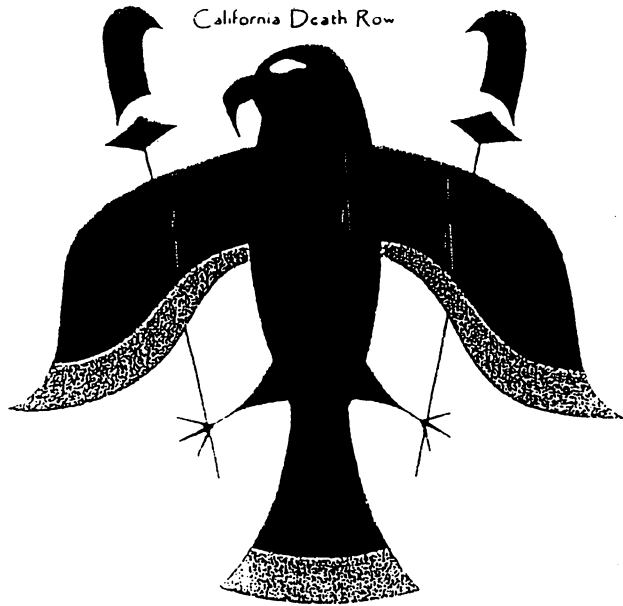
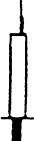


Papyrus  Collective
California Death Row



 **DEATH ROW**
INMATEW.ORG

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

AnthonyRayson@Hotmail.com

California Death Row

WRITE OR DIE



Learn the explosive truth from the
gulags, both inside & out! **ZINES**

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- Editor: PAPCO
- Layout: KMT (Kemet) Ink
- Centerfold Art: J. Miles
- Cover: San Quentin Prison, East Block (Condemned Unit)
- (P) = Poetry
- (I) = Interviews

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Duplicate & Distribute Freely

*Zined up by @Anthony Rayson on November 29th, 2013
Published & Distributed by South Chicago ABC Zine Distro*

@nticopyright



Between The Bars
P.O. Box 425103
Cambridge, MA 02142
INFO@BETWEENTHEBARS.ORG

Hello Papyrus Collective,

We've made some changes such that you can now have posts for yourself that "do not" show up on the PAPCO page. From here on out, if you want the page to appear both on your personal blog as well as the PAPCO page, write the word PAPCO in the upper right or left hand corner the same way you would a reply code to a comment. If you want your blog post to appear only on your page and not on the PAPCO page, simply do nothing at all.

Benjamin (and Team BtB)

ATTENTION CALIFORNIA DEATH ROW PRISONERS

Are you interested in having your own BLOG page and URL (website address) for free? If you're interested in joining our PAPCO group blog at BtB, we're looking for new insightful and creative writers and artists, as well as project coordinators.

Whether you're interested in joining our group blog or starting your own, BtB is welcoming those of you who are interested in promoting discussion about various issues and topics. If so, you can write to BtB with either of the following requests:

- I would like to join the PAPCO group blog.
- I am hereby requesting any and all literature on how to establish my own blog at BtB (www.betweenthebars.org)

Ask for an introduction packet and licensing agreement. For faster service, be sure to inform them that you are in fact a death row prisoner. Get you people outside involved by logging onto BtB.

Visit Our Blog @
BETWEENTHEBARS.ORG/GROUP/PAPYRUSCOLLECTIVE

ILLUSIONS

How do you tell a condemned prisoner the way they think of their self has been manipulated, that their thoughts betray them into a bondage more secure than any prison cell because they've attached their identity to an illusion? You don't!

To not misunderstand as a concerned human being, you never stop searching for those words that will cut through the grime, which has distorted their view of themselves. However, you don't tell a gangsta, a solid oak wood, a true camarada, nothing. You don't tell any of these hyper-masculine ego person nothing because it is seen as a challenge, as a threat not unlike starting directly into the eyes of an animal.

How else would they view this, would they view themselves when their communities and their very existences have been consistently characterized as violently animalistic? Is it any wonder -- then, that they'd rather be predators and not prey, seen as sleek and deadly panthers, ferocious bears, and indomitable gorillas, or be thought of as savage warriors of the cement savannas and concrete jungles they've come to see their neighborhoods as, instead of as prisoners of them?

No one wants to be imprisoned, especially within their own mind. But if these are the lenses they view their lives through then they aren't living a life based on the image they think they're projecting. No, they are instead living a life scripted for them based on their refusal to step outside of the box that the roles they've adopted say they play. As long as they, we continue to identify with and make true such labels we deny ourselves, one of the most effective tools not only in the debate over capital punishment but also in any effort to improve the quality of our lives; perception.

In upcoming articles in, "Write or Die," and in posts on the Papyrus Collective group blog @:betweenthebars.org/blogs/papyrus-collective. I intend to share my beliefs on how perception manipulates, as well as influences for the better our daily lives and how an awareness of its impact upon our thoughts can empower us as individuals and as a community. Therefore, whether it be within the solitude of your own mind or by posting your comments and opinions online at, between the bars, we hope that you will join with us in this discussion and help expand our consciousness.

Phen
Operations Coordinator
Betweenthebars.org/Group/Papyruscollective

541

THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA V. THE NEW GENERATION

CASE SUMMARY

NAME:	PAPYRUS COLLECTIVE
ADDRESS:	CSP-SAN QUENTIN EAST BLOCK SAN QUENTIN, CA 94974
ETHNICITY:	BLACK (30.1%), WHITE (33.3%), HISPANIC (22.2%), OTHER (3.4%)
AGE AT THE TIME OF ARREST:	UNDER 20-29
COUNTY OF TRIAL:	LOS ANGELES (31%), RIVERSIDE (10%), ORANGE (3%), HUMBOLDT (27%), NAPA (27%), MARIN (14%)
CHARGES ALLEGED:	CALIFORNIA PENAL CODE SEC. 190.2(a)(17) & (22), MURDER WHILE ENGAGED IN OR AN ACCOMPLICE TO ROBBERY, KIDNAPPING, BURGLARY, CARJACKING, OR CRIMINAL STREET GANG ACTIVITY
PLEA:	NOT GUILTY
INFORMANT USED:	COUNTY JAIL AND STATE PRISON CONFIDENTIAL INFORMANTS
EYEWITNESS TESTIMONY:	OFTEN COERCED WITH THREATS OF PROSECUTION AND REMOVAL OF CHILDREN
FORENSIC EVIDENCE:	INCONCLUSIVE WHEN DETERMINING INNOCENCE
DEFENSE PRESENTED:	MINIMAL - INVESTIGATION AND EXPERT WITNESS TESTIMONY FINANCIALLY LIMITED

The crimes listed above are what one New Generation writer referred to as "STREET LEVEL" crimes. Crimes born out of poverty and systemic lack of education and opportunity that inner-city neighborhoods have been consistently denied, which are most likely to be committed by young men -- young gang members of color.

Of the 36 SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES punishable by death in California, those most often committed by gang members -- robbery, home invasion, and carjacking -- do not require there be an intent to commit murder under the Felony Murder Rule of § 190.2(a)(17). Neither do they require the individual to be the actual killer. Under § 190.2(a)(22), a gang member who is not the killer but instead aids, abets, counsels... with reckless indifference can be sentenced to death.

Such laws loosely interpreted and narrowly applied begs the question, why?, and should be considered before any more young men are sacrificed

3



The Papyrus Collective (Papco) is a growing body of organized Death Row and incarcerated writers, artists, and their friends and family, and the network of prisoner activist groups in and outside of prison who are adding their voices to the push for change.

Our WRITE OR DIE (WOD) zine project, and its @Golgotha series of interviews, chronicles the life experiences of and engages in conversation with the New Generation (NG) of Death Row prisoners who have become the face of California's dysfunctional criminal justice system since the expansion of the death eligible Special Circumstances list from 16 to 36.

Promoting awareness of how "tough on crime" laws affect the new 21st century political prisoner involves joint collaborations with social media venues, activist networks, and prisoners nationwide, who share Papco's vision of creating change through empowering voices in order to spread the word. The prison-based WOD zine provides just such a medium, led by conscious-minded grassroots self-publishing and distribution techniques to connect people with ideas and to encourage them to positive action.

In California there are many problems associated with capital punishment, with judicial fallibilities and wrongful convictions becoming more evident. However, those who believe California's 730+ Death Row inmates are society's most heinous, cruel, and irredeemable serial killers — the worst of the worst — should consider that:

- The Death Penalty inordinately affects communities of poverty and color, and the imposition of the death sentence varies greatly from county to county.
- The expanded list of Special Circumstances targets a specific group of individuals by making Street Level poverty crimes general to their communities death eligible, without requiring the same legal standard to convict as other Special Circumstances.
- 43% of documented wrongful convictions were obtained through false criminal informant testimony, making criminal informants the leading cause of wrongful convictions in capital cases in the United States.

to name a few inconsistencies.

So what else is new though, right? Papco isn't about making excuses for its members or the NGs here. We are about describing and articulating for the public the realities we face before and after we came to Death Row. For through perspective comes understanding, and we hope to provide our readers and ourselves with a little bit of both.

The accused — innocent or guilty. This is OUR voice. OUR point of view.

WRITE OR DIE!

Frankie
General Coordinator

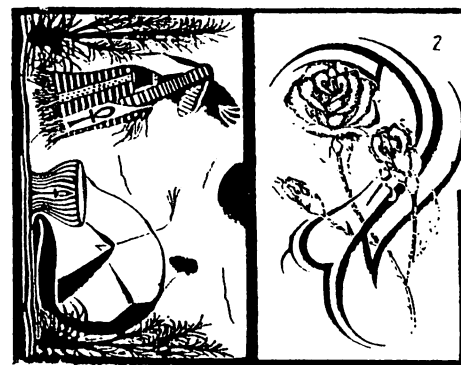
deathrowinmate.org/papyruscollective
betweenthebars.org/groups/papyruscollective
kapipal.com/write-or-die



For your free copy of Write Or Die:
South Chicago ABC Zine Distro
Box 721, Homewood, IL 60430



Papyrus Collective • P.O. Box 70023
Riverside, CA 92503



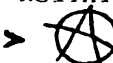
WRITE OR DIE (Issue 2)

Available: 8/12

An intimate and empowering expression of love, encouragement, and reconciliation put into words through letters, articles, and poetry to women at home and behind bars by the New G's on California's Death Row. Beautifully illustrated, this issue features photos of some of the row's finest. This SPECIAL EDITION is dedicated to all those women on the front, and behind the lines. Fella's you'll want to share this zine with those special women in your lives.

ANARCHIST BLACK CROSS

AGITATION



EDUCATION

Every Stamp Counts @gmail.com

In the spirit of fostering programs where redeeming qualities of socially conscious prisoners can shine, we're empaneling incarcerated men and women eager to share stories of survival, loss, and their accounts of reckless impulsive behaviors resulting in lengthy prison sentences and untold family hardships.

Determined to reach community leaders, juvenile detainees and their respective facility administrators, as well as at-risk youth everywhere, commitment to this mentoring outreach means that a regular influx of postage and supplies are required.



If you'd like to participate in this project, please contact us at the Papyrus Collective address enclosed with a short thought-provoking submission that we can share with our readers.

Write or Die (WOD)

Safiya

MKTG.DRI@gmail.com

KAPIPAL.com/WriteOrDie

RocketHub.com/WriteOrDie

Byron Franki Wilson

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South Chicago ABC Zine Distro

Publisher / Distributor





**Finding Freedom Behind the
Walls of San Quentin**
Experiences the Life Struggles and Personal
Transformation of Death Row Inmate
Jarvis Jay Masters in This
Compelling, Inspirational Memoir

The title of the book, *That Bird Has My Wings*, actually comes from a true story. One day in the prison exercise yard I found myself saving a seagull's life from the senseless violence of a fellow prisoner. The bird symbolized my deeply held desire to be free. But it also symbolized how far I've come to reclaiming that sense of belonging, and to realizing I have wings and a fate, and neither belongs to San Quentin! Whenever I see a bird flying over the prison, I just feel closer to what it really took for me to write this memoir. The act of writing helps me find no less a freedom than that which we all desire. Even for just a little while, it's a freedom I dream about and one day hope to have. That bird remains my inspiration.

I have been so blessed to have this book published by HarperOne and I am grateful to the many wonderful and caring people that helped to make it happen. It continues to be a very humbling experience to see this memoir become a real book. In a very personal way, I feel a great sense of accomplishment that I have achieved something more than I ever thought possible. It is humbling and yet, it is an honor beyond imagination. More than anything though, it affirms for me that my life and the lives of so many all throughout this book do matter! That's what comes up for me the most, this fact that everyone of us matter.

Editor's Note: An inmate at San Quentin since he was 19, JARVIS JAY MASTERS was moved to death row in 1990 (for alleged participation in the killing of a prison guard). Masters was converted to Buddhism several years later and has inspired the interest of leaders in the American Buddhist community. While in prison he wrote and published one book, *Finding Freedom*, as well as many articles which have appeared mostly in newspapers and Buddhist magazines. In 1992, Masters won a PEN Award for his poem, "Recipe for Prison Pruno." Based on the lack of substantial evidence for Masters participation in the murder, in April 2008 the California Supreme Court ordered an evidentiary hearing, and Masters' attorneys believe his conviction will be overturned within the year.

