on an ongoing basis and encourage the involvement of others. Let them start classes on "self-defense" or whatever. Let them be a real part of the deal. Often, these people have a much better understanding of what is going down on the streets than the person(s) in the pads, because they have to live out there. Tap into their knowledge and understanding of the situation. Read aloud to each other – brilliantly written material or stuff you just made up. Write poems about what you are doing to read to amuse each other and build a sense of unity and purpose.

And don't sweat the little things. The biggest turn-off is when a bunch of (or an individual) anally retentive fucker(s) start making all kinds of bullshit rules and devise little punishments and go with the snitching and other stuff. You can keep it real without being a petty little tyrant. If you don't want your stuff messed with, don't leave it lying around or better yet, don't even possess anything that anyone would want to steal. If you keep it simple and real and worry about what others need, you'll find out that this way of comporting yourself is exactly what *you* need! Of course, you can't let anyone get over on you or those around you. Make things real clear and open and fair. Invite people to speak their minds. Write it down, edit it and print it!

#10) Alright, alright. I know you've read Abigail's beautiful, inspiring and very insightful essay, *An Army of One* where she explains her definition of what it means to be a prison abolitionist and how she explains why people should start getting more involved in prisoners' lives, development and struggles. She really got down with that one, didn't she? Well, I've heard that you were also working on a small piece called *Getting the Truth Out of the Gulags*. So, now I would like you to elaborate and explain in your own words why you think more people

should get more involved in prisoners lives, development and struggles? Once again, please elaborate.

Answer:

Many of us know prisoners already – either they are our own relatives or friends, or relatives of our friends. Often, we know many. These people should be able to enjoy at least basic support from those that know them, and many do. But even for these people there are tremendous obstacles thrown up at them. The trauma and expense and no doubt tragic, psychological drama, the outrage and charade of court, the unfairness of the sentence, the shocking treatment these prisoners are soon forced to from then on endure, to the filthy conditions one faces visiting a prisoner. Even visitors are sometimes strip searched, their cars are searched, they're humiliated and vaguely threatened. Some can't even see their son or daughter, but through thick glass, which is rather horrible as they see them as they are being painfully shackled, sometimes excruciatingly so!

If your little child fell off her tricycle and broke her arm, you would care for her wouldn't you? This is the same thing – a family member is in distress and you need to deal with it the best you can. Terribly, the government makes this crisis situation seemingly endless. Sentences are long, brutal, cruel and pointless. Then some are extended "internally" or the (ex)prisoner is soon re-incarcerated.

Don't you think the million veterans from Iraq should be cared for? Many are suffering terribly psychologically after what the U.S. government made them do and witness. Prisoners have been also ruined by the government – oppressed by the government. The government is massive, organized crime of the worst degree, i.e. mass murder on a regular basis. Master criminals don't get to decide who is a "criminal" and who isn't, just because they are the most dangerous of criminals – international liars, thieves and murderers. It's a criminalizing and criminal social system.

Their gulag system has no legitimacy. Those in it have all been wronged, as have us all. In fact, it could be me or you or anybody else at any time. They take who they want and lay off others in their favor. All government crime is exempt from even consideration of incarceration! You can go to prison for stealing anything, but if you steal hundreds of billions of dollars – nothing happens! If you murder hundreds of thousands, nothing happens! If you murder at the behest of the government nothing happens, but if you kill on your own, you go to prison. Murder, of course, is very wrong either way, but prison is a crime in and of itself, as well.

As a social justice issue it is #1 because it ties in with every social evil there is – and concentrates it. But it can also concentrate the good into the exceptional. I'm speaking here of fresh insight and hard thinking needed to

stimulate serious education and politicizing. I'm real heavy into that aspect of it, but it's also one of the most acute *personal* dilemmas to decide whether to deal with it or not.

As a heavy-duty "insider" I'd also tell you this. Getting to know prisoners is the most humanizing thing you can do. I'm talking about revelations that help build your *own* character! You really get to know the meaning of being a Brother or a Sister to somebody. One thing that has given me such succor and strength to continue boldly with this is the example of the *women* who support prisoners. It's a cruel and evil separation of people and ways to exchange truth and love must be cleverly improvised as a kinetic communication between each others' hearts and souls! This is where taking things to the next level comes in. People respond to others who have shed their fear and are representing their smarts and humanity – in the very ugly *face* of their captors! They "invite" reprisals because there is no arguing with the awful truth. You can only try to bludgeon it into silence and if that doesn't work???

