



## 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 (36.15%), WHITE (35.33%), HISPANIC (22.92%), OTHER (5.46%)
AGE AT THE TIME OF ARREST:	UNDER 20-29
COUNTY OF TRIAL:	LOS ANGELES (31%), RIVERSIDE (10%), ORANGE (8%), 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.





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.
- 45% 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!

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Piankhi".

Piankhi

General Coordinator

[betweenthebars.org/groups/papyruscollective](http://betweenthebars.org/groups/papyruscollective)



## NEW CONDEMNED

By

Piankhi

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.  
CSP-SQSP # P-76622  
San Quentin, CA. 94964  
thedriproject@gmail.com





## 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)

## 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 HUMANBEING 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 THEIR 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 HUMANBEING 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.





# DEATH ROW INMATE

.ORG

## MEMORANDUM

DATE: APRIL 1st, 2013  
FROM: U.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](http://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!

3298 North Glassford Hill Road  
Suite #104 / PMB #154  
Prescott Valley, AZ 86314  
[TheDRIproject@gmail.com](mailto:TheDRIproject@gmail.com)

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](http://BetweenTheBars.Org/Blog/DeathRowInmate)



## A PERFECT MATCH

BY

XZY2ST

So I'm on the yard one day, me and one of the Jewish cats began to chop 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 hella' looped, or dis nigga must be smokin' cream". Loll

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.

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 a.e. You're a matchworthy donor for someone, and somebody is a perfect match for you.

Xzy2st

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](https://facebook.com/organsfrominmates).





## 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.

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.

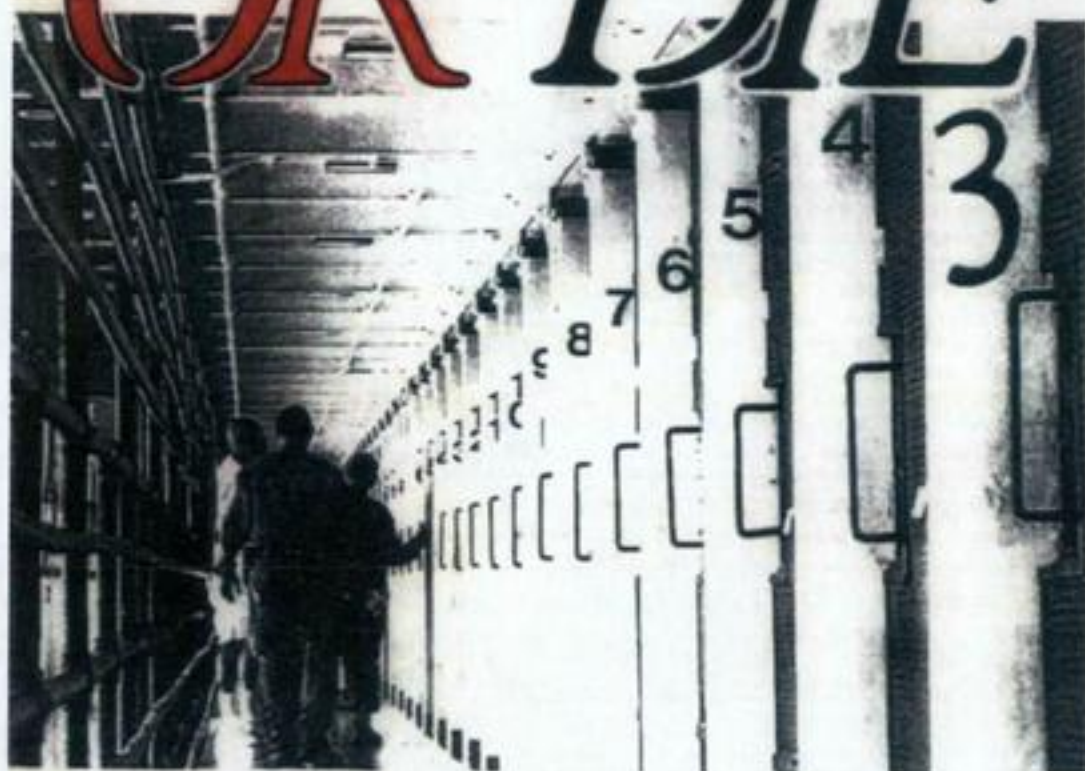
Answer: I think WOD and other people who realize how transforming zines are, particularly for prisoners, need to rethink everything they think others feel about them. Look. It is all about the "ideas" in these zines! It is not about slick color covers, fancy, computer-generated graphics and glossy pages. 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!



