

Thought Bombs #27



CHICAGO—On a bitter cold Tuesday, December 6, a small crowd gathers for the National Day of Counter-Recruitment Action amidst the downtown holiday lights. Juan Torres is an antiwar activist who speaks out in memory of his son, Juan Manuel Torres, who was killed in Afghanistan. (Photo by Ken Carl)

*Dedicated to
Dylan Drew Drapeau
(December 30, 1988 - July 20, 2006)*

INTRODUCTION

Greetings! It's already late September. Since issue #26, put out back in February, I've done several things and published dozens of zines. It's been stressful, as my workplace is an endless nightmare of construction congestion coupled with hassle from management. I qualify for a modest pension in about two weeks, after 32 years of this miserable job. But, I don't know if I'll retire at the end of the year as I've been planning or not. I really don't have an "exit plan." I don't know where else I would begin to look for another job. Being a rabble rouser isn't a very marketable skill. Our sons are still young and at home (18 and 12.) Stanton will probably be going to the University of Illinois in Champaign next fall and Stephen is going to need braces pretty soon. I may work a couple more years at the rock pile.

Everything came to a screeching halt as soon as we learned of Dylan's death. We were up in Northern Wisconsin on vacation and Mike called to let us listen to a cry of pain phone message from Dylan's girlfriend, Amber. Dylan was killed in a car wreck! We all started crying.

We got up early the next morning and drove straight through, stopped at home for a few minutes and then went right to the Drapeau house in Crete. Everybody was extremely distraught and we stayed several hours that afternoon and evening. Leslie was literally holding up Sharrie and I tried to console Ken, who was wearing Dylan's shirt. I've never felt such searing pain. Ken, Dylan's father, took me to the still fresh crash site. It didn't make any sense – especially that Dylan somehow had so horribly misjudged the situation and basically, caused a dreadful collision that took his own life. At least, this is what the Chief of Police of Crete and the Coroner were saying to the family that terrible night. I'll always remember these numbing days by the piercing wail of sorrow from his 13 year-old sister, Darcy. Dylan's 20 year-old brother, Justin, could only pace around the yard – too hurt to talk.

I knew right away, just as Ken had surmised, that things just didn't add up. It didn't make any sense. Dylan was brilliant, clean as a whistle and extremely safety conscious. He would never have placed himself in such a vulnerable position – if he had any control over the situation. According to the Police Chief, there were no witnesses. I came back the next day and took over 60 pictures of the scene. I called the Police Chief and asked to see Dylan's smashed car. At first, he wouldn't let me see it because it was Sunday and he was off. On Monday, I couldn't see it for some other bullshit reason. I had told him earlier that I was going to flyer the area seeking witnesses. He said: "Don't go there!" I asked if Dorian had been tested for alcohol and he wouldn't answer. I knew something was not right. The family was shattered and sort of relying on me to get some real answers. They felt horribly violated by the police – lied to and brusquely treated – abominable! The pain and suffering was *beyond* excruciating!

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Teen killed in collision

'Gifted' youth driving home when his car crashed with pickup

By Hal Dardick
Tribune staff reporter

Dylan Drapeau was less than five minutes from his Crete home Thursday night when the compact car he was driving was broadsided by a pickup as he tried to cross a six-lane highway.

The 17-year-old A student was pronounced dead at the scene, said Sandy Botterman, his aunt.

"He was an unbelievably gifted person, ever since he was a child," Botterman said. "He was a gifted artist and musician. He always did extremely well at school. He was at the top of his class. We all thought he was going to be something special."

Drapeau was headed west on

Richton Road, trying to cross Illinois Highway 394 in a Ford Focus, when a northbound GMC pickup truck hit the driver's side of his vehicle at about 8:50

p.m., Crete Police Chief Paul Van Deraa said.

After the impact, both vehicles went into the southbound lanes and came to rest in a parkway at the northwest corner of the intersection, he said.

Drapeau suffered multiple blunt force trauma, Will County Coroner Patrick O'Neil said.

The driver of the pickup, Brian Dorian, 32, of Lansing, was taken to St. James Hospital and Health Center in Olympia Fields, where he was treated and released, Deraa said.

There are stop signs on Rich-



ton at the lighted intersection, but none on Illinois 394, which has six lanes and a median at that point, Deraa said. From 1995 to 2005, there were 58 crashes with two fatalities and 74 injuries at the intersection, according to Illinois Department of Transportation statistics.

In Thursday's crash, which IDOT logged as the first fatality at the intersection this year, there were no signs of drug or alcohol use, Deraa said. No citations were issued, and Drapeau was wearing his seat belt, Deraa said. Illinois State Police accident reconstruction experts were reviewing the wreck, he added.

Drapeau had been at his girlfriend's house and might have made a quick stop somewhere before the crash, Botterman said. He was on his way home.

He was a senior at Crete-Monroe High School, where he was on the math team for two years,

TEENS AT THE WHEEL

■ The Tribune is putting a spotlight on the dangers of teen driving. For the series so far, go to chicagotribune.com/teendrivers

she said. The second of three children, he had hoped to attend either Northwestern University or the University of Chicago.

Drapeau played the piano and liked classical and jazz music, his aunt said, adding that he composed some of his own music.

"Whatever he did, he did well," Botterman said. "He was just one of those people. . . . He just gave us hope for the younger generation."

Freelance reporter Dennis Sullivan contributed to this report.
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NEW-M-PAC TRIPLE DDD INITIATIVE

THIS TRIPLE DDD INITIATIVE

IS DESIGNED FOR AND DEDICATED TO

DYLAN DREW DRAPEAU

[DECEMBER 30, 1988-JULY 20, 2006]

DYLAN WAS A FUN LOVING, HAPPY-GO-LUCKY-KIND-OF-A-GUY, THAT EVERYONE WHO CAME IN DIRECT CONTACT WITH HIM, BENEFITED FROM THE UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY OF SEEING AND/OR EXPERIENCING SOMEONE LIVE THEIR LIFE TO ITS FULLEST.

In Memory of Dylan Drapeau

The Southland of Chicago has experienced a loss of incalculable proportions. On Thursday night, July 20th, Dylan Drapeau was killed in a dreadful, unnecessary, senseless and totally preventable accident. He was only 17 years old, but already he had demonstrated his extraordinary sense of self and enthralling musical and artistic talent to many, many people.

His car was struck at the dangerous intersection of 394 and Richton Road, site of numerous accidents, injuries and other fatalities in recent years. Insanely, this intersection has no stop light or even a stop sign for traffic flying by on 394. There are numerous other things wrong with this intersection, as well.

Dylan was a squeaky clean kid who never took drugs or alcohol and was a very careful driver. He did everything right in life, yet still his life was cut short this terrible night. His wake was attended by an overflow crowd of friends and loved ones and he was buried the next day, Tuesday, July 25th. The grief, pain and sorrow, these last several days has been almost unbearable.

So, who's to blame for this tragedy of tragedies? Is it the other driver? Is IDOT to blame for their foot-dragging these many years on this and other dangerous, accident-waiting-to-happen intersections? Is it the souped-up, macho, speed demon culture we live in? Is it just an unavoidable quirk of chance and circumstance? These questions beg to be answered!

There are still ongoing investigations, both by those whose responsibility it is to delve into these matters officially, as well as by the family and friends of those involved. One thing you can be sure of. We will not rest until all the facts are known and an *absolutely* thorough and honest investigation is completed. As well, our efforts will focus on fast-tracking a genuine solution to the constant danger of this dreadful corner.

We owe our complete and unrelenting efforts in this regard not only to Dylan and his wonderful family, but to any other kid who may be in harm's way due to foot-dragging, negligence, indifference, bureaucracy, or lack of accountability. I will drop everything and devote my entire attention to this very serious matter, if that is what it will take.

I have my own opinions as to where the blame should be laid, which I will keep to myself at this time. In time, I'm confident all the facts will come out and some sort of closure, hopefully, will be attained. In the meantime, I will live every day of my life, cherishing the memory of Dylan, being close to their dear family and helping to see that this day of reckoning is actualized, as soon as humanly possible.

Already, I can feel the power of his sweet heart pulsing in my own and guiding me to be more loving and responsible to my own family, friends, associates and strangers, and for that, I am eternally grateful. I do regret it took such an unbelievable tragedy for me to get my own act together. But, I made a life-long promise to Dylan that I know I will keep. I whispered it into his ear and kissed his now cold forehead, at his wake.

Never believe that the "children of today" are the cause of the problems we all see. Adults are supposed to look out for our children, teach them and guide them, and *this* is where the real failure is to be found. Their welfare, safety and proper development rests in *our* hands. This is our responsibility and our sacred duty, as it has always been.

Dylan's life was cut short, but in his brief seventeen years, he outpaced almost every one of us in diligent study, dedication, accomplishment and a life lived in the purest sense of love. He was also a hilarious chum, who left a permanent smile on everybody's face. He could drive you nuts, but you could never do anything but adore him. He was a source of constant fascination. Everybody would always ask, "What's Dylan up to?"

Rest in peace, Dylan, and thank you for every second of every day that I, my wife and our two sons were extraordinarily fortunate enough to know you. We will now huddle around your family from now on, because this is where your light and wonder are the strongest. As Van Morrison wrote: "It's in the *living* that we find."

Anthony Rayson

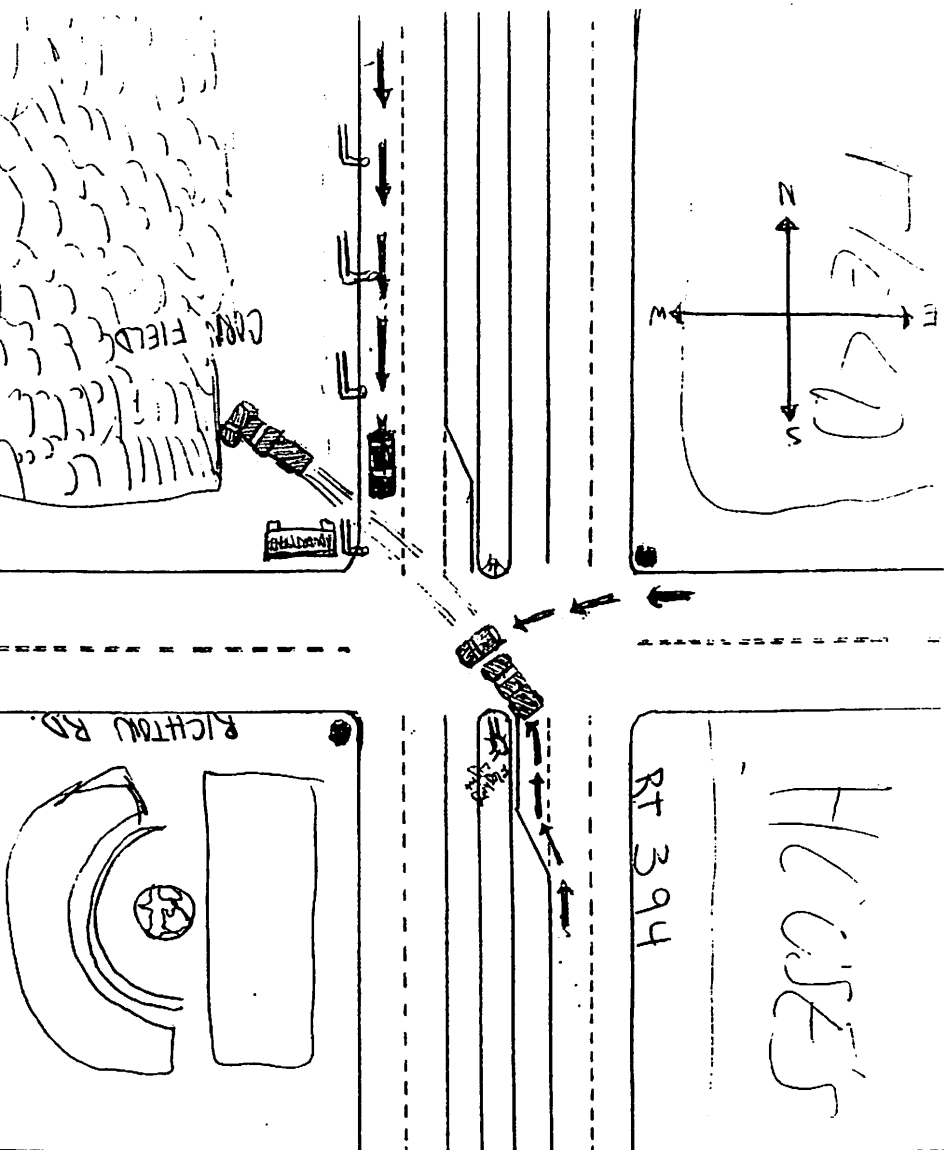
* Dylan was my son Stanton's best friend since fourth grade. They were going to have a life together in music. Dylan was an amazing piano player - the best I'd ever seen and I saw many, many professional concerts. He was broadsided on a dangerous intersection by an off-duty cop. Immediately, the police began to put the fix in. Evidence was suppressed and falsified and witnesses were ignored. A courageous witness, who was almost killed himself by this cop, came forward at the wake. We are now preparing legal action with a high-octane legal team. It was the most heartbreaking week of my life, but rest assured, we will not let these pigs get away with this. He had a twenty year old brother and a thirteen year old little sister. I meet with the parents and lawyers today at 4 pm.

EYEWITNESSES WANTED

A terrible fatal accident happened at Richton Road & 394 Thursday night, July 20 at around 8:30 pm. If you have any information about this, please call: Anthony Rayson at: (708) – 534 -1334

anthonyrayson@hotmail.com

Loving family & friends of,
Dylan Drapeau, age 17, of
Crete, Illinois. Thank you.



Drawing Created 7/20/06 JMD

Jimmy Davis
7/25/06

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MEMORIAL RALLY For DYLAN DRAPEAU

In Remembrance

Dylan Drew Drapeau
December 30, 1988 – July 20, 2006



Sunday, August 20th at 5 pm

Crete-Monee High School
760 W. Exchange Ave. Crete

Contact: Anthony Rayson
anthonyrayson@hotmail.com
(708) - 534 - 1334

We will *never* forget Dylan!

Rally is set for teen who died in car crash with off-duty cop

By Hal Dardick
Tribune staff reporter

Friends and family of Dylan Drapeau, 17, of Crete, are planning a memorial rally Sunday, the one-month anniversary of his death in a car crash.

Also part of the 5 p.m. rally in front of Crete-Monee High School is a walk to the police station, where participants plan to voice frustration with the ongoing crash investigation.

Drapeau, an "A" student and talented musician, died July 20 at Illinois Highway 394 and Richton Road. He was driving west on Richton, trying to cross Illinois 394 in a Ford Focus, when a northbound GMC pickup truck hit the driver's side of his car, police said. The teen was dead at the scene.

Off-duty Lynwood Police Officer Brian Dorian, who was driving the pickup, was treated at a local hospital and released.

There were no immediate indications alcohol or drugs

played a role in the crash, and no citations have been issued. An Illinois State Police accident reconstruction has yet to be completed, said Crete Police Chief Paul Van Deraa.

Drapeau's parents are suing Dorian in Cook County Circuit Court, alleging he did not keep a sufficient lookout, was driving too fast and "failed to equip [his] vehicle with adequate brakes."

The suit is based, in part, on statements by witness Jeremy Davis, said attorney Nicholas J. Motherway.

Drapeau stopped at a sign near the intersection, then pulled into Illinois 394 to make a left turn, Davis said in a telephone interview. Davis was headed south on Illinois 394 and believes Dorian hurried up his left turn, he said. "I just believe he was trying to make that turn before I got there and didn't see Dylan coming," Davis said.

Dorian could not be reached for comment.

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Dylan Drapeau Memorial Rally

We have gathered here today to honor and reminisce about an extraordinary young man, Dylan Drapeau, whose life was tragically cut short one month ago tonight. Dylan was every parent's dream – a hard-working, loving, dedicated, enormously talented – yet rascally fun, normal and humble kid. He was always helping people learn things that he had discovered with his relentless desire. He inspired many people to develop their own talents, usually after listening to his amazing piano playing. To give you an idea about what I mean, here's what he wanted for his 18th birthday – an \$800.00 dictionary!

Our family was very close to Dylan and his family because our sons met each other years ago, when they were both in the fourth grade gifted class. They became close friends and developed their music together. They constantly challenged each other – and awed each other by what they had learned. It was a source of huge pride and wonder to my wife and me. When I saw Dylan's car in our driveway, I was thrilled because I knew I would be able to coax him to play our piano, which he really liked, because it had perfect pitch. He would play furiously for an hour or so, totally off the top of his head – an incredible original concerto.

But yet he was as self-effacing as you could expect of a young man, who knew what he was about to be. For a lad of seventeen, he was light years ahead of many adults in the qualities that usually take a lifetime to develop – if they develop at all.

He cared about other people and wanted them to succeed also, and he helped people in many ways, without looking for credit for doing so. He received his praise! After all, his sheer talent and the effort he put into it were absolutely stunning! He wasn't just a musician. He won several writing contests along the way and I don't know what all else. I'm a very difficult man to impress. I can honestly tell you, Dylan, when he was playing his piano, was the only person that I knew, that I was totally in awe of.

Dylan was just beginning to become a man. He would have been a senior this year, at Crete-Monee High School. He was at or near the top of his class scholastically and participated in various clubs and activities. With his talent, drive and motivation to maximize his potential, his future was limitless. The world was his oyster. In fact, in my opinion, the world may very well have lost its modern day Mozart on this terrible night, one month ago.

Dylan was aware of this and accordingly was *very* careful with how he handled himself. He was *extremely* safety-conscious, bordering on the paranoid. He *never* touched a drop of alcohol or did any drugs. On the night of this tragedy, he also did nothing wrong. He obeyed the traffic laws, had his seat belt on and so forth, yet he was still killed. He was the opposite of the "reckless teen" that you hear so much about. He was the epitome of the statement, "The child is father to the man."

Dylan's death was a watershed event for this community and he very well might be the finest example of a young man ever to come out of Crete. A deep, searing pain and loss is still very much being felt by all who knew him. In fact, we will *never* forget him and I personally intend to write a book detailing his life, as well as the circumstances of his death. I want to work with anyone willing to contribute a story or testimony about him, his writings, his music, his delightful sense of humor and the adventures they had with him. His brilliant example beats in every one of our hearts.

In time, all the facts of this tragedy will be known in full. I will assure you of that, right now! Dylan's example of a life lived in the fullest sense of love and discovery is a beacon example for us all. In all you do, in all the relations you have, think to yourself, what would Dylan have liked me to do in this situation? For, if you do ask yourself that question, you'll know that what Dylan would have wanted you to do, would be the very best thing you could do for yourself, your family, your friends and every person you meet. He was that kind of guy – the best and the brightest and the most compassionate and caring, that humans are capable of being. He loved Bob Dylan and did that name proud!