NEW CONDEMNED

By
Plankhi

I arrived at San Quentin Prison as a new condemned in April of 2000 at the age of 23 from the Los Angeles County Jail where I had spent the previous 2 years of the millennium in trial process -- just one of many in a wave of young men from within and around the same communities in Southern California seeing prison for the very first time in their lives.

Quite recently in fact I discovered that 31 death sentences were handed down in 2000 here in California, more than in any year since. Ironically, California is less able (or willing) to actually carry out these sentences. So many of the new generation of condemned prisoners here will never see the death chamber, not at the current rate of things. But, that hasn't deterred the nearly 5 dozen state counties from seeking sentences of death for special circumstance street-level homicides in spite of the fact that the discretion is with the county prosecutors, those who ultimately decide between life without parole (LWOP) or Death in these cases.

Looking at things now, I wonder how these state authorities can be so bent on executing us. What kind of example do you think you're setting, California? How do you morally justify "your" actions when you sanction murder to advance your careers? At the very heart of the gang violence is the same retaliatory, or "eye for an eye" mentality behind your death policy to punish murderers and their abettors. We've come to recognize the hypocrisy though. What are we to expect from a state that condemns children's futures by funding prison expansion at the expense of public schools?

When this zine project was first conceived it was one of many new ideas coming from the handful of visionaries making up our evolving collective, those of us whom through the years had become more conscious of our circumstances and the nature of the world around us. We shared one important guiding idea... choosing to fulfill a meaningful role in our lives through doing something productive and positive rather than rotting away in a death cell, leaving but a few "last words" to our executioners. Discovering that death can be as much a state of mind and being as a physical one -- "Write Or Die" became the slogan.

We've been particularly encouraged by the interest that (WOD) has been receiving as our first couple of issues find their way into the hands of more people on the outside through those of us here who share WOD with friends and family, and the efforts of our publisher, Anthony Rayson at South Chicago ABC Zine Distro. While preparing this issue, I sought some constructive feedback and perspective as to how WOD and our respective message is/was being received beyond prison walls. This issue (WOD #3) seemed like the right issue (at the right time) to get the word out, and I really want to get a sense that it would be taken seriously by people far and wide, from all walks of life.

One response came from a young woman overseas in London (U.K.), a media consultant whom I'll refer to as "Mrs. S". She sent me an overall insightful analysis of everything I had sent to her for review. Here's what she had to say:

"It seems the State of California had a huge gang/crime problem on its hands and that the whole world was watching -- in a sense they employed a tactic of legal ethnic/class cleansing. The two info sheets you sent me -- the first being the intro to the Papyrus Collective, this is my FAVORITE piece. It shows what people need to know, the differentiation of those on Death Row. That you can be condemned for street level homicides -- potentially driven by poverty".

Before Mrs. S concluded her letter she outlined a few things that she thought we should focus on to better convey our message to the public:

"Although you may not want to -- you have to talk about WHY you are there, of how a man who was caught up in gang crime at the age of 18 when he was young... those who were not behind the gun at a murder, but at the scene, yet find themselves on Death Row -- do these crimes deserve this punishment? Can one be rehabilitated, or are they no longer an asset to society?"

Thank you Mrs. S for your invaluable feedback. It was shared with other PAPCO coordinators and contributing writers and became the subject of an independent discussion which ultimately inspired me to author this article.

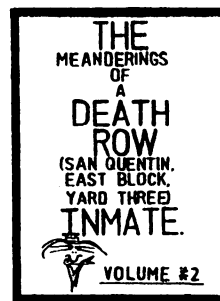
In terms of relevancy, for me, the most important question she posed, was: Are we no longer an asset to society?

Naturally, there are those who look down upon these efforts and as such, foster negative perceptions, regardless of what our actions demonstrate, or what the intended message is. The fact that we're convicted murderers, sentenced to death is already to our discredit in their minds.

For many of us however, the process of maturing invariably continues, freeing ourselves from the prison of self-preoccupation, while not surrendering to our individuality, and most importantly, exploring societal praise and ridicule through the windows of our infinite stretches of psychological exile and habitual vulnerability.

Allow this issue to encourage your direction with rational thought, mindful of your toughest critics -- those who influence your life. Emerge with confidence and a specific destination in mind -- something within your control. Chance always favors the prepared mind.

Byron P. Wilson, Jr.
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thedriproject@gmail.com



Reviewed By: Piankhi

ZINE REVIEW

Title: The Meanderings Of A Death Row Inmate, Vol. 2&3
Pages: 22 (Twenty Two)
Author: Robert (Cowboy) Williams Jr.
Distribution: Independent (Retail)

Originally, I didn't intend to include a ZINE REVIEW in this issue, let alone write it myself. The idea hadn't even crossed my mind until this particular zine was introduced to me by the author himself, who just so happens to be one of the PAPCO/WOD contributing artists. After I read this, sharing his zine via WOD seemed fitting, plus it might revive a hidden gem as we work to grow this underground prison medium.

Three years prior to the 2012 debut of our first WOD zine through ABC Zine Distro, Volume 2 of Cowboy's zine was already on the shelf of a local Bay Area bookstore. Here it is, I'm thinking that the whole zine thing, is "OUR" thing.

The Meanderings Of A Death Row (San Quentin, East Block, Yard 3) Inmate is the actual title of this zine. It walks you into the solitary existence of Robert R. Williams Jr. using his exceptional talent as an artist -- painting, drawing, sketching, and his written perspective which gives you a picture of both the routinely mundane, and the astonishingly sublime. It reads like a kind of journal, providing a glimpse into some profound insight (particularly Volume 3) as he narrates his physical, mental, and spiritual journey. Finding solace and redemption through studies, meditation, art... coming to terms, discovery of self and expectations --- dreaming of freedom. The long wait for death. This zine is a "true zine" in that it's uniquely characteristic of the author/artist throughout. Completely done by his own hand. Unfortunately, Volume 1 is MIA according to Cowboy, who's attempting to locate this early copy.

If you're an artist who's thinking about publishing a book, or a zine (to get you started) but you're thinking that you need to be some kind of writer, this'll debunk that notion. The Meanderings Of A Death Row Inmate is essentially a journal with visual illustrations, a zine that you and yours will enjoy.

THE TOP 20 PRISONER ZINES

The following list of the top 20 zine selections are FREE to prisoners who request them. The #'s at the end of their titles denote the sheet and page count of the zine. For example 5/20 means 5 sheets of (8 1/2 x 11) paper which when folded in half and collated, equals 20 half-sheets (pages). 5 sheets of paper is 1 oz. more or less. Keep your request to less than 20 sheets of paper. Please cover your postage with each request. Reprint and distribute any and all zines. Send stamps, cash, and zine requests to:

Anthony Rayson
South Chicago A&C Zine Distributor
P.O. Box 721
Homewood, IL 60430

PRISONER ZINES

1. No Warning Shots
Timothy Trujillo
 2. The Don't Shank The Prison Guards Handbook
Kevin Rashid Johnson (4/16)
 3. High Risk Potential -- Coyote Sheff (14/56)
 4. Kill Yourself! The Real U.S. Imperialist
Policy On Gang Violence -- Kevin Rashid Johnson (5/20)
 5. Black Fighting Formations -- Russell Maroon Shoatz (4/16)
 6. Interview With Russell Maroon Shoatz
Conducted By Anthony Rayson
 7. An Updated History of the
New African Prison Struggle -- Sundiata Acoli (8/32)
 8. The Making of an "O.G."
Transcending Gang Mentality --
Steve Champion & Anthony Ross (1/4)
 9. The Bell Curve Theory -- Abdul Olugbaur Shakur (13/52)
 10. Remember The Real Dragon -- An Interview With George Jackson (5/20)
 11. How To Start A Prison (A&C) Chapter -- Coyote Sheff (8/32)
 12. Empower Education Using The Medium Of Zines -- Anthony Rayson (5/20)
 13. The Meanderings Of A Death Row Prisoner [Vol. II] Bob "Cowboy" Williams (5/20)
 14. California's Dirty Little Secret -- Kenneth Gay (3/12)
- INFORMATION / RESOURCES
15. Build Those Collectives! A Workshop Pamphlet On How To Build A Collective (6/20)
 16. Black Liberation Army (BLA) Political Dictionary (8/32)
 17. Handbook On Surviving Solitary Confinement: A Guide For The Targeted Prisoner (7/28)
 18. Staying Free By Shutting The Fuck Up
 19. From The Bench: Legal Resource Guide For The Pro-Se Litigant (Vol. 1 / Issue 1) (2/8)
 20. Death Row Inmate (.org) A Prisoner Social Media "InfoZine" (2/8)

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ELEVATION REQUIRES DETERMINATION

by
COYOTE

Excuse me for a moment. Please allow me the opportunity to share a gem or two with you.

These are the daily manifestation of uneroded and unrestrained thoughts from the minds of a man who makes elevation a mandatory task. No questions need to be asked when you do what you know by nature and instinct. Let your heart be truthful as it guides you above and beyond.

Nothing ventured, no wisdom gained. Experience is the stepping stone to the mind's higher elevation. Seek no further than what lies in front of you, and always seek deeper to what secrets lie hidden inside of you. Nothing remains dormant anymore, not now that you know.

Dreams fade, illusions die and hope disintegrates, but when you hold onto what's tangible, grasping firmly to what's factual -- not imaginary or ideal -- then you will always have something solid to stand on. Never worry, don't stress, just breathe easy and stay determined to live in the light of Truth's Honor.

Once a decision has been made in your mind, it's been made in your heart, and it's what your heart is made of that gives you the vigor and the strength to reach the goals you've strived for. Once reached there's no turning back, nothing can stop you now. Full force as you move onward, forward, upward. Never settle for satisfaction when there's still much more to do, and believe me when I tell you, there's still much more to learn, to gain, to strive for, always.

Present yourself to people in a way to where you leave no question in their mind. Let your mind be impregnable but flexible, let your heart be fixed but true. Let your thoughts be like jewels that shine so bright, give them like gifts to only those who are deserving, worthy and appreciative. It's not a game, so don't play with what needs to be respected!

* Get your mind right and your game tight. Elevate yourself. Knowledge is nothing when not applied. Words mean nothing without action. Stay active, stay sharp, and be dangerous.

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

Also, you can view his articles, poems, essays and other writings at:

- 1) Coyote-calling.blogspot.com
- 2) nevadaprisonwatch.blogspot.com
- 3) Facebook
- 4) solitarywatch.wordpress.com
- 5) SFBayview.com



7

California's Dirty Little Secret

For the past twenty-four years California judges, lawyers, and politicians have been involved in HUMAN SLAVERY.

Five university studies have concluded that the California death penalty is a multi-billion dollar embezzlement scheme, a fraud perpetrated upon the American tax payers. In order to effectuate this crime, 143 Habeas Corpus attorneys, seven California Supreme Court justices, and a handful of district court judges, have routinely denied the Due Process Rights, Equal Protection Rights, and have Blocked inmate Access to the Federal Courts.

This criminal activity began on June 5th, 1989 when then Governor George Deukmejian appointed three pro-death penalty judges to the California Supreme Court. They immediately created Policy 3, "Supreme Court Policies Arising from Judgments of Death". These new "laws" were created by the court (judicial branch) and had no legislative approval. Thus, the court violated separation of powers. It was the responsibility of Deukmejian's Republican colleague, Attorney General Dan Lundgren, to challenge these new laws. He did not. The primary purpose of the policy was to suspend the Writ of Habeas Corpus, which condemned prisoners had used to successfully challenge 82% of their convictions. Consequently, the average delay from sentencing to the filing of a Writ of Habeas Corpus is now 17.3 years. The average time to finalize a state court appeal is now 27.3 years. For the first seven years after sentencing, the condemned prisoner is without counsel. Once counsel is appointed, his strategy and investigation is controlled exclusively by the court's policies. The appellate attorneys are vetted through the California Appellate Project, and the Habeas Corpus Resource Center. The attorneys are required to file only frivolous claims approved by the court. The California Supreme Court currently maintains a 98% affirmance rate. Because the court requires that counsel file the Direct Appeal first (suspending the Habeas Corpus) the court adjudicates the Direct Appeal first, always ruling that the evidence presented at trial was "overwhelming". This allows the court to apply the Harmless Error Standard of Review to the Habeas Corpus investigation and adjudication process. This requires the condemned inmate to prove that the constitutional violations contributed to the conviction. Impossible once the evidence has been deemed overwhelming. The court currently maintains a 95% affirmance rate of all Habeas Corpus appeals.

The current practice of the California Supreme Court benefits everyone with the exception of the victims and the innocent condemned prisoner. Politicians solicit campaign contributions from victim's groups, promising to restart the death chamber. The Attorney General maintains convictions obtained by the state's trial prosecutors. Trial prosecutors and judges commit numerous egregious errors and because the California Supreme Court will not review their violations for 27.3 years, they have no fear of recrimination. The state has generated more than \$4 Billion Dollars in support of Capital Punishment. The condemned inmates have avoided execution. Their attorneys believe that these delays equal "life" for their clients while they do little work and collect generous pay.