# WRITE OR DIE



Case Summary .....	3
Papyrus Collective 2013 .....	4
New Condemned .....	5
Elevation Requires Determination .....	7
California's Dirty Little Secret .....	8
Special Circumstances .....	10
California ON BLAST .....	11
Conceived & Convicted Since Birth .....	12
Message To My Young People .....	13
Diamonds In The Rough .....	14
November Vote .....	15
Mr. Officer (P) .....	16
You Don't Know Me (P) .....	18
The Death Of A Messenger .....	19
Lessons In Life From Death Row .....	20
A Perfect Match .....	21
VOLUNTEER FOR THE DRI PROJECT .....	23
DRI Memo: Impact Of Social Media Usage .....	24
No Way Around It .....	26
@ Golgotha : Introduction .....	30
@ Golgotha : With Kekoa Manibusan (I) .....	31
@ Golgotha : Intro - "The Back Story" .....	34
@ Golgotha : With Grade A "Wek-Alones" (I) .....	35
@ Golgotha : With IAM (I) .....	38
Behind The Zine: With Anthony Rayson * (I) .....	42
The Top 20 Prisoner Zines .....	50
Prisoner Zine Review: Robert (Cowboy) Williams, Jr. ...	51
Illusions .....	54
BetweenTheBars.Org PAPCO Group Blog: Update .....	55

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

©LEFT 2013 Free To All Prisoners  
Duplicate & Distribute Freely

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

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

@nticopyright



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.



Mark Netzeem and Anthony Rayson in Rayson's library

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-paged 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



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

## New Generation Rising

Smurf Bird Lil G & Al\*B,  
Juvenile, Lukanoz & Charlie\*C,  
KIKI & Tako, Danny Boy, Goldie Loc,  
Rockhead, Scrappy Moja Time & Moe.

G-Man & Cee, Javier & A.D.,  
Shorty Chris & J-Dog, F.R. & Y.B.,  
Baby Gangsta, Young Detroit & Mahdi,  
Rusty & Chaka, Potatohead & Brotha\*E.

Kwesi Snake & Whacc, SugaRay & Shaq,  
Adisa & Ajani Kern Manta Lil Jack.  
Fee Tracy Nut & Spreg,  
E-Moe Mao T-Bone & Bay,  
Ant Blank & Wiz Javon Boo & Valley-Jay,

Uce Bone & BoBo, L.A. Tone & Solo,  
Bam & Sonny Loko,  
Ken-Dog E-Dog N.G. & NoNo,  
Bandit Jab & Swoop, Loc Sicc & Chris,  
Bow-Mow Cain & Mal Knockout June & F.



Goti Jap & HoovaRay, K-Sean Twon & Saint,  
Rayon Rock & Ru P-Funk & Drew & Young G-Wayne.  
Monsta Wink & Shooz, New Generation Youth  
Causians Asians Natives Ese's Uso's & Tha Jews

New Generation Rising  
Kelsey Pride, Jesse, Taco, Tookie, J-Rock, Moyo  
New Generation Rising  
Kelsey Pride, Jesse, Taco, Tookie, J-Rock, Moyo  
New Generation Rising.



South Chicago ABC Zine Distro

AnthonyRayson@hotmail.com