So, you need the advanced street degree you'll get from prisoners. Oh, they also offer any other subject. It's all free, too! You'll know that you're being educated because you'll start acting differently. You'll become a writer is what you'll do, so be forewarned about that deal!

This society slights and insults and diminishes us in so many ways every single day of our lives. We're supposed to not care about the suffering of others, think nothing of endless commercials and blubber mouthed idiots on TV, on the radio or writing in the papers. The envelopes from prisoners are stamped with warnings that the contents are "uncensored." Well, from where I come from, that's a *good* thing! Bring on the unexpurgated truth from under these dungeon keepers' very nose! Strike one for the truth!

We need to learn the "skills" of dealing with the kidnappers and their courts – and jails. Many of us have been and will continue to be harassed, attacked, arrested, charged and imprisoned – or re-imprisoned. We need to look out for each other. It's a huge problem. It takes an enormous amount of time, money and effort defending yourself or somebody else, dealing with jail, prison, half-way houses – the whole bit. It's unfortunately important information to know in today's endlessly increasingly incarceration frenzy, which is the "solution" to any and all "unrest" according to the authorities. Being even labeled a "gang member" makes you a de facto "criminal." If you're political, you're also a "domestic terrorist." What's up is down and what's down is up – according to the wedding party bombing billionaires touting their "democracy."

Once you gain a certain level of understanding and sort of get your feet under you as a person, you start developing your thinking about things. It's a bitter reality to find out about this horrible country and all the horrible things it has done and continues to do, including brutal incarceration. It's a scary

thought to have to involve yourself to such a nasty situation. You can ask questions from people who have been doing it a while. That'll probably help. But, I'll tell you something. You should see those little old ladies dressing down these guards and wardens – and gutless, corrupt legislators! 29

It's definitely a big part of this whole "struggle." The hard core "political activists" often are found in prison. You can be in direct correspondence with some of them, if you want! They're human beings who have put their lives on the lines for a reason – freedom and justice. It's not just a debate or something. It is literally life and death and everyday struggle. It's a naked look at this bloodthirsty regime and the nuts and bolts of how it operates, here at home.

There's something special about the written word and the exchange of letters. People find ways to really express their inner most thoughts and feelings with a pen and a piece of paper in their hand. Profound mental connection like this triggers deeper thinking – and closer relations with that person. It's a heightening to the meaning in our lives.

#11) There is this radical thing called "life." But, not everybody is aware of how beautiful it is and it's easy to focus on all the bad things that are going on in our lives and forget about the small blessings of everyday life. So this is a question about blessings and appreciation. Give me three things that are going on in your life *right now*, that you are appreciative of. Then give me three overall blessings of life that you are grateful for. Please eluborate.

Answer:

Blessings, eh? That sounds kind of religious, but I hear you. I would say one of the three things I feel blessed about are my wife and two children, all who live with me every day. Stanton spends a few nights a week at his girlfriend's house, but he's here pretty much, too. We have a nice little house and it is set up for all of us to be able to do what we like to do, yet still be in each other's company. Our schedules are pretty synchronized, so we can be together most nights.

This is my second wife and my two only kids. They are my wife's only kids, too. We've been married now going on 22 years. It's a great relief and source of motivation and joy to have such a sound family life. I go out of town to conferences and such now and then, but always get to return to my home, where my family is and where love is. This allows me to be able to function at a high level. I'm hardly ever anxious about anything, anymore, where before this was a constant problem.

I put a lot of effort into my part of the bargain, but I am a notorious politico myself, seemingly super busy all the time on things they have trouble

understanding, yet they are supportive of me, as I am of them. We agree to disagree about fundamental things but still have the utmost respect for each other. We have each other's best interests at heart, regardless of our beliefs.

My wife works full-time as do I and thus, she is as responsible for funding this expensive distro as I am. She doesn't agree with it, yet she has never begrudged me for it. That's amazing, really. She's a very intelligent and loving woman. I'm very lucky to have found her and our children are 30 amazingly harmonious with us. I remember when I was their age. I was a holy terror. They're like angels compared to that. They sort of spend their time under the wing of their mother and look at me sort of funny now. But, I'm confident as they mature, they'll gain a deeper understanding of my work and my motivation. They have giving hearts and a deep empathy for others. This is what I like to see! And our cat – Gato Fred – is very cool, too!

Another thing I am very grateful for is this wonderful opportunity to collaborate with such high-octane people. I'm talking about people like you, Abigail and etc.! It's true I found these people due to my own efforts and helped to cultivate relationships, both personal and working, but it has mushroomed from that. People come at me from all over the place and I hadn't known about them. They just come at me now. It's really true. Mutual aid is an amazing thing that goes both ways in every direction! If you put the effort into it, after a while things begin to start happening and get more serious as more effort is applied. It's not just talk. Anybody actually can craft and fashion a legitimate life for themselves, without being forced through the mainstream "channels!" You can make your own way and by doing this, it is even more real than any other way!