8

that time. I liked their work, but didn't want to commit to their agenda. I saw that I could create an autonomous ABC and fill a great need. Prisoners needed both an outlet for their writing and artwork and also a source of such literature that wasn't available to them, especially free!

So, I adapted the idea of a zine distro to focus on this vast prison struggle. At first, I wrote some zines and added others I thought had something to say. Soon, I began to collaborate with prisoners and shortly thereafter, made it the central focus of my work.

I wanted to work closely with like-minded thinkers and writers and I found them alright - usually already in prison! ABC has a wonderful history of dedication to the cause of liberating prisoners and dealing with prisoners on a human level - whether they were anarchists or not, although it was begun to specifically take care of anarchist prisoners that were being neglected by the other support groups. Anarchism is a very open and vast set of powerful tools of understanding and engagement. It can be adapted as local groups see fit. To me, it made perfect sense to start a heavy-duty anarchist-driven, prison-focused zine distro to help educate and empower prisoners and myself and others. It fit perfectly with basic anarchist tenets such as mutual aid, prison abolition and solidarity. It's from the underground up, not top down. It resonated.

8.) Q: I think that you, Twitch, Coyote and a few other ABC writers and activists have given us a new perspective or impression (for those who don't really know) what an anarchist is. In that sense, you guys have been like the ambassadors for ABC. For our readers who might identify with ABC, what's unique about ABC? Are there any particular zines that you'd recommend?

Answer: Yeah, I was very impressed with the wonderful anarchists of yesteryear, their articulation and dedication, but I wasn't satisfied with what I was seeing written and done when I first became so motivated. So, I figured, OK, you'll have to make what you want to see actually happen and not expect somebody else to do it. I felt I could do better than what I was seeing. I saw a lot of confusion and too little explanation and lasting, written analysis, history, literature, etc. We needed to create a whole new culture of anarchist revolt! For, the best that anarchism can bring to the people is thinking and doing in real time focusing on the issues of most concern to people and especially, *especially* working directly with the most oppressed. That was what was really lacking. Too many "anarchists" were out-of-touch talking heads, intellectuals or sort of secretive and working only in their small affinity groups. I decided to get back to the basics of anarchism and get right in the trenches with the oppressed militant and firebrands of today, many of whom are prisoners. Coyote wrote a zine entitled, "How to Start a Prison ABC Chapter." All the zines have something to offer. Get a catalog and choose your pick. Thanks Byron. I appreciate your interest in my work. Feelings mutual!

So: Chicago ABC Zine Distro / P.O.B. 721 / Homewood, IL 60430

I think I've reprinted #1 four times and #2 three times. So, that is 200 and 150 copies, respectively. I have maybe 20 of each left. So, soon, I'll have to reprint more of each, not to mention the upcoming #3.

On December 15th, I did a presentation at the College of Complexes - "The Playground for People Who Think!" It was about the free school education that I do. I wrote a 4-page introduction and had the testimony of 29 prisoners as to why zines are so important to them. I finished it by giving a quick history lesson about the free school educators of yesteryear who inspired me, quoted them, etc.

Coyote Sheff, a prolific anarchist prisoner writer, who is beloved by prisoners everywhere, wrote some powerful stuff for my presentation. He wrote two essays and a poem. He mentioned WOD as one of eight zines prisoners should lay their hands on. That's a pretty good company you guys are keeping! It's all over the country, mostly in California. Coyote also wants to write for WOD, as you know. I've sent it to zine reviewers, like "Show Me the Money" and it received a positive review. It takes a while for zines like this to gain "legs." But, I'd say, with your social media component and the pro-active work you do promoting it in your circles, it is being sort of fast-tracked, more so than other good zines who don't have these other avenues of outreach. So, yeah, people are getting hip to it and asking for it.

7.) Q: You've been a political activist for a long time? A "fierce free-thinker", but it wasn't until the mid-90's that you found yourself a serious anarchist, right? How did that lead you to ABC and starting your own distro?

Answer: Well, I was quite active as a high school kid. After all, it was the "60's" and things were popping all over. I went to demos since I was maybe ten, and continued to be quite active until my mid-twenties. But, I hadn't really hooked up with any organization that I felt comfortable with and I really had no say in how things were organized, who spoke at rallies, wasn't doing serious argument crafting, sitting in planning meetings, etc. I did, however, write my first zine at age twenty in 1974.

But, I was still a kid basically, who hadn't learned much, hadn't experienced much, and was peripheral to events. Once Vietnam wound down, it seemed that the air had been taken out of the resistance balloon. I was sort of dejected and focused on my private life - finding a mate, having a job, paying for a place to live, etc.

In the early 1990's, I read a powerful interview with Noel Ignatiev in *Progressive* magazine and this catapulted me into hooking up with the zine underground and the anarchist underground. By this time, I'd become a serious writer of essays - an anarchist polemicist. I wrote a zine entitled *Thought Bombs* which I looked to have people read and collaborate with. More and more, the more astute responses were coming from prisoners, so I gravitated to prisoner support as my form of anarchist expression and agitation. AK Press was now up and running and many great books were being published about anarchist history and ABC. I contacted ABC groups in the U.S. and Canada - ABCF groups at

The victims have been lied to. The American tax payers have had BILLIONS embezzled from them. That's FRAUD! Innocent people are being incarcerated without review of their criminal convictions for two or three decades without the benefit of their constitutionally-guaranteed rights. That's SLAVERY!

The leading authority on the Death Penalty in California is Justice Arthur L. Alarcon. Justice Alarcon is the Senior Justice on the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. The Justice and his colleague, law professor, Paula Mitchell, were commissioned by the federal government to conduct an analysis of capital punishment in California. All of the facts expressed in this letter are supported by their report. A complete copy of their analysis can be found online, entitled "A Roadmap To End or Mend the California Legislature's Multi-Billion Dollar Death Penalty Debacle." (See: www.ccfaj.org/documents).

No matter your views on Capital Punishment, everyone dragged into court and accused of a crime has a right to the constitutional guarantees afforded to every American. Without those rights, and without a court system that honors and respects those rights, we cannot be assured that the democracy we have protected and nurtured, is anything other than tyranny on the verge of anarchy.

There are 730 human beings on California's Death Row. 73.1% of the cases that reach the federal court are reversed for trial error. This is shocking! Put another way, if the California Supreme Court were adjudicating cases according to well-established legal principles, 73.1% of the cases would be reversed because of errors that occurred during the trial. It is clear from this statistic that trial judges and prosecutors are committing serious violations of defendant's rights during trial. The leading cause of the reversals of these convictions is "Prosecutor and/or Judicial Misconduct". Can there be any doubt whatsoever that there are innocent people being held for decades? I am certain of it because I have been held for thirty years. Three separate decisions by the California Supreme Court have made factual findings that entitle me to relief of the wrongful conviction and yet, the court has failed to grant relief.

For nearly twenty five years, this illegal slave trade has flourished under the guise of the Death Penalty. It has functioned so well and so effectively, because those who're responsible for correcting such abuses, the lawyers and the Attorney General, are in fact directly responsible for its creation and continuation. The California Supreme Court justices claim that the "backlog" of cases is due to a lack of qualified attorneys who are willing to take these complex cases. This is a blatant lie. The "real" problem is that there are few attorneys who're willing to "sell out" their clients and even fewer who are willing to get involved in this ugly slave trade.

Mr. Kenneth Gay
#D-15601 3-EB-93
San Quentin, California.
94964-0001 USA
DRI Legal Correspondent

** Summarized article from "TOP 20 PRISONER ZINES" enclosed.

SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES

I came to death row in California for a "street level" crime where a man lost his life. The district attorney told my empaneled jury that I was avenging the brutal murder of a friend, which by the way, is still unsolved.

As a special circumstance, the district attorney unsealed my juvenile record and charged one prior murder conviction from when I was sixteen. The older victim and two of his friends had just raped my eldest sister. The juvenile court sent me to the California Youth Authority (C.Y.A.), up until the age of twenty-five. My sis. was committed to a mental hospital.

Not an easy thing to accomplish, I received an "honorable discharge certificate," which the court applied to dismiss the accusatory pleading and actions as stated in welfare and institution code §1772 [see penal code].

When I got to death row, saw a lot of very familiar faces from my stint in the youth authority and while listening to these men, now much older and wiser, it occurred to me that some years had passed -- the "wow" factor then amplified after realizing how the same youth authorities that so many of us came from, are filled beyond capacity, kids who've got little direction in life.

We ourselves appear to be, "the special circumstances." Y'see I had absolutely no idea that while attending college, enjoying the married life as a father with another one on the way, self-employed as C.E.O. of my entertainment business, actively advocating for at risk teens and building a youth development center in our community at the time of this arrest, that it was I who was a walking special circumstance and could be sent directly to death row in spite having my entire juvenile record expunged and sealed. I was further, successful in getting the hospital to release my sister from treatment, and into my home with people who loves her.

Someone once said that, "ignorance of the law is no excuse." I'm not remotely into excuses but I will challenge that statement and attempt to dispel the myth by saying, "that when vital information is deliberately withheld from people, it constitute lessons untaught as opposed to lessons unlearned."

With that, I challenge you to better communicate with at risk youth -- youth housed throughout the juvenile systems, those with rough pasts who reside in your communities and fellow neighborhoods. Tell them that the Papyrus Collective expects them to stay focused, because death row is not just for terrorists and super-duper slasher, rapist types anymore, that they themselves are indeed, the next generation of walking special circumstances.

XZYXST (Exist)

10)

the country and world. Some have more staying power than others. Some aren't even called "ABC" but some other name, but none-the-less are anarchist driven, prison abolitionist groups, doing prisoner support work of one form or another. There are other types of support groups - socialists, communists, Black Nationalists, whatever. But, the anarchists are the ones spearheading this zine revolution, particularly working closely with prisoner writers and artists - aside from the well-known prisoners like Mumia Abu Jamal, who gets his work published in books.

I work directly with prisoners mostly, but I sometimes work with other ABC's (or non-anarchist) groups supporting a particular prisoner, or as part of a support network for an upcoming action (such as a hunger strike.) I like to work with people who are determined to see a project through and get things accomplished. Mostly, I rely upon my self, solely. That way, I don't have to wait for someone else to do their part to see a project to completion. I haven't put a list together of "ABC" type groups lately. If people are really interested they can google ABC or ask me a specific question. Like anything else, people need to be pro-active to find out what they are interested in finding out.

As well, there is a definite "Black Square" going on right now in America, and anarchist infoshops, collectives and individuals have been raided and arrested and charged with overblown "terrorism" charges. So, with snitches, government infiltrators and so forth, being used to hamper our work, many people are playing it sort of close to the vest. Not me, though. I'm very upfront about what I say, think & do. Then again, I'm an old man - 59. I have a track record and am respected by my community as an indefatigable grassroots organizer. I have a house, wife, children, job, car, etc. I used to have a job, anyway. I'm all about free school education. I'm not interested in getting arrested, so I don't involve myself in activities that might get me arrested. But I will not compromise my voice! I will call out this monstrous government always!

6.) Q: Upon release of our zine series last year, you advised that it was getting a lot of good feedback. Can you give me an idea of the number of prisoners who have requested WOD, and where it might be circulating to date?

Answer: I write a lot of letters to prisoners. I've developed a close and trusting relationship with several particularly active prisoners and we have extensive discussions, via these letters. Mostly, these are men who I've worked with on zines. Astute men, knowledgeable men, who make sure they keep up with all the latest zines and other real thinking going on in this world today. They're the ones who hip me about WOD. They tell others to get it. Once a prisoner gets it, he or she shares it with others at that particular gulag. Then they want their own copy. Then again, prisoners from other prisons write and say so-and-so from another gulag told them to ask me for WOD. Some prisoners list their favorite zines in a piece they wrote and might list it as one of their favorites. Some ask how they can contact the writers of WOD.

same since 1998. Anybody can write to me, but 98% of the letters I receive are from prisoners. It is their lifeline, oftentimes! My question is, why do so many people have their thumb up their ass and are staring at a stupid screen, *when they could access explosive writing and* hundreds of exhilarating zines, simply by dropping me a postcard. Hell! They could even use their computers to google me and email me a request or something. But, they don't. So, why should I cater to them and tailor my medium to accommodate their comatose lifestyle? I want people with a *pulse*, you know?

I am overwhelmed with work, just crafting zines, making them available, filling zine requests, etc. Where are all the computer geniuses out there that could, if they wanted to, help me do that - make them available online? They're too lazy, flighty, or whatever. I can't waste my time holding their hands, you know? Besides, the authorities are always looking for ways to shut this type of stuff down. Going online makes it easy for them to track everything you do and people sort of self-censor themselves or otherwise accommodate themselves to Big Brother.

I've always proclaimed all my zines as *anti-copyright* and encourage other people to reprint anything and everything as they see fit. Prisoners are about the only group of people who are pro-active with this, sad to say. Again, I'm looking for collaborators who are down for the struggle over the long haul, not fly-by-nighters, dilettantes, wishy-washy types and etc. We're in the business of blowing peoples' minds, not kowtowing to the fragile, eggshell minders. I'd love to see this stuff all over the internet, all over the newsstands, nightstands, whatever. But, I have my hands more than full and to have it happen, others who have these skills need to step up and prove their mettle. Jeremy did some real cool work, but he had other fishes to fry, as well. Now, I have to send him zines.

