

Papyrus Collective

California Death Row



Between the Bars
Human stories from prison

SPECIAL THANKS TO:



South Chicago ABC Zine Distro

AnthonyRayson@hotmail.com

#WRITEORDIE6

poetry



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#thenewpoliticalprisoner



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@GOLGOTHA



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Why Now? w/ Replies

Piankhi -- Editor

writeordie310@yahoo.com ← betweenthebars.org/1916/write-or-die

Xyzyst -- Co-Editor ← betweenthebars.org/group/papco

atgolgotha.org ← betweenthebars.org/group/papyruscollective

David Pierce -- transcriptions

davidpierce.org/deathrow

Anthony Rayson ← anthonyrayson@hotmail.com

ABC Zine Distro



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For the first time in California state history, A New Generation of inner-city youth housed on Death Row at San Quentin State Prison are taking matters into their own hands with an inspiring movement geared to educate the public, specifically the "next generation" of their youth, portraying ruinous patterns of social and economic gain for corrupt law-enforcement and justice system officials alike, redefining the words, "Political Prisoner".

Despite little journalistic acclaim and even fewer resources, this crusade emerged from a vision had by a wise young man who chose to assemble a creative writing group comprised primarily of condemned youth, dubbed Papyrus Collective (PAPCO).

Understood for generations, the term "political prisoner" has been predominantly (and respectfully) tied to revolutionary and freedom fighters everywhere.

PAPCO has begun publishing their own mini magazine (ZINE) now known as, "Write or Die". Their underground guerrilla-like periodical is fast becoming an innovative outlet to exhibit poetry, columns, essays, artwork, photos, and unedited shoptalk between themselves from inside Death Row in a popular section called "@Golgotha", made available both online at www.betweenthebars.org and in print, directed to the streets of America's inner cities, giving rise to the fight for true freedom while preventing illegal captures of our next generation, literally.


With www.deathrowinmate.org (DRI) graciously hosting the workshop efforts, PAPCO thrives online as a platform for society to consume relevant and valuable information slated to impart "reality" upon today's youth, before they (like us) fall victim to the deathtrap which anxiously awaits them. PAPCO's many voices aim to unmask the face of the new political prisoner behind the nation's every detention facility and penitentiary, compounds that warehouse generation after generation of men and women serving unjustified sentences for "Street Level" offenses.

Death Row is no longer a place for the so-called serial killer, child molester, or media-born foreign bomber type. Read unending stories, solution-based ideas, and challenging calls for self-leadership amongst our youth --- forward motion without breaks. Join hands with PAPCO in our mission to keep the next

generation informed and out of prison, stand obliged to alert communities that inner-city youth are indeed, "at-risk". We challenge the public, specifically our local youth leaders, to make inquiries as to the many undisclosed benefits given to those who determine the fate of tomorrow's political prisoner --- our children.

Epitome of Punishment

by: Xyzst (exist)

 audio @ davidpierce.org/deathrow

Here I am very far
Needles near my veins and arms
Because I've strived to be someone
Now they won't let me see no one

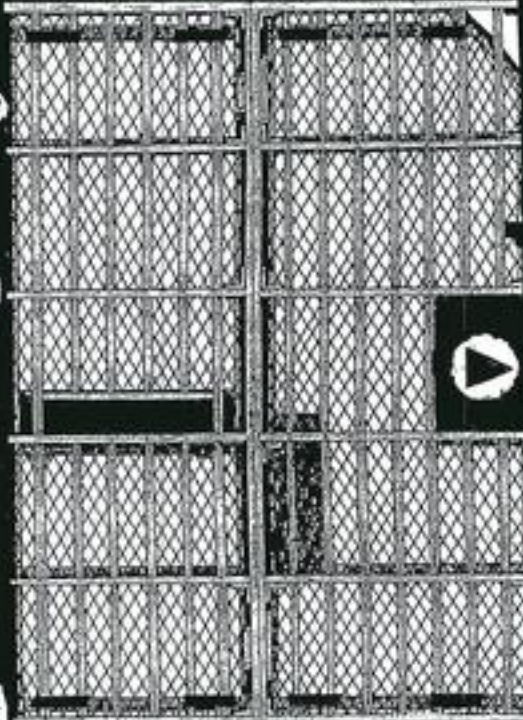
In tragedy, I plant my feet
My life is almost lost and long gone
System take my life away
and it won't be long

Now will I dance in the doom
Will Satan have an upper room
How can a brotha be so strong
will dying kind of last too long

Can't go to sleep, can't feel my feet
I'm feeling kinda slipped away yeah
ain't nothing right about this wrong
won't be long

And if I get the chance to sing one more song
I'm going to kick no turning back all night long
I'm going to sing as long as I can still breathe
Commence the time, Trauma, death penalty

Epitome of Punishment - Take my life away
Epitome of Punishment - driving me insane
Epitome of Punishment - Will it be too late
Epitome of Punishment - How long will I have to wait



ART BY: COWBOY

B.R.E.A.T.H.E.