I suppose right now, Dylan is working closely with the other musicians in heaven, being the perfectionist that he is. For, Dylan, no doubt, is now the Conductor of God's Symphony.

With, Love & Respect ALWAYS – Anthony Rayson

In Remembrance

Dylan Drew Drapeau
December 30, 1988 – July 20, 2006



MY SON DYLAN

As you already know, Dylan left this world, July 20th. This has devastated my family. We're in shock, grief and everything else. You can't possibly even imagine. We relive this nightmare every day, since July 20th.

There are a lot of inconsistencies in a lot of these stories. Such as the night they came to our house with the coroner, the Crete Chief of Police and a third person, who I don't recall his name. They mentioned that Dylan pulled out in front of Brian Dorian's GMC pick-up truck, onto 394 from Richton Road and that there were no witnesses. They told me that no sobriety test was conducted on Brian Dorian at that time. Not even a ticket was issued. All this was told to us that same night.

I knew something was not right. Even the Police Report, saying that Brian Dorian was living in Lansing, was fishy, as the subsequent report had him living in Crete. Just the whole way the Police Report was made out was highly suspicious.

Well, lo and behold, during Dylan's wake, the prime witness came forward and said he too was almost involved in this accident. He said he saw everything and that other witnesses were shooed away by the Crete Police. He also said that Dylan did absolutely nothing wrong. Dylan was already in the middle section of the intersection, when Dorian accelerated into a turn, without using his turn signal and crashed broadside into Dylan's car. He probably didn't even see Dylan and there were no brake marks before impact. The report had Dylan's car being hit on the corner and not broadsided, another untruth in the report.

Brian Dorian was not injured. He is a police officer for Lynwood, who was off duty at the time of this horrible tragedy. You wouldn't believe the fabrications Brian Dorian made up. This makes a tragic situation all the worse! With your help, let's get to the truth.

On a positive note: My son Dylan is in Heaven. Hebrew 9:27 says:

"And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after the Judgment."

This means the Lord took him, at such an early age. Everyone knows what a special person he is, so special that the Lord needed him.

And as well as I, Sherry, Justin, Darcy (and Lilly & Oreo, our cats) know him, he is a person who loves God, with all his heart, mind and soul.

I guess what I'm trying to say to you people, is when it comes to be your time to leave this World, you want to be in Heaven. It's a very special place. The Lord loves you. This is just a sort of probationary period in our lives. You are supposed to be doing God's will, here in Earth, and not your own will. Read the Bible and follow its instructions. I'm very serious. Pray every day and ask the Lord with a sincere heart to show you the way to knowledge and understanding.

My wife and our children thank you all for coming out here today to share your sorrow and help us celebrate Dylan's marvelous life. Thank you.

Dylan's Father, Ken Drapeau

Love

DYLAN

Dylan Drew Drapeau
December 30, 1988 - July 20, 2006



DYLAN!

Dylan was amazing! He was like the epicenter of this awesome extended family. He was real close to his cousins and stuff. The parents are wonderful and dedicated to make this happen. I wish I was closer to my cousins! I think I'll start calling them and telling them how much I love them and how we gotta get together with our kids and everything.

Life is too short not to live it in a constant state of excitement and creation, like being in wonder all the time - like Dylan - who somehow managed to lead this natural genius life, yet he made sure everyone was there for the ride, too! Isn't that what we should be doing now?

Oh, how he loved to do everything!

I remember not long ago, a few months, we took Dylan to go see Jethro Tull some night in Toledo, Ohio. We got to the parking lot and ran our ass into the theatre. We missed the first two or three songs, but - we made it!

All the days of Dylan, I'll try hard to remember and collect (and yap about!) We can all do this. It's the best therapy around!

I want to thank everyone for coming here, today. This is for Dylan, his mother and his father and his sister and his brother.

It's for everyone - today and forevermore!

CRETE CITIZEN DEMANDS

1. We want open hearings on the "accident" that killed Dylan Drapeau on July 20th, 2006.
2. We also want Citizen Hearings with IDOT concerning the dangers of 394 & Richton Road and other bad intersections in our area.
3. We believe this was a very serious crime – reckless homicide, or worse - caused by Lynwood Police Officer Brian Dorian. Why were the witnesses ignored? Why was the father of Dylan told that there were no witnesses? Why was it marked a front corner impact, when Dylan was broadsided? Why was Dorian's initial address listed as being in Lapsing? Why wasn't Dorian breath-tested at the scene? When was he tested??? We want statements from the lab technicians concerning these alleged tests. We want a serious investigation of the roles of Officer Cornejo & Police Chief Van der Laa, as to why only Dorian's account was accepted. Almost invariably, the statements of the witnesses are a major part of any such police report. Where was Dorian shortly before this accident? We want all radio tapes and 911 calls made public. We want the other witnesses to be located and their statements made public. We want the **TRUTH!**
4. We believe that the truth of the matter is that this was a serious crime, committed by Brian Dorian and he should be charged for it. We also believe covering up this crime is a crime that must also be prosecuted. This man is still out there driving in our community without so much as a ticket! We feel terrorized by this fact and the bond between citizens & police has been ruined!
5. We believe there should be citizen oversight of police activity – especially involving police misconduct and criminal activity.
6. We want complete drug-testing of Brian Dorian for drugs that don't take just a few hours to pass through a body, such as steroids.
7. We want a thorough and honest investigation of Brian Dorian's driving record prior to this horrible tragedy.
8. We want Richton Road to be closed at 394 until a stop light or sign is erected, at the least. The laws must be changed to make IDOT accountable for these dangerous, accident-waiting-to-happen intersections. We can no longer tolerate this scene of countless accidents and deaths.
9. We want professional grievance counselors / nurses (WOMEN) to inform a family of such a horrible event and not a group of gruff men from the Coroner's Office.
10. We want *mandatory, immediate and complete* drug-testing of all drivers involved in fatal accidents – *especially* if they are the Police!

This horrible tragedy was a knife to the heart of the citizens of Crete, which has been twisted by the Crete Police Department. Everyone knows that if Dorian was not a cop, he would have been tested, the witnesses would have been listened to and he would have probably been arrested for this crime. We will never forget Dylan, nor will we ever settle for this shameful police response. The family and the community deserve to know every last detail (and they will!)

CITIZENS SEEKING JUSTICE FOR THE DEATH OF DYLAN DRAPEAU

A Life So True (Murder Most Foul)

Dylan wore an always smile. He burst into self-conscious nervous subdued laughter, almost every time he spoke, it seemed. He was a very handsome boy – curly locks adorning a finely featured face, atop a fit, coordinated body.

My son, Stanton, met him when they both found themselves in the same fourth grade gifted class, I'm thinking in the fall of '99.

Soon the boys became close friends and spent a lot of time together. One night Stanton would stay over at Dylan's house and the next night, he'd be at our house for the night. I'd get up early to go to work and take a peek at the boys sprawled out on the couch or floor, after entertaining each other the night before, until exhaustion overtook them. That always put a smile on my face as I trudged off to my miserable job. Kids! You wouldn't catch *me* sleeping on the floor!

Even early on, it was quite obvious that Dylan had a unique gift as a piano player, coupled with a rare diligence and a sort of cocksure moxie to get *really* good – fast! I think this is how Stanton started to pursue his own interest in the piano, music in general, as well as other instruments.

Before long, it was understood by both sets of parents that this was an exceptional duo and to watch them develop their friendship, always driving each other and *stunning* us in the process – was a marvel to behold.

Well, lots of kids tell their parents, "Mom! I want to be a rock star when I grow up!" Or, they'll blurt out some variation on this theme. Parents are naturally leery of this, as a possible indicator of scholastic laziness or attraction to a dissolute life-style or whatever. But never did we have the slightest doubt that both boys, would indeed become enormously successful musicians. After all, Dylan was #1 in his class and Stanton was close behind him. They studied music religiously, quickly learned how to read music, taught themselves other instruments, languages, history, philosophy, music theory, etc., etc.

They composed complicated, multi-instrument musical arrangements, practiced singing (in various languages) wrote lyrics and stories and generally made the most of their time, *thinking* and *analyzing* the wide range of music that they constantly listened to and learned how to play, efficiently.

Dylan took up other instruments at Stanton's urging, but he was really honed in on the piano. He became *extremely* good at the piano – incredibly good!

I can't speak for Stanton, but it seemed to me, that although Stanton was taking piano lessons and was becoming quite good himself at the piano, he

realized that Dylan was the master of the ivories. So, Stanton started branching out, taking guitar lessons, acquiring guitars – acoustic, electric, bass, harmonicas, flutes, an accordion or two, amplifiers, mikes, drums, all kinds of things, which he promptly taught himself how to play!

All during this time, Stanton was becoming a wizard with the computer. Helped by his mother – a webmaster-reference librarian and his aunt and uncle, who are likewise very computer savvy, he learned how to wed his music and the incredible technology available to those smart enough to learn how to use it. He bent this technology to his creativity.

Other people too, recognized his brilliance and gave him tips, software to use, etc. I assume a similar, although not quite as concentrated and mentored situation was ongoing with Dylan.

Personally, I'm sort of a dumb ass as far as the computer is concerned. I never even liked PAC MAN back in the day and only began using it, kicking and screaming, to transcribe writings and impatiently check email. I don't like being held hostage by a screen and a sometimes tied in knots computer "brain." That was another cool thing about Dylan. He never watched T.V.

I'd already become valedictorian in 1995 at Prairie State College, before I even *tried* to use a computer, for an astronomy class. I had an astonished professor show me the rudiments, after class. I got something like 120% grade in that class, as he had to lower the scale to insure that the rest of the class didn't flunk out. I liked the freedom of a piece of paper and a pen!

As diligent and relentless as Dylan was with his piano playing, Stanton was with the computer, his other instruments and his myriad other studies. These two had *all* the bases covered!

I'd be remiss if I didn't introduce a third member of this extraordinary group – a bonafide member of these three amigos – Ezra.

Ezra was a little younger, yet part of their class, also. He's from Mexico. I don't think he plays an instrument – maybe I'm mistaken about that. But, he too was brilliant, witty, engaging and just plain delightful. Even all the teachers loved Ezra! He was the perfect complement to the edgy fireworks that Dylan and Stanton created. He soothed everything. Any tenseness of potential conflict was magically transformed into uproarious, continuous hilarity – seemingly by his mere presence! I couldn't figure it out! I tried to ask myself: "What are the dynamics of this?" I couldn't come up with an answer. So, I just shrugged my shoulders and thanked my lucky stars that these boys so loved each other and reveled in each other's company. I thought I was "hip." But, what the heck! I was assuaged by looking at my wife's beamingly happy face to the point of tearing up.

There were other amazing lads who hovered around this trio, kids like Kyle and Josh and Sean and no doubt others. But, being Stanton's dad, I figured they didn't need me around much.

I remember when I was a kid. I loved my Dad, but it was kinda awkward with him around, when I had my friends over.

So, although I was very curious about what they were saying and doing and I had my ears pricked, I tried to give them their space. Besides, I always had a ton of things to do, anyway, not the least of which was trying to keep Stephen, Stanton's little brother by six years – out of their hair. Stephen was like a moth to a flood light around these guys, and more often than not, they knew he was part and parcel of the deal of coming over.

I guess it's time to talk a little bit about Stephen.

~ to be continued... ~

WHEN COPS COMMIT CRIME

The police are entrusted with very grave responsibilities. They are asked to interpret complicated and sometimes vague and even contradictory "laws" out on the streets. If citizens did what the police are required to do, it would be considered criminal behavior. For example, "arrest" would be "armed kidnapping" and "seizure of assets" would be called "robbery" or "burglary" or "theft." The death penalty would be known as pre-meditated murder. If a cop shoots a "bad guy" to death, he's considered a hero and not a killer.

The police are the official armed wing of business. It's the official gang, with uniforms and badges and paychecks.

With so many laws against so many common behaviors, such as "illegal" drug use and traffic violations, who gets arrested and why is often just a policeman's judgment call, dependent on his prejudices, his attitude or just a quirk of circumstance, based on his emotional response and his interpretation of his "duty."

Often, police come from the ranks of the military, where they are de-sensitized and

trained how to kill people. For many cops, their sub-culture is one of heavy substance abuse themselves, such as alcohol and steroids. They have high rates of spousal abuse and high divorce rates. Some cops think of themselves as "above the law" or just, "The Law." We all see manifestations of this, every day. Police cars zip through traffic, blow red lights, make turns without using signals, etc. - whether they are on a call or not. It's an uncomfortable experience, but it's the price we're made to feel we must pay in this country, under the present system, such as it is.

But, what happens when a cop commits a crime, and other cops, who are supposed to investigate the situation, cover up for him, instead?

This is what we believe has happened, down in Crete, Illinois, on the terrible night of July 20th, 2006. Off-duty Lynwood cop, Brian Dorian, age 32, who was driving his GMC pick-up truck (with a metal bar across the front end) broadsided the Ford Focus, driven by 17-year old Dylan Drapeau, in the middle of the dangerous intersection of 394 and Richton Road.

Dorian was turning onto Richton Road West from 394 North, as Dylan was waiting for the southbound traffic to pass. The force of the impact was so great that Dylan's neck was broken and his aorta was ripped from his heart - even though he had his seat belt on. Dorian was uninjured. There were no skid marks before impact. Dorian either could not, would not or did not attempt to brake.

A witness traveling southbound, who Dylan was waiting for, but Dorian refused to wait for, had to fishtail to avoid the collision, stopped and had another carload of witnesses call 911.

When the Crete police came to the scene, a one Officer Cornejo, Dylan was dying or dead, as the vehicles were locked together. Dorian was telling everyone he was a cop and Dylan got in his way.

However, the witness placed the blame for this horrible tragedy, squarely on Dorian. The officers shooed away the carload of (young black) witnesses and told the main witness, his testimony would be "unnecessary." Cornejo told him that the accident "couldn't have happened" the way he described it to him. No mention was a witness was put on the initial accident report. Also, the impact on Dylan's car was incorrectly put on the corner of the driver's front, instead of dead center. Dorian was listed as living in Lansing, IL instead of Crete, where he does live.

The Chief of Police of Crete, Paul Van Delaa told Dylan's parents that night that there were no witnesses and that Dylan basically caused his own death.

Dorian was not breath-tested at the scene, although Dylan was autopsied. Dylan, as we knew, was squeaky clean. Dorian was treated and released and not tested until the next day, when of course, any alcohol would have been expunged by his liver.

These are all confirmable facts! Dorian was not even ticketed! The Chief of Police said he was tested the next day. Days later, he said he was tested that night.

The witness came forward at Dylan's wake three nights after this fatal collision and provided a detailed testimony about the accident, along with a sketch. This was the basis of a wrongful death suit, filed against Dorian, by the Drapeau family.

These are the bare bones facts of this case. The details are much more chilling and damning.

We strongly believe that Dorian committed a very serious crime - vehicular homicide, reckless homicide or the outright murder of Dylan Drapeau, which the Crete police refused to seriously investigate as such, due to the fact that Dorian is a cop. Covering up a homicide by the police is also a very serious crime!

Dylan Drapeau was an extraordinary young man, soon to be a senior at Crete-Monee High School. He was at or near the top of his class, scholastically, and was on the math team. He was an incredibly talented and dedicated piano player and writer. He was uncommonly focused on a no doubt, brilliant future.

Where do we turn for justice in this watershed event in Crete? The trust between citizens and the police has been shattered - just as Dylan's body was, this horrible night.

Whether the authorities, whose job it is to "police the police" step up or not, will not alter the truth of what happened to dear Dylan. Nor will it affect how relentlessly we - the friends and family and concerned citizens - pursue the truth and seek justice from this day forward.

We demand and deserve the truth! For Dylan, quite probably, was the brightest star Crete has ever produced, and as talented as he was, his heart was even more impressive.

The more this crime is hidden, the more luminosity we will shed on it.

To lose a child to tragedy is the most hurtful things in the world. To have such a

magical child done to death by a cop - and have other cops lie and treat him like roadkill - is the most sick, terrible abomination in this disgusting society.

We want the full, complete truth about this to be publicly aired. We will never rest until it is.

JUSTICE FOR DYLAN DRAPEAU COMMITTEE

TOTALLY VIOLATED!

This horrible nightmare is a direct assault by the police, on the community. Cruel beyond comprehension or any shred of compassion, this is an incredibly bitter lesson to learn. A policeman killed our precious boy and they all acted like he hit a deer!

They lied into the face of the parents that night, horrifying their 13-year old daughter. Vile beyond imagination - remorseless and horrible!

And, we're supposed to just accept it! This is a watershed event - a mark in time - as to the amoral corruption and criminality that defines modern-day government. Horrible!

This murder is the last straw! I will never stop talking about it, as exhibit "A" of police terrorism!

"Murder Most Foul!" indeed! The truth! I will forever seek and shout, the truth!

If Dorian Skates

If Dorian is not charged (and even if he is, really) by not treating his crime as they would a non police (wo)man, all arrests they have make or will make are

morally invalid! If they wink at inside crime, yet pursue other so-called "law breakers" they are participants in the worst kind of criminal conspiracy.

But then, the whole idea of the "state" is vile and insane! Why allow for a nebulous monolithic entity to have power of life and death, a living death (eternal prison sentencing) or extermination (bombing, invading, etc.) if deemed "necessary?" This killing contract is wielded by ambitious and power-hungry bureaucrats. They're delusional and have loyalty to the "state" like Beria had loyalty to Stalin. Any abomination is in play – but only if they unleash it. It trickles down to the local level in corrupt and authoritarian police chiefs, politicians, cops, etc.

Dylan's terrible death is a cloudburst of expose and we'll get to the rainbow!

Justice For Dylan Drapeau Committee

- 1. We want the truth! We believe Brian Dorian must be charged with killing Dylan Drapeau.*
- 2. We want all witnesses located and their testimonies made public.*
- 3. We want tapes of all 911 calls and police radio transmissions that night also made public. We have strong reason to believe Dorian is being protected and not investigated, as he should be.*
- 4. Dylan Drapeau is dead! He was struck by what we believe was horribly reckless driving by Brian Dorian. He is still driving in our community. We feel violated and further endangered by this fact.*

5. We don't want any more of our children killed by police - or anybody else - due to gross negligence by IDOT & local officials.

6. We'll never accept this awful response to Dylan's death that the Crete police are trying to stick to. We know quite a bit of the truth and have faith in seeing it all, completely (and honestly) revealed. We know Dylan was careful and cautious, always. Bring on the T-R-U-T-H!

PRIORITIZE & IMPLEMENT ALL 3 SOLUTIONS.

(1) THERE IS A CLEAR & PRESENT DANGER, TO OUR YOUTH, BECAUSE THERE'S NO STOP SIGNS AND/OR TRAFFIC LIGHTS AT 394 AND RICHTON ROAD. (DYLAN WAS SLAIN HERE)

(2) THERE IS AN IMMEDIATE NEED FOR A TRAFFIC APPARATUS AT INTERSECTION 394 & RICHTON ROAD AND OTHER DEADLY AREAS.