5.) Q: The zines published via your distro find their way into prisons and facilities across the country, right? The ABC network, chapters and affiliates are a pretty broad prisoner support network. Give us an idea of the number of states and facilities your distro reaches. Further, would you find a moment to provide me with a comprehensive listing of the national ABC chapters (contact info) as well as what each of them "specialize" in?

Answer: Yes, my zines have made their way to all fifty states and many, many prisons, jails, lock-ups, psych wards and etc. I don't know how many prisons, but a lot. Many, many prisoners have run across them, one way or another. This, even though, guards and gulag censor trolls are constantly destroying them. Once in, many people read them, too!

There are three types of ABC's. The ABC Federation, which focuses on supporting recognized "political prisoners" the ABC Network, which does support work for social prisoners, too, including legal help and zines. The third type is the autonomous ABC groups. I am autonomous. I answer only to myself. These come and go like spring flowers all across

California **ON** **BLAST**

→ § 190.2. Death penalty or life imprisonment without parole; special circumstances

(a) The penalty for a defendant who is found guilty of murder in the first degree is death or imprisonment in the state prison for life without the possibility of parole if one or more of the following special circumstances has been found under Section 190.4 to be true:

(22) The defendant intentionally killed the victim while the defendant was an active participant in a criminal street gang, as defined in subdivision (f) of Section 186.22, and the murder was carried out to further the activities of the criminal street gang.

(b) Unless an intent to kill is specifically required under subdivision (a) for a special circumstance enumerated therein, an actual killer, as to whom the special circumstance has been found to be true under Section 190.4, need not have had any intent to kill at the time of the commission of the offense which is the basis of the special circumstance in order to suffer death or confinement in the state prison for life without the possibility of parole.

(c) Every person, not the actual killer, who, with the intent to kill, aids, abets, counsels, commands, induces, solicits, requests, or assists any actor in the commission of murder in the first degree shall be punished by death or imprisonment in the state prison for life without the possibility of parole if one or more of the special circumstances enumerated in subdivision (a) has been found to be true under Section 190.4.

(d) Notwithstanding subdivision (c), every person, not the actual killer, who, with reckless indifference to human life and as a major participant, aids, abets, counsels, commands, induces, solicits, requests, or assists in the commission of a felony enumerated in paragraph (17) of subdivision (a) which results in the death of some person or persons, and who is found guilty of murder in the first degree therefor, shall be punished by death or imprisonment in the state prison for life without the possibility of parole if a special circumstance enumerated in paragraph (17) of subdivision (a) has been found to be true under Section 190.4.



CONCEIVED & CONVICTED SINCE BIRTH
BY
REYON INGRAM

BEING INCARCERATED AND SENTENCED TO DEATH AT THE AGE OF 24 WAS SOMETHING I NEVER THOUGHT COULD HAPPEN. BUT AS TIME MOVES FORWARD I'VE LEARNED TO EMBRACE MY SITUATION IN A POSITIVE WAY TO BETTER MYSELF AND OTHERS. PAST OBSTACLES LED TO MY SELFDESTRUCTION BUT AS DAYS HERE CONTINUE TO PASS I'VE GOTTEN STRONGER, PHYSICALLY, MENTALLY, AND LEARNED HOW TO EXPRESS MYSELF EMOTIONALLY INSTEAD OF HOLDING BACK ON MYSELF, I LEARNED LOVE IS IMPORTANT. WHILE BEING HERE ON DEATH ROW OR BEING INCARCERATED ANYWHERE LOVE IS A FACTOR THAT HELPS KEEP THE MOTIVATION AND SANITY OF ANY HUMAN BEING STEADY.

KNOWING I TOOK EVERY ROAD IN LIFE TO GET BY WAS NOT POSITIVE NOR GOOD FOR ME AND OTHERS. NOW LEAVING BEHIND A FAMILY IN A SITUATION AS THIS, BRINGS PAIN AND DESTRUCTION TO BOTH MYSELF AND MY LOVE ONES, ESPECIALLY HAVING KIDS WHO ARE NOW SUFFERING FROM NOT HAVING A FATHER AND FEELING ABANDONED BY THE DECISIONS AND THINGS I CHOSE. I WAS ALSO ABANDONED AND NOT KNOWING THE TRUE MEANING OF LOVE OR HAVING A FATHER FIGURE IN MY LIFE. WITH A MOTHER THAT TOLD ME SHE LOVES ME, BUT NEVER SHOWED IT, UNLESS SHE WAS INTOXICATED WITH LIQUOR. I ONLY THOUGHT I WAS LOVED, BUT NEVER EXPERIENCED THE AFFECTION. SO I CHOSE THE STREETS, LIQUOR, DRUGS, AND MULTIPLE WOMEN FOR MY SUBSTITUTION OF MISSING PARENTS.

BEING HOME PHYSICALLY, BUT EMOTIONALLY AND MENTALLY MISSING, I WAS SUFFERING FROM THE SAME PROBLEMS, THAT HAVE BEEN PASSED DOWN FROM THIER PARENTS AND GENERATIONS BEFORE. TRYING TO BREAK THE CYCLE OF ABANDONMENT, WAS NEVER ON MY MIND BECAUSE I FOUND THE LOVE MY FAMILY WAS NOT GIVING IN THE THINGS I CHOSE AS SUBSTITUTE. NOW I SIT ON DEATH ROW 29 YEARS OLD, I CONSIDER MYSELF A BETTER HUMAN BEING AND A MAN THAT'S IS NOW TRYING TO BREAK THE CYCLE OF THE PAST ABANDONMENT, AND THE EFFECTS OF NOT BEING EMOTIONALLY LOVED. PHYSICALLY I'M NOT PRESENT, BUT MY PRESENCE IS BEING FELT EVERY TIME I SPEAK OR WRITE AND TO THAT I THANK GOD AS WELL AS THOSE WHO SHOWED ME THE TRUE MEANING OF LOVE AND BEING LOVED UNCONDITIONALLY.



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researchers, poets and essayists. I offer to help them, too! That's part of the really satisfying aspect of this work. Being there to help a Brother or Sister begin their awakening and seeing their work published, getting letters from perfect strangers lauding them for their efforts means the world to a prisoner. Their voice is important. They can and do have an effect on other people's thinking. In short, they become part of the struggle. Our enemies are aware of this and react like the fascists they are, by trying to gag them, intimidate them and hurt them. But, once a person become a respected writer that others draw strength from, they soar across what I call the "fear line." Life becomes very real! I liken it to when a newborn baby comes into a couple's lives. Their lives take an exponential leap into a very real, very serious, 24-hour-a-day level of crystal clarity. We're not playing games, here!

4.) Q: Not long ago, you donated several hundred zines to the DePaul University Zine Library which were later made available online. There are websites like ZINESWAP that create a PDF template of one's zine that can be downloaded. Any plans to do anything like that yourself?

Answer: Yeah, in 2007, I schlepped five or six boxes of zines I'd distroed since 1998 up to DePaul. Years earlier, they started a zine library, but I doubt they ever bargained for the massive amount of material that I brought to the table. As well, the quality of the writing and the explosive nature of the ideas expressed in these zines was stunning. A terrific archivist spent months sorting it all out, cross-referencing them and categorizing my collection of zines. The index of the titles is on their website. They are also willing to print and mail up to twenty one-sided sheets of any zine.

When the economic meltdown hit in 2008, I figured the zine library would be one of the first programs they would feel the need to cut. I was insanely busy all the time, working full-time and everything else, so I put off sending them more zines, as they are willing to absorb them and add them in on an ongoing basis. So, I'm going to catch up with that. I called them and they are cool with another couple of boxes of zines, maybe 200 new ones!

As for websites, I had a website for my distro for a while, but it was crashed when NBCi.com bought all the servers hosting free websites. Later, folks here and there put some of my zines in websites and made them downloadable, most notably Jeremy Hammond, who is now allegedly the "mastermind" of the Anonymous hackers. He's incarcerated in New York City right now. I never was much interested in computers. I liked pinball machines and hated PACMAN and all that other video game crap. I work with and for p-r-i-s-o-n-e-r-s. They aren't accorded internet access. Most people who care about prisoners and these issues are serious activists and make it their business to connect with other, like-minded individuals, not necessarily via the computer. I have a very easy means to be contacted - my P.O. Box. It has been the

many introductions to zines that you partook in which evoked the curiosity that is now responsible for the genesis of Write or Die. Aside from the aforementioned intro's would you encourage aspiring authors / comrades to write a zine? If so, why?

Answer: Like Coyote says, we will continue to churn out zines always striving to make them better, more liberating and useful. We have 100% control over the editorial content of our publications. No one else can say that. And we are serious revolutionaries who have practiced our craft of writing and involving ourselves in struggle. These are invaluable skills that anybody can develop for themselves and use to great effect. Making yourself a conscious, motivated human being is the highest calling there is. Sharing that insight and helping create other free-thinking human beings is what the powers that be (the liars and murderers we constantly expose and call-out) fear the most! They want cynical, TV-watching slaves who have given up on life and fight amongst themselves. We want driven human beings actualizing their talents and pursuing their interests to build a better world. It doesn't happen without a revolutionary, real-time culture and any culture's bedrock underpinning is brought to life by their best writers.

You yourself, testify to the motivating power of these zines, which helped you decide to embark on your own zine projects. I didn't hear you talk about *TIME* magazine or some best seller, now did I? But even you are buying into the "dying medium" bullshit of the scaredy-cat, do-nothings! Zines deserve to be genuinely respected for what they are - powerful weapons of liberation! Of course, most zines are garbage. But you can find that this is true of any medium. Even groups of people are like that. Most do a lot of nothing and a small number are seriously motivated and do not allow ANYTHING to hamper their work. So, the trick is to find these serious, talented and brilliant people and work closely with them to increase the volume & scope of the explosive truth!

There's a lot of "new" writers and artists I'm in various stages of collaboration with, as well as tried and true ones, who continue to create amazing work - even in the face of repression! This is about life and death, not about what some thoroughly conditioned to "go with the brain-dead program" person on the "ins" or "outs" feels about zines! They can ignore our work, not have their tender sensibilities disturbed by the blurted-out wrenching truth. Too bad for them because the best, most important writing is coming out of the prisons and written by those who genuinely are involved in this struggle. For those interested, and they are growing, write for a catalog and a sample. Stamps or personal money orders / checks would be appreciated and poured 100% back into all of this.

I encourage people to write zines all the time. Inertia is a powerful force. Just getting off the dime and starting to write is a major milestone! I've seen depressed, self-loathing people start to write zines and lo and behold, they blossom into brilliant writers, thinkers,

MESSAGE TO MY YOUNG PEOPLE

I would like to take this time to address the so-called hip-hop community. Myself and the rest of the progressive collective here on death row stand firmly behind the idea of unity and the importance of educating and uplifting our own. It is our responsibility to teach and mold our youth. Elevation is the key to expansion.

Look around you and recognize the value in your peers. Our people have much talent and potential. So, let us make use of that. Our ability as a people to turn a negative into a positive is legendary. We have managed to survive and overcome unthinkable obstacles. But survival in this day and age is not enough. We must thrive!

The absence of unity can only lead to chaos and disorder. But unity will guide us to the next level as a collective. And enhance our status among other groups and cultures striving to uplift their people and communities. We have the resources to be successful. The question is, are we capable of displaying the discipline and will to move forward against the opposition we face? Community building is a full-time job. The time has come for us to lay down our differences no matter what they may be. Far too many of us are falling victim to homicide, aids, drugs, the criminal justice system and a host of other destructive elements that plague our neighborhoods. Simply put; "The game ain't what it used to be."

At the root of our problems is the lack of unity or individualism. The me-me-me syndrome. I know it's not easy to put the survival of the whole before one's own survival, but sometimes that's what it takes to advance. There is no progress without sacrifice.

Each one of us brings a unique skill to the table. We all have something to offer. That's the whole purpose of forming a collective. All are not front-line soldiers. Some are thinkers. Some provide resources. Some are educators. Some provide leadership. But all should be respected as contributors to the advancement of the whole. It's what we live for and if need be, will die for.

Unity, is the key! Together, we are victorious. Apart, we are nothing. This is not something to think about. It must be practiced until it is perfected. Community building, is hard work. But nothing worth having, comes easy.

By
Skoolboy

There is a paradox at the core of penology, and from it derives the thousand ills and afflictions of the prison system. It is that not only the worst of the young are sent to prison, but the best - that is the proudest, the bravest, the most daring, the most enterprising, and the most undefeated of the poor. There starts the horror. Norman Mailer, introduction to *In the Belly of the Beast*.

Which none of the rulers of this age knew; for had they known, they would not have crucified the lord of glory. 1 Corinthians 2:8

It is amazing that when the accused is poor, we never give it a second thought of who he/she really is or could be. We lump all those accused of crimes into a mass soup of criminals. Their faces are blurred into one face, usually black or brown. Their characters, ambitions, and hopes are covered by the cloak of accusations by the State. The accused become non-human, animal like, as we listen to the allegations. Some of us even wonder why give the accused a trial as nostalgia for the lynch mob is barely retrained from becoming reality. "Lock 'em up and throw away the key!", is the most common phrase of the unimaginative and frustrated among us. Convictions are almost certain. Why? Because we have a natural incentive to believe the allegations. We have been programmed by the media of who the criminals are, and just like a jury, regardless of the flaws of the State, we rarely reconsider as we cast our vote, guilty!