By Mahdi

(B)IO
(R)HYTHMICY
(E)NTITY
(A)LTERNATING
(T)HROUGH
(H)EAVENS
(E)TERNITY

Get up, breathe!
Wake up, breathe!
Sleep, breathe!
Dream, breathe!
Explore, breathe!
To know, to learn, to become, breathe!
To enjoy, to live, to love, to stand, breathe!
Create, breathe!

What God has done to us all, breathe!
What life has provided for us all, breathe!
How do I know you and you know me? Breathe!
To understand what life is, you have to breathe!
May God be as we... breathe!

BREATHE

Paradise Lost By Battle

I've been believing
In something
So distant
as if I was human
and I've been denying
this feeling
of hopelessness in me

All the promises I've made
Just to let you down
again, and again
You believing in me
but I've been broken

Now I have nothing left
and all I feel
is this cruel waiting
and I've been falling
for all this time
and now
I feel lost to paradise

As much as I'd like
the past not to exist
it still does
and as much as I'd like
to feel like
I belong here
I'm just lost here too

if I could just run away
just to run away
maybe, one day
I won't feel this pain anymore

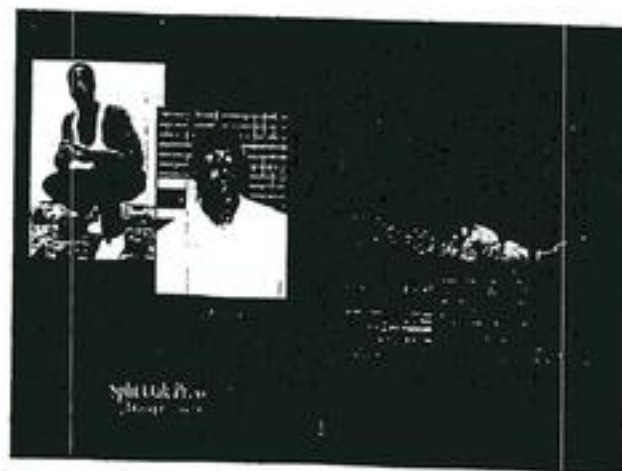
But if you could take it all away
all these shadows of you
'cause they won't leave
or let me go

So I have nothing left
and all I feel
Is this cruel wanting
I've been falling without you
for all this time
that now
I feel lost to paradise
alone here
and lost to paradise

Deliverance

By Steve Champion © 2014

Sun-baked people
Hands ascending
toward the heavens
feet planted beneath gravels
of the earth.
Lifting our voices to sing:
deliver us from this hell
in a strange land.
Our soul wanders
Our heart yearns
to be free
to return home.



Steve Champion is on California's death row at San Quentin. Send our brother some love and light: Steve Champion, C-58001, San Quentin State Prison, San Quentin CA 94974. And read his book, "Deed to Deliverance: A Death Row Memoir," available at amazon.com or Split Oak Press, splitoakpress.com.

By: Richard G.

Dragon's Lair

I have a story to tell, if you'll listen,
Of days long ago... and one disposition.

They were winged majestic beings,
With glowing eyes, and purple-wings.

Scales of armor, chests of steel,
Life breathing dragon is for real.

They were an unpopular lot, as you will see,
Now they will never be free.

Many condemned men were given a chance,
"Slay a dragon in it's lair —here's your lance."

The search for the infamous went far, and wide,
There wasn't a safe place anywhere he could find.

Now this dragon lived in a one room cell,
Here, prisoners turned assassins would send him to hell.

I'm that dragon, and I can relate to it's slayer,
It's just a matter of time before I die,
In the dragon's lair.



No Foreseeable End...

By Jeffree Jay Buettner

I've inadvertently become everything,
I never wanted to be.
I am conflicted.
It's annoying.
The absurdity is appalling.
The right is no right!
To follow in steps before.
Making sense of ill reasoned contempt.
Foolishness abounds.
A wave of nausea washes over me.
Utter hopelessness.
End without sight.
Acute disdain.
Seething unrest.
Straining to burst forth.
Rigid resolve to maintain.
The night continues.
With no foreseeable end.