(3) FILE A LAWSUIT AGAINST THE CITY FOR NEGLIGENCE; THE COP FOR WRONGFUL DEATH AND THE POLICE DEPT FOR OBSTRUCTION OF JUSTICE.

THIS INITIATIVE IS IN RESPONSE TO A CLEAR AND PRESENT DANGER! OUR YOUTH ARE

BEING KILLED OFF AND THE MATTER IS BEING TAKEN LIGHTLY, BY THOSE CHARGED WITH AUTHORITY. THEREFORE, IT IS OUR BINDING DUTY TO SAFEGUARD AND PROTECT ALL OF OUR YOUNG DYLAN'S' OF THE WORLD.

THE LIVES WE SAVE, WILL BE OUR CHILDREN

"FAILURE IS NO LONGER AN OPTION"

THIS DYLAN DREW DRAPEAU INITIATIVE
 IS A VERY POWERFUL APPARATUS THAT CAN
 AND/OR WILL IMMEDIATELY LINK EVERYONE
 TOGETHER FOR PRIORITY ACTION.

THIS 3D INITIATIVE
 SERVES AS A TRIBUTE TO DYLAN AND
 THE BEACON OF ENLIGHTENMENT,
 FOR WHICH HE ILLUMINATED.
 DYLAN WAS STRUCK DOWN IN HIS YOUTH,
 YET HIS LIGHT SHALL CONTINUE TO SHINE
 THROUGH THIS & OTHER INITIATIVES THAT
 HAS BEEN DEDICATED IN HIS HONOR.
 THIS (3D) PRIORITY INITIATIVE SHALL
 SERVE AS A FIRST ALERT SYSTEM, FOR
 PRIORITY CONCERNS, AS WELL AS AN
 IMMEDIATE CALL TO ACTION, FOR EVERYONE!
 ONCE A MATTER RECEIVES (3D) STATUS,
 THAT ISSUE SHALL BECOME TOP PRIORITY
 FOR ALL MEMBERS, AFFILIATES & FRIENDS.
 THIS (3D) INITIATIVE WILL ALSO,
 INSTANTLY BOOST MORAL, OUR UNITY,
 OUR IMAGE, OUR PREPAREDNESS, OUR TRUST,
 OUR SINCERITY, OUR SECURITY AND EVEN
 OUR BROTHERHOOD/COMRADERY.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONCERNING

DYLAN DREW DRAPEAU

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ANARCHISM

28

The Advanced Studies of "Giving a Damn!"

The dictionary definition of anarchy is chaos and violence – a society descending into barbarism. But, it also means a highly articulate philosophy of moral living. Of course, the powers that be want people to not know the difference and lump the philosophy of anarchism with the basest actions of mankind. That's what governments love to do – lie about everything! In a very real sense, we are living in a society and a world of chaos and violence – orchestrated by governments serving the interests of wage-slave based corporations. It's massive, daily, endless state terrorism – violence, deprivation, deportation, kidnapping, incarceration, surveillance, harassment, extortion (taxes) disinformation, regimentation, demonization, fear-mongering, militarization, false education (ignorance) racism, classism, sexism, homophobia, hopelessness, impoverishment, environmental degradation, consumerism, escapism, predation, the worshipping of state violence, police statism, religious fundamentalism and outright torture and murder by government agents – fascism – and this has been going on for a long, long time.

As well, the world is being subjected to nuclear warfare, by the U.S. government, who has uses hundreds of thousands of tons of "depleted uranium" encased weaponry in places like Iraq, Afghanistan, Serbia and elsewhere. "Depleted uranium" is a euphemism, like "friendly fire." It is U-235, which most mined uranium is. It is highly radioactive and cumulative in its effects. Weapons grade uranium is U-238, used in nuclear weapons. What America has done basically, has been to condemn all of Iraq's people to a slow, horrible death. Another dreadful thing this monstrous regime has done is blow up the extensive chemical and biological weapons Saddam had stored in 1991, unleashing all of these horrors, as well. Hundreds of thousands of American troops are now suffering from "Gulf War Syndrome" and millions of Iraqi's (and Afghani's) are immeasurably more doomed by these unspeakable and ongoing slow massacres. U-235 has a half-life of 4.5 billion years, the same lifespan estimated for our sun, so this is an *eternal* death sentence to a whole civilization – the cradle of civilization.

So, we have horrific chaos and violence and terrorism, directed by the U.S. government, mainly composed of high echelon corporate leaders, all paid for by our tax dollars. So, in a very real way, we are directly responsible for the death of our own planet!

Let me read you part of a letter that illustrates the fact that government is the main source of terrorism in this world. This was sent by an articulate prisoner, Dale Diamond, incarcerated in Amarillo, Texas.

Like they say, you can take a pig and put a dress and lipstick on it, but that doesn't change it from being a pig.

When is it that people will begin to realize the price that must be paid in having capitalism as an economic system?

I have to wonder what they teach the kids in public school these days where it concerns the impact a capitalist society has on the environment and at the price that has been / is being paid to preserve capitalism – the massacre of the innocents the world over.

From the Prisonhouse to the Slaughterhouse spells it out all very clearly. *"We know that for capitalism to survive, it must endlessly expand, as its whole modus operandi is driven by the quest for the profits of elites, not the needs of the world."*

Our hard work is exploited for profits, then taxes, so that industry and government can ruin our communities, force us into being their jailors and soldiers, and wreak devastation on our brothers and sisters across the globe. "Democracy" in bloodthirsty action!"

In closing, here are a few numbers – acts of atrocity that I gleaned from the book, Terrorism and Tyranny: Trampling Freedom, Justice and Peace to Rid the World of Evil, by James Bovard, 2003, ppgs. 233 & 235. *"According to the U.S. State Department, between 1980 and 2000, 7,745 people were killed in international terrorist incidents. During the same period, governments around the globe killed more than 10 million people."*

The carnage in recent decades is typical of government atrocities in the modern era. Professor R.I. Rummel, in his book, Death By Government declared: *"Almost 170 million men, women and children have been shot, beaten, tortured, knifed, burned, starved, frozen, crushed, overworked to death, buried alive. Drowned, hung, bombed, or killed in any other of the myriad ways governments have inflicted death on unarmed, helpless citizens and foreigners, during the twentieth century."*

Professor Irving Horowitz in a 1989 essay, entitled "Counting Bodies: The Dismal Science of Authorized Terror", observed: *"...in raw numerical terms, the source of the killing in this century tells the story; governments have been directly responsible for the deaths of roughly 120 million people, while war (both international and civil) accounts for thirty-five million deaths. In other words, in this century, really in the last forty-five years, over three and a half times more people have been killed by their own governments than by opposing states..."*

Dale Diamond #782043
Neal Unit
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This doesn't even include all the horrible government genocides in Bosnia, Rwanda, the Congo, Darfur, Colombia, etc. etc.!

OK. Anarchists are different. We detest crime and violence, coercion, predation, intimidation, indoctrination and all of that. We believe in self-respect and a learned, motivated engagement in society. This is natural mutual aid in action, for the females and males of humanity are highly social creatures, are capable, deserving of

and longing for free and open dealings with anybody else and not be brutally mentally herded by the Julius Streichers of America, today.

We focus on Earthly truth, and what has to be done to rescue her and the future of our children. Make no mistake, the Earth is being held hostage by global capitalism and its bloodthirsty governments with unbelievably dangerous weapons, which we have just seen are used mainly on their own people! In other words, people pay taxes, so the government can get guns, bombs, planes, gas, tasers – whatever – to kill you and your fellow Americans. This is today, in the here-and- now, not the genocide of the Native Americans or the chattel slavery of not so long ago. Legally, it's the 2.3 prisoners who are classified as legal slaves. Lawsuits filed by members of the Missouri Prison Labor Union asking for justice from being used as slave laborers – no days off, no wages – nothing! The august Supreme Court justices ruled that according to the 13th Amendment, an extremely important one, prisoners *are* slaves and can be used as slave laborers.

This is the argument Hitler used to write up the Nuremberg Laws that led the way to the gas chambers! The U.S. Constitution. South African apartheid laws were modeled after it. Remember Plessy v. Ferguson? This was the “separate but equal” ruling institutionalizing Jim-Crow discrimination for many decades. The Constitution, is in fact, a fraudulent, unenforceable (by reason) document! It is a slaver's document that was never really agreed to by any of us, nor many people back in the day. Unlike, the Declaration of Independence, it wasn't even signed – except by John Hancock! We're supposed to believe, that because the public grade schools force the kids to stand and say the “Pledge of Allegiance” every day before classes, that we thus have agreed to this thing, do you? That's child abuse, cult-like behavior - which the state insists upon. It's not a valid agreement. It's a coerced imposition, whose flowery language was taken from wise Native Americans they then went and slaughtered and whose vague platitudes are interpreted by reactionary “Supreme Court Justices” whose authority is cut from the self-same, unagreed to cloth.

Here's a brilliant deconstruction of the validity of the Constitution, beautifully written by an early American anarchist thinker, Lysander Spooner. It was written in 1869 in the wake of the domestic, government directed, brotherly bloodbath, known as the Civil War.

It was and is the most fraudulent document ever concocted by a group of pro-slavery higher-ups (landowners, Governors, etc.) Made to appear as a beacon of freedom, it systematized human slavery, denied nearly everyone the right to vote or other rights, paved the way for the raw invasion and slaughter of the Indigenous Nations, all the way to the west coast, including half of Mexico! The real truth is the fact that no government can “grant” rights or freedoms. These are all natural to everybody! Governments can *only* take rights and freedoms *away* from people!

OK. I'll get back to what anarchists believe. Another hugely important tenet of anarchism is solidarity. This means we come to the aid of each other when we need help. This means *everybody*! Anarchists worth their salt strive to learn about many, many struggles throughout the world, how they're related and put their heads together to articulate the issues involved and formulate some kind of action to educate and hopefully, activate people to deal concretely about these issues. It's about serious, constant free skool education and being there when some situation

develops and your help is needed. Everybody has certain gifts to contribute. We need to focus on developing our talents and how best they can be utilized to further our goal, which is a conscious and freely interacting citizenry, unhampered by coercive authority or slave relations, which is the last thing any government wants to see happen. When anarchism has briefly flourished, all states, whether they be "democratic" or "fascist" or "communist" have worked together to drown these examples of social freedom in oceans of blood.

We need to learn from each other and build bonds of friendship and solidarity. The New Afrikans have a slogan – "Each one, teach one!" and "Free the Land!" That's what I'm talkin' about! More focus and attention needs to be directed towards making these revelatory analyses available to more working people. People need to learn about and implement the anarchist punk ethic of "D.I.Y. – Do It Yourself!" Self-publishing, photography, music, art, documentaries, presentations, conferences, open forums, all kinds of opportunities to raise issues and consciousness, are available to those who are not bogged down by inertia. It's a contest of your own will, your own sense of self, to maximize your effectiveness. Anarchists, like myself, will be glad to put on teach-in type workshops on how to do all kinds of things (skill sharing.) Just ask us. Also, the internet is very helpful. It's great that kids (some, anyway) have access to computers and know how to use them. There are many excellent websites about anarchists and contacts to get books, zines, films, etc.

I focus most of my attention on thy nation's dungeons because that is ground zero of the oppression, here at home. There are many, many Brothers & Sisters in these pits who need our support, and solidarity. Sometimes, it's a very real case of life and death. To wit, Texas is trying to kill Hasan Shakur (again!) down in Texas. He's the Minister of Human Rights of the New Afrikan Black Panther Party Prison Chapter. He may very well be executed, ala Tookie Williams, in the next few weeks. It's modern-day slavery and people who oppose it are killed or heavily incarcerated. The horrible, beyond Mengele thing these days, is the Control Unit prisons. They are clinical torture chambers – the ultimate in vicarious nazi thrills.

Anarchists, imperfect like everybody else, are sort of activized by these sterling examples of moral principles to live by. Equality of all people, respect for the animals and ecology of Earth, these are what drive us in our activities, if we are not at our wage-slave job. Even on the job, our minds are workin'! The Wobblies, IWW, were the first union to treat women and blacks as equal to other workers and organized the most oppressed and stood in the line of danger courageously. Many were anarchists!

The Haymarket martyrs were all anarchists! These amazing heroes were the epitome of an anarchist, in my opinion. They published several *dailies*, weekly and monthly papers and journals in several languages, organized in defense of workers' rights constantly and electrified the entire world unto this day with their unbounded anarchist courage on the scaffold! Their "Chicago Idea" school of dedicated anarchist agitation is still one of the wonders of human achievement.

They kicked off the whole 8-hour movement. On May 1st, 1886, they led 80,000 people down Michigan Avenue, a full 1/3 the population of Chicago at that time! The next day, the police shot and killed two workers at international Harvester, and wounded many others. Two nights later, the Haymarket rally occurred and all the

rest. Shortly after the bomb and ensuing massacre by police, a huge round-up of thousands throughout Chicagoland, took place. That's how they operate, they set things up. Johnson conjured up the Tonkin Gulf Incident, Bush had his "WMD's" and Hitler, ever the student of the U.S., in 1939, dressed up some prisoners as Polish soldiers, trucked them to the frontier, shot them, and then claimed Poland was provoking them into war. This is how "World War II" became generalized, mass government-led slaughtering of civilians and soldiers (who are merely civilians forced into fighting for "their" government.) It's all about the "Big Lie" because they can't stand the truth, which is what anarchists look to find the most. So, they lie about us and hide their crimes in huge buildings in Washington, which normal people aren't allowed to read about. Just like in chattel slavery times, literacy and political consciousness especially, cannot be tolerated, because then people would discover how horrible governments truly are, overcome their lethargy and fear and begin to do something about it, instead of being atomized and fearful and hopeless, all the time.

OK. There's *that* rant! (smile*) Direct Action means to deal with whatever situation you are confronted with, domestic, social, political, whatever, in a responsible, straight ahead approach, always with the idea of fairness and truth and justice in mind. It's stepping up and pitching in all kinds of ways and having the social conscience to do what needs to be done to oppose injustice wherever you see it and defend oneself, family and community and the rest of humanity from any kind of oppression! An injury to one, is an injury to all! I truly believe that and it *hurts me*, when people are murdered by the U.S. government every day. I can't stand injustice to anyone!

Anarchism is tolerant of any religious belief, but necessarily wary. It's very Earth-centered. Although some anarchists hold some religious belief or other, I'd say most are atheists. I sure am! I don't believe any pie in the sky religion. They're invariably anti-women nightmare, depressing institutions, generating intolerance and religious fanaticism, which often leads to terror. It muddies the mind and debilitates the thinking processes. If you start believing a bunch of stuff based merely on "faith," you're much more susceptible to government manipulation, which in fact, is all pervasive throughout all the media. It takes a lot of conscious effort and willpower to defy its pernicious and ubiquitous onslaught, which religious doctrine plays into the hands of. "Good Christians" are a passive flock of sheep!

This is not to say, I don't believe in Spiritualism. I think I'll call myself a "Spiritual Humanist." A brilliant prisoner, Clarence Anthony (Talib Rasheed) Taylor, who is *still* in prison in Indiana, articulated this concept, to the best of my satisfaction. He describes it like this:

"Spiritual-Humanism is a free philosophy that embraces the essence of humanity by transcending the *reactionary* influences and values of nationalism and culture. It accepts the concept that all people are originally derived from the same proto-human, therefore, embody the same *bio-sociological* and *psycho-spiritual* needs.

Spiritual-Humanism is *not* a religion. It has as an objective the acceptance, nurturing, development and spiritual love of human beings. It encourages the *evolution of morality* as free, individual choice, although it must be healthy from

a sociological analysis. (*Do unto others*) It does not tolerate or condone to any degree the practical contradiction of theory. It advocates, human-centered, socially constructive practices and ethics, whereas religions historically have not.

Religions, in general, are god-centered, and these gods are created in the images of the people who worship them. Religions are authoritarian and have historically incorporated into their expressions the repression and pathologies of the cultures in which they operate. These pathologies range from the least to the worst of immoralities: The blind indoctrination of people, sexism, racism, classism, oppression, and genocide."

Clarence Anthony (Talib Rasheed) Taylor
13606 / 13-1E
Indiana Department of Corrections
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All too often, structured religions like the Catholic Church, for example, have worked hand in glove with the worst fascist monsters. Recently Opus Dei, a rightist Catholic sect, that was heavily involved in the mass slaughter of anarchists and others, during and years after the Spanish Civil War of the 30's, was elevated to a more sanctimonious level, by the pope. And look at the rightwing "Born Again" nuts of today. Look how Jesus' message has been twisted to go after gays, women, other religions, etc. Remember, Jesus was a victim – a wrongly accused, sentenced and executed prisoner of the dominant imperialist bully government of his time (Rome) just like the whole world is being bullied by Fortress Amerikkka today!

Many organizations have anarchists as volunteers. These may well have been founded by anarchists. We believe in helping others to learn how to help themselves and others. Education and empowerment are everybody's right. We can't rely on the hideous educational system. That Prussian developed monstrosity is a colossal failure. I'll talk more at length on education in a little while.

Anarchists today do things like "Food Not Bombs." This is where anarchists, acquiring the waste of society, through dumpster diving, donations and organic farming, provide and cook food for homeless and hungry people in many cities. Food co-ops, infoshops, housing co-ops, art collectives, musicians, writers, activists, often form collectives and other voluntary alliances, to show solidarity, work on projects together, assist in housing guests for conferences, provide education and space for meetings, or whatever. At demonstrations and other specific direct actions, anarchists usually work in "affinity groups." This is a tight-knit group that makes decisions on their own and looks out for each other directly. They can work with the larger groups and other organizations and so forth, but for certain situations, a reliable, on the same page, agreement group (affinity group) comes in mighty handy!

Another important tenet of anarchism is prison abolition. Prison is an abomination on the soul of humankind. Prisons were first created to house slave laborers in England, and later slaves in America and other low class folks. The prisons are a huge gulag archipelago slave plantation, where the prisoners are indeed,

constitutionally considered and treated as slaves. Slavery is a big part of the Constitution and always was. What's more, the endless "Drug War" is a gas on a fire solution, similar though much more extensive than prohibition in the 20's. The devastation to the Black communities in particular are of genocidal proportions. A full 1/3 of young Black men in the cities are in prison, on parole or probation. This is several times the incarceration rate of South African apartheid at its worst. With 4.5% of the world's population, we incarcerate 25% of her prisoners. We usurp 30% of the world's resources, condemning countless hundreds of millions to starvation and emaciation, yet still, here in America, tens of millions are hungry, without adequate health care, shelter and have a hopelessness that an oblivious "education" could do nothing to improve!

This is a truly demented country. Atomized and zombified beyond a whisper of compassion, Americans go about their lives in almost horrified ignorance? They "don't know and they don't want to know!" The big evil is the psychological surrendering forced upon us all, like the once proud Bolsheviks denouncing themselves in the most despicable ways, shortly before Stalin's assassins murdered them in a ditch. I'd like to quote Hugo Pinell, a prisoner now for 42 years. He was a comrade-in-arms with the legendary George Jackson.

