

matter of fact, the PIC is yet just another arm of the same system that kidnapped Africans and turned them into slaves – I'm against slavery! Of the same system that demonstrated acts of genocide against the Native Americans – I'm against genocide! And of the same system that continues to loot the world's treasures and who are perpetrators of some of the most disturbing crimes of this planet, and yet, these are the same people who try to preach about Law and Order, what a joke! These same scumbags that gain and get fat from human misery and who deny us – "we the people" – decent housing, health care, education, and so much more, want to speak down on us about morality, and dare to talk about democracy! Shit bro, many of us are rendered helpless as our youth mimic and domesticate within themselves the capitalistic, avaricious culture of unashamed consumption, practiced by the same people who oppress us. The same people who bring drugs into this country and distributes them into the ghetto and inner-urban cities, and then turn around and wage a war on these poor citizens, and dare to call it the "war on drugs"! Shit, more like the "war on the poor", if you ask me. So that's why I'm cool on all this bourgeois ass-shit, as long as capitalism exists, then I'm always gonna be part of the subversive counter-culture. So yeah, I feel you man.

It's good to be able to do these lessons with you. I appreciate you giving me your time and attention to get on some productive shit with me. I feel that these lessons keep us sharp and help reinforce what we believe and stand for. Hopefully, soon there will be more people in here catching on to this radical shit we're putting down, more cats we can embrace as comrades. That's what I am striving for, I love it when cats are willing to make true sacrifices by shedding their destructive gangster mentalities, only to transform these mentalities into that of an Imprisoned Radical Intellectual. I hope to see the end of these capitalistic prison gangs that keep us divided and conquered in here, as they fight over so-called "power struggles", and the beginning of radical prison groups, prison chapters and revolutionary prison movements, slowly but surely, that's what's coming next!

Thank you for your time, thank you for sharing with me this beautiful piece of your mind, comrade. I have valued every moment of this lesson, and will continue to value this lesson as I transcribe it into a zine, so that I can always read it anytime I want. My solidarity goes out to you, bro. Keep your head help up high, with the fire of resistance forever burning in your rebel soul, and with the joy for life and the love for freedom always going strong in your beautiful, warrior's heart, as it fervently beats to the vibrant rhythm of revolution and life. Stay active, stay dangerous!

Solidarity and Respects,
Coyote



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STEEL SHARPENS STEEL #2:

STARTING UP STUDY GROUPS IN PRISON

By, Comrade Coyote

&

Comrade Christopher Gonzalez

Introduction

Stemight from Nevada's government (Elig State Prison) two anarchist prisoners come together for a study session to bring forth a silver of anarchist thought. Basically, these study sessions are written sessions, on paper, where first one commands gives the other commands a "lesson" to complete, and then once that lesson is completed, it's the other commands turn to complete a lesson.

These are the lessons that both Coyote and Christopher Gonzalez have given to each other; this is an activity that they do with each other once a week (whenever they are fortunate enough to be on the same wing together).

These two particular lessons are being transcribed into a zine, so that other prisoners can be more aware of how they can get little study sessions going on in their units, wings and prisons.

Of course, this zine has also been created to plant seeds of radical consciousness to be spread and tried in the hearts and minds of those who wish to rise above their circumstances of stagnation and complacency. This zine is an anarchist zine, designed for the purpose of assisting comrades behind enemy lines with becoming more aware on a conscious level; but this zine isn't just for anarchists, it's for anyone who wants to learn new methods of getting a study session going, or who just wants to hear what we have to say about all this different shit we're going through out here in Nevada and how we're dealing with it.

So here you go... enjoy it and learn from it. Our love, respect and solidarity goes out to those who seek to elevate themselves under these conditions of oppression and degeneration.

Keep the struggle up, keep the fire of resistance going strong in your warrior souls, and keep the fog for love and life and freedom going strong inside your rational hearts, as your heart furiously thumps, pumps and pounds to the vibrant rhythm of life.



Solidarity & Respect,
Coyote & Christopher
Keep the black flag waving

Comments from Coyote

Yeah man, you inspire me bro! You're 22 years-old and you're a muthafuckin' fire-starter! @ Hai You definitely invoke the revolutionary flames of resistance in my radical Anarchist heart. If I were as sharp as you are when I was 22, then, right now at the age of 33, I'd be way too dangerous for these pigs to even let me have *any* type of social contact with *anyone*. I'd be locked up in a cell so tight, like Hannibal Lecter status up in this mug, you feel me? @ I'm glad I've had the chance to cross paths with you comrade, I'm glad I've been able to reach out to you and participate in raising the level of consciousness in your young, warrior mind! You're so eager to learn and so ready to ride, it's an honor to do these lessons with you, and an honor to call you my comrade.

I'm really feeling everything you said in this lesson, particularly in regards to racism. It's not just "White supremacist & Nazis" we have to be leery of, but all racists, no matter what color their skin is, 'cuz yes, it's undeniable that there are haters of every color. Personally, I've always been a "non-racist". Someone who isn't racist, but who has passively stood by and tolerated racism. But the last couple of years I've been so disgusted by all the ignorance and racism around me, seeing all of this putrid hatredism from all sides, that it has gotten to the point that any fraction of racism has become intolerable to me. So I've made a transition. I went from being a non-racist, to a straight-up anti-racist. I now haven't any qualms about standing up to that shit, now that I know I can. Yes, we can stand up to racism, we can fight it, and we can smash the shit out of it, with our "say no to haters" t-shirts on and all! @ Hai

One of the things that I've come to accept, as an Anarchist and someone who waves the Black Flag, is that for me, it doesn't even feel right to even try to claim a race, or a nationality, or none of that. As a matter of fact, I've come to realize that I'm an "internationalist", meaning I have no nationality. Only the greedy, corrupt capitalists "own" a country, or "own" a nation and I'm not sure about other racists, but I know that's what frightens the Nazis the most; they feel that people like us -- Anarchists -- are a threat to their white culture, and that we want to eliminate all white people by having interracial marriages and interracial off-spring, etc, and all that nazi crap they be talking. But I'm not out to eliminate white people, or no people of any specific color, but I'd like to eliminate these stupid ideologies that keep people at odds with each other over something as insignificant as what color your skin is. These muthafuckas idolize Hitler, and yet, they say we're trying to wipe out a race? Come on now. I keep my Black Flag waving home, I claim no nation, because I'm of the people, for the people and I *am* the people -- all people.