San Quentin Adjustment Center — Photo: Mark Scott Thornton

@Golgotha w/ Prose & Konz

By: Xzyzst

The Back Story

For a few months now, Piankhi has been saying that he wants the Write or Die Zine Project to produce an all poetry issue.

How perfect is it that California death row inmates now have access to a creative writing poetry group that we call a class because we learn so much, and one of the mental health care staff, a sista we all call "Ms. Pam", facilitates the poetry group, literally in a classroom located below the surface of San Quentin State Prison.

For many years, condemned inmates was not allowed to participate in educational programs in the prison, now, a new generation of inner city youth being housed on death row in California have gathered, "in class", in tribute of Ms. Pam, in an effort to say "thank you" for bringing, and returning her poetry sessions to Condemned Row.

Today is also a time to conduct an @Golgotha style session because Ms. Pam is not here, and we have a substitute facilitator who has agreed to allow us to plot this surprise salute to our sista Ms. Pam as we plan to present her with a full autographed copy of the Write or Die Zine Project's "Prose and Konz" issue.

I began the cipher by reading a poem that was composed by one of our own titled "Persevere", I told everyone that I would reveal the name of the author at the end of the session, after my recital of "Persevere", the discussion @Golgotha continued:

Enjoy your reading!

Persevere



By Anthony Cain

No one seems to value treasures in truth!
Quickly embracing lies without appropriate proof

Ears fall deaf to wisdom's constant reproaching.
Strongest of eyes fail to see demise approaching.

So many emotional fires that burn,
Surrounded by evil at every turn!

The shield of righteousness works over time,
To remove agony imprinted on heart and mind!

An intrusion of darkness deep within,
Tragedy's plea to be one's best friend!
As morals and principles rapidly disappear,
I'm destined to survive and Persever!

@
G
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@Golgotha:

Smith: No, I thought it was important, see, to me, it doesn't matter because I don't look at race, we're all the same to me, I like it in here, but when I speak my mind, I get into trouble sometimes, so I...

Glen: I wasn't going to let you just not, do you, man, you can help me save my life, or lace my kids just by what you say, we help ourselves and each other when we speak our minds, so I'm glad you decided to say what you wanted to say because you gave us more insight into the reality of the situation.

Bugg: I also wanted to say something about the quality of the conversations in this class, you know, while the guys was talking, I was sitting here, and I just wrote this: reciting:

"Accusations by society...
Can be unfounded,
In honor of Ms. Pam
Our facilitator
Who helps us stay grounded."

(group applause)

People have heard about this class, and in a good way, people are talking about it, an' BG, you know how it can be, because we was celled next door to each other, how sometimes people can look at the mental health program in a...

BG: Stigmatizing way...

Bugg: Or however it plays out in their minds, like, making comments.

BG: Oh yeah, especially when they call it out over the unit P.A. system, you hear all of that, staying in what they know, in a state of ignorance, scared of embracing change, they don't realize that change will smack your ass in the face, so when me and you would talk to each other, others in the area would rather we talk about all of the negative bullshit that's going on, or the negativity that they be putting out there, man, we don't want to sit up and talk about bullshit all day, and for people like Piankhi, Wrinkles, Johnny Blaze and Banks, who was all in this class from day one, we all carry the positive energies with us...

Xzyzst: Instead of walking around here all miserable. Piankhi is sitting right here, so let me ask you about your mind state when you decided to do an all poetry zine?

Piankhi: Man, I'm just a fly on the wall, y'all pretty much got this covered, but what I will say is that, now that I've been in here, I've learned that Ms. Pam is not how I had perceived her to be before when I saw her in passing, in the unit, I see her totally different now.

Xzyzst: Now, I'm going to tell y'all who wrote "Persevere", Wrinkles wrote this piece, and it's a good thing that he and Pam both are not here today because I want him to receive his surprise blessing as his work was for us and this @Golgotha cipher.

(Entire class applauding the work of Wrinkles.)

@Golgotha:

Glen: That's tight, it speaks to like, the heart of what the problem is, especially around this place because it gets real easy to get caught up in negativity, and the thing about this class is we get to vent, and go all over the world with just conversations that inspire all types of poetry and writings and I'm just glad to see you youngsters shine and feel like, a part of the growth.

Piankhi (speaking under his breath): You are a part of it.

Battle: There's a part of that poem about fire, each one of us have a different fire and light that eventually comes out in all of us, probably even more for us on death row or who are in these kinds of situations, but everybody has different ways to express their own individual fire, and as far as this class goes, it's like a safe haven that is set in a different environment and setting where fire can both burn and purify without anybody feeling restrained.

BG: That's why I love to use those terms like fire, burn.

Glen: Purification.