"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 done to our mental faculties, through a systematical and dogmatic process, generation to generation."

Another principle is voluntary cooperation. Free association. People should not be coerced into joining any group. If a collective is formed and some people don't want to be involved, that is their prerogative. But, predation cannot be allowed. People can do what they want as long as they don't try to exploit or infringe upon others or damage the environment. That's what separates anarchists from libertarians. They can't stand government interference, either. The problem with them, is that although they like liberty and not being hassled by government, they still want to be able to exploit workers, and ignore the other injustices of capitalism. Anarchists refuse to be a party to any kind of master-slave relationship, plain and simple!

Decisions are ideally come to, through a painstaking process of discussion and consensus. "Democracy" especially as practiced in America, is another fraud. We only have two corporate parties to choose from, and their parts are interchangeable. They don't even count the votes, a huge percentage of black men are ineligible to vote (convicted of some sort of "felony") are arbitrarily taken off the ballot, or whatever. Over half the eligible people don't vote anyway, due to disgust, alienation or distrust of government and millions of so-called "illegals" can't vote, either. The laws are all stacked in favor of stolen wealth and the police are supposed to protect it from the poor – and round them up, in what even the incarceration experts are calling "an incarceration holocaust."

Large corporations give huge sums to basically buy candidates and elections, staff all the lobbyists, and otherwise guide the politics of elected officials. Besides that, due to country-wide mass political stupefaction, a "majority" decision by dangerously ignorant "electors" is no conscious decision at all, but one ready for exploitation by the string-pullers and spin doctors. It's a sham for show only! It's a pathetic nothingness passes off as genuine participation in the social and political life of the country.

Only when people have a real and direct say in what happens to them and their communities, will people-oriented solutions be created. Relying on mayors, the police, the courts, state reps or senators, etc., etc. is an endless exercise in being scorned and ignored, talked down to, etc. It's a miserable parade of frustration, humiliation, ineffectiveness and futility! The system is there to facilitate a profit-driven, corporate economy, not to do what is right for people!

The only real argument government can ultimately come up with for its existence is this: "We have a lot of police and military and we'll kill you if you don't do what we say." To be cowed and go along with that, writes our own death sentence anyway, as we wait our turn. I have children. I have self-respect and I'm not going to do that. Rather, I'll do the opposite of cheerleading for genocide. I'll trumpet truth and life! I'll extend my hand for someone who's down! I'll defy this Death Ship and stand up, like any righteous person should! It goes back to what Emma said about living your ideals. Our one and only life must be a *real* life! Anything less is capitulation and acquiescence to slavery and injustice. We are accountable for our lives and actions.

Thank you.

Notes on My Talk on Anarchism on August 16th, '06

As usual when I give a presentation, I like to read a prepared statement to sort of concentrate my arguments, and then speak extemporaneously, answer questions and so forth. My read statement is enclosed in this overall report, but I also wanted to run down my notes that I drew from when I spoke after the statement. Here are my notes.

1. Historical quotes – Percy Bysshe Shelley, Proudhon, Kropotkin, Voltairyne de Cleyre, Bakunin.
2. Ferrer Schools – Modern School Movement, which spawned independent studies, increased home schooling, alternative schools, zine distros, etc.

3. Anarchist influence in publishing – Murray Bookchin, Institute for Anarchist Studies, countless neighborhood newspapers, Fifth Estate, AK Press, Fred Woodworth, Anarchy, Green Anarchy, etc.

4. Important American Anarchists – Lysander Spooner, Johan Most, Haymarket Martyrs, Luigi Galleani, Joe Hill – Wobblies, Sacco & Vanzetti, Emma Goldman, Voltairine de Cleyre, Lucy Parsons, August Spies, Adolph Fischer, Albert Parsons, Alexander Berkman, Yippies, Noam Chomsky, ABC Federation & Network, Seattle '99, many wonderful anarchist speakers, writers, organizers, etc. Always can & should do more.

5. The Punk Movement & Anarchism – D.I.Y. ethics, autonomous zones, battling cops all the time, Earth/Animal Liberation, medics at demos, housing co-ops, prison abolition. Food Not Bombs. Internet websites, punk life-style – gateway to anarchist ideas.

6. All types of anarchists – it's an open-ended philosophy, with a few basic humanistic principles – solidarity, mutual aid, voluntary cooperation, no coercive authority, end to prisons & class-based racist "punishment" consensus decision-making, direct action.

How is it implemented? Affinity groups, grass-roots organizing, always there to volunteer on efforts to demonstrate sustained & useful to their needs solidarity & all kinds of support. Convergences, skill sharing workshops, bartering.

7. Anarchism & Religion. No bosses no gods. Christian anarchists – Catholic workers, Leo Tolstoy, some also profess to be Muslims or other religions. Personally, I'm an atheist, although I also call myself a "Spiritual Humanist" as described by Talib Rashid, a brilliant prisoner in Indiana.

8. How anarchists work with other social justice groups & deal with the relentless demonization we face in Amerika.

9. How to develop a serious, useful and effective anarchist social mindset in a country of viciously brainwashed people.

10. What "The Idea" means for the future of our children & Mother Earth herself.

Explain our work. What anarchism means to me. It's an elevated way of comporting oneself. How I came to realize I was an anarchist, my epiphany & my journey from there. Summary of my distro – a few more recent titles – anarchist, Panthers, New Afrikan, others.

Believing that a selfless, seriously solidarity-minded, free to prisoners, anarchist distro could help blow the cover off this tyrannical, nightmare regime. Think *Communist Manifesto*, *The Conquest of Bread*, *Common Sense* & *Uncle Tom's Cabin*. I aim to continuously jack up the intensity & literary profundity, eloquence, humor, stark truth, explosive prose, incredible analysis & artwork in my distro's publications, which are freely available.

See, I'm a "brain worker" anarchist! But, like music, there are countless varieties.

COMMONLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. What do you do with all the "bad guys?"
2. "It's human nature (repression & ignorance) – Man is a beast."
3. You'll never convince enough people.
4. It's all scripted by God.
5. I'm too afraid to really think & do!

FEAR – STALINISM

Amerikan fascism – transcending it / overcoming the "fear line." Alternative media, neighborhood media, magazines, zines, books, journals, videos, audios, films, theatre, puppetry, plays, all kinds of interactive & artistic shows & conferences, etc. Children of the internet, awesome anarchist websites. Future is now – podcasting. It a war vs. the Truth! Organizing from the bottom up (prisons)

FREE SCHOOL MOVEMENT

1) Max Stirner – “An education for freedom, not for subservience.” The real purpose of education is to produce not “useful citizens” but “free men.” – autonomous, independent & self-sufficient.

2) Francisco Ferrer – Emma Goldman said of him –

“He believed that whatever part heredity may play, there are other factors equally great, if not greater, that may and will eradicate or minimize the so-called first cause. Proper economic and social environment, the breath and freedom of nature, healthy exercise, love and sympathy and above all, a deep understanding for the needs of the child – these would destroy the cruel and unjust and criminal stigma imposed on the ignorant child.”

3) Leo Tolstoy – “I started my social activity with the school and teaching and after 40 years, I am more convinced that only by education, free education, can we ever manage to rid ourselves of the existing horrible order of things and to replace it with a rational organization.”

Freedom in education – what does it mean?

1. Do away with formality, discipline, restrictions, regulations that suppress individual development and divided education from play.

2. Cultivate physical & mental development with crafts, arts & books.

3. Hostility to dogma & superstition.

4. Emphasized reason, observation, science, independence, autonomy and self-reliance.

5. Anti-coercive & anti-authoritarian

6. Stresses the dignity & rights of the child. Tolstoy encouraged warmth, love, affection – instead of regimentation & conformity.

KEY WORDS

- 1) Freedom
- 2) Spontaneity
- 3) Creativity
- 4) Individuality
- 5) Self-realization

4) Mikhail Bakunin – Brilliant anarchist, contemporary of Marx, foresaw Stalinism, etc.

Bakunin on education:

“Education must be founded wholly upon the scientific development of reason and not upon faith – upon the development of personal dignity and independence, not upon piety and obedience; upon the cult of truth and justice at any cost and above all, upon respect for humanity.”

Francisco Ferrer was exiled to France where he started his Modern School Movement. He received an inheritance from an appreciative woman and moved back to Barcelona where his ideas really took off. Many schools were started across Spain. He was shot to death at Montjuich Prison in 1909.

“Rulers have always taken care to control the education of the people. They know better than anyone else that their power is based almost entirely on the school, and they therefore insist on retaining their monopoly on it. The true function of a teacher is to encourage self-learning to allow each child to develop in his or her own way, rather than force a pre-determined program of study on them.”

Rousseau had this to say: “No creature in human form will be expected to learn anything but because he desires it and has some conception of its utility and value.”

Froebel was the founder of kindergarten. He warned against using a child as you would use a piece of wax – to be molded in a shape that others desired. He called for a method of learning that was “not directive and interfering” but that “would have each

human being develop from within, self-active and free, in accordance with the eternal law."

Fourier insisted on "absolute liberty" as indispensable for growth and happiness.

Kropotkin argued that the "sterility of conventional education produces superficiality, parrot-like repetition, slavishness and inertia of mind."

Tolstoy favored an "unconscious education" – a natural process in which children are not even aware that they are being educated. He taught that all aspects of education should be directed towards the pupil's emancipation. "Let it be established that there is only one criterion in teaching – freedom!"

Bakunin stated: "Children belong neither to their parents nor to society. They belong to themselves and their future liberty."

Stirner said that children should be treated with respect as "creators" and not "creatures."

These ideas are based on the belief in the essential goodness of human nature. Free education rejects the notion of "original sin." Children are innocent at birth. Evil is rooted in a corrupt environment and repressive institutions.

Free schools should be an environment of patience, affection, a place where self-discipline is encouraged, kindness and consideration. Arbitrary rules, rewards & punishments should be abolished. There would be no marks or examinations which might engender hypocrisy and dissimulation & arouse feelings of envy among pupils.

Students should be free to learn without fear & pressure of rivalry & competition. The student – teacher relationship should be controlled by love.

The best atmosphere for students is one of full liberty where they are free to settle disputes among themselves.

Education is a continuous, never-ending process of development from cradle to grave.

Ferrer believed that "the whole value of education consists in respect for the physical, intellectual & moral faculties of the child." A child should have the opportunity to be placed in natural settings, to visit factories & laboratories, which should be demonstrated & explained. Children should go to museums, parks and to the sea. Parents should be encouraged to continue their child's education and learn themselves at night & on Sundays. Lectures should be organized that are open to the general public. We must teach the teachers to make the schools instruments of self-development & also a lever of social regeneration.

Bakunin said: "The essence of all moral education is this: inculcate children with respect for humanity and you will make good men."

Ferrer: "I love children above everything. I think I understand them. I want my contribution to the cause of liberty to be a young generation ready to meet a new era."

Ferrer's work was destroyed by government repression and he was murdered in 1909. His final words to the firing squad were: "Aim well, my friends. You are not responsible. I am innocent. Long live the modern school!"

For me, above all, anarchism means education and social engagement. It means to live your ideals in action for freedom, for social justice, against coercion, conformity and ignorance.

I strive to help develop and nurture the spirit and potential of humankind and fight its debasement, brutalization and surrendering to hopelessness and acquiescence to genocide.

Anarchy is the heartbeat that drives many people to strive to actualize their highest ideals into their daily lives. It's the ultimate reality check humanizer.

I've been lucky to have heard from many brilliant thinkers. But one in particular I'd like to mention in closing.

Sam Mbah is from the Nigerian Awareness League. He's just an amazing interpreter of political reality from the anarchist perspective. Anarchism is truly a world-wide gift of humanity for humanity! Long Live the Modern School, indeed! For *FREEDOM!*

Students for a Democratic Society

NATIONAL CONVENTION AUGUST 4-7, 2006

UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO WWW.NEWSDS.ORG/CONVENTION



Notes on Michael Albert's Talk at SDS - Chicago

Michael stressed the need for "vision." We must combat cynicism and lack of heart. People "don't want to hear it" - the details of worldwide oppression.

People, normal people, understand our message, but can't process it. They feel atomized and without hook-ups. We need to give them hope, a feeling of participating in something worthwhile.

"Movements against tyranny" are thought of as a "war against aging." Writers should write about vision - how and where do we go? Our strategy should be to struggle for "non-reform" reforms - push issues that maintain their legs and gain momentum and a broader understanding.

As for organizing, we need recruits. This is what matters - growing into larger, more powerful groups and working more closely. Vision can't be attained without error and we must fight elitism. Everybody owns the "vision" (human liberation) and it must come from the bottom up.

There's a fear of sectarianism as politics and one's identity become too intertwined. We must be flexible. "Identity" is justice. He claims anarchists have no vision. He criticizes the primitivists as not being compelling or coherent.

His vision asks us to identify the "institutions we like" as they involve our "values." Do they further or hinder our values? He feels it important to list visions as a function of thinking through institutions that deal with values.

His list of values is as follows:

1. Solidarity, empathy, caring - relations among people. How shall the economy be structured? What are our range of options?

2. Diversity

3. How are things shared? Equity.

4. What is our say in decisions? Self-management. Decisions should be in proportion to how one is affected by those situations.

He says consensus is not necessary for everything as far as allocation, distribution and consumption. For example, workers and consumers could form councils to organize these functions in a mutually beneficial way, with remuneration and balanced job complexes to help make labor more equitably performed.

He says class is not just a function of property relations. Capitalists don't just screw workers. They hire lawyers, doctors and judges to do it. We must administer and define our own lives or we will have them administered and defined for us. He called the capitalist class the "coordinator class." He mentions how the capitalists have demonized

"socialism" which is a system of worker's control as being the "enemy of workers." Spiro Agnew called leftists "the nabobs of negativity." And U.S. "leftists" have often been elitist and bourgeois.

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He goes on to say Bush can't conceive the Afghan's as human. He said the "No Nukes" Movement didn't consider coal mines that people worked in, as an alternative to atomic energy and how workers see them. He said our institutions are run like G.M. Societies' relations are multi-leveled and inter-related and mold each other.

We need a new vision of culture that's diverse, defends the weak, demonstrates mutual respect and is anti-patriarchal. We need a kinship vision for parenting (sharing of tasks, etc.) We need a political vision with the creation of worker's councils, assemblies. Venezuela has layers of such assemblies and the decisions come from below. If 200 people get together they are given a house.

As for Today's SDS he says it embodies the seeds of the future in the present. We need participatory politics and must organize groups, such as SDS. We must be multi-issue and multi-tactical and keep building new movements. These movements must have a notion, by taking "vision" seriously.

He says the activists of the sixties, screwed up by thinking apocalyptically and things have sucked until now, too, as far as mass organizing. We shouldn't set ourselves apart from people. Sincere outreach is needed. We must have a criterion of values and set to reach more people. For, nitpicking on personal mistakes can destroy a movement. He calls it the "stickiness problem." Folks don't stick around. The left turned people off. We must deal with vision. We need to overcome sectarianism. It takes painstaking organizing – one on one talking.

We must accept that sports and religion are part of American workers consciousness and deal with it as such.

These are just fleshed out notes I took of Michael's talk. He makes some good points. I thought he was kind of condescending and "Ivy League." I didn't see his "vision" as anything uniquely insightful. I resented his swipe at "anarchists." It seemed he must be oblivious to a lot of serious anarchist solidarity work. He probably got a nice stipend, while I was out there passing out free anarchist and prisoner zines out of my own wage-slave pocket and efforts! He seemed like he talked too much making his points – grandiose-style, again a product of academia-think. I thought it was funny when that woman launched into this august hall setting (big portraits of University of Chicago big shots) and saying something about them masturbating. All in all, I got much more from the Labor Notes workshop on ground up organizing at the workplace.

He suggests we google the:

ILLINOIS EDITORIAL FORUM

4 Criteria

1. What problems affect everyone at that station?
2. Which issue really rankles people?
3. Choose a winnable issue
4. Focus on a group with a natural leader, an articulate voice and make that person a steward.

Draw up a petition and work through the grievance process.

Chart your work area and give workers "grades" as to their militancy and understanding.

Pair a strong supporter with a waffler.

Have them eat lunch together, or whatever.

Make life miserable for the bosses!

Recruit new members for stewards.

Notify other workers of success.

Develop credibility and onto a steward's council.

A shop can have more than 1 steward, if they want.

You need at least one steward for every 15 – 20 people.

Campaign around safety.

The facilitator was an SEIU organizer from Detroit. I'm a long-time SEIU member, here in Chicagoland. We had a good discussion, although some students had problems with his organizing model as it relates to them being students. 46

I came just for one day (Saturday) and it reminded me of many such gatherings – a lot of punks and students, workshops, tabling and so forth. I didn't really know what they were trying to do as SDS and it didn't seem they felt themselves to be particularly "SDS." But, I don't know. I presume there were people intent on making this a new and articulate movement thrust. I was just here to table and check out a couple workshops. I passed out a ton of zines to a mostly unknowing parade of young people, mostly.

I remember, when I was 16, I attended the SDS Conference in Washington, D.C. in November, 1969. That was a raucous assembly-type shouting match. I think they were in the process of splitting up between the Weathermen and the PL (Progressive Labor/Maoist) factions. These two, of course, scared or bummed out most all of the SDS members. It was about "vanguard" actionism. But there certainly was a lot of passion and energy, something I saw little of at the University of Chicago '06 SDS scene. I suppose I was an impressionable kid back then and now I'm a "grizzled veteran." But, I don't believe I've lost my sensitivity to these things, as I pay close attention.

~ Anthony Rayson ~

Malcolm X:

"The greatest mistake of the movement has been trying to organize a sleeping people around specific goals. You have to wake the people up first to their humanity, to their own worth and their heritage, then you'll get action."

The Unleashed Thoughts of An Anarchist: Another Interview With Anthony Rayson BY: COYOTE

COYOTE: Anthony, my comrade and fellow anarchist, you have been a good friend to me in my struggle and I was hoping to get the chance to interview you, and maybe pick your brain a little. I think this would be a great opportunity to raise a few questions in regards to ABC, and maybe for you to add some insight on the struggles of prisoners and of the struggles of people who work with prisoners.

First of all, let me start by asking you, in an obvious attempt to spread propaganda, the government likes to label anyone who opposes their authority as "communists" or "leftists." Can you tell me, in your opinion, what the difference between a communist and an anarchist is?

Anthony: Thanks, Brother for the kind words and I love and respect you, too! I appreciate the opportunity to engage in discussion with you. I'll give these questions some serious thought!

It's seems like these days, the government tries to label their critics and real enemies as "terrorists" or "anarchists" or more recently minted, "Islamic fascists." The Castro brothers are still "communists" and Hugo Chavez is a distained "leftist." When a society descends into barbarity, it's called "anarchy."