Another thing you said in your lesson that I really resonated with is, "People, make it sound hard because they are still living half in the capitalist world". Yes, capitalism is the world we're living in, and as long as capitalism continues to exist, we are all going to be affected by it (and infected by it too!) one way or another, like it or not -- and I don't like it. I don't like capitalism, I don't like the Prison Industrial Complex either, because, as a

then the civil rights era. Thus, if any kid was like me back then, I was either asleep or had my -um- attention directed towards better activities. ☺ So, I think there should be a "movement" directed towards kids by people like us, focusing on why racism isn't right, etc. An idea is, we could throw anti-racist or "hater" concerts, where we get local bands to play music and we unite all these kids of different races and pass out anti-racist literature and get all the kids to mingle and what not. You know, pass out "say no to haters" t-shirts and shit. We'd make it something cool to be anti-racist... Anyways, that's just for the young ones though. It's different when they're full-bloomed racial supremacists. As I've said before, some grown folk, struggle with their conscience, and those have a chance at being "saved".

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But it's a touchy area, because it wouldn't do for me to just hit any racist up, if they haven't opened up their thoughts to me. That would probably just piss them off. Then, there's the fact that I don't want to even be around any racist. So, personally, I'd be more apt to just bust any racist I come across on the nose, rather than try to play Doctor Phil. Now if they reached out to me first, that would be different. Then I'd try to help them through their struggle. But realistically, in here especially, I think the best thing we can do is pass out and create as much anti-racist literature as we can, and put a "green light" put on all racists (Black, White, Brown or other) and hopefully that will make these haters rethink the choices they're making, as well as discourage any new recruits. Obviously, *something* needs to be done, and I hope kats start collaborating and can come up with a solution.

Well comrade, I think I've pretty much said what I have to say, on all the topics. Thank you for the opportunity to further exercise my brain and I really enjoyed this study session. Let's keep this shit going!

I hope you dig where I'm coming from on all this, and I look forward to next week's lesson.

In solidarity & with respects,
Your comrade,
Christopher

RESOLVE!

Why does it seem that some individuals are capable of incredible efforts, yet others seem hamstrung, even though they have good intentions? The answer is those people, for example Mumia Abu-Jamal, have developed an unbreakable resolve, that even the harshest conditions cannot break.

How is this "resolve" acquired? Each one of us has the innate ability to strengthen and steel ourselves - *by ourselves!!* Part of "Each One, Teach One" is the most fundamental component of all - each one of us teaching ourselves to become our true selves. We have marvelous minds that can break everything down - and build it all back up the way it needs to be built up. We must overcome our fear of ourselves and our inertia and trust ourselves to figure everything out. We will find our brilliant, humanist selves, once we provide ourselves our own lasting love. @Anthony

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Starting Up Study Groups

For me, it is imperative to provide literature and to heighten the level of consciousness in the dark, dreary depths of these graveyards, because I feel that once you have become conscious the light begins to take on a new meaning, with new purpose and direction. I feel that people who are conscious are real because conscious people are the ones who usually strive to make real changes, and aim to achieve real goals, always seeking solutions, because they are serious about life. They've come into this new consciousness and they begin to formulate a new respect for humanity, for the struggle, for women, and they start to appreciate life and love and nature and everything in ways they've never appreciated them before. The conscious people are the true decision-makers, rather than relying on others to call their shots for them, they're capable of making prudent choices on their own. Conscious people are the ones who "know", and they're the ones who act on their knowledge, and the ones who think, study and reflect. It's always a beautiful, wonderful thing when the wheels are turning upwards, and you can believe that conscious people's wheels are always turning.

Not only that, but I feel that it's essential to raise the level of consciousness in these grim, stagnated graveyards, because in case you haven't noticed, it is the agenda and the desire of those who run this horrible Prison Industrial Complex to keep us ignorant and ignorant so that we are sure to "knowledge is strength", and this is why they deliberately try to make it as difficult as they can for us to get books and literature sent in, with all the obstacles, rules, limits and restrictions they've always placed on us, and all the other foul as things that they do like to see our mail, throw it away, or "accidentally" give it to the wrong person, or when they confiscate our books and literature, saying it's "abused", or that we're "over the limit", or they confiscate a book because we've loaned it out to someone (it's against the rules to share), or how they've stopped allowing us to get books sent in from the streets while in disciplinary segregation, and all of the other tactics they use.

They would rather see us pacified and complacent, using this time - or waiting this time, I should say - reading books as pop culture magazines and horror novels and watching the "latest box" set us stuck on stupid with rackets, gangster, pimp music, them to see us utilizing this time on some productive site and as an opportunity to cultivate, uplift and educate ourselves.

So that's why I feel it's very important that we engage each other, and start up study groups and use these study groups as an activity that actively allows us to resist their attempts at keeping us stagnant under these foul, degrading conditions that can be equated to an "intellectual death sentence" (the destruction of our minds). And one of the ways we can do this is by always striving to raise the level of consciousness in the hearts and minds of those who are really trying to do something positive and productive with their time, or to encourage people to do something positive and productive with their time. And that's what these study groups do. We can't reach everybody, and we can't help those who aren't trying to help themselves, but we can pass out all different kinds of literature to those who are really trying to advance their interests on some real site. I want to encourage prisoners to become conscious, and to assist other prisoners in the development of their higher consciousness. I want to encourage prisoners to start up study groups on their own, wings, blocks, units, etc. This requires 3 or more people, and books, zines and other reading materials. There are different ways to do this, but it's important to have fun and to learn, that should be the 2 main objectives. One way to do it is pick a subject, study it, discuss it, debate it, write and exchange notes, quiz each other to see how much you've retained, write chapters summaries, book reports, essays, papers, reports, articles, etc. You can grade or critique each other's papers if you want, or if you agree to do that, have discussions, dialogues and study sessions. Listen as much as you talk. It's good if everybody has a copy of the same book. But say, if there are 6 people in your study group, but only 3 copies of the selected book, then pick up if you can, two people reading the same book together. There are different kinds of methods and ways to do this, you just have to be creative, and dedicated to your studies, and try to have a good time. Learning new things, and being able to apply your newly acquired knowledge is always a beautiful thing to do and should definitely make you feel good about yourself and about life.