In a court of law, we presume that there has to be some type of evidence against the accused, but most convictions are not based on actual evidence. In fact, no tangible evidence is necessary. If a defendant survives the attempts of a forced confession (The Central Park Five), others will not, and they will be coerced to say they either witnessed or heard the defendant incriminate him/herself. Case closed! 237 DNA exonerations should be proof enough that many witnesses are either mistaken or untruthful.

But why? What is the purpose of false convictions? It is simply an abuse of power. An age old practice of those in authority to use prisons as instruments of subjugation and tyranny. The castles of the so-called royals and nobles were reared on the arches of dungeons/Super Max. Just as today, the occupants were deemed suspicious, dangerous, and expendable. Remember that it was those in authority that imprisoned and murdered John the Baptist, Jesus, and Socrates. They imprisoned Galileo, Hampden, and L'Overture. They took the lives of Mark Clark, Fred Hampton, and Steven Biko. All for speaking out against inhumane treatment and conditions. History is showing us that the people are the only check to government abuse. History is showing us that freedom is not free; we have to fight for it! There is a price for speaking out. A price the people must pay a thousand times over, because the first steps to freedom is the willingness to speak the truth.

A great number of our youth, the best of our future and people are being ripped from our communities. The new Socrates, Galileos, and Hamptons of our life time are being denied their potential to contribute and elevate humanity. The most daring, the most enterprising, and the most innovative are being locked away and it is not only to their detriment, but to ours!

The people must assert its right and demand the freedom of all those unjustly imprisoned. The steel and concrete pride of the State must be destroyed as a threat to our youth.

Freedom! Be about it, or be without it!

Read more on this author's blog at:
betweenthebars.org/blogs/realtalk



2.) Q: What must we do in order to support this medium - zines and "prisoner zines" in particular in a significant way? Is it the funding as noted above, postage, resources? Is it lack of innovation? Or is it a lack of interest for a dying medium? What are your thoughts on this?

*** I definitely have a new respect for the work you do through your distro since you've started publishing the *WOD* series. Seeing how much is invested in the printing & distribution of just one zine has made us extremely grateful for that support.

Answer: I think *WOD* and other people who realize how transforming zines are, particularly for prisoners, need to rethink everything they think others feel about them. Look. It is all about the "ideas" in these zines! It is not about slick color covers, fancy, computer-generated graphics and glossy pages. It is about direct, one-to-one education. Going online, doing "e-zines" and buying into all this hyper-technology is a bad move. This is low tech - easy to do. It is relatively cheap. It is a great way to get explosive ideas into the hands of indigent, lumpen prisoners, who are starving for empowering education. Why more people aren't doing this and opting for "smart" phones, texting and all that zombie stuff, is very infuriating to me. Yeah, you can google anything and get the "facts" - but all this is really a sort of admitting that they have given up on being a genuinely thinking human being. Are we going to regurgitate bogus, violence-glorying "culture" or explode with thrillingly written all new truth and reality? Make no mistake. The written word is *potentially* the most impacting of all cultural mediums.

"Dying medium?" Who says? Prisoner zines are an exploding medium! "Lack of innovation?" What is meant by this? I'm thrilled by zines and I'm not easily impressed. I'm bored to death by the computer, movies, the idiot box, etc. People are so plugged into this rotting society, that even in prison, they can't think outside the box - even while they waste away in one! People need to become self-reliant and not a slave to some computer or high-tech gadget. Revolution incubates in the brain!

As for helping me, people can help fund my work, ask how I can help them do similar work, ask family, friends and radical student groups to help defray costs of printing and mailing - and get real, not virtual!

3.) Q: I know you collaborate & work with a number of prisoners on assorted projects. What's the future hold for zines coming out of your distro? Any new zines, projects, or talented revolutionary, anarchist prisoner writers you'd want to introduce? This is where to do it. We would like to be the nexus for them.

*** Over the past several years, I've read and enjoyed many zines written by some very talented writers and activists. Political prisoners, New Afrikans, anarchists. These are undoubtedly some of the folks responsible for inspiring and motivating me to start writing but most notably, were the

Write or Die: Behind the Zine, with Anthony Rayson
Comments / Questions

1.) Q: What's your plans for 2013? Do you intend to keep the distro in operation?

*** It is in part accredited to you that WOD is in its #3 edition now and even as WOD begins to branch online and explore new ideas, venues, and options, we're also reviewing our collective efforts to promote the work you do through your distro - encouraging a NEW GENERATION of prison authors.

Answer: Well, I have indeed retired from my wage-slave job, after 38 straight years. December 31st was my last day. So, I will not have the money I had to fund the sizable printing and mailing costs. I had fallen behind on numerous projects and the whole distro was in a real mess. So, I'm trying to sort through this massive amount of publications, organizing them, taking stock of what I have, what I want to continue to distro, work up new publications, continue to provide zines to the torrent of onrushing requests and figure out how I'm going to switch gears and develop alternative funding sources to keep this vital service going.

I have an appointment with the librarians at DePaul University to update my collection on February 20th. I really haven't sent new zines to them, since 2008. Also, I need to figure out what to put in a 2013 catalog, whether to ask for money or postage, limit the amount of material prisoners can receive, etc. I'm looking for certain individuals to step up and provide genuine donations. I don't want to try to get strings-attached grants, 501(c) 3 status or a bank account for this distro. That is more trouble than it is worth. Doing things this way is difficult, but I refuse to have any kinds of strings attached to this work, nor any government or corporate involvement, which is the antithesis of my beliefs. I do it this way to try to help teach people that alternative ways of doing things are possible. People power is possible, but it needs people to get off the dime to make it happen. You can't expect one person to do all the work and also pay for everything. It's a challenge to people. If they can't or won't help me help them and others, then it may be hard to continue this service. I'm cautiously optimistic that a couple of brothers in particular, will follow through with their pledge to help me fund this.

On January 15th, our son and his wife had a baby boy, who they named Lincoln. This is our first grandchild, so that is a big change this year. I hope to do more traveling to do presentations, participate in conferences, meetings, actions, etc. I'm heavily involved in grassroots work in my area, as the Outreach Coordinator for STAND (Shut This Airport Nightmare Down) which I co-founded in 1998. We're menaced by the possibility of eminent domain and quick take by the bankrupt state of Illinois for this unneeded airport and now, a private, foreign-owned toll road. Also, ICE, CCA and the nearby city of Joliet are in talks to create an unwanted Immigration Prison. There's a lot of ongoing struggles - class struggles, anti-war work, anti-prison advocacy, you name it! Hopefully, I won't have to get a part-time job. We'll see.

NOVEMBER VOTE

By

Demetrius Howard

Many people believed that the death penalty would have been voted out. They harbored high hopes that sentences of death would dissolve into life without parole.

Why I say? Thinking back upon all who supported Stanley Tookie Williams and Troy Davis, the efforts in prayer, dreams, and hopes did not stop the extinguishing of their lives. They were gone before one could blink or take a breath.

Are you visual and paying attention to the lives being taken around the world by the machinery of state-sanctioned murder? The thirst for blood compresses all condemned into one suffering soul. Revenge is the only dish that quenches their need for death. Their claims of humanity are weakened as they jump up and down in the streets celebrating to the news accounts of Osama Bin Laden's death. How could the death penalty come to an end when these very same individuals look upon death row prisoners with the same bitter scorn? How might we expect human compassion, empathy, and dignity when they say we're not worthy of them? Y'see, they couldn't give you a Black President, the repeal of three strikes, and abolition of capital punishment, too. One of these had to lose, which means; you and I lost.

It was reported that most of the registered voters in Los Angeles didn't vote at all. If this is indeed true, then it says a lot about the anti-death penalty movement's ability to get the word out and mobilize voters into action. And, it's an indictment against those who stand united for human rights because if fighting to save lives is the rationale and motivation behind their activism, then what could be more noble than fighting for human life? Animal rights activists protect and save them from abuses. The death penalty is an ethical and moral abuse to mankind and human life. Anti-death penalty activists must fight this injustice even harder.

We cannot allow the personal hatred of some to use the state as a tool for revenge. The death penalty cannot be permitted to masquerade as justice and entertainment, nor substitute as a form of human rights.

Be the voice and spirit that gathers in the communal minds of true justice and humanity. This will alter the course of the death penalty and begin to morph into a powerful force to abolish capital punishment altogether.



"Mr. Officer"

Mr. Officer, can I please get some "Respect?"

Must I continue to watch you wrest the Statutes that you Project?

Mr. Officer, what about my Due Process?

No Fairness -Crooked Judges and Lawyers leading to my Distress;

Unarmed Adolescents getting Murdered, leading to Civil Unrest!

Mr. Officer, may we please reach a Synthesis before my Spirit is Vexed?

Watch me push this Pen & keep my words in proper Context!

Mr. Officer, what's next--another round of Disrespect?

I'm Toe to Toe with my Oppressors & they're Mad cause I found the Secret to breaking my Life-long Hex!

Mr. Officer, am I wrong for dreaming that one day I'll possess my own Chalet or large Dualex?

My Pen's on Fire and check out my Facial-complex!

Mr. Officer, watch me Transcend my environment cause I'm in a Wise Mind-set-

As I watch you round up the Poor & Minorities, knowing damn well it's an Illegal Dragnet!

Mr. Officer, I don't need a Mic & Head-set for a Lyrical Contest!

Courage is my "Coat of Arms", so I hope you don't forget!

Respect & Success is my Quest!!!

Mr. Officer, I found my Niche in this Dungeon and it's my new Out-let!

I got some "Inspiration" from Maya Angelou--now watch my Brain-Muscles flex!

I'm selling "Hope" to Mentally Ill Folks to "Think like Champions" with a new Onset!

I'm selling "Hope" to Incarcerated Folks to "Think Like Champions" with a new Onset!

I'm selling "Hope" to Oppressed Folks to "Think Like Champions" with a new Onset!

Mr. Officer, watch me punch a hole in that Homeostasis you use to keep us Oppressed!

Mr. Officer I'm Heated, I'm Heated, I'm Heated & Heavy-set,

But watch my Pen explode mixed with tears of "Regret"!

Gave my Life to Christ and "Grace" is my Safety-net!

Mr. Officer, Education is my Asset!

I'm pressing through Three "Schools of Thought" and now I'm a "Threat!"

Let me shut this down cause the Hater's are upset!

Mr. Officer, what you expect when you got yo Foot on my Neck--

Psychologically whooping me like I'm yo damn Pet--

Stealing Food out of my Packages and eating it at yo damn Banquets???

Mr. Officer, check out my Gut-Check--Composed with Words of Truth--

As I load my Pen again for another round of Oratorical Roulette!

Mr. Officer, I'm here to lay the Gauntlet down cause you're quick to clown and put me to the Test!

I'm selling "Hope" to Mentally Ill Folks to "Think Like Champions" with a new Onset!

I'm selling "Hope" to Incarcerated Folks to "Think Like Champions" with a new Onset!

I'm selling "Hope" to Oppressed Folks to "Think Like Champions" with a new Onset!

in letters and online and through the Zine culture in this war to advocate positive youth development and greater parental movement. So what words do I use when trying to convey to the Next Generation your inciteful message of "what is"?

IN: The purest form of truth is what is, when we resist what is, we resist the truth, even if the truth hurts sometimes, we can always depend on the truth to not change into a lie. When we embrace what is, we embrace the truth, we don't feel like we are victims. I think alot of anger comes from the frustration of not knowing who and what is real. To embrace what is creates peace with what is and strength to change what is, without violence.

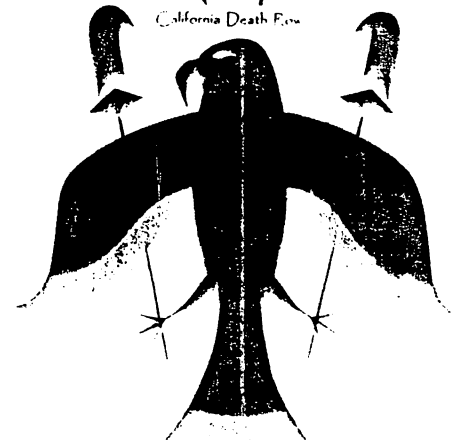
XZ: I'll do my best to translate your wisdom into teenager language, I would ask you to take me when you come into your Kingdom but I've got work to do here man and I need as much help and advice as I can get... not ready to take my last breath.

Note to reader of this cipher: Within days of this conversation, prison officials conspired with informant inmate confidential sources to misuse the 1030 Confidential Information Form process to issue Xzyzt a disciplinary report and found Xzyzt guilty of a battery on Ian. The divide and conquer primitive tactics used for years do not work against the New Generation, the era of the Snitch kite, manufactured paperwork, and corrupt cops set up sick and twisted conduct will not achieve the level of success, it had against the many generations of captives that have both been misled and or participated in some capacity to cause division between men and women throughout prison history. This is a New Generation, moving forward in the opposite direction of the past. When snitches have enough power to dictate what cops put on paperwork, the New Generation will rely on experience that will always trump faulty paperwork, so no matter how many kites that they drop, both Xzyzt and Ian came out of this interview exactly how we entered into it with one less enemy each. (Both men laughing out loud)

X

Papyrus Collective

California Death Row



the nail on the head at whatever capacity on this issue.