So, I guess I'd say there are two sets of definitions of these buzzwords, the ones the U.S. government uses and what they want us to believe they mean (what they want us to think) and what a serious student of political reality understands about these philosophies. One is a simpleton's version of the "Big Lie" parroted rather faithfully by a sycophantic press, meant to keep people ignorant and fearful and the other is a more complicated, but more honest look at these rival ideologies.

Governments always look to hide their own criminality by raising the spectre of "enemies" whether they are Vietcong "guerillas," or Chinese "Communists" or Sandinista "rebels" or Iraqi "insurgents." At home, we're supposed to be worried about "gang bangers" "anarchists" "eco-terrorists" "sleepers cells" and so forth. Their thing is herding the sheep into fear pens and acquiescence towards the repressing of those who challenge authority. It's fascist repression-think. I think it was Aesop who said centuries ago, something like "Government violence is called 'law' and individual violence is called 'crime.'" It's the difference between the truth (anarchism) and lies.

As for the differences in, you mentioned "communists" "leftists" and "anarchists," I'll say this. There are actually several flavors of each! There are Maoist communists, Marxist-Leninists, Stalinists, Trotskyists, Castro Communists, other types in South and Central America, Africa and Asian communists and Europeanized Communist "parties." There is even a thing called anarcho-communism, which Alexander Berkman considered himself to be, among many others.

Communists believe in the overthrowing of the capitalist system to be replaced by "socialism" and eventually, "communism." After a successful revolution, a vanguard party, with a central committee and politburo decides the course of how the revolution should go, by way of "democratic centralism." They talk of worker control ("soviets") but the decisions will be made by the Communist heavies. In other words, they advocate dictatorship – in the name of the workers!

That's why communist countries have been so brutal and repressive. There is no freedom. It is an imposed "liberation." The people have no say-so and if they try to have any, the KGB or the CHEKA or the Thought Police comes to get you and throws you into a gulag. Isn't that what they already do in the U.S.? So what good is a revolution, if you're just going to replace one dictatorship with another?

There are other Marxists – Marxist-Humanists, various kinds of "socialists" and so forth. Karl Marx is the father of "scientific" socialism, just as Mikhail Bakunin, his contemporary, was the father of anarchism. Bakunin warned the world about the dangers of Karl Marx's "dictatorship of the proletariat" and this horrible scenario was played out in excruciating agony under Stalin and under other gruesome "communist" regimes.

Many millions of valiant people fell under the banner of communism fighting against capitalism, (imperialism, fascism, Nazism, "democracy") but the gains they won were inevitably betrayed by their communist "leaders" who ran the communist parties which grabbed power, once the capitalists were routed.

Unlike the anarchist concept of genuine autonomy, worker's control of the work place, voluntary association, consensus decision-making and so forth, all decisions, economic, political, even social, were top down decisions handed down by a "communist party" and forced upon the people, albeit accompanied by anti-capitalist and "revolutionary" rhetoric.

The economy of a communist country can more accurately be described as "state capitalism." Instead of corporations manipulating the economy and politics of a country, a group of central committee appointed and directed "planners" orchestrate the economy, without any real input from regular working people.

Anarchists want to abolish prisons, slavery, predation, coercion and all hideous institutions that infringe upon liberty and freedom and

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communists build secret police, gulag archipelagos, "re-education" indoctrination camps, and other creepy repressive, not free, lie-based forces of oppression.

Anarchists also have a "class analysis" and realize what a capitalist economy is all about, like a learned "Marxist." We don't believe in "dictatorship" at all or any other kind of suppression. These are fundamental differences. But they are anti-capitalist revolutionaries!

Saying all that, there are many Marxists and communists who I feel comfortable working with and many anarchists who I feel do little or nothing to push the common struggle forward. I believe in the anarchist tenet of solidarity very strongly and work with those who are also seriously into fighting this beast, here in the belly. It seems even with their beliefs (vanguardism) communists often deal in real issues and struggles that people are concerned about, while anarchists are busy worrying about some esoteric bullshit or being self-centered hedonists, unaccountable for their actions. Maybe I'm just kinda pissed right now!

I respect communists for their level of effort and the seriousness they bring to their work, whereas I can't say the same for anarchists. I'm quite disappointed in anarchists, generally, although there are some who I greatly admire. I believe that people want to live unfettered by any kind of oppressor or lie-based belief system. They want the truth and to be left to live their lives as they see fit – as long as they don't hurt somebody and in turn, aren't being hurt by somebody else.

So, I see the logic and principles of anarchism, because they are based on freedom above all else, will win the hearts and minds of people, when nip comes to tuck, but anarchists got to get off their asses and jack up their intensity many, many notches before this will become a reality. In Spain, they lived and struggled (and were killed!) for many decades leading up to the Spanish Revolution of 1936. Anarchists need to give a *total* effort!

As for "leftists" it can mean corporatist democrats to serious revolutionaries. It depends on the context and the political landscape of the region involved. In Amerika, a "leftist" is but a mild reform-minded critic of endless government genocide, but in say, Bolivia, a "leftist" may be involved in street battles with government forces, or she may be a tin miner hurling dynamite! In Amerika, a "leftist" may participate in a "die in" and get "arrested" (arranged for before this timid "demonstration.") In Sri Lanka, this "leftist" may be carrying a rifle, defending part of an autonomous zone. Their religious beliefs vary wildly, as well!

As for Alexander Berkman, he called himself an anarcho-communist. The Haymarket anarchists called themselves "socialists" too. This is because the goal of communism is the "withering away of the state" and an equal sharing of goods "to each according to his needs." Anarchists believe resources and goods should be shared equitably and there should

be no state, an inherently oppressive and criminal monstrosity.

I believe folks can become "conscious" through various revolutionary avenues and that's to be respected, as long as they aren't racist, sexist, homophobic, and so on. We all need to work closely together to defeat this horrible system of oppression. But, "after the revolution" these tendencies come to the fore and "revolutionary dogma" becomes policy of a new government – and if it isn't an anarchist situation, anarchists and other revolutionaries will be repressed. So, that's my concern with communists. After victory, their track record on freedom is bad. They treat the people and other revolutionaries like their enemy. Anarchists only go after oppressors, not normal people and other revolutionaries. That's the main difference, in my opinion.

Something Assata Shakur wrote comes to mind. She said: "If you're deaf, dumb and blind to what's happening in the world, you're under no obligation to do anything. But if you know what's happening and you don't do anything but sit on your ass, then you're nothing but a punk." All too often, so-called "anarchists" are nothing but punks!

COYOTE: It seems that the government can easily come together and oppress us, attack us and divide us on all levels and fronts. But when it comes to us coming together on all levels to defend ourselves and to organize, there seems to be a lack of real unity. Can you offer some ideas on how to establish a real sense of unity amongst anarchists?

Anthony: Well, this slave-based government has been in the saddle for several centuries now. They've had hundreds of billions of dollars of extorted tax monies to spend, control the media and all schooling of our children and have this conditioning of our minds down to a sort of sick science. Remember after World War II, one of the first things they did was gather up all the top German Nazis and put them to work for the U.S. government. They didn't care about all the horrible murdering and gruesome experiments they did. They had propaganda skills and brainwashing skills and crowd control skills and organizational skills on how to develop high-tech policing. This was known as "Operation Paperclip." The most vile idea readily and routinely put into practice!

Anarchists, have no source of funding, have been demonized and criminalized, and our literature is very hard to find for those who may be interested in learning the truth. People have been beat down and cookie cut into an order following mode of behavior since early childhood. Most folks never develop a questioning mindset, or a self-driven form of education. Each person first has to totally deconstruct their entire lives to start fresh and build a genuine ability to think freely and understand the reality that's been so hidden for so long. These are very powerful

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obstacles to confront and overcome. Fear plays a tremendous role, as the truth is "scary" and a person feels thrown out into a vast void of wilderness, once outside mainstream-think. The connections to serious truth are tenuous and subject to constant disruption by the authorities.

All the "legal" avenues for revenue are tied up in the capitalist system. To attain money, you must sell your labor to a capitalist. Housing, medical care, food – none of these are provided for our people, even though a nation with 4.5% of the world's people usurps 30% of the world's natural resources. It's a struggle to survive in this country and if you try to fashion a life – a mate, children, etc. it pretty much takes all of your time and effort, just to make ends meet.

Meanwhile, the government is ever vigilant looking for more bodies to cram into their enormous (and growing!) gulag system. A million laws insures that every single person is constantly breaking the law all day long, every day. So, the chance of getting arrested is ever present. If they want you, they can conjure up charges and have no fear of any reprisals coming their way because of it. I read an article a couple of days ago that documented that 99.8% of *bad cops* never have any kind of discipline because of their predatory and criminal behavior. They are immune from the laws they so zealously chase down others about.

How does this translate in "anarchists" being such dip shits and not working on the same page? Well, we're people too, who have been destroyed by this system, like everybody else. Even so-called "white people" have had to live a really messed up, regulated and stultified life, amidst racists and cops and horrible "education." They've been taught to not have it together in zillions of ways!

This self-hating behavior and this inability to build genuine community amongst people facing the same problems is a deliberate policy of government. It's the old "divide & conquer" being used on a subliminal, highly advanced manner. Young people are zombified by violent video games. Teens are plugged into bad-ass gangsta hip-hop. Many are strung out on various drugs – crack, television, sports, money, sex, bling, whatever! *Anything* to forget about dealing what is staring us all in the face! It drives me wild how catatonic everybody is. It's like the set to a Rod Serling *Twilight Zone* episode!

"Anarchists" are mostly similar victims, who have stumbled across some anarchist literature and maybe anarcho-punk culture. They're still carrying around a lifetime full of bad upbringing. They have a long-assed way to go to purge all this garbage within and develop a serious anarchist consciousness and purposefulness that will facilitate them being able to work closely (and effectively) with other serious-minded people. They're human like everybody else. It's a very difficult, complicated series of hurdles to overcome. Prisoners are the same way. They may develop a "consciousness" and be rarin' to go, once released into "minimal security"

(the outs.) But, once out there, the struggles of the real world, finding a job, a place to live, food to eat, a person to love, people to relate to, become almost impossible. Becoming a serious activist / organizer on top of all this, is like climbing Mount Everest naked! Not easy.

There's so much noise, it's hard to hear the truth and listen to the few who are doing the serious educational work required to attain these various levels of development. I like to think I have a lot of useful information to give. But it seems people are afraid or too lazy or whatever, and don't want to listen to me. It's like an affront to their personhood to take advice from someone who's "been there and done that." It goes back to the self-destructive conditioning that has been wired into our brains from early childhood, to prevent us from realizing our genuine potential. It takes effort to get off the dime, overcome inertia and wake the fuck up!

Anyways, to get back to your question, anarchists need to call each other on the telephone, write letters to each other, go to each other's house or apartment, meetings, arrange for meetings, develop projects and work diligently on them before during and after them, do serious outreach constantly wherever they go, talk to everybody they meet and so on. It's an every waking moment effort that people must figure out how they can best perform. People must become their real selves, in spite of this profane and insane, spiritually polluted social environment we're stuck in. It's in there, somewhere and people can access it, practice it, develop it and become their real effective anarchist selves. It's vitally necessary for everyone who wants to live a real life and I'm telling you, *it's possible!*

COYOTE: As an anarchist, you are very intelligent and seem to have a true sense of the issues that prisoners are faced with. Tell me, where did you get your education from, as an anarchist?

Anthony: Again, I appreciate your kind words, but don't get gushy, now! (smile*) There's lots of good insight out there – most all of it, in my not so humble opinion, is flooding out of the gulags! I'm deluged with it, myself and I know many other people that are receiving brilliant political analysis, incredible artwork, poetry, collage work, etc., etc. that in fact, is becoming the basis for a whole new concentrated "culture of resistance!" I truly believe that the level of awareness and connectedness to people, who are groovin' on their iPods is gonna have to be actualized. Maybe it's in Podcasting. Maybe it's in these dynamite zines I churn out, will take fire, and people will get off their asses and reprint them copiously and spread them around to everybody with urgency.

Some of the best anarchist thinkers today are anarchist prisoners. I'll single out people like Harold Thompson, Jerome White-Bey, James Scott, Ali Khalid Abdullah, Ojore Lutalo. There are many, many, many others.

There are also other brilliant revolutionaries who don't consider themselves anarchists. These include, Muslims, New Afrikans, Communists, Indigenists, all kinds of folks. Although, as an anarchist, I don't agree with some of the things they believe in, I'll still edit and publish their work because I decided that they do have useful and valuable insight, none-the-less. I don't just print anything so prisoners tend to send their best efforts for my consideration. I make my project very clear. I'm looking for the strongest in revolutionary thinking that connects with the most people. The material is strong, but the solidarity shown to help spread this insight is still weak.

This is the basic anarchist principle of solidarity. It gets important information out, gives honest credit for whoever is talking, demonstrates the seriousness and effectiveness of anarchist solidarity work and helps educate people. People can compare this particular line of thinking with, say, my opinion of anarchist type thinking and make a judgment for themselves on who's opinions more closely jibes with their own. I have every confidence that an anarchist mindset will stand strongly against these sorts of rival philosophies and in fact, we can learn from the best of each philosophy and blend it into our own belief system. I've accepted the arguments of non-anarchists on certain avenues of thinking and taken them on as my own. It's developing my own thinking!

Prisoners have been my main educator, in all truthfulness! Over the last ten years, I've been fortunate to develop serious working relationships with many important prisoner thinkers. Even the every day prisoner letter is a reality check on real life conditions. It cuts through the cacophony and insights are developed and shared. That's why the authorities keep trying to squelch our work and menace these particular prisoners. The truth is revolutionary and they run slave camps.

I was lucky coming up in the sixties. My father was an active progressive guy and at a young age I saw and experienced a lot of incredible social activity. I always was attracted to the ideas of the groups, underground commix, history, literature and so forth. I read voraciously throughout my life. Early on (I think I was 14) I decided I wanted to become a "free thinker." I didn't even know what that meant, but I knew that's where I wanted to go was. I was in this class with adults. They were talking about the great philosophers, focusing on those from nazi concentration camps. So, I guess I've come full circle! Now I study the great philosopher's in *Amerika's* concentration camps!

Growing up in Chicagoland, I also always loved the mystical story of the Haymarket Martyrs. And when the Yippies & anarchists came to the "Festival of Life" in August 1968 for the Democratic Convention, it was something! There was a weeklong pitched battle with the pigs. My old man was a delegate and he got tear gassed! My mom marched with a

bunch of other mothers for peace. It was heady stuff. My good friends ran a grotto in Dekalb, IL home of Northern Illinois University. They had all the latest underground culture and news from around the country, and there was a lot of it for quite a while. I soaked that shit up like a sponge!

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Later, I felt closely tutored by Emma Goldman and Lucy Parsons. I consider myself a "Chicago School" anarchist, which the Haymarket anarchists developed. It's solid agitation for working class social revolution – pure anarchism! I love it! I suppose I'll have to articulate it pretty soon. But, mainly, I just have a flaming hatred for injustice and bursting love for freedom! Those compel me more than anything!

Sean Lambert was a real mentor to me, even though I'm probably twenty years older than he is! Sam Mbah of the Nigerian Awareness League is a pure joy to listen to answer questions. Lorenzo Komboa Ervin is the father of modern day ABC thinking and doing. He's been enormously impactful.

But I also have non-specifically "anarchist" influences to my thinking. I consider myself a "race traitor" abolitionist. I can't stand slavery and racism! I love John Brown and Illinois' very own, Elijah P. Lovejoy! Noel Ignatiev is definitely onto something important to contribute! I respect many of the New Afrikan thinkers, such as Zolo Agona Azania, Khalfani Khaldun, Ali Khalid Abdullah, Abdul Olugbala Shakur and others. But, I don't believe in nationalism. Ali is a New Afrikan anarchist and also shares my internationalist viewpoint. I am a big fan of Talib Y. Rashid and his psychological analysis of self-hate and criminalization and spiritual humanism and Rashid is brilliant, both as an artist and as a thinker/analyst. I don't agree with his communist model, though. These people are serious revolutionary thinkers that I feel people should be studying. We're not going to agree on everything, but we must learn the nuts and bolts of the issues involved. We must go to the source – the most oppressed - who have made it their life work to study and deconstruct it and offer it to the world. We owe them our attention and hopefully, we will be activated into doing useful and productive work.

It's mostly a lifelong belief for freedom and against governmental oppression. I've seen murder by the U.S. every single day of my life! Everything I've read has filled in the scenes and timelines and specifics, but it never changes that basic fact of government-led mass murder all the time. As a person who cares about the welfare of myself and others, this is a drop everything abomination upon the people of the world, during the entire period of government! In light of this utter madness that now immediately threatens the very existence of Earth, it behooves us to get with it, big time! C'mon, y'all! Its fun as hell *doin'* all this stuff, too! No, it's not! Sometimes it is, anyway. Usually, it's a stressful as hell, lot of hard work, often frustrating hassle. But, I wouldn't ever stop doing it, any day, ever!

COYOTE: A lot of prisoners are inspired by the likes of Malcolm X, George Jackson and Dennis Banks, because these are people who transformed themselves intellectually, while in prison and who took action to do something valuable for their people. You once mentioned that you were destined to become a professional – a doctor, professor or a lawyer, or something along those lines. But you dropped out of college and hitch-hiked around the country for 2 years. I sense your story is very similar to Che Guevara's. Other than your father, who are your influences?

Anthony: I guess your question is how does one become a serious revolutionary activist regardless of their background? Those revolutionary brothers you mentioned, did indeed, become important thinkers and doers, while in prison. They transformed themselves from being unknowing and criminalized into a slave situation, into understanding social forces. Malcolm X got a chance to go out in the world and demonstrate what a brave black man can do, say, organize and grow into – before he was gunned down. George Jackson became an incredible writer and thinker, all while still heavily imprisoned – until he was gunned down on the yard. Dennis Banks was incarcerated for his activism and involvement with AIM. He was a strong soldier *before* his incarceration! They are awesome examples of what a person can transform themselves into, regardless of the most oppressive living conditions. Malcolm showed what a prisoner *can* do, once he or she is released. George demonstrated bravery even at the time of his murder, while a prisoner. Dennis is like Leonard Peltier, a lifelong fighter for his people.

Che Guevara put his life on the line many times, preparing for revolution, fighting revolutions, and also gave his life fighting the U.S.-trained Bolivian army, in 1967. He fought to liberate Cuba and fought in Africa, before going down in Bolivia trying to ignite a revolution there. He was from Argentina. He's a selfless example of real life on the line solidarity with other oppressed people.

I'm no Che Guevara! Although, he came from a somewhat well-to-do family, like myself, I'm a product of Amerika. I did "drop out" for a couple years and disengage myself from the track I was unwillingly on – a college degree. But, I didn't train to be a revolutionary fighter, like Che! I studied the ideas of revolution, not the learning how to use a gun part. He was a communist and I am an anarchist. He was an almost mythical figure. I'm just a brain worker. Che was both a thinker and a soldier in the field – a serious strategist under revolutionary warfare conditions. The people of the world will forever love him for it – despite some of the shitty things he did along the way – to Cuban anarchists and others. He epitomized sacrificing for the love of humanity! It was a huge anti-American phenomenon that the revolutionaries in South America today,

still revere and draw strength from – like Haymarket still is to many.