Whenever I'm unable to get a study group going on my tier, then I'll find someone (just one person) who also likes to study and learn, and I'll have study sessions, dialogues and debates with him (you one person see here in this time on example of one of the study sessions me and my comrade

(B): You've got my vote for having those of us up here in Elly to start exercising direct democracy for things that affect us as a whole.

- 1) We can show solidarity by reaching out to those solid individuals who are up here with us and try to build healthy relationships with them, where we can all educate one another and help each other rise to higher levels of consciousness.
- 2) Anything we see as a cool dude struggling, and if we're in a position to help - we should. If they don't have stationary or hygiene and we can spare some of our own, we can pass them what we are able to. The way they aren't sitting without shit and don't become tempted to ask someone foul for assistance. That's solidarity for sure.
- 3) When these pigs are acting up and we see them harassing someone solid and that someone decides to say "fuck it" and run on the police, we should be right there with them, or at the very least, make sure the prisoner is taken care of after they get cell extracted (give him towels, clothes, hygiene, food, whatever may be needed if his cell gets stripped).

4) Tell me why you think it's important to raise awareness and give me some examples of how we can do that?

I think it's important to raise awareness because there are a lot of people still asleep, not knowing that there is a better way to live, than in this current state. Once someone knows, the truth, they're supposed to let the whole world know it. A real anarchist wouldn't want to watch the rest of the world continue to be asleep, some of the ways people can raise awareness are as follows. For us behind these walls, we do what we do, pass out literature, books and zines and hold study sessions like this, get group/other activities going like debates and radical trivia, etc. We may be slammed down, but we're not backed. For everyone on the outside, man, if I were out, I would be doing everything in my power to raise awareness. I'd get on the radio, I'd find a way to get on the tv, ezine, I'd put out books and zines and write in newspapers and on the internet. I'd pass out flyers, hold concerts and community events. And I would seriously go door to door introducing myself and pledging solidarity with people in my community. These are just the "out in the open" things I'd do and it really is simple. People make it sound hard because they are still living half in the capitalist world. You see, I don't recognize any government and I don't care much about materialistic shit. I care a lot more about the people, the Earth, and my freedom. So, I would be completely satisfied with having nothing but a tent and a bag full of clothes and what not. I would travel constantly and spread the word as I go, no house, that means no rent, no bills, no taxes. No job, that means unthink "free time". I'm not worried about money because I know how to obtain everything I need to survive. But push comes to shove this is America, land of a million hustlers. Seriously though, a lot of people can't let go of certain things that this capitalist society offers and thus they find that while the handcuffs have been removed, their legs are still shackled.

6) I would like you to make two copies of A.2.11 from the FAQ (Why Are Most Anarchists In Favour of Direct Democracy?)

I will attach the copies with this lesson.

7) Explain why you are against racism? And what can we do to break the walls of racism?

I am against racism because it is wrong, plain and simple. It is something I find very disgusting. I have experienced racism on many levels and so because of these personal experiences and due to the fact that I have many friends, and loved ones in all colors, I really take being anti-racist to heart. Nobody should be discriminated against, or become victims of another's anger and hostility just because of their ethnicity or skin color. You asked what we can do to break down the walls of racism... well, first off, since racism isn't something a person is born with, it is one of those things people pick up as they make their way through life. Usually, the seeds are planted when they're abandoned, either by family, friends, or a combination of both. You know, one of those "products of environment" things. The being the case, I think we should get to them while they're young. They talk about racism being wrong (in schools) these days, but not in ways where kids are going to pay attention. It usually comes up in like history class and also when they teach the areas of slavery and

2) Read pages 43-45 of phrase elaborate 43 (question 45) and tell me your thoughts, your stance and your opinion on what the comrade Anthony is saying here in answer to my question? Do you agree, disagree, or what exactly do you feel in regards to all this?

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The question was concerning what type of anarchy gives anarchy a bad name. Well, I definitely agree with Anthony on this one. There's a lot of people who claim to be comrades and their voices are loud, but they don't ever seem to walk the walk. There's a difference between being an arrogant know-it-all who does nothing but blather at others yet shows no desire to lead by example and then being someone who speaks her/his mind, but also takes the initiative to do what they say. Comradeship comes easy. It's taking the time to find and create a solution that turns the average comrade into an anarchy-guest. You know that guy, Anthony mentioned meeting at the monthly forum? The guy who was completely negative, saying that he didn't agree with Anthony and said that his own "solution" was to sit on his ass and do nothing? That dude sounded completely suspect to me. That's not all the descriptions of one of those undercover agents the state uses to stir up mayhem inside the revolutionary community. He personally I would have kicked that guy's ass. I'm sure people would ecstatically drink that choice, but no one could say that I am an idle comrade.

3) Give a definition to each of the following words and then write two sentences using each word pertaining to anarchism.

Free association (definition): I'm going to break down each word first. There are many definitions for the word free, but the one I choose for this, is "made or done voluntarily." Association is "the act of associating" or "an organization of persons." Associate means "to join in companionship or partnership." So, I would say free association means that a person will be "allowed" to hang out with who they want without any hindrance from others.

(A): In a world of real liberty and equality, all people would have the right to free association. (B): Because I was only a juvenile when I was out, I don't have too many experiences with the "adult" life and thus I only have one memory of not being able to create free association. There were many times that my mother tried to get me into better public schools so I'd stay out of trouble or because the teachers at the schools I was already going to, didn't know who I was or give a damn about the students. But each time she tried to get me transferred, she would get the answer that I couldn't attend those schools because we lived in a different district, even though it was the same city. Who knows, maybe if there had been real free association, I could have avoided some of the things that led me into a destructive lifestyle.