XZ: Bandito is one of those youngstaz around here that is not a slave, so he is free to say whatever he wants to and when he said sick and twisted he was also drawing energy from a piece of artwork he had just completed when we chopped it up about the Death Penalty, ya'll might be on to something, and you should take pride in your naivete as to what an essay is, it's an honest display of you not wasting 20 years in prison, a feat that so many idiots take pride in, as if, any amount of honor should be applied to this shit, heel man, I get embarrassed every time I tell kids I was in the Youth Authority, so sick and twisted also applies to the psychological effects of all captives because it's equally sick and twisted every time I hear someone explain with an eerie pride that they have done extensive prison time in several institutions as some kind of badge of honor worthy of the New Generations respect, adoration and loyalty. Don't nobody care how long people been in prison it's your current value status as a human that is most important. So now, I ask you, with your white, naive, ain't never been nowhere, young ass, what advice could you give any parent faced with learning that their own 16 year old daughter has just been arrested and placed in the very same Juvenile Detention facilities that the parent was in as a youth?

IN: Love her, love her, love her and most importantly, make sure she clearly sees that you are on her side, an ally that she can come to with anything and about anything. "Inner criticism and resistance to what is" are almost every teenager's worst enemies... So if you can inspire her to love herself no matter what and embrace "what is" I believe her life will head in a better direction. Being hyper-critical of ones self is so major for our youth today. Also encourage her to know and understand everything she does creates a result so when she doesn't like what she has created with her actions and responses to the issues of life, she will be able to begin to foresee her results before she does anything, one in which she is not the victim to circumstances, but rather a powerful creator. She's not stupid, she is a leader that needs a father, you!

XZ: Man, alot of our New Generation have kids of our own and the issue of incarcerated parenthood cannot be held on a back burner until we are ready to not follow idiots into further damage of true family. I mean, know we may be young and shit, and "ain't been nowhere," but why waste time entertaining a conversation with an idiot who is more concerned whether or not we can make a knife when I could be listening to you answer this next question so that you can arm me when I go into battle

Mr. Officer, how much "Respect" you gone get when you out on your West & deny (Is what's Just--
2 Million Abused Prisoners locked in a Social Vortex--
And you stand there trying to cause Us some un-called for Stress--
Wondering why some of ya'll get that Tin ripped off ya'll Chest--
For failing to Acknowledge that ya'll part of this Mess???

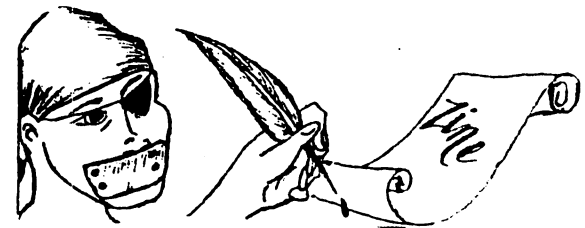
Mr. Officer, let me dig deep down in my War Chest--
And grab some Lyrics & Cuffs and make my own Citizen's Arrest--
For Frontin' like ya'll "Care" when you're focused on your own Interests!

Mr. Officer, thanks for the Slug-feat, but seriously, it ain't no Contest--
Cause you're just one Mental Opponent as We march towards our Conquests!
So, let me get one mo in, Poetically check that Chin, and lay you to rest!

Mr. Officer, turned our Country into a 21st Century Wild Wild West--
Cause you quick to cause Distress--leavin Folks Depressed--
With them damn unnecessary Harassments every Sun-set--
Cause they wanna Protest about your Civil Incest--Mr. Officer!!!

I'm selling "Hope" to Mentally Ill Folks to "Think Like Champions" with a new Onset!
I'm selling "Hope" to Incarcerated Folks to "Think Like Champions" with a new Onset!
I'm selling "Hope" to Oppressed Folks to "Think Like Champions" with a new Onset!
I'm Selling "Hope!"

By Clifton Perry
Pen's On Fire Poetry
April 24-29, 2012



"YOU DON'T KNOW ME..."

You don't know me, and you never will! You call yourself a Doctor that could analyze me, you claimed I am angry for no significant reason. So, you took it as a game to pick at my Brain, and insist you'd figure me out. Hey Doc, an entire life could pass over and still you wouldn't know me!

The System(Authority) tried beating me, but I didn't break. They've locked me down and I've yet to bend. Their attempt to weaken me only made me stronger. You have mentioned that my temperament is like that of a wild animal, without a clue as to why. But, you call yourself a Professional Yeah right!!!

When I did admit to Self-medicating in order to cope, you responded, "That being a loser mentality is an Addict excuse!" Yet, you're quick to prescribe me Sedatives and highly addictive Psychotropic Medication, as a helper remedy. I guess in the twisted world you live in, it's okay to be addicted to legal junk. Let's not forget these medications you're prescribing have countless side effects. You are a Hypocrite! You are a lame brain Doctor filled with deception, as you tried to get me to believe that in taking these medications, everything will be alright. Like I said, "You don't know me!"

Doc, if you are still wondering why I have not cracked from the pressure of being locked inside this cage 24/7, it's because, "You don't know me!"

I was born with incredible Genes! My Genes have been handed down through thousands of years of durable Ancestry! You can take me out of Society and place me in a world of chaos, but I will quickly adapt. It's my ability to condition myself to become accustomed to living with so little and still produce a smile.

Doc, in order for you to be empathetic to what I'm going through, you must first be able to share my emotions or thoughts, but you can't! It's a fact, you're incapable of understanding my struggle, nor comprehend my pain or why my Heart aches. Only if you could travel miles and miles in my shoes, then maybe you might be able to say you know a little about me. Since you can't, then it's impossible to understand where I'm coming from, where I've been, or where I'm trying to go!

Empathy carries no Judgment! You're no better than me, and I'm no better than you! No Doc! If you think your job description is to figure me out by playing mental games, with the intention to set me off, then zombie me out on medication as a solution. It's not going to happen! Don't ever beat against the house, because eventually you will lose, and in this case, you have lost because, "You don't know me!"

By Steven Jones
October 2013

those whom society has condemned to death, that conduct can become petty and vindictive very quick. Then when they see a measure of goodness within a prisoner that exceeds their own, their shame creates a resentment and lashing out against that prisoner and others that conduct themselves with more integrity than they do. Nevertheless, for the most part I feel that San Quentin is significantly more humane than I expected and I'm grateful that I wasn't incarcerated even 30 years ago, the struggles of the inmates before me are serving me well today.

XZ: That's just one of the reasons why our new generation observe Black August, which is a great segue into the ultimate Black August question, did you get a fair trial?

IN: Define fair, did they obey all of the rules that they themselves put in place? No, not at all. Under threat of death was one of our co-defendants that offered an incentive for them to lie and form a story that fit the prosecutors theories and version of events, absolutely not fair.

XZ: That part of the Hollywood story is true, continue your thought because although people will say it may be cliché, the overwhelming accounts of 'crime partners snitchin' on their homeboys now satisfies true justice speak on that.

IN: Any measure of true healing within them, man, how can they feel that justice has been served if they are waiting 20 years or more for my death. Every breath they take is a breath I share with them until California kills me so that they can feel peace in the heart once again. How can this crazy justice system set up the families of the victims in such a cold way that their peace depends on anything to do with me. If I had been sentenced to life without, they could get a measure of peace from the sense that justice had been served. It's sick, it's totally twisted and the irony is I'm worried about getting life without in the next election, it's gonna happen eventually on a personal level I'd rather wait another 15 years because the appeals process will be already rolling, but philosophically speaking, for the benefit of humanity, this bullshit should be stopped tomorrow.

XZ: OMG, my lil' essay potna Bandito just dascribed this shit as sick and twisted, and now here you are saying the same exact words. I'm serious, and in that order sick first and then twisted.

IN: When you say essay, you do mean Mexican right? I don't know him, but whoever he is his choice of words hit

AT GOLGOTHA:
 "ONE LESS ENEMY EACH"
 by
 Xyzst

XZ: With our growing custom here, let me say what an honor it is to vibe with you right now, New Generation Rising.

IN: I'm a pretty strange bird, I hope you feel the same after this.

XZ: So where did you live before you got arrested to death row?

IN: I was living in the Bay Area before my arrest.

XZ: It's also well known that you have a brother here on the row, so who's the oldest?

IN: I am the oldest by a year and a half.

XZ: So how have you been holding up for yourself and your lil' bro?

IN: I'm in my own internal personal heaven because I am the author of my own energies, my emotions do not depend on any external circumstances, I see myself as the creator of all of my results and therefore am able to take responsibility for what I create and because of this I am at peace with what is.

XZ: What was the energy of the youth in your community before you got to death row?

IN: I never payed much attention to the community outside of my circle of friends, the energy of humanity in general seemed to me to be more self-involved than I remember when I was a youth (and more materialistic).

XZ: Is death row anything near the way you thought it was before you touched down up here?

IN: No, not at all, my only prison experience prior to being arrested was Hollywood which portrayed prisoners as evil and people in uniform as good. It's truth is nowhere near as simple as that. There are so many people in uniform who's authority has begun to corrupt them to a point where they lower their standards and ethics to a level where they can feel they're a little bit better than the people they are guarding. When the standard of conduct is to be a little bit better than

THE DEATH OF A MESSENGER

Stranded on death row, co-founder of the "Grips," soul searching, flipped the script. Conscious/completely redeemed, he esteemed to do an unpopular thing and embraced education/self-determination -- becoming a published author & "Nobel Peace Prize Nominee." He set out to encourage kids to stop gangbanging and start awakening their minds. Recognizing the real enemy within and the powers that be.

* Thus on December 13, 2005, at 12:01 a.m., 12:02 a.m., & 12:03 a.m., the State of California, vengefully murdered another rose that grew from the concrete.

People of the State of California ponder on this: Receiving lethal injection for a crime you did not commit.

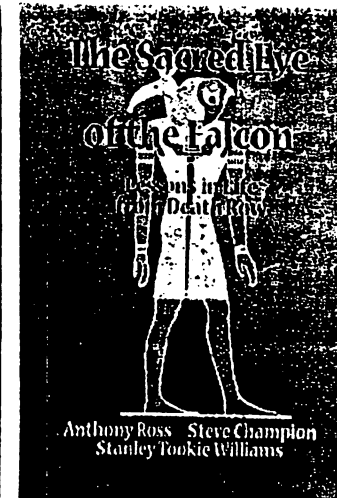
Consider another factor: having your clemency denied by a womanizing, muscle headed actor.

Without a doubt, the Republicans will shout, "justice was carried out." The Democrats, will tightrope the situation by analyzing the pros and cons.

But for, Stanley (Tookie) Williams, hell on earth has come and gone. Life on death row, has come and gone. Once again they've killed the messenger, but the message shall carry on

(C) T.Y.

Dedicated to all those with a positive message past and present.



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 A collection of sayings and aphorisms concerning self-transformation under exceedingly difficult circumstances. The three death-row authors, including the late Stanley Tookie Williams, draw on their combined 70-plus years of experience on death row to formulate first principles for personal growth and social change.

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LESSONS IN LIFE FROM DEATH ROW

(Passages from "The Sacred Eye of the Falcon")

Anthony Ross, Steve Champion, and Stanley Tookie Williams

COMPLACENCY, DISCIPLINE, INITIATIVE

* Action must be tempered by discipline
and discipline must result from principles.

* Everyone has a dream but most will never begin
to bring it to fruition. Taking that first step is
about challenging ourselves to reach beyond self-imposed
limitations. It may take a strong will not to give up,
but it requires initiative to get going.

LEADERSHIP

* Leaders visualize what others cannot. They take
initiative and keep their ear to the pulse of the people.

THE WAY OF KNOWLEDGE

* The student is someone who accepts the journey.
The hero is someone who completes it.

* The path of understanding requires patience.
The path of knowledge requires discipline.
The path of transformation requires initiative.
The path of redemption requires sincerity.
The path of wisdom requires introspection.

To cling to the familiar is easy, to let go of the
familiar and choose a new path requires
great strength of character.

BJ: Rock, Goth Rock, but me too. I listen to everything;
Rap, Oldies, Old School...

XZ: I'm feeling Chief Keef and Kendrick Lamar, but mostly
I fuck with a combination of Hip Hop and Jazz, like
Hidden Beach Recordings unwrapped collections, Smooth
Jazz Allstars, and shit like that.

XZ: Rusty, what are you reading these days?

RY: Author Brian Lumley has a vampire series that I like,
and Robert Jordan's, "The Wheel of Time" are pretty
good though. I didn't get to finish them because I
went to the hole.

BJ: "Earth Children" series by Jean Auel, and "The Sword of
Truth" novels by Terry Goodkind.

XZ: Me, I've become a zinester. My favorite zine writers
include this O.G. brotha out of Chicago named Russell
Shoatz, another dude named Crawford up in Pelican Bay
State Prison --- everything he puts out is a fuckin'
monsta, and Coyote Shef just may be the realest
muthafucka that ever wrote. There's so many zines to
choose from, it's crazy. Ya'll need to write Anthony
Rayson to request a catalog. Shit, Piankhi got me into
zines, and I've been reading them ever since. My all
time favorite; Write or Die, muthafucka'. Lol.