I did believe that I had to disengage myself from this bourgeois track I was put on. I wanted to live a working-class life, so I would actually think like and actually be a working class person and not a petty bourgeois one. I sensed early on, that *not* doing so would turn my thinking into mush and I would sell out somehow and not legitimately develop my thinking and writing. 56

So, I would become an "intentional peasant." I was kind of like the narodniks of Russia, who decided to go back to the village and become one with the peasants to help foment revolution in the 1800's.

It was a vague feeling I had, but I think it has been borne out. My siblings are liberals who chase after material things – cars, boats, vacations, etc. I pour my wage-slave monies into serious literature, which I spread freely to societies' most oppressed. So, I think I guessed right! I could feel that the two years on the road were a serious "education." I learned more than in school. I learned about reality and poverty and suffering and injustice.

I always say, the two best decisions I made in my life (other than the obvious personal ones) were – not going into the military and dropping out of college in 1972. I would insist on a self-educated "degree." Later, at my second wife's insistence, I returned to college and became that school's valedictorian. I used the occasion of my speech to blast the government and the school's administration!

I won a writing contest to be the valedictorian. My essay was entitled: "Learn To Think." Then I dropped out of school again (didn't go on) because we had a seven year old and a one year old. I kept my job. I toyed with the idea of switching jobs and becoming an educator. But, I knew if I got a job as a teacher, I'd be fired the first day. So, I developed into this free skool educator. It's another real good decision I made!

COYOTE: We are all aware with the struggles that prisoners face across the country, but nobody gets to hear the stories of the activists out there who help prisoners with their struggles. Do you have any personal stories that you'd like to share? Maybe something that happened to you while you were doing your work as a prison abolitionist, or maybe a "success story" of a former prisoner, or any other story that you'd like to share.

Anthony: Well, I do spend a lot of time and effort getting the stories of prisoners out. After all, you guys are the most oppressed in this country and your stories scream to be told! But, I also write some personal stuff and have my own personal zine, *Thought Bombs*. Sometimes I tell personal stories in there. I have tons of stories of my life and those I care about. Recently, the guy who helped me out of that stupid dorm room in Iowa, circa 1972, Greg Dzurny, committed suicide. He was one of my

best friends. His sister, who I went out with years ago, killed herself too, a few years ago! Another friend, Eddie Hutchins, a great drummer, killed himself a couple three years ago because he didn't want to go back to prison (parole violation.) He was a heroin addict. He left a three-year old daughter. Me and some other guys got a college trust fund up for her.

Good, fun things happen! The recent conference to kick-start our new group – Midwest Coalition To Abolish Control Unit Prisons – was cool! We brainstormed for eight straight hours (about 25 of us) and then had an ass-kicking show – reggae, hip-hop and punk bands! That made me feel good – laughing and joking with good friends – who double as serious anarchists! That's fun stuff! A high octane publication is a source of satisfaction – at least for a little while. One can never get anywhere near that nasty place – complacency! Life is to be moved on with.

I guess I'm kinda on cruise control. I've lived a fairly long life. I'm 53. I'm not as anxious to go do stuff, like I once was. I want to get things done! I want to focus on making things better! I want to go where I'm needed the most! Lately, it has to do with trying to procure "justice" in this horrible nightmare situation where my son's best friend was killed by an off-duty cop. I think about it a lot. I have a lot of plans to do writing projects. I have a few months left to my wage-slave job and then I retire with a modest pension. I hope to do more presentations and so forth. Hey, you college folks! Get me some gigs!

As for "success stories" Andy (John Two-Names) Riendeau comes to mind. He was married a few months before his rather miraculous parole in Alabama. He was working with Sekou Kambui, the long railroaded Panther prisoner. He was paroled and was able to actually start a life with his wife. They went to help organize a protest against the building of a rural prison down there. The liars doing it first claimed they were building a strip mall! Jeremiah Vansice is another one. He got out of prison in Iowa and has been continuing his activism in support of prisoners and tries to help educate those around him. We keep in touch.

There are other stories, good and bad. The idea is to give every single person as fair a shake as possible, see how they do, and help them along the way, as they need and deserve. We have to know that this truth is the key to getting it together, but we are faced with powerful enemies and social forces that are hampering our work. Our job is to transcend those obstacles.

There are some really cool activists out here, like my good friend, Lionel. He's a serious environmentalist and is always doing really cool stuff, like suing the police, exposing toxic dangers and taking his kids out to the woods to enjoy nature. He's got a long beard and kind of reminds my wife of Jesus Christ. He's a gentle loving soul with a heart that pounds out every single beat, screaming "Justice!" Guys like him make this work something to really look forward to every day.

COYOTE: It must be hard for you as a wage-slave, father, husband, and an activist, doing what you do. Everybody knows how hard it is for prisoners, but nobody gets to hear how hard it is for the activists. How much of a struggle is it for you, to do what you do as an activist while still having to maintain a job and support a family?

Anthony: Oh, it's hard as hell! Not! It's very easy for me to do this, as I've discovered the perpetual motion machine of getting off your dead ass! I've *willed* myself to be in this position. It's a project that I spent a ton of time and effort on to be this developed. Now, people know about me and know how to contact me. I've developed good working habits, efficiency and so forth. The problem is the enormity of the task at hand. I'm simply one person and like everybody else have only 24 hours a day to work with. Throw in sleep, work, being with my family, etc., etc. and it can get frustrating as the work piles up and the opportunities seem too far apart and short.

Once again, I'm going to pat myself self on the back for having youthful foresight. Early on, I figured that when I got older, I'd be busy as hell, so while I was young, I could afford to be a slacker! And, I was, to a certain extent. I did drop out of college and bum around, although I got jobs here and there. Even as a kid, I had several paper routes, so I was never "lazy." Sure enough, here I am, "older" and I'm busy as hell. But, I knew this would happen and I encouraged it to happen. I have a tremendous capacity for work and this best maximizes my contribution to the struggle, being this sort of switch man on the underground information highway.

I don't buy the argument t that it's so "hard!" What is hard is getting rid of those do-nothing self-defeating attitudes and modes of behavior. People can become anything. It's a matter of will – mind over matter. Usually, starting a project is the hardest part of actually seeing it through completion. Look up the word "alacrity" and strive to have it – lots of it!

As for my family, they have indeed been made to suffer, as I am so immersed in this work. I can't be two places at once! They resent that I put so much time and effort into this. But, they're still loving and supportive of me. My wife is tremendous and my kids are great! I do a lot of work out of our house and only go out to meetings or demos or whatever when I feel I must. So, I'm around, but my mind is thinking about something else all the time. Oh sure, I knock off and do stuff with them, on a daily basis, usually. I float in and out of my work, as time allows and opportunities present themselves. I use all my break time at work doing support work. I don't watch much T.V. or read books for fun. I don't go to the bars or hardly see friends much. Everything is rush,

rush, rush! Sometimes, I take a couple three hours and spend it with my brothers.

Every day, I prioritize my time and plan out what all I want to get accomplished. Sometimes, I have to drop everything and switch gears, so I must be flexible. I'm sort of inward and not a real "relationship" type of person. I need and want people around me, but I don't want to be all that "engaged" if you know what I mean. I'm not perfect, like everybody else. I want to do and think about what I want and am not the best father or husband. I try to be good, but realize I have inadequacies in that regard. I'm none-the-less very helpful around the house and an integral part of the family. I feel needed and wanted, if "always busy."

We all have deficiencies as human beings as well as strong points. One of my deficiencies is a difficulty in "getting into" close personal relationships on an every day basis. One of my strong points is my relentless dedication to this type of support work and knack for it. It would be nice to be great at everything and somehow have time to do everything, but that's not how life goes down.

COYOTE: It must be very overwhelming as an activist, fighting against great odds and against powerful enemies. Is there anything you'd like to say to offer encouragement to fellow activists? And could you tell people why they should get involved with the struggle of prisoners?

Anthony: For me, fighting these monsters is not really "overwhelming" but it can be frustrating. They're not killing me or bombing my neighborhood, like they are with some other people. I'm not being rounded up in drug dragnets, shot at or harassed on a daily basis. I don't live in a miserable cage. I do suffer seeing other people suffer and die though because of these arch criminals who run Amerika.

The "doing" of struggling is important. It's a chance to meet other people, develop relationships, network, learn of other struggles and develop as an activist. Sometimes an action does some good and sometimes it may seem like a waste of time. So, it's frustrating seeing a small turn-out at a lengthily organized event, say. We can never be satisfied with our efforts. We can always try harder and speak more clearly and in such a way as people naturally listen to us and understand that what we are saying is the plain truth!

Yeah, back in the day, when I was coming up, it seemed like everybody was into it and nowadays, people are oblivious. Our job is to get back to that level of attentiveness and get over the top – disband this rogue empire and start society afresh. Is the task daunting? Of course! It's the question of life or death. The very future rides on our ability to be successful, because Earth herself is being dragged down, too!

With stakes these uniquely astronomical, it really doesn't matter that the task is difficult. It has *always* been difficult! We just must accept that fact as a given and deal with it, without it bumming us out of the important, urgent work we must constantly do. Besides, doing this work is the revolution – especially while working closely with brilliant and courageous prisoners. This is where the battle is being waged. On one side you have the most oppressed revolutionaries of Amerika, pitted against the SS Amerikan Republican Guards!

This is the main battleground in Amerika. The Constitution calls prisoners slaves – to this day, there is no sugar-coating their intent! It opens the whole, horrible Pandora's box of endless genocide and world-wide slaving that has defined Amerika from the get go. Prisoners are tortured and die like flies in these tombs and dungeons! HIV & Hepatitis C are pandemic, as is rape. Abuse, assault, gassing, shackling, sensory deprivation, all manner of sadism is practiced on these 2.3 million people, every single day. If this realization doesn't cajole you into getting with it, maybe you need one of those heart shocks, like Leno pretends to give Cheney all the time!

The more active you become, the stronger you become. You become adept at many important tasks, like arranging things, speaking, facilitating discussions and events, knowing who to contact for all kinds of things, what to do in an emergency situation, and so forth. The skills you learn are applicable to every day life. It's a flowering of a person. It doesn't have to bum you out or bog you down – even when you're busy as hell! You just figure out how to handle it, forge ahead, no fear and not wasting time procrastinating. Most people waste so much time "getting ready" to do something, they could have done it twice! Get right on it! Do it because it needs to be done and *you* will do the best job of it! Have confidence in yourself! Life is a series of accomplishments that took a lot of hard work to *make* happen! And it can all be done on an ongoing, every day, all the time basis, integrated into your normal life! Why not?

Prisoners need and deserve our support, as they are physical, literal captives of our brutal enemies and are subjected to their evil designs. Many are innocent of the charges they were convicted of and many languish, "guilty" of laws that don't exist in other places. In other words, they're "guilty" of non-crimes! Yet, the endless mass crime of government isn't even up for consideration in their rigged courts. Prisoners comprise a very important number of our best revolutionary thinkers and are in the perfect position to monitor the crimes of government. We must listen to them and work closely with them, to ever have a chance at real liberation. They'll also provide you with the best education you can find.

Another thing, letter writing is a very important skill. It's a lost art in this country, but it really helps you focus your attention on what you are thinking and how you want to say it. It helps you craft arguments, write

better, and connect with your own mind and those of others more directly. Pen and paper are always good to have at the handy! Always jot down thoughts and insights and flesh them out as soon as you have time – no laziness! Develop a “rapid response mode” for everything!

COYOTE: There are many naysayers who think anarchy could never exist because there are too many people in the world who want power and who want to be in control. How far do you think we are from reaching total anarchy in this country?

Anthony: We will reach total anarchy by June of 2007! Anarchy already exists in our lives all around us and in our homes. It's not just a societal arrangement of autonomy and free exchange, but a moral way of living. You live anarchist principles all day long. So, it's not like all or nothing and it depends on transforming jerks into thinking, caring human beings. Some people will always be jerks, no doubt! Avoid those people or if you can't do that, defend yourself from them.

People are a product of their conditioning. In this demented society, people are taught to hate themselves and others. Not exactly the perfect type of upbringing to develop a legitimate anarchist social setting. It's not about waiting for people to get their act together for an anarchist society! It's about actualizing our own lives, learning and teaching each other – struggling amidst a sick society and keeping it from all going down the drain. Can anarchy be achieved some day? Hopefully! It's one helluva goal, so why not have that as a long term goal? In the meantime, we've loads of things to do!

As for the naysayers – screw them! Saying “nay” and doing nothing is shameful behavior on their part. They sound like they have surrendered their souls to these pigs! For what?! Show some self-respect, develop resolve and let's see what you got! What is your legacy supposed to be? “Well, he pooh-poohed everything in life and then he died. Ho Hum!” Screw that! Life is meant to be lived like there is no tomorrow, because there may very well *not* be, you turkeys! Sheesh! Get a fuckin' life!

COYOTE: Describe to me, in your opinion, the difference between “self-empowerment” and “having power over others,” and explain how and when anarchists should apply each one in their lives.

Anthony: Self-empowerment is just that. It is educating yourself, developing insights and acting upon them in a positive manner. We are all responsible for our own behavior. The more aware we are, the better choices we can make, the more effective we can be in our work and the more positive impact towards others we'll have, by our example and the

things we do with and even for other people. If we accept anarchist tenets as guides for our lives, we will look to learn many things to improve our ability to extend solidarity to others, or develop mutually positive relations with others. We'll include everybody in decision-making, have respect for other people and live a more positive, caring and useful life. These are things we do for ourselves, as being this way is the most rewarding and satisfying, regardless of what others think or do! The benefits of anarchism aren't dependent on some power-hungry jerk. Our safety might be, but not our anarchism. It's a real shame that violence and intimidation works to inhibit a person's natural (anarchistic) development. It's the only argument fascism has – violence, lies, intimidation, threats.

"Having power over others" is a fascist idea. It's horrible and leads to corruption, sadism, suffering, oppression, racism, sexism, homophobia – all things wrong in the world. A master-slave relationship is what international capitalism is all about! It's not something we should strive for, nor tolerate! That's why I agree with Bakunin about the communists! If they got in, they'd want to lord over the rest of us "in the name" of the proletariat, whoever they are! The hell with that! It's just like the creeps lording over our poor planet nowadays – the Rumsfelds & Cheneys of this world. It's the opposite of what we want to see happen!

Is there occasion to "take matters into our own hands" and stop someone from doing something? Yes! If that person is hurting someone else – then you intervene and stop him! It's pretty simple. You do what you want as long as it doesn't hurt someone else. If it does, you *will* be stopped! But, other than that, it's a bad approach. It's how this slave system works – they write laws and we must obey or submit to their sadistic and often deadly punishments.

They kill and steal land and hire cops (from money they extorted from us) to protect their stolen wealth! The "criminal justice system" only targets the poor, so there is no "justice." It is just a governmental agency that is a criminal *system*! Instead of voluntary cooperation and figuring out what is best and most fair for people, it is based on coercion, lies and what the already rich decide to do to protect and expand their ill-gotten riches.

COYOTE: There are a lot of people in this world who take a disliking to things they don't understand. There are a lot of people who would feel threatened by the "presence" of an anarchist. Is there anything that you would like to say in defense of the compassion and kind-heartedness of true anarchists?

Anthony: I see no reason why anyone should feel "threatened" by an anarchist, unless he is a no-good oppressor himself! Anarchists are not

what they are portrayed as – punks bent on stealing your stuff, “fucking shit up” or otherwise menacing normal citizens. That’s the lying portrayal of us by the government, the police and the media. I’m a 53-year old, middle-aged so-called “white” guy. I threaten nobody! Nor do people feel threatened by my mere presence.

I find many, many people share our views on a lot of things. Most folks hate the government and feel they are nothing but a bunch of lying, thieving bastards! Sounds about right to me, too! Anarchists aren’t out to menace anybody. Punks who like to pretend to be “anarchists” and steal stuff or whatever aren’t really “anarchists” to me – real anarchists! They’re just thieving punks! People who don’t respect “normal” people are the assholes, not these “normal people” they’re dissing!

See, most people are pretty real. If you approach them with respect and an openness, they’ll respond in kind. They’re surprising radical in their beliefs, too! Coming at them all dressed up in “attitude” and being loud and obnoxious is offensive to anybody. Why so-called “anarchists” sometimes insist on being assholes, is a very irritating thing! Wait until these “rebels” get older. Most probably, they will have long since sold out and buckled to their corporate molds. Screw that! Get real and treat people with respect! I’m no saint and sometimes I’m an asshole, too! But, we can think about it, apologize and try to keep ourselves from doing that again! No one likes being disrespected! Save your vitriol for the real monsters!

Then, of course, there are times when you run across a nazi jagoff bent on giving you a hard time. Stand your ground and defend yourself, if necessary. You don’t deserve to be hassled by a jerk, either! Most of the time, you can argue persuasively – as an anarchist – without ever even mentioning the dreaded “A” word! You simply tell the truth with passion and conviction. Case closed, argument won!

Compassion and kind-hearted anarchists are everywhere and they are always busy *being* compassionate and kind-hearted! It’s like mother’s love – comes right in on time and means the world! I know a bunch of kind-hearted, compassionate (and seriously active) anarchists and these are the types of people I gravitate towards and endeavor to work with the most! I love ‘em and so does everybody else who is delighted by their consideration and thoughtfulness. Sweet anarchists are the best!

COYOTE: In one of your zines, you said that it was one of your ambitions to see a chapter of ABC in every state. What have you been doing to see to this?

Anthony: I did write an essay entitled: *ABC's In Every City*. I’m sure you being a prisoner would love to see this happen! I try to encourage people to join ABC Network all the time. I send ABC literature far and

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wide inside and out, stock infoshops, supply study groups, coffee shops, other distros - any interested individual or group. I leave zines at storefront activist offices, bring them wherever I go. I offer free zines in various other publications to folks that aren't aware of us. I write articles and letters for other publications, go to meetings of other support groups, always bringing ABC zines (for free!) and in general, am being an *always* propagandist. I give zines to people at CopyMax, at work - wherever!

During our recent annual ABCN meeting, I proposed to get prisoners more involved with ABC. We agreed to begin a sort of pilot program for prisoners. Prisoners can affiliate with a chapter of their choice, and become our ABC correspondent/contact for that particular gulag. A fellow in Florida became our first prisoner ABC contact person, how about you being #2? You can affiliate with South Chicago ABC & brother, I'll vouch for you! You can contribute a report for our quarterly ABC Network newsletter, etc.