So, I'm very grateful for having this wonderful, ongoing, developing outcome be a very real part of the bargain. When I started out in this I didn't know what would happen, how I would be received or anything else. I was just hoping it would pan out. Now, make no mistake, still an overwhelming number of people condemn me, ridicule my work or ignore it rather than take it seriously, but those who do grasp the significance of some of this, are often incredible in their own right. So, my life has been hugely enriched by getting to know these people as friends and comrades. It's just really, really awesome! It makes me realize that *anyone* can play a significant role.

The third thing I'm personally grateful for is my close comrade, Mike. He comes by a couple times a week to work on the distro. We also speak on the phone frequently. We're on the same wavelength. We both read the letters and have a key to the P.O. Box. He takes some work home, too, if we're real busy. He buys envelopes and stamps, sometimes. He helps me with whatever I have to do while he's over here – whether it is the distro or any type of household chore. We work very well (and fast!) together. We enjoy each other's company. He is very respectful of my wife and kids.

He's a wonderful and thoughtful anarchist, fifty years old (I'm 54.) We do a lot of things together – go to demos or meetings, etc. He helps me table sometimes. He collates, folds and staples zines, addresses envelopes and generally, looks to help me get what needs to be done, done. At most, he'll only want a glass of water or juice or a bowl of oatmeal, broccoli or potatoes, something like that. He keeps me posted on activities in our area (that he at least usually attends.)

It's really dynamite to have such a close comrade to share all this work with. Before I hooked up with him 3 or 4 years ago, I was very frustrated that I couldn't find any close collaborators. It (like damn near everything else) was driving me nuts! I was complaining too much. Now, people still think I complain too much, but I don't really. I don't have to as much, as I got a solid 'rad to work with.

A general thing I'm glad about is Life. I'm as happy that there is life on this planet as anybody, although I am a-religious. I believe that matter does exist and that under conducive conditions, it has a tendency to form in organic fashion – carbon molecules. Since we got the perfect scenario with plenty of water, a temperate climate and a 20% mixture of oxygen mixed with rather benign gases for an atmosphere, life was able to form and evolve these last few billion years. It's to the point these last few million years that we have thinking homo sapien sapiens of which we are part of. That's incredible, but it's not so wild that we should lose our ability to think and act rationally. We don't owe our lives to anybody – not our parents and not to one of a thousand "Gods!" Our lives belong to us and our own future! It is up to us to make the most of them, while we have the combination of mind, body and soul!

I'm grateful that I'm still alive at age 54, which is past the median age for mankind here on planet Earth. Many more would live longer with basic medicine and nutrition. I have pretty good genes, too. My folks have had relatively healthy and long lives. A lot of my friends coming up didn't make it. Others who are alive just exist. So, I'm glad I never gave up on myself &/or died.

It's nice to be able to be able to access human intelligence, our emotions and whole psychology. Every day is filled with intense thinking, emoting and all around living, even amidst the mundane society we live in. Free will is a marvelous thing and being able to direct your will to accomplish solidarity-minded objectives makes life really fun to live through.

I like the way life works. New young people are coming up all the time. I'd really be morose if I could only be around people my own age. It's energizing to see lively and inquisitive people looking to get a handle on things and offer their fresh take. Tiny babies are pure magic and I'm so grateful to have had that experience – twice! My wife has been a wonderful mother for our sons and to see them every day of their lives from birth is

super precious. I have countless nephews and even a few nieces. They are starting to have children too. I love the sound of children playing and 32
laughing wherever it is they are doing it that I am within earshot. I love it when they *yell* their enthusiasm, like when a bunch of kids are swimming together.

I'm not too keen on the deal where I'm headed. You get older all the time and after peaking at age, say 27, you go on a slow decline, physically. But, you have the chance to go uphill mentally! You can become wise and experienced. You can get good at something and share this with others and work together with others. This can be real satisfying and even meaningful. It's nice to have the love of respect from people for what you have managed to will yourself to accomplish with a purpose of doing something good for the world. In other words, it feels awesome to implement anarchist principles in every day life and even things that transcend every day life.

Another general gift I'm grateful for is music and literature. I listen to rock music and jazz and all kinds of music for hours every day. It really makes me happy and influences my moods and even helps my mind flow when I am thinking and writing. Brilliant writers and courageous revolutionaries from the past and present always make me want to be more dedicated every time I think about them! We can take the very best from them and go from there. They did so much spade work *for* us!