BG: Yeah, exactly, because fire, when used in the right way, can be used to clean certain foods from impurities and all kinds of stuff, both positive and negative, spirituality, your organs and nervous system can all be affected by burning energies, especially when, or for those that hit that abyss, and when it becomes harder to come back out of those states of mind.

Xzyzst: Speak to the energy shift on death row, like, this morning for instance, somebody said something over the wire that was foul, but knowing that I was about to come over here with y'all, I didn't allow for this death row energy to fuck up my...

BG: People come along like Issa, Scheuderie, D. White, Dixon, Zimmerman, Valentine, Cleaves, Corby, Pam and a few others, it's just certain ones that you meet that you know right away that this person is here for the better reasons and are trustworthy and ain't all caught up in the bullshit around here.

Bugg: Yeah, because it's noticeable too. (everybody in agreement)

BG: See, you can take one moment of a person's character and be blinded by negativity because you miss out on your blessings by judgment, don't get me wrong, we all measure and judge, it's in our nature, math, history, you name it, but sometimes when we misjudge people due to small moments of negativity, we can easily miss the blessings of people like Pam who facilitates this poetry class. You see, I'm glad Piankhi is doing this so now Pam, and all of them can see that they are important in more ways than we can express, at least, those of us that do.

Xzyzst: Last week, I noticed that our Jewish bro held off on what you was originally going to say, so, this is for Smith, how important was it for you when the OG was like, "Speak your mind because..."

Glen: I felt it was important for you to know that we're all one up in here and...

Xzyzst: Exactly, and I'm glad you did speak out. My question is do you feel, because of your racial diversity that you are like...

Piankhi: Yeah, I wanted to put "Persevere" in WOD issue #4, but I'm glad it was done like this now that I can see how this turned out.

Xzyzst: As soon as I read it I automatically knew, that what greater way can we hold up our sista Pam, the facilitator of our poetry class, than to do it @Golgotha, while highlighting the work of one of her own poets. I've learned a lot about myself and others just by being in this class and supporting your ideas about the WOD zine project, from my own work, to guys like Battle, who sent me a piece he wrote about his daughter, I had no idea the level of...

Glen: Heat?

Xzyzst: Yeah, the level of heat he was coming with...

BG: Can't nobody say Piankhi ain't doing nothing, or being productive, a lot of youngsters don't realize the freedom of creative writing like this, perseverance, aspirations, inspiration, the vision of positivity, all that comes with the developmental process of mental stability in places like this, Piankhi understood early.

Xzyzst: The mental health program is no longer operating on the 1980s model, this is a new generation all the way around, it takes a strong solid mind to take advantage of every opportunity to rise above any fall. Nobody can deliver a worthy critique of something they have not experienced, and most often, experience can be our greatest teacher. Thanks, Pam, for this experience, we dedicate this issue to you.



*The
woman
who holds
Knowledge
Holds the
Key
To Freedom
Combined
with wisdom
and her
Serenity*

D. Howard

Sun 2 Son's

by: Xyzst (exist)



There is a new generation of Inner City Youth now being housed on California Death Row.

We want to alert society that a portion of us are assigned to participate in yard time in an area at Unit East Block, located inside the walls of San Quentin State Prison in what is commonly known as "The Grade A Walk Alone Cage Area".

This area is totally covered by a metal cover that was originally built during World War II when inmates was making ropes for the U.S. Military when the ropes and working inmates got wet from the rain, the large structure was built.

Human Rights

It is now the year 2014, Hitler has been dead for quite some time now and nobody is making rope anymore, in fact, now there is a total of 32 cages, single man cages that ironically resemble the Nazi doctor Josef Mengele design. Fixed into doggy kennel style rows under the large rusting, rotting and deteriorating metal structure, and you wont believe the amount of bird poop & feathers in this area.

A fluctuating number of condemned inmates are now forced to participate in recreation times inside of these single man cages under The Metal Structure; and in combination of The dark golf course like screen that now totally wraps around this area. These men are deprived access to direct sunlight. I am one of these men, I have not had direct access to sunlight in 3 years, some of the fellas have been without The Sun, real dirt and grass for 6 years.

Our skin is now pale, some of us are Vitamin D deficient, most are depressed, have muscle and joint pain, excessive daytime sleeping etc...

We are only allowed to go to these cages for 3 days a week, for the remaining 4 days of the week we are confined to cells, constituting ZERO access to direct sunlight for months and years at a time. This is torture and inhumane treatment.

The prison has noted a rise in suicides in the condemned population in a recent San Quentin news paper, google it.