I mean, it's a lot that we do to deal with the stress
and the living environment on Death Row --- everyone
has their own method. I want to end this cipher by
by putting everyone up on one of the main reasons why
I breeze by stress: Lavell, Almo, Dutch, Bra Farrakhan,
white boy Greg, Gangsta, 700, Chico, and my cousin
Ghetto. These are the men who've gotten off the row
since I've been here. We send ours to all of ya'll out
there as the surviving class. Anything but death is
not action. It's the fight in people like yourselves
that creates action at rising above, surviving, and
pushing forward. Just knowing you're no-longer here on
Death Row is a stress reliever. You too rebel,
wherever you are!

Stand by! Our turn will soon follow.

* Read More @GOLGOTHA Interviews
On This Author's Blog At:
BetweenTheBars.Org/Blog/4561

XZ: Okay, so when the unit alarm "buzzer" goes off, we know if it cuts off real quick, it wasn't shit. If it lasts awhile then we know that someone died, or whatever. When this happens, do ya'll ever be like, "damn, I hope that ain't my potna, so and so"?

RY: I try not to think about it.

BJ: It just happened the other day. Normally, in the early morning when they discover someone died.

XZ: I think I've become numb to death. I was sent here for that reason, and that reason alone. This place was built for death -- physically, spiritually, and psychologically.

XZ: Hey Rusty, when was the last time you spent more time in the sun than what little it took you to walk from the unit to this yard?

RY: 6 years.

XZ: Bump, I'm saying, the sun, real dirt, grass, and all that. When was the last time you seen any of it?

BJ: I don't know, 3 years.

XZ: Out of the 720+ guys here on the row, how many of them are walking around trying to convince everyone that they haven't been psychologically affected by the shit we go through every damn day?

BJ: That's that false bravado. A lot of people don't want others to view them as "weak" or as a J-Cat, and won't even admit to one another that we get depressed and snit like that.

XZ: Snit, just being on the row is depressing as fuck. So, real talk, you're right.

BJ: Music helps out a lot.

XZ: Skelito, what you got in rotation as far as music?

SK: South Park Mexican.

XZ: Rusty?

RY: I listen to everything: R&B, Old School Rap, whatever.

A PERFECT MATCH

BY

XZYZST

So I'm on the yard one day, me and one of the Jewish cats began to cnp it up about what's goin' on over at DEATHROWINMATE.ORG and one thing he said to me, stood out. He mentioned that there is an Inmate Donor Initiative being put in motion, and I was like, "cool". Since I had a few chips on my books at that time, I decided to donate to help end the death penalty.

But potna' was like, "no man, I'm talking about living organ donorship". Automatically, the ghetto portion of my mind was like, "dis fool is hell'a' looped, or dis nigga must be smokin' cream". Lol!

For about a week I asked myself, "who on earth is worthy of one of my organs?" The answer came way too easy. Okay, number one off the top has got to be Dr. C. Green, the man who adopted me as his very own son when I was about 17 years old, feel me? That was about the time I became a vicious demon, literally addicted to fighting people, or at the very least fantasizing about fighting every person I saw even if we had never squared off. Dr. Green saved me and a lot of others from getting socked-up, or even killed because we all know, "ain't no such thing as a fair one".

Then I had to think about my 3 sisters. They are the loves of my life, and any of them, or my brothers can have ANY of my vital organs without question. My daughter reminds me of my mother, we're not very close, but there is nothing anyone could say to me that would prevent me from giving any of them an organ if the protocol was in place.

I remember being faced with this same question once before in my lifetime. Dr. Green bought me my first car, but he made me go get my driver's license to show how "responsible" I was becoming. Anyway, one of the questions on the DMV application was about the donation of vital organs in the event of a fatal automobile accident.

I remember saying "yes" to that question. I mean, even as a kid I was like cool with it, and that was way before I met my wife -- long before my seeds were born and all of that, so I learned something about my true self in spite of the anger I harbored within me for what seemed like forever.

Death Row is a dangerous place. Unlike most other places in prison, we get shot at with real guns, and if one get's too close to the BopGun, even that can knock one of us down, feel me? Not just that, but this is a place "designed" for death on so many other levels that have zero to do with the execution chamber. I'm ready to exist forever.

Have your people check out the online petition / initiative if you're feelin' it. Handle your business, and at the very least get acquainted with the concept and information.

In one breath they say it's against their law to kill people, yet in that very same waste of breath, they say it's against prison administrative policies for accused killaz' to help save and sustain the lives of other people that sit on various national donor waiting lists even as I write this, and even as you're reading this.

May 31st, 2013

By

Xyzst

Years ago I was involved in ministry and given the task of escorting Denise Matthews to her speaking engagements. You guys will remember Denise by her stage name, "Vanity" from Vanity 6 that recording artist Prince was mentoring. I learned that Vanity (Denise) was on dialysis. Back then, I wondered if she'd need a kidney some day. Hell, I've got two -- she can get one, I ain't trippin'. She calls me Sugar Ray.

My lil' bro 8-Ball da'Striker for whatever reason didn't want nothing to do with her, period. I guess I did a lot of things for people in front of him to demonstrate how actions spoke louder than words. I haven't changed much. I'm registering and having my people endorse the online petition to show all VG'z that whatever I personally write for this project, remains 100% backed by my actions.

It don't matter what your blood type is, or just how different you think you are. You're a matchworthy donor for someone, and somebody is a perfect match for you.

Xyzst

Project Development Coordinator

BetweenTheBars.Org/Blogs/4561



Organs From Inmates

Our states take life, labor, income, and time from the imprisoned, ask us to "rehabilitate" ourselves, yet deny us the opportunity to make the ultimate restitution - literally, the gift of life, the only act that can transcend all others. We seek to demonstrate with sheer weight of numbers that legislators will be hard-pressed to dismiss, that you represent a significant and viable contribution to those in need. If you'd like to participate in our organ donor initiative, please drop us a kite or have your people weigh in at facebook.com/organsfrominmates.



Key: XZ (Xyzst) [B]
BJ (Bumper Jack) [H]
RV (Rusty) [A]
SK (Skeleton) [H]

XZ: Man, it's a lot of us out here on the yard today. Trip, did ya'll catch the news this morning?

BJ: What, they putting the Death Penalty on hold again?

XZ: Channel 2 News used the term "indefinitely". What does that mean, feel me? Give me your translation.

BJ: In other words, whenever they feel like it. Since the protocols and so-called drug cocktail shit isn't up to government standards... it's not much different than war where they pull troops from one spot, only to deploy more somewhere else. It's just word play, and never officially over.

RV: On hold? Forever? Sounds like word games, is all. It just means they're making us do dead time.

XZ: Yeah, huh?

RV: We're just sitting here rottin' away; they're making us suffer by prolonging our appeals.

XZ: You ain't lying about that word game shit. What the fuck is up with that "last meal" request right before they smoke us?

RV: That's disrespectful, really.

XZ: Psychological games all fuckin' day, homie. Like, for some reason alot of people believe we all know each other. On the news today they said some 720 people are here on the row. How many out of this number do you actually fuck with?

RV: 15 people.

BJ: I know maybe 50, but on a personal level, 10 or 15.

@Golgotha

THE BACK STORY

For their out-of-cell exercise time, California Death Row captives are "assigned" to various kennel-like areas within the confines of San Quentin --- a place where most, if not all of @GOLGOTHA ciphers are conducted; out on the "yard". Some yards are open-air communal types where on any given day, some 40 or more men might mingle for a few hours. These are known as Grade A condemned general population yards. But then like a zoo, there are other areas where captives are kept that few ever get to see.

The following @GOLGOTHA interview was conducted in this place. A dark, dank, soul-sucking area hidden beneath rusted sheet metal awnings and surrounded by thick double-netted green mesh much like one might see at a golf course. This mesh traps between it the cold winds of winter and the suffocating heat of summer, making the 32 single-man kennels quite miserable. Two rows of 16 side-by-side "Walk-Alone" cages, each with their own algae-infested toilet, dirt-laden sink, and pigeon crap-splattered asphalt are customary for both Grade A and Grade B (Condemned Row's Administrative Segregation captives) who've been labelled as institutional safety and security concerns. Used in many cases by prison officials as pawns for one reason or another, there are those who have remained on walk-alone status for five or more years.

Attempting to break the spirit of the New Generation of inner-city youth sentenced to death for "street level" poverty and survival crimes, these very same walk-alone yard programs are used to isolate them --- burdening their vulnerability with the stigma that accompanies such status.

Few folks in society are even aware that the California Code of Regulations (CCR Title 15) doesn't apply here. Instead, an operational procedure known as OP608 was introduced as the condemned "manual" where things that might otherwise be mandated in CCR Title 15, are now subject to interpretation and used to cater to prison officials' every divisive whim.

My name is Xyzyst, and the insightful dialogue continues....



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VOLUNTEER FOR THE DRI PROJECT

Climbing out of infancy, DRI needs motivated volunteer activist-types to help us promote social action and political awareness. Bring your innovative skillsets and commitment to charitable revenue streams.

Occupy members, human rights activists, freelance / graphic artists, journalists, people in academic and legal circles, bloggers, and tech gurus welcomed.

Contact DRI's content administrator and/or our snailmail correspondent.

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DRI Content Admin / Assoc. Director
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Convicts Against Cancer

There are many forms of death sentence. The cruelest ones fall squarely upon the lives of those who couldn't deserve them less.

Every 3 1/2 minutes in America, a child is diagnosed with cancer. No single arc covers all of human complexity. Cancer will invariably touch the lives of every living person at one time or another either by directly afflicting them, a friend, or a loved one. No one is spared, young or old.

Painful memories can yield creativity and insight. DRI introduces Convicts Against Cancer, a series of tributes to the living memories of all who have endured the ravages of this destroyer of life, those whose bravery and dignity continue to inspire us.

Supporting life and research while standing united against the disease of 1000 faces, we intend to promote cancer awareness and prevention education while inviting prisoners to tell their stories and sharing photos of their late loved ones right on our website but for today, we're reaching into the national prison population in search of hobbyists willing to send us a special little gift for a suffering child, helping CAC bridge the gap between pain and smiles while covering the balding heads of those who have or will lose their hair to radiation and chemo treatments. If you know how to knit, make a colorful kid-friendly beanie and/or scarf and mail it to us here in Arizona. We'll get it to a special little someone. We also need "Get Well Soon" cards. Bless a grief-stricken child and share some kind words with a parent. New items only, please.

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DEATHROW INMATE

.ORG

MEMORANDUM

DATE: APRIL 1st, 2013
FROM: W.O.D. (WRITE OR DIE) @ DRI
TO: CAPTIVES OF THE PRISON INDUSTRY COMPLEX
RE: IMPACT OF SOCIAL MEDIA USAGE

Inspired by progressive-thinking prisoners, families, activists, legal circles, journalists, and many others working to promote social action, political awareness, and education, www.deathrowinmate.org is a volunteer-based grassroots nexus between human rights and social media, designed in part to provide death row and life prisoners a platform from which to speak. Although vast in genre, widely accepted themes include complexities within capital punishment, wrongful conviction, and the lurid aftermath of judicial fallibility, to name but a few.

In this emerging era of communication, we're forging alliances with like-minded prisoner and family-friendly services, those through which DRI users subscribe and continue to share with their loved ones in amongst the 2+ million prisoners across the United States.

Promoting productive alternatives and positive activities for prisoners and activists alike, there is something to be said for the impact and advantages in adding social media elements to your online efforts. With our growing online interactivity, you'll benefit from our variety of services and collaborations, each with their own unique influence and charm. We're not trying to "steal the spotlight" yet oddly enough, encourage your pursuits and placement of your profile, articles, and artwork elsewhere, mindful of the interactivity you'll gain between DRI and any number of your "other" online venues while grinding to maintain a successful web presence.

Coming soon to DRI is the Write Or Die (WOD) zine series --- a product of Papyrus Collective. (PAPCO) is a treasured collaboration of ours which unites prison writers with atypical literary workshop efforts. Committed to an assortment of charitable campaigns, we're actively involved with Organs From Inmates as well as Convicts Against Cancer --- helping bridge gaps between life and death.

Welcoming your innovative expertise and creative skillsets in an effort to advance our deserving cause, all outside volunteer inquiries should be made through email. If you're a rising voice from within, change the face of your online footprint with a SASE to our mailing address and simply request a copy of our social media "infozine". Invest in yourselves!

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rehabilitate oneself. However, the fastest way to turn a prison population against someone is by calling them a "rat". I'm sure you've seen it here on countless occasions? People with influence and respect can label someone a "snitch", and everyone will swiftly turn against that person(s) -- whether it was true or not, doesn't matter. This document refers to non-affiliated inmates as rats, IGI informants, and debriefers. For those not familiar with prison gang culture, I'll break it down briefly. In most prison gangs, inmates have no choice but to join when they set foot in county jails. If you tell them you do not want to be a part of their gang, you'll get stabbed or sliced and labeled "no good". If you choose to run with them, they exert absolute control over your life. You are indoctrinated that you are no longer an "individual", but one with the "collective", thus everything you have is now the collective's. They dictate when you can or can't sleep, what you can or can't do, and you have to memorize their rules and goals. If you violate any of the afore-mentioned, you'll get "hit" and tagged "no good".