I'm sure all languages have their good points, but I like English, as it is the only language I really know. It is full of words and possibilities to express what you think and feel. It's an ultimate instrument to make "music" with! You can connect with other peoples' very minds with it!

I'm not fond of the decay and death all individuals are subject to. At least we get some years to develop and have a sort of handle on ourselves and what our life accomplishes. It's just the way things are. If you have life, you also must die. A granite mountain will endure a long time but it has no life. It can't do anything except exist. We can *live* and leave a musical, written or life lived legacy. This is what is meant by "life everlasting." If you do something marvelous for humanity during your lifetime, you will be loved by the future generations, too. You will "live" in their hearts, which may influence how they live their lives. There are no "before" or "after" lives.

So, that's a pretty good deal. You get to be alive, experience love and new life, gain a handle on your life and do your thing. And people remember you and continue to learn from you. You're still sort of there, Luke! Not a bad deal considering we didn't have to do much of anything to begin our lives. That was a gift from our parents to us. It is a fair deal. What isn't fair is coercive authority that cuts life short - for their own disgusting purposes. Humans have no right to be the Grim Reaper themselves. Governments especially have no right to hurt and kill people. For that one monstrous evil

alone, they must be ended. They threaten, shorten and end life on a massive scale. They diminish life's possibilities. These horrible truths demand we focus our energy to a great degree trying to stop their vampirism on 33 humanity. Not to just express our humanism and be given respect and love for it, but because it threatens every one of us and the future of "life." It's extremely pressing.

I'm real happy to have my senses, such as smell, sight, touch and so forth. I like my sense of anticipation and being able to conjecture about the future. It's fun to get your mind to function with a goal in mind. It's nice to sleep and dream and have sex. Sometimes, this whole sexual jones thing gets sort of frustrating, but it serves a purpose and having two (and more!) sexes is fantastic. Everyone has their importance. Anyone can be loved and can love others. We all need comfort and tenderness and intimacy. We need people who are close to us intimately and who genuinely care about us all the time, and vice versa. We need and deserve to *belong!* Mutual aid is that feeling extended to humanity in general. It's what *society* needs & deserves!

#12) You know how we get down. This is the last question and the last question is always left open for the person being interviewed to elaborate on whatever he wants to get off of his or her mind. It's always a pleasure to be able to pick your brain. I just hope I can bring the best out of you, always.

I have so much admiration and respect for you and I'll be looking forward to doing part 2 and 3 of this interview on you. But now I'm gonna hand the podium over to you so you can tear your heart out and hand it over to the people you love and who love you. Do your thing, get your shine on, speak your mind and get guerrilla on them and just do me one favor! Please elaborate!

Answer:

Well, Brother, I've a lot of love and respect for you, too. Just a couple of days ago I got a letter from a prisoner who is super stoked – thanks to some of *your* awesome work! After a long time, it is really rewarding to see my efforts serve as a sort of catalyst to gather a strong writer's collective. I'd love to have more time to focus on developing this – the explosive *literature* poring out of the gulags! I'd love to become more computer literate and savvy as far as connecting with people and extending the reach of this work. I'd love to see more Abigails who take it upon themselves to do the difficult work to function in the "outs" with this level of awareness, which is so often met by a blank stare.

I think real soon things will get even more intense. Once the Bush cabal

leaves another regime will be forced upon us all, with all of those draconian laws and fascist judges, militarizing police forces, heavy, bogged down wars (and serious threats of more wars) a collapsing economy & infrastructure – and a worldwide clamoring for social justice and equality. It's a situation ripe for the rapid increase in the number of anarchists, which will happen. But will these "anarchists" learn the trades of the journalists and editors, writers and speakers? Will they find out how to make zines, publish broadsheets, reel off thousands of important CD's and so forth? I sure hope so, but so far, I see precious little of it – compared to what is needed right now. I don't know what people are waiting for – other people to do it, I guess. You can't do that, People!

Once I started immersing myself in serious study – analysis, history, polemics from many circles, I wasn't satisfied with the level of agitation. I felt a vague dissatisfaction and a feeling that I could do better myself. So, if I wanted to see improvement in the quality of writing and reporting, I would have to somehow create it, myself. So, that's what I did! I didn't have anybody to teach me what to do. I had to trial and error my way along. I'm still never satisfied and I know it could all be much better. But, I stuck with it, I was consistent and reliable and I gained the trust of more and more serious people.