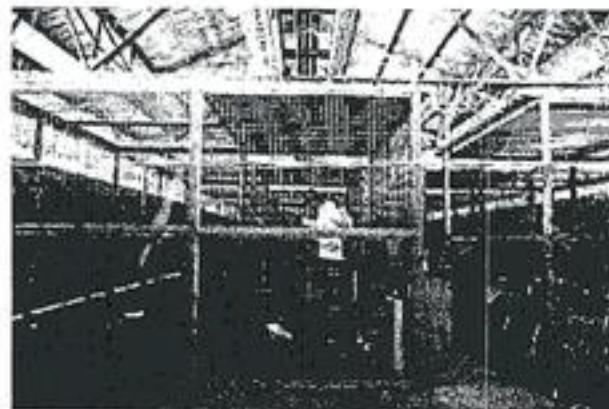
What the article fails to address was the rise in unsuccessful suicide attempts by death row inmates, specifically those of us who are assigned to the dark yard caged area and 24 hour a day cell confinement.

Some of us have been moved to the prisons Mental Health Wing of the prison hospital, others like myself, still are assigned to the dark cages, and others just started not coming out at all due to the unconstitutional conditions of the area.

'We Will Not Let Them Break Us'

Your voice, resources and attention is now required to please call San Quentin State Prison Warden and the Director of CDCR Mr. Heard and demand that we are allowed direct access to sunlight during exercise yard times in areas of the prison where sunlight is accessible to other condemned prisoners who are similarly situated and are also assigned to the same privilege group.

NONE of us are under any disciplinary detention, so please lend your voice to this New Movement that we are calling "Sun 2 Sons"!! Thank you for your attention.



These San Quentin exercise cages are covered with a roof that allows in sunlight only through rust holes and keeps out the prying eyes of visitors. - Photo: Lucy Nicholson, Reuters



South Chicago ABC Zine Distro
Box 721, Homewood, IL 60430

anthonyrayson@hotmail.com



Write Or Die: Zine Project

betweenthebars.org/group/papco/



PAPYRUS COLLECTIVE

Distro

1 This collective presentation by California's young "condemned" prisoners marks a historic compilation.
The first (of an ongoing series) 802L007HA interviews with California's Death Row's youngest new condemned, this issue represents an insight & perspective from the lives of a New Generation who're the hidden face of California's dysfunctional death system in a way never before articulated and compiled. Introduction by prominent anarchist, activist, author, & editor of South Chicago ABC Zine Distro, Anthony Rayson.



2 An intimate & empowering expression of love, encouragement, and reconciliation put to words through letters, articles, and poetry to women at home & behind bars. Beautifully illustrated, this SPECIAL EDITION is dedicated to all those women on the front as well as behind the lines. Falla's, share this zine with those special women in your lives.

SPECIAL EDITION

3 This issue is full of commentary, articles, reviews, interviews, and information that gives a broad and in-depth view of California's Death Penalty system, the laws, policies, & bureaucracy that lives within the "Just Us" mindset, a place beyond our abilities to ignore.
With multiple (802L007HA) interview segments, this zine features a lengthy interview by Pianchi with Anthony Rayson about W002P, prisoner stints, and their underground culture.



4 From cover-to-cover, art and imagery guide readers through awareness based commentary in an era where California is aggressively seeking a one drug cocktail for use in executing an entire New Generation of inner city youth currently housed on Death Row. Get an up close and personal look inside at how Cain was affected upon receiving a "Notice Of Death". Plus, a "California On Blast" article that is sure to sway death penalty supporters to reconsider their vote.

SPECIAL EDITION

5 By popular demand, all 802L007HA interviews, learn the backstory, view the exclusives, and journey through the conversations with this New Generation of young men currently awaiting execution on California's Death Row. This modern "Place Of The Skull". (02L007HA)



6 This compilation of poetry and prose displays a new and unique style and subject of expression from some of California's Death Row's articulate wordmiths. The inspiration came from San Quentin's Mental Health Program poetry group for the "condemned" (now cancelled due to budget constraints) and its respected facilitator, Pam. XYZST conducts this 802L007HA interview with the group inside the mental health wing of the prison's hospital.



This W00-title, NGR (New Generation Rising) evolved from a 3-part series of articles written by XYZST, and first featured in #1 (under: New Generation) into a rally call, and now a multi-media zine. Topics are introduced through written articles and interviews onto the W002P online blog as part of an interactive discussion between viewers, and to NGR through comments posted on the blog, which are then featured in this issue. NGR also features new contributing writers, and is distinctly New Generation oriented with a focus on new perspectives that are engagingly articulated.

While the materials you select are indeed free, do your best to pledge the postage to cover your requests.

W00T0000000000000000
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D&D