Solidarity: Unity based on shared interests, standards or objectives.
(A): For anarchists, it is vital that all comrades come together in solidarity, because without a strong foundation, we will crumble under all of the various attacks made on us by the enemy.
(B): I commend you comrades for all of the solidarity I've seen you show around here. And not just towards your fellow anarchists but towards all the good men here who wish to use this time constructively. Keep it up.

Direct democracy: A decision-making process where "decisions would be made by directly voting on the options and the option with a majority of votes is implemented." Though this is meant to be a "dynamic discussion process" where people talk and try to work things out so that the minority doesn't just voted away. Direct democracy is combined with "free association" so that anyone who does not agree with the voted option, can leave the group and therefore won't have to abide by the decision.
(A): I believe it's important to have some kind of order and organization, yet I don't agree with any type of laws that restrict people of freedom of choice, or that put fear of punishments on a person should they "break" those laws. Because of this, I believe that direct democracy in anarchism is sound, because it allows people to voice their opinions and then agree in solidarity what should be done about matters and for the really stubborn comrades, they can dissociate from the group if a decision really bothers them or they can continue to go along with the others while trying to persuade others to change their vote.

How to Get a Study Group Going

There are many ways to get study groups going, you just have to be creative and figure out the best methods that work for you and your comrades under the existing conditions, and you have to have the necessary reading materials, books, newsletters, newspapers and literature on hand.



Solidarity & Respect: - Comrade - 8-27-2011

to those are just some ideas I'm throwing out there, things that I've done that have worked for me. Anybody who's trying to get study groups going where they're at can use those ideas, build and improve on them, or they can be creative and figure out ways that will work best for them. But either way, I just hope the ones that inspire more persons to get things going where they're at. Let's struggle up!

correct.
my person chooses to take consideration, engage others and to be a teacher and someone who general approach is and put it to the proper use. I do this because it's just one of my objectives for different kinds of literature to all different kinds of people on my scale. But only if I know they're in the world of literature. I've learned my own little bit of learning and I know that all others on whatever with I'm at, because there are powerful books in reading materials around here, I can help an empowering place of literature (even within my own literature) to be passed out to articles from newspapers and magazines and I've sent them out to be copied, turning whatever I to get typed up and then copied so I could pass them out to other persons on my list. I've taken books in so I could pass the copies out. I've taken notes from books that I've read and sent them out materials from other persons and then sent out to be copied, and then had those copies read downward half off of the internet for me, Korean army chapter of books for me, I've even gathered organized. I've been able to have people on the scale and in all kinds of materials to be being Anthony Brown at P.O. Box 721, Homewood, Black Solidarity. By being respectful and by being organized with building among them, request my "Building your own ABC Prison Chapter" also from one, you just have to learn how to be respectful (to learn more on how to be respectful and get if they are. There are different ways to acquire reading materials from comrades and friends on the willing to participate in the study group should each be asked to contribute and provide materials, have a good supply of books, ideas, literature, reading and relevant materials. Anybody who's in order to create study groups and have study sessions, sometimes that requires for all members to

conversations.
things like that. It's just an opportunity for you to sharpen steel, and like we say "back one, back one". And it's definitely a good way to engage each other and to have intellectually stimulating

Here is an example of a basic format on how to get a study program going for you and your comrades (see below). There are many different ways to do it, like I said, but this is just one idea that I know works. Basically, what you do is you and your trade(s) or study partner(s) are going to pick a subject, like "anarchism", or "solidarity". For example, you guys are to write the definition and a couple of sentences about that subject, but each sentence would consist of like 30 words. Then you guys will write a paragraph, or a page, or even an essay (whatever you decide) on what "anarchism", or "solidarity" (or both) means to you and how you can apply it in your everyday lives. And then after that, you guys will write a summary on what you've learned from this endeavor (study session). Here's an example:

- ANARCHISM: (Definition(s))
A (sentence)
B (sentence)
- SOLIDARITY: (Definition(s))
A (sentence)
B (sentence)
- Anarchism: (what it means to me and how can I apply it to my everyday life)
- Write a summary of what you've read and of what you learned from this endeavor (lesson).

Another thing to do is to give your 'rades, or study partners, an essay assignment to write with like 20 questions pertaining to what you've studied. So in the case of your studies on anarchism, you would make tests for your comrades (or have them make tests for themselves), 20 questions or so about what they're reading, etc.

Another good way to get a type of study program going, is a thing that I like to call "steel sharpens steel." Which is basically an exchange of dialogue with you and one study partner, through a series of "kicks." Basically, a topic will be chosen, like say for example "taking consciousness", or "the definition of real", or "solidarity", or whatever topic you guys feel needs to be discussed in length, and then each 'rade will write a kite to the other, talking terms discussing that topic in length. And if you have the resources to do it, when you guys are done, you can either have these kites typed up, or transcribed, and Xeroxed copied so that you can pass these out to your other comrades, so they can read them and study them like literature, or you can even have them turned into zines. It's just a way to get an important exchange of dialogue going with a comrade, where each of you is vishing off of each other in a way that you are both learning and growing from that positive exchange, and it's also a way for you to create your own underground literature, that only you and your 'rades will read, or if you want, you can make it something that everybody you deem worthy can read and learn from. These are just little "steel sharpens steel" zines. That's what I call them, but you can call them what you want, it's basically just raw, uncut, guerrilla thought and talk at its finest!

There are different ways to organize study groups and to conduct study sessions and to have open dialogue and debate going, anything to keep you sharp and intellectually stimulated is good. This is all about making things better for your comrades too.

Taking notes and memorizing them is always important and will definitely keep you sharp and refined. It's good to be a note-taker. You have to keep your sword sharpened at all times, 'cuz you never know when you'll have to pull it out to cut someone's head off, or better yet, to teach others and to help uplift them. Taking notes and trying to memorize those notes is a good way to keep your sword sharpened. Just always remember, knowledge is nothing when it's idle. What makes a person intelligent is knowing how to put all that knowledge to use, and use it to make good things happen. That doesn't only make you intelligent, but it makes you dangerous!