Cleveland ABC came with serious questions and concerns about how to make their chapter more viable and effective. I agreed to go to visit with them, put on a clinic and help mentor them in their work. I'll answer all their questions, give them advice, instructional materials, etc. I'll go visit them in early November, 2006. I'm open for any and all of these outreach situations. People can call, email or write to me, if they are interested. Whenever I get a letter of inquiry about ABC, I get back with them with a lot of information, a letter and a willingness to pursue their interest.

It's sad that so few take this exciting line of anarchist agitation to heart, but we are very outgoing in our desire to help others do this type of work. But, we can't place the desire in their hearts. That must come from within themselves.

COYOTE: If I wanted to start a chapter of ABC out here in Nevada, what would I have to do and how much support can I expect from the affiliated chapters of ABC?

Anthony: If you wanted to start a chapter, you'd need a few things we sort of insist upon - a P.O. Box, an email address and a phone number. These are not possible for prisoners. That's why we came up with this new arrangement for prisoners. If you want an ABC in Nevada, you have to outreach and convince "free world" Nevadans to start one up! You can advocate for it, get their newspapers and so forth. I know there are anarchists in Nevada! The guy Johnson in Reno, Nevada does a nice anarchist zine entitled, *Imagine*. Write him a letter and ask him why he doesn't do any serious anarchist prisoner support! You live out west. I don't! I write to a lot of prisoners out west, but it seems like for all the so-called "anarchists" out there, very few do the nose-to-the-grindstone

support work. Shame on that! Recently, both Break the Chains (Eugene) and CAPS (Oakland) went belly up without so much as an adequate explanation. What are the people out west doing, anyways??? I also heard that Ed Mead (although not an anarchist) was fired and no longer does support work, either. C'mon "out West!" Get it together and support your brothers and sisters in those terrible California, Oregon, Nevada, Washington etc., etc. gulags! Don't make the Children of Haymarket do all the work! Get off your various trips and set to work! Soon enough, it will be *you* who will be looking for some serious support!

As for how much support you can expect to receive from other chapters, I don't know. You'll have to ask them. Each chapter is autonomous and they make their own decisions on what work they do, who they are willing and able to support and so on. Usually, those serious about this work will try to help a comrade somehow.

We are avalanched with requests for support and there are shamefully too few of us doing this type of work. I for one, try like hell every day - I write letters, make calls, write, edit, publish, mail, strategize, attend meetings - I do all kinds of things, as time and energy allows. This is me, though, and I can't speak for other people and the difficulties they have to deal with to free their time up. I'm lucky to be in this position to be of such usefulness. It's taken me a lifetime of struggle and adaptation to be in this position, and I don't expect others to be able to be so focused all the time.

COYOTE: In Nevada, there is a lack of activism and no sign of unity amongst anarchists. There are so many struggles we face out here, especially prisoners. I have been looking hard - against great odds - to try to establish a network for Nevada prisoners, but I still haven't been able to get my feet off the ground. Do you have any ideas on what I can do and who I can turn to for support?

Anthony: Well, Nevada is a big state. You almost certainly haven't contacted all those who may be willing to work with you. So, I say, try harder. Keep trying and don't get discouraged. Prisoners have it the worst, you're a prisoner and there are many prisoners around you. Start there. Talk to your brothers, organize study circles, work up ideas, projects and get writers to write and artists to draw. Put publications together and get back with me and I'll find time to spread them around.

It took me several years before I found a single comrade who was willing to work closely with me and do this serious work. Years! And I live near big, bad Chicago - supposedly the home of many "anarchists!" I begged and pleaded, cajoled and went off on people, over and over. Nothing! All the while, I kept at it and developed this work. If I couldn't get a "collective" of serious people, I'd just do the work of ten people! And

I don't have to "rely" on other people, deal with their nuances, excuses, etc., etc. My work is dynamite because I answer to myself – and I have exacting standards!

I now have a great comrade and I'm grateful for him. But, not having other people should not slow you down in the least! It's all a matter of mind over matter – sheer will to do the job. Once you develop a body of work, others will come forward. One person, so inspired, is capable of an incredible amount of work! All the great work of history, almost invariably, has a single person focused on the idea that generates the moving of mountains. Don't sell yourself short!

I'm no punk. I came up before the punks arrived. I guess you could say I was a hippie. But, I was political, so maybe I was a Yippie! Anyway, the anarcho-punks have one major belief that I really love. It's D.I.Y. (Do It Yourself!) When you do things yourself, you don't have to worry about somebody else sabotaging a project. You just do it!

COYOTE: It is true that some of the most intelligent minds can be found in these prisons far and wide. Nevertheless, the recidivism rates in America are still profoundly high. There are some activists out there who do volunteer work in bookstores that provide free books to prisoners. Some of these activists have told me that they often wonder what impact those books have on prisoners and whether or not they are really making a difference. Being that you are a distributor yourself, do you think that flooding the prisons with books and literature has had an impact on reforming prisoners?

Anthony: First, I'll talk about recidivism. Let's face it. Prisons aren't designed to "reform" their captives! They are meant to punish them, break their spirit all while generating a hefty profit from the profiteers – the guard unions, the builders and suppliers, the politicians, the police, judges, prosecutors, lawyers and shareholders of prison stock. Some prisons are "private" and run like any other rip-off business. Their goal is to maximize profits directly.

Since there are very few re-entry programs and prisoners have not had a real education while in prison (other than learning how to be a better criminal and what it feels like to be abused and embittered) they are set up for failure. They are pariahs in the community, can't find housing, jobs, food, etc. So, they face astronomical odds in *not* returning to prison for some flimsy "parole violation" or some new "crime" they allegedly commit. It's all so arbitrary. Cops and the rich get off, poor blacks don't!

Returning prisoners are easier to process back into the gulags, saving these profit-seekers the bother of the sham of court proceedings. Since each prisoner is worth from \$20,000 to \$40,000 to the various interested parties, and all these profits are guaranteed as they are extorted from the

taxpayers, the system *wants* these people in prison! They get *nothing* if they get out and become "model citizens!" 67

Talib Rashid wrote two superior zines about this. *The Anti-Recidivist Handbook for the 21st Century* and *The Final Release*. They explain the psychology of the criminalization process and how the system instills self-hate, which is transferred onto the community. It's another weapon (like divide & conquer, racism, etc.) that the system uses to keep people from becoming educated and learning how to organize their community to fight back and make a functioning socio-economic system that isn't under the boot heel of this sick racist and predatory society. He also shows the way to overcome these negative mind sets. These are very good zines, which I recommend to any prisoner.

As for Books to Prisoner programs, I'll say this. They do help prisoners. Many prisoners have little or no education, so reading and learning things is an important first step. I have little patience for pulp fiction or escapist nonsense that prisoners often want. I don't send anything but the most informative and conscious material. It's difficult to acquire strong political books that can be sent to prisoners. The people who provide grants are very stingy when it comes to truly educating prisoners.

You'd have to ask those who do these Books to Prisoner Programs what they think. Personally, I stick to the most serious material. I sometimes take a book and reduce it into a zine and make it available. I'm talking about work by George Jackson or Noam Chomsky or Ward Churchill. Sometimes, I'll just take a chapter and make it into a zine. Soft covered zines are easier to get into prison than books, even soft covered ones. They are cheaper because they are lighter and cost less to print and mail. It's still quite expensive to do and takes a lot of commitment. Because, all my money goes into printing and mailing, so I have to scrimp and save and do without on many other things, as does my family. You have to prioritize your assets in service to the cause.

I hear every day, how impactful my publications are for prisoners and I know it is true. Like I said before, I only send the most serious shit. So prisoners know this (usually) when they send in their requests. For, they may be repressed because of their involvement with my program. Often, these publications are censored, denied, disappeared and those involved are transferred, beaten, etc. Oh, I forgot! This is a "free" country and we don't have any censorship! Stop believing the lies, people!

I'm not out just to educate prisoners so they can come out and not ruffle any capitalist pig feathers. I aim to *revolutionize* prisoners, so that when they come out, they are a positive asset to their communities and not some self-important "banger." I can't live their lives. I can help point them in the right direction and offer advice and friendship along the way. But, there comes a time for each and every one of us to make that step up to the next level, and the levels beyond that. Malcolm X did it! Are you.

going to, or will you remain a shit talker, only? This is a question, every single person should grapple with. Of course, most people ignore their true destiny and live a truncated life of frustration and escapism. When you are dead and gone and all is said and done, who the hell is gonna give a damn about that – or want to emulate that lifestyle???

That's a huge problem – the *willingly* criminalized youth. With guns and drugs and sex the end all, destruction, random killings, drug addiction, endless incarceration, or death awaits many "players." This dreadful "gang" mentality poisons the atmosphere inside prison, which guards use to their advantage, as a way to keep them down and unorganized. It's a huge challenge – helping bangers transcend that dead end mentality and reroute it into a genuine – no hustle – service to the people. Without reliable, honest, dedicated and sincere people, this will not be able to come to fruition. We need a *moral* revolution, too!

COYOTE: Can you give a list of "10" books that you think prisoners should read?

Anthony: Ten books, eh? OK. First off, let me talk about books. Many brilliant men and women have written glorious books throughout the last many centuries. Read them! Classic literature, in any language is invariably revolutionary and otherwise insightful! Learn the detailed *truth* about the culture and history of our world and all the worlds' peoples! Otherwise, your mind is mush, a victim of the endless barrage of nazi propaganda spewing out of countless idiot boxes, newspapers, magazines, radios, etc., etc. So, read voraciously the classic novels, poetry, analyses, of all societies. Look in libraries, bookcases everywhere, sales, etc. etc. Libraries regularly give away huge numbers of books, that when gleaned through can reveal an awesome amount of genuine culture, truth and beauty. Your mind and body and spirit *yearn* for this so-far denied basic education! Access it!

This will help you learn to think cogently and gather your self-esteem together. Keep a dictionary at the handy so you can look up words you don't know the meanings of. A Thesaurus, too! Learn about all the other words that sort of mean the same thing, so you can be colorful and accurate when you describe what you are thinking about.

Dylan Drapeau, my son's best friend, would have been 18 on December 30, 2006. He was killed by an off-duty pig on July 20, 2006. You know what he wanted for his 18th birthday? An \$800.00 dictionary! So, off the bat, make a dictionary book #1!

I read a lot of Russia writers, when I was a pup. Dostoyevsky, Turgenev, Gogol, Pushkin, Tolstoy. These guys showed me the ropes – especially Dostoyevsky. The Brothers K – The Possessed. WOW! This cat knew how to *write*! His were long, gripping paragraphs that came to a complicated series of crescendos! You *knew* what drove his characters!

Reading great literature about revolutionary times is thrilling and awesome. Gorky was impressive (until Stalin ruined him.) Uncle Tom's Cabin by Harriet Beecher Stowe is a must read. I loved Mark Twain, too! Reading is incredible! Too bad schooling ruins it. And here, the poor teachers are trying to encourage kids to read and flower and this hideous system makes them be a part of them hating everything!

For a long while, I studied the rise and fall of Nazi Germany. I read a million books about it all. It came in handy, as the comparisons between Germany and America are so numerous! Hitler didn't study "How the West Was Won" for nothing! God, how he envied the Western hemisphere and their successful racialist, centuries-long genocide and slave system! Erich Maria Remarque is best known for his book about WWI, entitled All Quiet On The Western Front. That book was good, but I liked his one about WWII better. It was called, A Time To Love and A Time To Die. So horrible, so many millions killed!

Basic concepts like capitalism, communism and anarchism must be understood. Karl Marx, Mikhail Bakunin, Peter Kropotkin, Rosa Luxemborg, Lucy Parsons, Emma Goldman – these are people who need to be listened to! Revolutionaries! I'm just finishing the autobiography of Assata Shakur! I hate to see it end! Alexander Berkman wrote beautifully. I used to read and reread Khalil Gibran from Lebanon, all the time. Such gorgeous phrasing! Voline wrote an amazing history of the Russian Revolution, entitled, The Unknown Revolution. Fantastic! I thought Claude McKay, a black American communist, was a beautiful writer.

Here's a foursome of books, I picked off my shelf. Killing Hope, by William Blum. On the Justice of Roosting Chickens, by Ward Churchill. My Autobiography, by Emma Goldman. Anarchism, by Peter Kropotkin.

Franz Fanon's The Wretched of the Earth is important stuff. There's a whole world of information out there to read. Again, like everything else in life, it only works if you actually go through with doing it. You compel yourself to read, you read more, get wiser, it gets easier, you learn more, you can share more, be more content and knowledgeable, likable and useful.

Write to AK Press. Located at:
674 – A 23rd Street / Oakland, CA 94612-1163. They have a catalog that looks like a phone book! You can learn anything you want, but you have to struggle for it – just like everything else!

I'd be remiss if I didn't mention the explosively important writers of today. I'm talking about black anarchist prisoner writers, like James Scott, Ojore Lutalo, Jerome White-Bey, Ali Khalid Abdullah and others. Tremendous thinkers who aren't anarchists include Rashid, (who is also the world's strongest political artist) Talib Rashid, Khalfani Malik Khaldun, Abdul Olughala Shakur and many others. Tom Big Warrior,

although also not an anarchist, does tremendous work deconstructing the history of Native America, the endless genocide as well as U.S. history worldwide, and even world history. He breaks things down very understandably. Their work is available through my distro. Harold H. Thompson, an Irish anarchist, does an excellent zine. *My* zines and essays are seriously on point! And these babies are *freely* available!! Not for me, but *definitely* for you! It's free skool education!

I also love explosive anarchist writing. Guys like Luigi Galeani, Johan Most, August Spies – I love reading their work. The Russian anarchists had some powerful writers, as did the Spanish. These days, I don't know who is more impressive – Sam Mbah of the Nigerian Awareness League (anarchist) or Lorenzo Komboa Ervin, a longtime Panther anarchist, now working out of Nashville, Tennessee – his native state. Both are crammed with articulation and insight on the issues that matter the most.

That's one of my goals. I want to help spawn a whole culture of resistance – as popular as hip-hop and a *hundred* times more conscious! It's possible! I feel people can attain a self-sustaining level of consciousness from various revolutionary tributaries. Anarchism is definitely one of those flows. It provides endless opportunities to act!

We can all learn and broaden our outlooks by a serious undertaking of study of the other revolutionary positions, too! We have to be open and free with all of it. Being anarchists, and taking the time and effort to articulate our beliefs and do serious work, while also not shying away from other modes of thinking, gives anarchism a strength and legitimacy, it doesn't have otherwise. We should not fear any kind of challenge, as far as ideas go. We're after the truth and if the truth is that most anarchists are just half-assing around, then that's the truth! Work with others who aren't afraid to get on with it! Whatever proves most effective – do a lot of! Let it be known, that I understand that most all people half-ass it, not just anarchists. But I have such high hopes for anarchists, it really disappoints me when I don't see much serious explosive positive work, I know they are capable of doing being done, and they are not being undertaken because for whatever reason, they refuse to give forth the full, honest effort that all this work that needs to be done, takes.

COYOTE: As a prison abolitionist, it must be devastating to see more and more prisons being built across the country. I have read literature that was written ten years ago, talking about the same struggles we still face today. What changes and accomplishments have you seen in 10 years?

Anthony: Yeah, I hate it, all this kidnapping, harassing, incarcerating, torture, death, suffering – all of it! It's totally disgusting. What's also

terrible is the deaf, dumb and mute response of most people who don't want to genuinely deal with it. Ten years ago, maybe 1,000,000 less prisoners were locked up. The conditions have steadily gotten worse – less programs, less food, less access to law libraries, visits, phone calls, human contact of any sort, more beatings, more hopelessness and despair, more violence and deprivation. Great system ain't it! 71

These problems are part and parcel to capitalism, especially this virulent, slave-rooted one here in Amerika. As Amerika slowly goes down, like all evil empires must, the repression of the black and poor increases. Wealth is more polarized. I heard yesterday, that there are now 600 *billionaires*!

I heard today, at a meeting of a group I'm with (CCOS) – Concerned Citizens of the Southland – that in the poor black south suburban schools, cops are coming into the grade schools and “tagging” students over their fights. These mostly young men are then being tracked – for prison! This fellow said 70% of these boys are thus tracked at the school he spoke about! He said the schools are run like prisons, with the teachers more like guards. Even the school courtyard, is modeled after the prison yard!!! They're all fenced in and they *look* like prisons!

So, things have deteriorated rapidly in the prisons. With these neo-con Bushie nazis in power, more draconian laws, more evil big shot judges, more reactionary legislators, harsher laws, more police surveillance, dogs, tasers, guns, mobile lock-ups, etc., etc. are constantly being introduced and expanded. The police are being militarized and funneled back and forth to Iraq. So, killers of Iraqis are now in police uniforms when they get back here. Citizens are under endless suspicion about anything and everything, especially in the heavily videotaped and “under-cover” rogue cop patrolled (read: black) neighborhoods.

It's all more and more sinister as even “white folks” are being asked to snitch on their parents and neighbors, and everyone is in Stalinist fear mode. Nobody talks to each other in the stores out of some weird fear!

Look at Dylan – a brilliant “gifted” white kid had his life snuffed out and he was just treated by the pigs assigned to look into it, as if he was road kill! They have zero respect for the truth and zero for life.

And if you're a prisoner, it's less than zero! It's a vile horribleness and the sickest things happen every day, as people play out their mindless social dementia. Just yesterday, another woman cut open a womb, killed young kids, etc. Meanwhile, “hundreds” of “suspected militants” are bombed into oblivion – by NATO soldiers in Afghanistan, and if anything, people assume it's a “good thing.” The U.S. threatens Iran, a nation of maybe 60,000,000 people! Yet all people can muster up concern for is some NFL team! This is a society wandering aimlessly on a wicked thorazine bender, and every one of us is not safe and life is getting worse.

This sordid reality brings me back to the squalid dungeons. Like cockroaches, the prisonkrats do not like the spotlight put on their morbid

activities. So, when we publicize the endless abuse they inflict, it usually helps curb some of the more egregious abuse. But, the insane system of forcing people to live in cages continues on, as if it was natural and legitimate. The running of prisons is a major social crime on humanity that pours gas on the problems.

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On the other hand, anarchist ideas (and other revolutionary positions) are gaining a much wider acceptance, as people realize the government does nothing but lie and make their lives miserable and threatened. So, we have a big opportunity to help get recruits. It's a race against time, as these monsters don't even care if their own children have a viable planet to subsist on in the near future!

Have there been any victories? Well, a few prisons were shut down, including a women's prison twenty miles south of me that I helped organize against. But, did fewer people stay in prison because of it? No. More and more keep coming in. Occasionally, a prisoner we supported gets paroled and gets a foothold and begins to put his or her prison education (political consciousness) to work and becomes a community organizer. It's a tough, difficult struggle. For, there's no "community" to come back to! Every one is on their own facing a stacked deck - no job, stigmatized, no education, no place to live, etc. So, having a serious understanding of reality is pretty much mandatory, if one is to avoid the recidivist kidnappers. This is the preparation we try to give.