I knew it would take a few years of relative obscurity (and a ton of negativity) before it sort of caught hold. That's how it was with *STAND* – (Shut This Airport Nightmare Down.) Nobody took us seriously until we kicked the door in. Now, we're like the biggest political group strictly from grassroots citizens of anywhere around here. So, I knew that with this distro, which I also started in 1998, since it was nationwide (and worldwide), it would take longer.

And, so it has. It's gotten way better known and prisoners by the dozens write me every day telling me how valuable this service has been for them. I've met awesome comrades who blew my mind with their incredible insights and talents. I get the most fantastic artwork I've ever seen – and this is given to me freely "for the cause!" I try to put it all to good use, which I never tire of mentioning, makes me endlessly buried in this work. But that's OK! As long as people still put their trust in me I will give it a full-bore effort every single day. It's really not about me, anyway. I just so happen to be one of the very few willing to be in this position. Hopefully, others will soon see the need and the extraordinary benefits of being at one of these underground information railroad switching yards.

This reality-check truth thing can take many forms and must take many forms. I focus on zines because, well, it fits me. Others need to take it to the next level in whatever medium they feel most comfortable in. And, of course, others who aren't interested in just words can organize themselves for action. Whatever is decided upon, make sure it is a serious, thorough,

complete effort. Don't start and quit early. If you can't bring yourself to sustain the effort, you're just pokin' at your food and not eating it. Eat that food, gain energy and fulfill the task.

I also think, a conscious explication of the effort (like a newsletter or whatever) is important too, to explain it and derive further lessons from it that develop consciousness and the overall struggle for liberty and freedom. For a long time it feels like a chore. Then it gets easier and easier and then almost too easy! You feel good knowing you are getting good at it!

I'm real suited for this intense, nose-to-the-grindstone work because that's how I am. I'm comfortable with myself. I am not that fond of being in social situations and don't function that well in them. I get bored real easy, I get antsy. I'm not that good a speaker. Usually I read an intense rant as a big part of my presentation. I'd rather talk with a person one-on-one in an informal setting.

Maybe I'll have a better attitude, once I'm no longer such a miserable wage-slave. I've slaved for almost 34 years continuously. The most I ever took off of work was three weeks – and that was because I had a broken foot! I have no idea what freedom of my own time even feels like! It actually makes me kind of apprehensive, like a prisoner getting out after 34 years. But, I *do* get a 64-hour furlough each week!

Everyone's like this – most everyone. We all have so many "obligations" that we can't live a free life and think and do for ourselves and our loved ones. We never have "time" to do anything except be exhausted. That's ridiculous! We need our lives back in the worst way!

I'm sure it seems like I'm always barking at people and telling them what I think they should be doing. I want to encourage people to do the things *they* think they should do! I take my opportunity to express my opinions and seeing things as I do, I give them (my writings) a sort of extra kick in the ass for emphasis! I want people to not be able to forget what I am saying. I want them to think about it.

Years ago, a young woman called me an "alarmist." And she was right and I am and she thought it was good that that is how I am. I do think we need to sound the alarm now – before things totally collapse into massive suffering and dying. It's more than horrific enough right now.

Years ago, a lyric written and sung by Country Joe McDonald really struck a chord in me ever since – over thirty years ago. It was: "There are so many who must lose for you to gain." Well, I've gained a real lot and in the meantime many have lost. It's not fair that it is so hard to live and gain a claim to yourself, while so many go down along the way. There are reasons why this happens this way. Our lifelong job is to help as many live and gain and unite against those who cause people to lose and die. Humanity is our family and we all need each other to make it to the next level [illegible]he next...

Hopefully, we can reach a critical mass of self-sustaining consciousness-driven positive social action capable of ending the stranglehold of these monstrous killers, stanch the bleeding and salvage this world for the future generations. For, if we can't, won't or don't - it seems less likely that the next group could either. It gets to be a more difficult and degraded a situation the longer effective organizing and world revolution are delayed.

We give our children the gift of life and that life is theirs and their futures. But, it is not fair to give them life and not let them live it – or *have* a future!

Note:

Coyote is an imprisoned radical intellectual and a self-proclaimed anarchist who dedicates most of his time and energy into producing materials and literature that will awaken the minds of people on both sides of the fence. His writings and words are received and embraced far and wide, from prison to prison, state to state and coming to a 'hood near you.

Abigail is, well, she's excellent! People who know her say she is the modern-day Emma Goldman in the making. She's a badass anarchist who likes to get her hands dirty. She's the real deal! She is part of the Burning River chapter of ABC in Cleveland, Ohio. She walks it like she talks it. Much praise goes out to Abigail and to Burning River.



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