To get study groups going, everybody has to be serious and committed to elevating themselves and their comrades. You can even make a little list of "do's and don'ts" and if a 'rade does something he's not supposed to do, or fails to do something he is supposed to do, he will have to do some type of writing assignment. He hand-writes a copy of a piece of literature, or a chapter out of a book or something, and give his hand-written copy of that piece of literature, or chapter out of a book, or whatever, to one of the members of the study group who needs that particular piece of literature. There are all kinds of things you

Lesson 2 (Christopher)

Comrade, first and foremost, allow me to extend my greetings of solidarity and respect. You don't know how much it means to me to be able to have the opportunity to pick your brain and to be able to engage you in the study session. I appreciate the time you will be putting into this lesson and your eagerness and dedication are very admirable and definitely do not go unnoticed.

Take your time to put some thought into your answers, even if you don't finish this lesson before they move me. You can still send me a copy through Suite or the Octopus. So let's get this shit crackin'.

Solidarity & respect,
Your comrade
Coyote
2-5-11

1) Tell me 5 reasons why white supremacists should not be able to hit the yards here in Nevada.

For me, this question is complex, so bear with me as I do my best to answer - I cannot give you five reasons why "white supremacists" shouldn't be allowed to hit the yard, because I feel that in doing so, I would be saying that I think racism exist amongst whites only, and this would be a poor statement to make.

I notice how in many of the revolutionary and guerrilla newsletters and zines, whenever the topic of racism comes up all anyone mentions are the crimes committed by whites on minorities. Now, I am fully educated on the world's history concerning Europeans seeking to conquer peoples of color and I am aware that white supremacy is still a factor behind the scenes in this country. However, I am only too familiar with the fact that there is a large number of racists amongst people of color as well. Though I have many examples and personal experiences that I could tell of on this matter, I will not do so here. But I will say that if all we do is attack the white racists and hate the Nazis, while neglecting to put in check our own, not only will we be big fucking hypocrites, but we will also run the risk of developing a racist mentality ourselves. It will start as just being "hate white supremacists, but then it's followed by all the documenting of past offenses made by white people towards people of color. And as the anger and hate fester inside, it's no longer "hate the white supremacists", but becomes hate all white people. It's an easy trap to fall in and that's why I have no desire to focus on white supremacists only, but instead I will give you 5 reasons why there shouldn't be any racist (black, white, brown or other) allowed to walk the yards here in Nevada.

- As an anarchist humanist and all around lover of life, it is my belief that there should be equality for all people, regardless of gender, sexuality, religion and especially "race". Racists do not wish for such harmony. They want to see one "race" walk upon the world and in order for that to happen, all the rest of us must be rid of. This being the case, I personally don't want racists anywhere around me.
- While we are trying to establish unity and solidarity amongst all solid men on these yards and in these holes, racists are pushing their ignorant propaganda and causing division which is the exact opposite of what we wish to accomplish.
- It is the duty of anyone doing time out here to clean up these yards, and racists are nothing but trash.
- Because we have enough enemies to deal with as it is, why allow these haters to kick back and build a solid foundation?
- For me, it's like this, I am part Irish and part Chicano. I have a daughter who is part Black! I have friends, comrades and loved ones of all colors. I am doing what I can to better shit for everyone out here. I help spread the word and I fight the enemy that oppresses us all. I'm willing to make sacrifices for everyone who's going through this shit with me. To see racists walking these yards, I become personally offended. The least guys could do, is remove those who're not just my enemy, but are the enemy of any who desire to make things right out here. I hope these answers are satisfactory.

Comments from Christopher

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Hey Coyote, respects are sent!

I really enjoyed reading your answers to this lesson comrade. Your summary was great! The way you opened it by using all the underlined words in the lesson was ingenious. I was definitely feelin' your definition of an "anarcho-guerrilla" too. Good shit. And for your answer to the word "conquer", I couldn't agree more. I was interested in seeing what you had to say about that and I'm glad you wrote what you wrote. The only thing we should wish to conquer is our own lives. I have no problem with using force to gain my freedom!... As to the quote, though, I hear where you're coming from, but I don't believe the writer of that quote (John Lee Anderson) meant it in the way you've perceived it. His choice to use the word "conquer" instead of simply "win" or "gain", was a poor one for sure, but here's what I feel he was trying to express... It's none too difficult to accumulate arms and then go and use them. This country has the largest gun owner population in the world and there is no end to the targets we have here. Politicians, judges, D.A.'s, police, etc. So while fighting a war is most certainly harsh, it's really not hard to start one or jump in the middle of one. But it's a little different when it comes to winning over the people. For they (we) have been brainwashed for years beyond years, and still we have the oppressors whispering in our ears trying to further fill our heads with poisoned doctrine, so it is that when we come along with the words of truth, the people automatically struggle with using their common sense, better judgement, etc. Either out of fear or out of habit or both. So it is not a battle with the people, but a battle with those who preach to them the sermons of the state and its laws. The victors of this battle receive the minds and hearts of the people for better or worse, as the "prize". And since there is no revolution without the people, I feel that is the one goal to gain their acceptance. That's why it's so important for us to raise awareness and consciousness... anyway, that is just my take on it.

All in all, your work was grand and I wish we had longer to study together. But we'll probably be around each other again in a couple of months.

Stay up & Stand strong
Christopher

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can do and come up with, as long as it's all productive and designed to uplift and benefit everybody in the study group, that's all that matters. Once your wheels start spinning, you'll figure out creative ways to get study groups and sessions going.

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Sometimes these sessions can be verbal sessions, like open dialogue, or even debates, and sometimes you can switch it up and have written study sessions, like essays, articles, summaries, book reports, and things like that. You just have to make sure that there are enough reading materials to go around for everybody, do what you gotta do to make sure you and all of your comrades are stocked up with a good amount of literature, even if you guys have to make hand-written copies of entire books, or whatever it takes.

Elevation requires determination. There's no better time and place to learn new things, to grow and elevate and to get your mind right, than the time you have right here, right now, we can turn these prisons into straight revolutionary universities if we're serious about it. And if you're not serious about cultivating your mind, elevating yourself, and trying to better your position in life, then what are you serious about?

This is the pedagogy of the oppressed. This is how we take control of our own lives, turning a bad situation into a beneficial situation. This is how we lift ourselves up and rise against the system. We have to educate ourselves, change our thinking, strategize, take action. It all starts right here, it starts with elevating our thoughts. So here's a blueprint on how to get started, now that you know, do it!