COYOTE: We are six years into the new millennium. It seems like there is crisis and turmoil in every part of the world right now. But for some reason, people feel a sense of something "new" just around the corner. Change is in the air. As a prison abolitionist, what new approaches do you think activists should take in the struggle to abolish prisons?

Anthony: There's tremendous "turmoil" and many crises. After all, the U.S. has declared nuclear war on Afghanistan and Iraq and threatens to do the same to North Korea, Iran, and elsewhere. Many people are fighting and dying every day in many countries. The U.S. is everywhere making the situation much worse!

Seeing this (and experiencing their own oppression at the hands of the U.S. and their puppets) places like Argentina, Bolivia, Uruguay, Brazil and elsewhere in South America, have experienced a tremendous growth of "people power" community organizations, worker-run factories, serious organizing and empowerment is being accomplished. So, people back in the belly can see it is possible! Millions of people demonstrated even in this locked-down country for the rights of immigrants. Every one knows the Iraq war was bullshit and hates Bush (outside the hardcore American fascists) but feels powerless and atomized to do anything seriously about it. They saw Katrina wipe out New Orleans and the government didn't

do a thing – just like on 9-11! But they do have a seriously dangerous police and military. Our chances go way up, when the police and army men no longer are willing to follow their orders to continue to kill! and repress people.

Something big may happen, soon. Perhaps we'll see another major hurricane, an earthquake, world war, a serious economic depression, martial law – something "big!" We shall see.

In the meantime, people need to know what the deal is to begin to effectively deal with it. So, I see an extremely important task is one of concentrated, focused education. People should do what I do – work hard! Why can't others be doing this work? It's technically pretty simple! There are copying machines practically everywhere! People must stop being lazy and fearful – simple as that! Once they cross the "fear line" and shake off inertia, they can become very active and valuable. Their real life will truly begin. For, like Assata Shakur says, life is most exciting *during* the struggling!

All forms of media can be used to get the message out. People will have to experiment and try all kinds of tactics – new and old – and see what works. But to really try something "new" what they should try is to actually t-r-y! That would be new! I'd love to see it and I'll be glad to mentor anybody into it! I'm tired of seeing people get enthused and then flake off. Show some self-respect and respect for others! This isn't a goddam game – its life and death! It's not just some goddam joke!

COYOTE: It seems like any fool with a typewriter can create a zine, but your zine, *"Thought Bombs"* is one of a kind. Not only is there a lot of intelligence and truth put into them, but you give people off all different nationalities, creeds and beliefs an opportunity to let their voice be heard! It's good to see people working along the same lines, towards the same objectives. That's something that ABC does well. Can you explain *how* you put your zines together and then what you do with them, once you're finished?

Anthony: Thank you! It's nice of you to notice. Usually my zine gets crappy reviews because the mainstream underground is only interested in the "navel-gazing" zines. From the very beginning, with *Thought Bombs #1*, I explained what I was going to do – look for the best revolutionary literature out there to help push the struggle forward. I organize a lot of events – talks, actions, conferences and so forth. I like to prepare a statement for these to concentrate my arguments and have a written record of these issues and events for later publication. I write essays about all sorts of things, in the back of my mind, I'll use in a pub – either my own or a different one I'll work up.

I think it's important to get other peoples' viewpoints, uncensored or edited by me, so readers can make their own determinations on the issues and beliefs presented, compare ideas, synthesize them, add them to their own, discard and ridicule or whatever. I have confidence that my work stands up and has its due influence. People tell me all the time it means a lot to them. Others tell me I suck! Whatever, I'm gonna keep doing it and I'm gonna jack up the level of argumentation more and more, the importance of the issues, the strength of the writing – everything! It's not a game or a novelty with me – it's part of a social upheaval. To me, this zine, and the many others I work on, are part of a vital aspect of this cultural revolution we so desperately need to develop from.

Do I care that my work is so ignored and pilloried? Not really, because those sycophants and timid ones aren't gonna get down and dirty, anyway! They *avoid* the issues! So, I'll go with people who aren't afraid of the brutal truth and who "get it" you know? I feel very comfortable with conscious prisoners and hopefully, they feel comfortable with me. Thus, I have many, many useful and excellent collaborators to work with. I have more than I can handle, so I'm never moping around with nothing to do, like so many. I'm busy as hell every day and busier the next day! That's good because my old man was a workaholic and so the hell am I (smile*)

How do I do it? Simple. I have simple tools, like a box cutter knife, an aluminum yardstick filed in half, glue sticks, pens, paper, stamps, whiteout and a tape player. I spread all kinds of papers, envelopes, letters, zines, etc. on a ping pong table. I've developed a painstakingly created "network" whereas folks (mostly prisoners) can find out about me and my work, through ads in other publications, articles I've written, the thousands upon thousands of zines I've sent out, listings in resource guides, others support groups' newletters, ads in zine review zines, other zines, word of mouth, tons of hand-written letters, etc. I told you this work isn't easy – but it is relatively "simple!"

I don't have a website or use the computer much, except to check email and transcribe or write. I find a lot of people are "computer activists" only and don't call, visit or write. That's lazy! Prisoners don't have access to the internet, another way the government tries to keep them (their slaves) ignorant, uneducated and thus, impotent as revolutionaries. Something Assata Shakur said comes to mind, here. She wrote: "to become free, you have to be acutely aware of being a slave."

I like to make digest-sized booklets, usually from regular 8 ½ x 11 paper, which is the quickest and easiest to make copies from. Sometimes, it works better to use 8 ½ x 14 paper. You give yourself enough margin and cut and paste that bad dog together. You make an original, then a master, go over it with a fine tooth comb (and a bottle of white out) and voila! You have a master copy ready for reprinting! Then you make

copies, collate them, fold them and staple them. Then you file them and maybe mail them out to certain people, sometimes lots of people. I have several huge bookcases, shelves, boxes full of zines. I save the masters for reprinting later. When people ask for it by name or by subject, you try to send it to them - whatever they want, as best you can. Sometimes, people send stamps or a little cash. It is a drag when prisoners send checks addressed to my distro. I can't cash them, folks! Please send all checks made out to me, Anthony Rayson, send cash or stamps. Thank you!

It takes constant, daily work because you are constantly running out of titles, working up new ones and so forth. So, you have many zines in various stages of production, from the raw, hand-written beginnings to the finished products. But, it doesn't require anything special, can be (and is by me) done anywhere, with a minimal amount of "stuff" you need to do them with. Like everything else, the biggest obstacle and hassle of doing them is getting off your ass and setting to work. Pretty simple! I'd gladly give workshops on zinemaking or anything else, but people "don't know and don't want to know." It's maddening! It really is.

COYOTE: What are some of the most common myths you hear about anarchists and would you like to say anything to set the record straight?

Anthony: Well, "anarchists" are supposed to be violent, thieving, crazy, dangerous, anti-social, terrorists, hedonists, who want to unleash criminals upon everybody, who despise "organization" blah, blah, yada, yada, yada.

While there are some real losers who call themselves "anarchists" real genuine anarchists (of which there are precious few) are rarely any of those repulsive things! Anarchists are legitimate and responsible, care about other people, don't take things that aren't theirs, are quite social, and do not want criminals menacing society. That's why they hate government so much!

Criminals run government and do bad things to people like kill and enslave them! They steal from people and lie and cheat and force a horrible "education" upon them, and cater to a hideous corporate-dominated "culture" of conspicuous consumption, the glorying of official violence, and everything sickening. So, yeah! Stop the criminals!

Anarchists believe incarceration is a crime. People often have been ruined who are then incarcerated (and made worse.) We don't want predators menacing our communities. We don't want pedophiles, politicians, thieves, policemen, murderers, judges, extortionists, lawyers or any other type of criminal to menace us. Problem is, most crimes (state crime, crimes of the police, the courts, etc.) are not even considered

for prosecution as crimes. Landlords aren't charged for their crimes, not are factory owners who rip off workers. So, the whole "criminal justice system" only goes after individual petty crime – in the poor communities, mostly. All the real crime just keeps happening, and even the individual crime rates never go down, because the society is busy "criminalizing" these young, mostly black people.

It's a crime not to have food, clothing, shelter, medical care or a real education, job prospects and so forth, but once again, these aren't considered crimes, just what the desperate do because of them. What a horrible reality it is!

If people think "anarchists" are the problem, maybe they should google anarchism on the computer, sit down and learn what the hell an anarchist really believes instead of believing the liars in the mainstream media, some rightwing pundit or some government mouthpiece, who they should know is lying, because they lie about everything else!? Once again, get off the couch and learn for yourself! I have several zines that spell it out that you can get, if writing a quick note is not too much of a burden. Excuse my exasperation, but I have had to put up with this oblivious, stupefied country of zombies day in, day out and I get sick of it! Being a serious anarchist is a very important thing to be, but we are treated like lepers – even by the people who would most benefit from our work!

COYOTE: ABC has been in existence for 105 years. WOW! Is there anything you would like to say in honor of ABC? And, is there anything that you'd like to say for the future of ABC?

Anthony: Well, ABC came to be out of the Revolution of 1905, in Russia. It was formed to support anarchist prisoners being repressed by the Tsar. Different groups from around the world popped up here and there to support anarchist prisoners and other political prisoners. There's a group called ABCF (Anarchist Black Cross Federation.) They've been around for 10-12 years and their main focus is in supporting "official" political prisoners in America. They also support "social" prisoners, although the PP's & POW's (prisoners of war) get the monetary support from them. This is a very good group and they do important work. There are various ABC groups in Europe and South America, Canada, etc.

The Network came into existence in 2002. We wanted to generalize the support for prisoners. We believe *all* prisoners are political prisoners, as incarceration is a driving force of this repressive regime. It's *very* political! Prison defines America! Like Malcolm X said: "America means prison!" It's "ground zero" of the struggle here at home. Prisoners are slaves according to the 13th Amendment. They know they are slaves! They're shackled, gassed, beat, encaged, forced to work for nothing – they

know! As slaves yearning for liberation, they are the best group of people for us to work with, because we are striving for anti-slave revolt, too! These folks – the ones who've stopped banging and haven't been driven crazy yet, are thirsting for radical, revolutionary and yes, anarchist insight and empowerment!

Unlike the oblivious, floating ghosts on the "outs" who are indifferent or repulsed by seriously revolutionary zines, prisoners love them! Prisoners start study circles and pass them around. They suffer assault, abuse, all kinds of indignities, just for *receiving* them! So, of course, I'm going to work closely with prisoners who know what the hell is going on! I'd be a fraud not to!

As for ABC and those who do ABC-type work, I love them! Its hard work, but very rewarding and the few who know this and stick with it have my everlasting respect and gratitude. If ever a group of anarchists deserved respect, it is these people! Without a serious ABC presence, "anarchists" wouldn't have much going for them, as far as normal people are concerned. All too often, anarchists are involved in esoteric, self-centered stuff that has little or no solidarity component to it, let alone relates to what regular working &/or poor people have to deal with. Anarchy is not some goofy-looking clothes and a slovenly attitude! It's serious salt of the earth work! So, yeah, I'm proud to be a part of ABC and I don't let the naysayers bother me too much. Show me something more impressive than the work we are doing! If you can, I'll add it to my distro!

As for the future of ABC, I am trying to help it grow. We do constant outreach, inside and out. We make it simple as hell! All you have to do to access this information is contact us! It costs *nothing*!! We are being infiltrated and otherwise menaced by the police, FBI, etc. so that tells me we are having effect. We tie up a lot of prison censor trolls and cost gulags money, which they hate. We get the truth out of the gulags and in turn, get it back in. This is exactly what George Jackson beseeched outside supporters to do – flood the prisons with insurrectionary ideas!

So, the ABC Network has done a lot of really important work. I'll continue to do this, at this break neck speed, for as long as I live! So, at least as far as I'm concerned, I will be thriving and soaring into the hearts and minds of prisoners for many years to come. Hopefully, our long term goals will be actualized and we'll participate in the destruction of the final hideous prison and we can all celebrate with the brothers and sisters who have been in chains for so long. For freedom, not slavery!

WE MUST FIGHT FOR OUR CHILDRENS' FUTURE!

COYOTE: Well, my thought-bombing comrade, that about wraps everything up. It is always refreshing to be able to converse with you. A lot of your answers were very deep and very thought-provoking. I admire your intellect and I am grateful for this opportunity to pick your brain, thanks! Before I close, please feel free to leave your readers with one last, refreshing thought!

Anthony: Thanks to you, my Coyote howlin' friend! I'm always happy to run across serious prisoner anarchists to collaborate with. I just ran across an address for you, out in Nevada! Write to: K. Friedman, Ste. 8, Box 241, 2375 E. Tropicana Ave. Las Vegas, NV 89119. She's a prisoner in Carson City, who wrote the *Free Self-Help Litigation Manual and Advice*. It's for lesbian &/or feminist prisoners. Maybe she knows some folks who can help you get an ABC going out your way!

As for a "final thought" Hmmm...Let me see! OK! Here you go! Here I am, a middle-aged, "white" dude, with a job, a wife, two kids, etc., etc. "I don't have time to do anything!" Do I? Besides, I've been conditioned by a lifetime of television and other lies, so what do I know, right? Wrong! Even an old geezer like me, with my little-assed "white skin privilege" knows this whole thing is a monumental charade, and even though I have next to nobody helping me, I still manage to have a strong anarchist-driven effect on many peoples' lives! What does that tell you! It tells me, *anyone* can be effective, especially those surrounded by young and oppressed people! So, if I can do it - Joe Normal in the middle of bum fuck - then so the hell can you or anybody else! Long live the anarchists who *live* as anarchists and *love* every minute of it!

NOTE:

Coyote is a politically conscious prisoner, who is currently confined to an isolation cell in a maximum security prison in Nevada. He is an activist and a writer, who has built a study group inside the confinement of Ely State Prison. Not only does he create beautiful literature of his own, but he makes copies of whatever literature he gets his hands on, through outside contacts, and then passes them around to fellow prisoners and holds discussions on them over the tier. Right now, Coyote is working against great odds to build a network for NV prisoners and has suffered from acts of retaliation from the administration for his efforts to organize and because of his activism. Nevertheless, he *still* does what needs to be done, putting his whole heart into it. You can contact him at:

Coyote Sheff #55671
P.O. Box 1989
Ely, Nevada 89301-1989

South Chicago ABC Zine Distro
P.O. Box 721
Homewood, IL 60430

Dylan died on Thursday night and the wake was on Monday. A huge overflow crowd came all during the several hours. I passed out the flyers, posted them at churches and shops, and left a stack at the wake. After waiting an hour, I was able to see Dylan directly. He had this incredibly disappointed and wronged look on his face. I whispered him a promise and kissed his forehead. It was beyond unbearable as Dylan was the most talented and wonderful kid Crete had ever produced. It was sadness and grief and sorrow beyond anything I'd ever been personally involved with – including my own Dad's death. Seventeen years old and ready to ignite the world with his brilliance, Dylan was now gone – and for no apparent reason!

When I got home after a long day, I listened to the message on my machine. Sure enough! It was from the main witness to the accident, who had gone to the wake and picked up a flyer. He explained what had happened to Dylan. He said he had to fishtail out of the way to avoid the collision himself and he saw everything. After a while, I said, "You mean Dylan was totally blind-sided!" Jeremy, the witness, replied: "Exactly!"

I called an attorney who I hoped would be interested in taking the case. I arranged for him (James Gierach) to speak with Jeremy right after I spoke with both – that same night. James said that Jeremy was an "excellent witness" and agreed to take the case. Jeremy met with James and presented a detailed drawing of the accident (on p. 9) and a lengthy statement. James hooked up with a high-octane loop lawyer – Motherway, who specializes in these cases. Ken Drapeau, his sister and myself met with the lawyers to talk things over. Ken's wife, Sharrie, was still way too distraught to deal with this. The family agreed to hire these attorneys on a contingency basis. The next day, suit was filed against Brian Dorian, the off-duty cop from Lynwood, who lives in Crete. The suit was filed in Cook County because on the initial police report, Dorian listed a Lansing address.

We believe this is a case of reckless homicide on the part of Dorian (or worse) coupled with an ugly cover-up by the Crete police. Jeremy spelled it all out. I want go after the Crete police, with this suit, but the lawyers are not willing to do that. I called Michael Deutsch from the Peoples' Law Office in Chicago. He was busy defending Muhammad Salah from a federal frame-up that he was recruiting and fundraising for Hamas. He did, however, give me a name of another lawyer who might be interested in going after Van Delaa and Cornejo. I spoke with him and he is willing! We have a year to add Crete to the suit. It's kind of a touchy situation, as Dylan's mother does not want to do anything "bad" against the local police. Ken wants to do right for Dylan. I promised to write a book about the whole thing.

I told Jeremy I admired his courage. He said: "If it had happened to me, I would have wanted someone to do it for me." He and his wife had a new baby girl, three weeks after the accident. Oh! Dylan – so young & brilliant!!

~ Anthony Rayson ~

South Chicago ABC Zine Distro

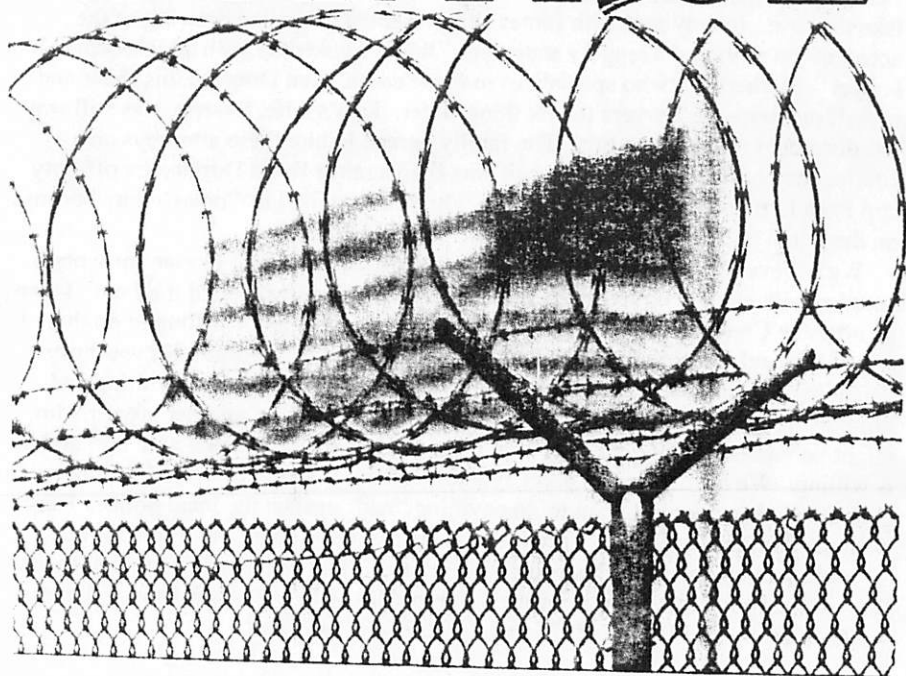
Agitation - Education



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