(P:) Among your various writing projects and with PAPCO, you're also writing a book. What's that about? Let us know about that, and the process that took you there -- your decision to write your book, and what not.

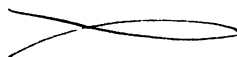
(KM:)

While I was in the SHU, the negative feelings within consumed my being leaving me depressed and in agony. One day I chose to alleviate the inner-turmoil and searched for a means to quiet the storm raging within. Years of seeking turned up nothing, but dead ends and just when I thought all hope was lost, I discovered the tome that changed my life -- "Perennial Psychology of the Bhagavad Gita" by Swami Rama.

The text taught me how to overcome pessimism while cultivating optimism, leading to a startling epiphany: the reason why I led a life of drug addiction and violence was because of the torment plaguing my mind. All actions begin with thought; thus if one is filled with negativity, all of his actions will be colored with said, and if one cultivates a positive mind set, his actions would reflect that.

Therefore my book entitled, "GUILTY: the Evolution of a Confessed Serial Killer" will show humanity how negative feelings ferment, how they express themselves, how to eradicate these emotions, and the evolutionary state thus attained; as a means to prevent people from destroying their lives and the lives of people around them.

QUESTIONS BY : PIANKH
(JANUARY, 2013)



(P:) For those of you who don't know, the AC is a more "restricted" SHU (Security Housing Unit) or solitary confinement, moreso than the EB unit that the average Grade A condemned prisoner is accustomed to. You've written an extensive article on solitary confinement titled "SuperMax" that's posted @DRI. Did you write that article during that time and under those conditions in the AC?

(KM:) I actually wrote "SuperMax" here in Administrative Segregation at the behest of Michael for DeathRowInmate.Org's writer's workshop (PAPYRUS COLLECTIVE).

(P:) You're familiar with the CDC-R's overt/covert policy of subjecting us to these long term solitary confinement in these SHU's, particularly Mexicans from Southern California, and Blacks under "Gang Validations". Do you perceive these as tactics aimed at limiting and destroying the progressive movements of politically-conscious prisoners?

(KM:) California Department of Corrections & Rehabilitation characterize "gangs" as a group of three or more inmates setting forth goals to take over a prison, and "disruptive groups" as gangs that originate from the streets. In CDC-R's prospective, a prison gang is a threat to the safety and security of the institution "because they take the power away from prison officials, dictating who can be on the mainline, who can make money, and who can work what jobs within the prison". CDC-R violates gang members as a "due process" to house inmates indeterminately in the SHU. However, San Quentin's administration is circumventing the validation process for all condemned prisoners, creating and utilizing their "own" rules - Institutional Procedure Number 608 (Condemned Manual) -- arming themselves with exclusive power to decide what gang activity is, and locking inmates up indefinitely -- the decisions are often arbitrary and capricious that don't even measure up to what actually constitutes as gang activity per state law. Personally, I believe San Quentin officials relate the condemned population's rights and due process because they enjoy wielding unrestrained power that allows them to cause us harm, both mentally and physically.

(P:) What do you think about the Pelican Bay State Prison (SHU) prisoners' Short Corridor Collective, publicized document and agreement / call to the end of hostilities between all races and groups in California, and the nation's prisons?

(KM:) The key word in this treatise is "verbatim". The reason why this manifesto demands that all media sources print the word-for-word without any alterations or summaries is because between the lines, the short corridor -- where prison gang leaders reside -- is declaring war. At first glance one would think this is a step in the right direction by ending hostilities in order to uplift all prisoners by actually participating in the programs general population offers to

Social media has changed and enhanced the way that people communicate with one another, with brands, companies, movements, and initiatives --- empowering users to raise money for people in need, to build personal and professional interactive networks with society, and to cultivate new friendships.

Getting started in social media may seem a bit daunting, but the potential results and opportunities clearly outweigh the trepidation. Using various online platforms enable us to say a lot within very little space --- often forcing us to communicate more effectively as our writings become shorter and more to the point.

With a few short steps you'll be well on your way to drastically improving the efficiency through which your presence becomes known. The degree to which your transparency is afforded solely depends on your accessibility to interaction.

We can't in all good conscience attempt to explain social media to you in four paragraphs. What's remarkable about this topic (social media) is how usage evolves, adapts, and most importantly, sparks interaction.

As an Associate Editor of (WOD), allow me to make a handful of meaningful recommendations --- publications written to encourage your interest and understanding of the online experience. Creativity remains an exercise in self-discovery. Make yourself available.

I'm a huge fan of the "For Dummies" series, so naturally these regularly-updated editions below, come to mind. Take advantage of their wealth of resources, information, and useful tips. It's about time!

Twitter For Dummies

Facebook For Dummies

Blogging For Dummies

WordPress For Dummies

Webmarketing For Dummies

* Read More On This Author's Blog At:
BetweenTheBars.Org/Blog/DeathRowInmate

NO WAY AROUND IT! "DROP OUT"?

By
C. Chism

What's Haddin' Wit Ya? I was born in 1977 when banging just began to grow. Born into a well-known family of gang members who helped start the Elm Street Compton Pirus "click" which is part of a larger gang, "Lueder's Park Pirus". Now you'd think I too was a member, but not long after my father died and I ended up in my first fight with a kid over my last name, my grandmother sent me to live with another grandmother (mom's side) on the West Side of Compton. With my two uncles, we lived on Kemp Street in the middle of the Nutty Block Compton Crip gang hood. I was enrolled into Longfellow Elementary, and later into Walton Junior High (also in the same hood). It was there that I became a member of the Nutty Block Crips. I'll fill you in more in my upcoming book entitled, "Hub City Finest".

I'm writing this for a few reasons, but mainly because of an article that came out in the "ALL HOOD MAGAZINE" about my family (wherein they spelled our name wrong). Lack of leadership in these penitentiaries premises this article -- places where entire generations of men and women have been misled only to fall by the wayside.

Remember when the word "HOMIE" meant something beyond simple blood brothers? Real "Rads", stronger than family, and when the term "LOYALTY" once meant devotion, steadfastness, till death, and you meant it? The word "HONOR" had real power, and you did the right thing to earn respect which gave you the right to be referred to as an "ORIGINAL GANGSTER". Now, fools tell stories to glorify all the wrong shit. In my opinion, the "OG's" stopped handing down the rules of the game to those after them, and began embellishing the history of prior generations -- regularly "putting a 10 on a 2" (for you squares, that means "they lied").

Back in the day when posting up for photos (like the one seen here) with cats I was willing to die for, looking back as the rules of the game continued changing with fools switching hoods, turning state, etc., I give it to this New Generation. They are far from stupid and have seen their ways through the cracks of the bullshit game! They've tested the validity of the game, only to be stunned -- finding that the lines fools are pushing remain filled with watered-down loopholes. The book of "POLITRICKS" didn't match the acts of the cats pushin' it. The prison administration's are running the cars' business, feel me? Unfortunately, these new cats went the wrong way -- trying to establish solid ground by becoming drop outs, a backward approach to restructuring the prison sub-culture we live in. They (drop outs) have found themselves between a rock and a hard place where no real guidance or education exists.

@GOLGOTHA

w/ Kekoa Manibusan

(P:) You're one of our earliest contributing writers since we started up our PAPCO page @ DRI (DeathRowInmate.Org), and our first issue of WOD (Write Or Die). That very first article you wrote titled "Guilty" was one of our most frequently read articles on the DRI website.

(KM:)

I appreciate the acknowledgment regarding my article. The funny thing is I just learned how to write! My parents were dope fiends leading to homelessness at the young age of twelve, and forcing me to drop out of school during my seventh grade year to adopt the tricks of the trade out on the streets. I began learning how to write in 2006 after having befriended Michael Flinner (co-founder of DRI). He encouraged me to share my story -- in his opinion, it was a story that "needs to be told", explaining how to structure sentences, paragraphs, using quotations, and expounding upon themes.

(P:) Your name is unique. What's your ethnicity? What does your name mean? How old are you?

(KM:)

I'm a Pacific Islander and grew up on the Hawaiian Island of Oahu. Kekoa is Hawaiian and means "courageous one". Manibusan is Taotao Tano (Pacific Islanders that inhabit the island chain of Marianas), and it means "powerful hands". My last name is derived from our family line of shamans, invoking spiritual powers and channelling it through our hands to heal the population. The actual name is Manibu. The "san" was introduced during the Japanese occupation of World War II. "San" is an honorific used after a person's name -- Manibu-san -- meaning, Mr. Manibu. I will be 35 in March.

(P:) You arrived here on Death Row the same year as me in 2000, right?

(KM:)

No, I actually got here in January of 2001.

(P:) How old were you when you caught your case, and what are your "Special Circumstances"?

(KM:)

I was nineteen when I was charged with capital murder. My special circumstances include murder-robbery, murder-drive-by, and multiple murders.

(P:) You've been in the hole (Grade B Status) for some time now -- how long? You were in the AC (Adjustment Center) unit for how long? Then to EB (East Block Condemned Unit). Are you getting your Grade A Status soon?

(KM:)

I've been slammed in the SHU for a total of eleven years -- eight years in the AC and three years here in East Block. I just attended committee last week (Weds 1/16/13), and finally got recommended for Grade A. I'll return for my status in about 45 days.



vox populi vox Dei

[The Voice Of The People Is The Voice Of God]

There exists a documented conversation amongst men hanging on crosses after being sentenced to death. One of these men is still a major figure in the lives of people all over the world and yet, there are now thousands of men and women on death row around the globe.

The institutional "Instruction Manual For Legal Murder" has not changed. When forced to focus on the people on the cross, by default, the condition itself urges society to disavow the systematic overthrow of the underclass, a scheme to silence the people -- hidden in plain sight.

For far too long the media and other agencies have represented captives on death row from a narrow window -- from the outside. The results are often one-sided, misleading, and straight up false. Gone are the days of simply executing child molesters, rapists, and serial killers. There exists a new type of political prisoner on death row, the "New Generation" of targeted inner-city youth convicted and sentenced for "street level" homicides in exchange for the political and capital advancement of corrupt law enforcement officials, attorneys, and judges.

Papyrus Collective inspires the world to experience the unedited conversations between the souls hanging on the cross at "The Place of the Skull -- Golgotha".

Location: California Death Row, San Quentin State Prison
Golgotha, The Place of the Skull

Questions By:

PIANKHI & XYZYST

Nowadays the word "HOMIE" comes with a wink-wink behind yo back! The word "LOYALTY" has become conditional, and the word "HONOR" has forever lost its meaning. We MUST see ourselves able. Learn your history in lieu of sitting idle in these slaveships, never attempting to better oneself. Carve a path for the Next Generation while becoming a better you!

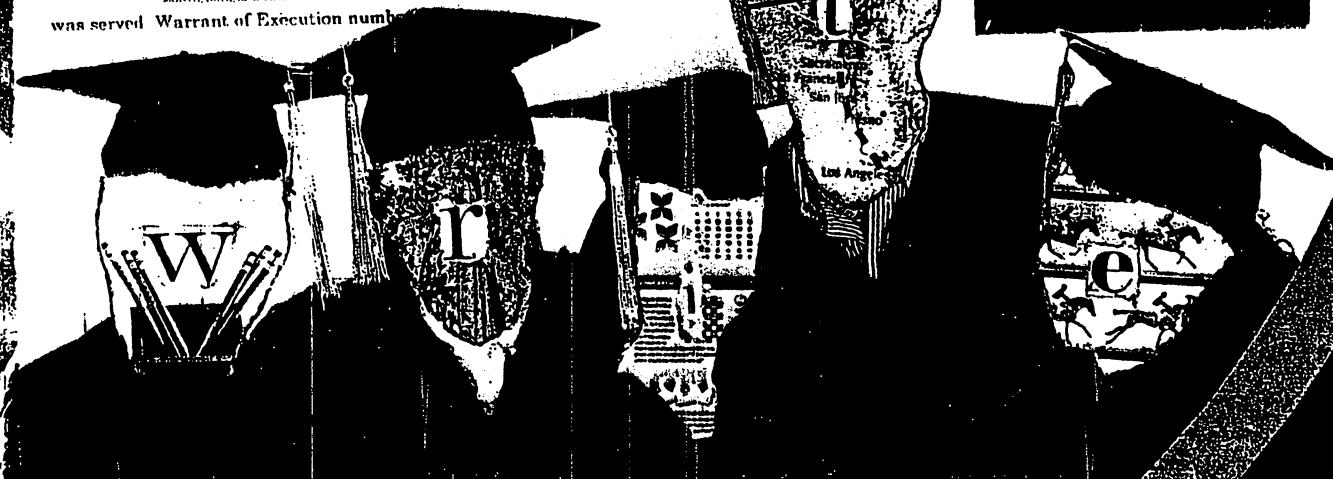
No Way Around It! Step out of the box and be greater than those before you. Set the example for once.



STATE OF CALIFORNIA
NOTIFICATION OF EXECUTION DATE
AND CHOICE OF EXECUTION METHOD



On _____ I,
MONTH, DATE, AND YEAR
was served Warrant of Execution number _____



OR

D I E