Keep the fire burning, keep your heart set on truthfulness and your mind set on organizing you and yours. Be flexible, but be ready for whatever. Chance favors a prepared mind, so prepare yourself, 'cuz you never know what's gonna happen next, you never know what type of opportunity awaits you, or what will come your way. So be ready, get your mind right and your game tight, with purpose and meaning in your life.

Solidarity and Respect
Coyote
July 22nd, 2008
Anarchist Black Cross
Nevada Prison Chapter

LET'S GET ORGANIZED. LET'S GET OURSELVES TOGETHER! STAND FOR FREEDOM. BE ABOUT ACTION! BE FOR THE PEOPLE AND KEEP THAT REVOLUTIONARY LOVE IN YOUR HEART!

Lesson 1 (Coyote)

Comrade: Allow me to open by saying that I appreciate your willingness and eagerness to participate in this study. As you know, it is crucial that we keep our minds active while being held in this lock down environment. What's more, is due to the fact that we are anarcho-guerrillas. We must strive to acquire all the weapons we can and make sure that we learn to use them so that can apply them at every possible opportunity against the enemy. This includes those weapons of the mind; thought bombs, brain grenades, etc. Words can hurt and knowledge is dangerous. "Combat is absolutely necessary, but this political work, where the guerrillas conquer the hearts and minds of the people, is the war's real battle ground." This being the case, these study sessions are meant to grease the gun barrels of the mind and help keep our "scopes" in focus. I hope that you can benefit from the following exercise and I look forward to reading your work.

In solidarit
Your comrade Christopher 1.30.1

Directions: Please copy the following lesson exactly how you see it on a separate piece of paper.

1) Tell me what each of the underlined words mean to you.

Comrade: In my opinion, to be a 'comrade' means to be someone who is actively involved in the revolutionary struggle; the struggle for the people; for liberation; to be free from hierarchy and free from oppression. A comrade is someone who will always and forever stand against the oppressor and stand with and for the people, always. A comrade is someone who has dedicated their time, energy and their life to the struggle for freedom and to the struggle for the people and someone who lives this out everyday of his life, even it's just "me against the world"; even if you're the only one doing it, because in your heart you know it's right and it's what's supposed to be done. There are comrades all over the world, on the outs, behind enemy lines, city to city, state to state and country to country, of all different ethnicities, skin colors and who speak different languages, but in our hearts the ideas are still the same, and that's why we're never alone. As long as there is oppression and injustice in this world, there will always be a "comrade" in this world, ready to fight or even die for the beautiful idea of freedom that fervently beats inside his/her implacable heart. To me, that's what it means to be a comrade.

Study: To study means to really apply yourself on an intellectual level. It means to use your mind to acquire new knowledge, whether it's only just a small amount of knowledge, or a plethora of knowledge; one studies to learn something new, in the hopes of being able to apply this knowledge, somehow, someday. It's more than just reading a book; it's reading and taking notes, it's writing essays or book reports, taking tests and being quizzed. It's an exercise sharpening the wit and strengthening the mind. It's not like where you just read something here and there, and then put the book down and in 20 minutes you forgot what you've read, but it's something you're doing because you're actually trying to *retain* this knowledge in which you seek to acquire, storing it securely in your mind and adding it to your intellectual arsenal. Those who study are those who truly know that knowledge is strength. I believe that you don't really know something until you know it by heart, and that's what studying is about, basically just trying to be able to know something by heart.

Active: To be active is like being a "live" grenade ready to go off! When you go off, you penetrate and affect those around you. You do this in a positive way of course. When you're active, people are really feeling your vibe, they resonate with what you're saying and what you're doing with the energy you're putting out and they feel inclined to get involved with what you're involved in, they want to help and they want to participate, because they're really feeling you and they really like what you're doing. To be an active person means to be someone who is known to cause actions to happen and who can (and does) bring about changes. It's about being explosive or influential, it's knowing that you're alive and being lively. To have an active mind is to have a dangerous mind to – and what makes you so dangerous, is *knowing that you can!!!*

Anarcho-guerrillas: An "Anarcho-guerrilla" is a term that I myself coined for anarchists who are trained soldiers who would be willing and able to volunteer themselves in the event of a revolution. These are anarchists who are trained in self-defense tactics, such as practical methods of martial arts (such as krav-maga), weapons training, vehicle and aircraft operations (optional), communications, and other activities and functions that are in conjunction with methods of direct action and guerrilla warfare. An anarcho-guerrilla is someone who studies and practices the tactics of guerrilla warfare, and needless to say, is someone who is well-versed in

minds of the people is the real battle ground, because I don't really look at it as a battle, but just as work that needs to be done. Not all anarchists are "propagandists", some just do what they do, living out their everyday lives as anarchists, not really caring if others embrace anarchism or not. And even though I am a propagandist, I still don't see it as a battle, it's just part of my life. I think the real battlefield is this thing called "life", and just trying to live it the best we can without allowing ourselves to become robots, that's the battle. It's a battle against conformity, against authority; it's the battle for our everyday individual freedom.

2) Who do you believe to be our (Anarchists) biggest enemy and why?

The State. Capitalism. Dictatorship. Authority and authoritarianism. Fascism. Imperialism. The system of oppression, domination and coercive force. Why? Because these are the things that are telling us "we must obey or else...", because under their power we have to either become robots or find ourselves locked up behind enemy lines. Because these are the forces that have assumed complete control over our lives, imposing their dominance over us to the point that it has become a phenomenon to think for ourselves, and one day, if things keep going like this, they are even gonna call it a *crime* to think for ourselves! Because with these systems in place, our lives are always threatened and our freedom is always compromised.

3) What do you believe your foremost duty as an Anarchist is?

Good question! To be human. To assume control over my own life, and not become a slave or a robot. Non-conformity. Because when you conform, you basically give up your identity as a human, you basically give up on being human. And now you're a sheep.

4) Summarize what you feel you have learned/gained from this lesson.

Summary: To summarize what this lesson was about, let me just put it like this: Comrades who study and who stay active are the type of *anarcho-guerrillas* who always strive to apply tactics of survival when in confrontation with the enemy; who tries to limit and prohibit our knowledge, because they know that knowledge is strength, and by keeping us weak they keep us conquered; so when we come together on the battle ground, our solidarity must be strong and unbreakable...

What I've gained from this lesson is that I am able to write about things other than prison, which is what I usually write about. But this lesson has allowed to really put my thoughts, beliefs and ideas down on paper, in a way where they can be received and embraced. Even though it took me a week to do this lesson, I still feel that if I really would've taken more time to put more thought into this, I really could've tightened this up and made it even better, but this experience has definitely given me the confidence to start writing anarchist literature and zines again. So I guess I'll stop writing prison zines for a while and start working on this type of literature now. Thanks for your encouragement and for the good questions and the lesson, I hope you get as much out of this as I have. And you can believe that my lesson that I'll have for you will be one that will make you think and allow you to apply yourself, the way you've made me think and apply myself here! Alright comrade, thanks again. Keep the fire of resistance burning strong inside your warrior's soul, with the joy for love, freedom and life going strong inside your beautiful, unbreakable heart! Stay dangerous, and keep the struggle up!

Your comrade,
Coyote
2-4-11

Solidarity & Respects.

(B): Yeah, I hate the system, I hate racism, I hate oppression, I hate the State, I hate capitalism, I hate the police, all that's true; I hate a lot of things, but I'd like to believe that what really drives me, what *really* motivates me is not my hate as much as it is my love, because the love I have is revolutionary, things aren't built on hate, things are only destroyed on hate, but things are built on love, love is a beautiful foundation.

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Organization: When like-minds do like-things, you have organization.

(A): An anarchist organization is an organization without hierarchical order or coercive demand, an anarchist organization is built on self-determination, free association and voluntarism.

(B): Anarchism is a libertarian organization, where each individual depends not on leadership, but instead relies on his/her own strength, and relies on solidarity, individual initiative and is made up of free-thinking individuals. It is an organization that gives the minority rights in the process of decision-making.

Struggle: To make strenuous efforts against opposition while striving to uplift and liberate ourselves and each other.

(A): As an anarchist, my struggle is the struggle of the people, whatever impositions they're struggling against, you can believe I'm right there struggling with them!

(B): The struggle for liberation, the struggle for equality, and the struggle for autonomy, these are just some of the things I struggle for, these are the struggles that I live for and these are the struggles that I'm willing to die for, if need be.

3) Answer the following questions.

1) Do you agree with the statement that winning the hearts and minds of the people is the real battle ground? Please explain your answer.

Well, it depends on how you mean it, bro. I agree that it's necessary to raise consciousness in the hearts and minds of others, so that they can break the shackles of their minds and begin to learn how to think for themselves rather than letting others – the majority, those in control, etc. – to do the thinking for them. I believe that once our minds are liberated, once we've become efficient at thinking for ourselves, then it's only automatic that we start taking control of our own lives. This is definitely something we can do every day and we can start by refusing to let others make our choices for us. All we have to do, really, is start making our own choices, based upon what's right and wrong to us, as individuals, and reject the "right and wrong" that's imposed upon us by those in control, or by the majority, otherwise we're not really making choices for ourselves, but rather we are letting the so-called powerful dictate our lives, and we all know that the people in power never have our best interests at heart. The only power anybody has over us is the power we give them, but we can take all this power away from them by making our own choices, living out our own dreams and refusing to place our freedom and our lives and our destinies in the hands of others. I'm a firm believer that most people are more confident in themselves to decide what they should do and should not do, more than they are confident in allowing any authority to dictate it to them.

It's important that we raise consciousness and propagate anarchist theory, yes. I believe that once people really understand what anarchism really is and what it's really about, that they will be inclined to embrace it on their own accord, whether they want to call themselves anarchists or not, it doesn't really matter. But even if people decide not to listen, and not to embrace anarchist thought and theory, it doesn't stop us from being anarchists or living as such, because we can and will continue to be what we are and do what we do, no matter how limited we are. So with that said, no, I don't necessarily agree with the statement that winning the hearts and

the history, applications and methods of guerrilla warfare. Anarcho-guerrillas are also propagandists of anarchist thought and theory. These are comrades who desire peace and harmony, but who are willing to engage in armed struggle and direct action in order to defend themselves, achieve liberty, and to bring forth a revolution – with the support and approval of the people, of course.

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Strive: The word "strive" is usually used in conjunction with the word "struggle". "To struggle and strive". To strive means to put your heart into something, it means to try, to make a heartfelt effort, especially in the face of adversity, when the odds seem stacked against you and nothing's going your way but you keep pushing forward, you keep going, you keep trying, because you want things to get better. That's what it means to strive.

Apply: Someone once asked me if I had any appliances in my cell. I told him: when you apply yourself you don't need any appliances.

A couple of years later, someone else asked what appliances I had in my cell and I told him: "Books"!

To apply means to be able to put to use what you actually know. Knowledge is useless when it's idle, it's no good. What's the point of learning something new if you're not going to do anything useful with the things you've learned?

Also, we can apply ourselves, make ourselves useful, help out, participate in good causes that bring about meaningful changes. It means to devote yourself or your efforts.

Enemy: For some the word "enemy" means "opposition", meaning someone who opposes you, opposes your ways, ideas, beliefs, etc., but for me the enemy isn't someone who opposes, but who oppresses. The State, the system, capitalism, dictatorship, hierarchy, authoritarianism, fascism conformity. All enemies of freedom are enemies of mine.

Knowledge: Some people say "knowledge is power", but I say "knowledge is strength", because I've learned to respect strength and to despise power (because absolute power corrupts absolutely). Knowledge, to me, is understanding. When we have an understanding of life, self, others (especially loved ones), the world, we have guidance. When you *know*, you don't need to be told, you don't need to be instructed, because when you "know" you "do". So, to me, knowing is doing. That's where the strength comes in. Knowledge gives us the strength to do what we *know*. When you're able to do what you know, then you are strong. Strong people – the real strong people – are those that try to help and uplift those that are not strong. With knowledge we are liberated. When we know better, we do better. When we know what the problem is, we strive to fix it. When we know who the enemy is, we strive to eliminate the enemy. With knowledge, we're armed and dangerous.

Conquer: I don't like the word "conquer", just as I don't like those who wish to conquer. The divided are conquered by the powerful, and the powerful never have the best interests of the people at heart.

A conqueror is an oppressor. When one group of people conquers another group of people, it is usually to enforce a level of mastery over that people.

When I look up the word "conquer" in my Thesaurus, it tells me to go look up the synonyms for the word "triumph". These synonyms are:

To get the better of, best, conquer, master, overcome, prevail (over or against), surmount, worst, defeat, exult.

So, you see why I don't like the word conquer? It is an imposition of force. I would never wish to conquer anyone's heart or mind. I'd want people to love me because they want to love me, and because they've chosen to love on their own accord. People should be able to think and feel whatever they like. Sure, it's okay to try to influence people to do better, it's okay to influence people if they're willing to be influenced, and as long as it's beneficial to them, then I don't see no problem with it. But to conquer, now that's something completely different, I'm not with that. Yes, indeed it's necessary for us to propagate our ideas so that people can get a true understanding of what anarchism is, and so that they can see that anarchism would serve the best interests of all the people. But we can't make them embrace anarchism as their own political theory, we can't make them become anarchists. That's a decision that they would ultimately have to make on their own, there's absolutely no "conquering" to it. We will always be for the people, whether they're with us or not, and the day we have the people with us, then we can all come together and conquer the conquerors, so that we can do away with conquering once and for all.

Battle ground: Depending on what context you're using this in, a battle ground can be many different things. If you're using it in a metaphorical context, well then you can say that, in a sense, life is a battle, or that we face many different battles in life, and the battlefield is where these battles are fought, "the battlefield of life".

People battle with cancer, people battle with addiction, people battle with obesity, people battle with "morality", there are many different types of battles in life, but I think our biggest battles are the battles with ourselves.

Now, if you're talking about a battle ground in the actual, physical sense, well then I'd say that a battle ground is the place where wars are fought, where blood is shed and where people die... I'm not at war with the people, per se, I'm more at war with the ideologies that keep the people enslaved, oppressed and at war with themselves. It is not until I encounter those people who try to impose their oppressive or fascist ideologies on the rest of the people that I am at war. And when that happens, the battle ground can take many different shapes and forms; it can be a battle ground where we engage in verbal combat, as we debate our opposing philosophies, or it can be the type of battle ground where we engage in physical combat. It all depends on the opponent and the circumstances.

I feel that all we can do is try to find ways where we can propagate our ideas effectively and try to enlighten people, but I don't see this as a war, but just as work that needs to be done.

Solidarity: Ah, my favorite word! An example of solidarity would be like, say, when you have a group of people all going through a similar situation, and everybody in that group tries to come together to help make sure everybody pulls through it. It's when people come together, and work together, and help each other out. I might even come across some people who are going through a particular hardship or situation in life that might not even directly affect me, but yet, 'cuz I see those people struggling, and I'm in a position to offer my support, I do so. That's solidarity. Solidarity is a type of unity or bond between people who share a common belief, common interests, or common struggles. Solidarity is the best thing going!

Give a definition to each of the following words and then write two sentences, using each word, pertaining to anarchism.

Anarchism (definition): without coercive authority, without government or hierarchy.

(A): To me, the word anarchism is a lot like the word altruism, because, in a way, it's like having an unselfish interest of the welfare of other people; so in this sense, it's more than just living

without coercive authority, but it's also about being for the people, especially the downtrodden, poor and oppressed peoples.

(B): Anarchism is a way of life, an outlook on life and just a way to see and be in the world, and there are many different strains of anarchism, but for myself, what I do as an anarchist defines what anarchism means to me; this makes me a "self-defined anarchist".

Awareness: Awareness is knowing; it's having knowledge or consciousness of things.

(A): Raising awareness is one of my main objectives as a member of the Anarchist Black Cross, because when people see what's happening, they know what's happening, and when you've become aware that the things that are happening shouldn't be happening; then, unless you're paralyzed by cowardice, you become someone who takes direct action against these occurrences that you know shouldn't be occurring.

(B): If knowledge is strength, then why wouldn't we want to heighten the awareness of the people, why would we want people to stay blind, ignorant, weak, powerless and obedient?

Cooperation: It means to be able to work in unison and in solidarity with others; mutual aid.

(A): Without the aid, support and cooperation of the people, the struggle for liberation is limited and basically ineffective. We need the people and the people need us; that's why cooperation is so important when it comes to attaining liberty.

(B): Anarchism means cooperation; it means figuring out ways to cooperate and work together to meet our individual needs, it's a way for us to work with each other rather than working "for" each other, or even against each other. We can't do this without cooperation, and when I say cooperation, I mean "voluntary cooperation", not coercion.

Dedication: Means to have your heart set on applying anarchist principles to your everyday life, devoted to being free, living with no gods, no masters.

(A): Comrade, I am very impressed with your dedication to passing out literature and zines, and with your efforts to create new literature, all in the attempt to raise the level of consciousness in the hearts and minds of our fellow prisoners.

(B): As an anarchist, I feel that my dedication is to the people and to the struggle for liberty and equality, this is why I'm so intent on raising awareness and this is why my solidarity to the oppressed is so strong.

Loyalty: It means to stand by your comrades side, even in the face of adversity, and not to snitch, or betray your friends.

(A): My loyalty is to humanity as a whole, to the people, the community — especially the anarchist community, and to the struggle for liberty.

(B): Comrade, I can't even begin to tell you how much your loyalty means to me in this struggle, and I can assure you my loyalty to you is just as strong, but my actions should already speak for themselves.

Love: Love is compassion. To be compassionate means to be able to acknowledge the sufferings of others (whether they express it or not), and not only acknowledge it, but also to make attempts to ease their sufferings, regardless of whether there's personal rewards for these attempts, or not. We don't do it for the rewards, but we do it because of the love we have inside us. Love is revolutionary!

(A): My love for the people, my love for liberty and justice, my love for solidarity and for equality, is the only thing that keeps me hanging on, it's this love that dwells deep inside me which compels me.