



@Golgotha

W/PIANKHI

vox populi vox Dei
(the voice of the people is the voice of God)

There exists a documented conversation between men hanging on crosses after being given the death penalty. One of those men is still a major figure in the lives of people all over the world and yet there are now thousands of people on death row around the world. Go figure.

For far too long the media and other agencies have represented captives on death row from a narrow window, from the outside, and the results are often one-sided, misleading, and straight up false. Papco inspires the world to experience unedited conversations between the souls still hanging on the cross at the place of the skull- Golgotha.

The institutional "Instruction Manual for Legal Murder" has not changed. When the people are forced to focus on the person on the cross, by default the condition itself at the same time forces the people not to focus on the systematic overthrow of the underclass, a scheme to silence the people, hidden in plain sight.

Gone are the days of just executing old child molesters and the serial killer. There now exists a new type of political prisoner being held captive on death row, the "New Generation" of targeted inner city youth accused of committing "street level crimes," who are given death sentences in exchange for the political and capital advancement of corrupt law enforcement agents, attorneys, and judges.



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@ Golgotha w/ Piankhi
an interview by: Xyzst

The Anatomy of a Line:

This conversation is solely based on the developmental process of the recent release of The Write OR Die Line Project Issue #6 titled: Poetry, Prose & Conz

Qz by: Floyd Smith, Xyzst Az by: Byron Wilson, Piankhi

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Location: San Quentin State Prison, at Unit East Block, 4th Tier Yard Side.

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Contributors: 2

(The Tone)

It's 10:48 pm, Friday night, July 31st 2015. Here on California Death Row, San Quentin State Prison, at Unit East Block, 4 tiers high, in cell #9.

It's unusually quiet tonight, the old school cat Frank Nitty, and Young Tajirio seem to have caught the comedic energy of the day, and Piankhi is laughing, and enjoying the atmosphere, chillin' nextdoor in cell #10, bumpin' Talib Kweli & Nora Jones colabo in the backdrop.

It's been real hot these last few days, especially way up here ON the 4th tier, so alot of us ~~are~~ using our cell bunks as work desks, and pullin' our mattresses on the floor, where it seems a degree or two cooler, which makes for a perfect set up to conduct an @ Golgotha style conversation with Piankhi, steppin' up to the bars soon.

Me?, oh yeah, my name is Floyd Smith, pen name Xyzst, been knockin' out, always at home close to the earth relaxin' on the floor, somehow unable not to associate the latest unsuccessful suicide attempt by a fellow condemned captive, with the customized cd playlist selection change to a song by a group named Loose Ends, ironically titled "Hanging On a String". Just being on deathrow can take you to some dark places, where even songs about love and relationships register different to the psyche, so thank God for masterful beat productions of the 1980's-90's as they prevent us from sustaining the irony of the hook lyrics of the song.

(@ Golgotha w/ Piankhi)

P. Yeah, let me slide over here, can you here that beat? that's my intro music, Rollin up, slow mo, sup, it's, what time is it? Got My Water and snockzzzz, hold up, oh, ok, what we doing? You ready? Can you hear me over the music?

XZ You just dropped WODZP issue #6, off the top of your head, what's 3 things about this issue that's unique.

P Off the, for starters, it's our 1 year anniversary on creating our Popco Distro & Co-op...

XZ Oh yeah, got to get into that, number two?

P Audio, it's our first issue where we've created a link where people can hear from us directly...

XZ Three?

(Most Important)

P The most important thing about this issue is Ms. Pam and that it was the 1st time that we not only addressed the Mental Health Conditions of deathrow, but in a way not normally expressed by prisoners, you know, showing appreciation for Pam's work and stuff like that.

XZ Let's start there.

P So, for people reading this, Ms. Pam had been facilitating a poetry group as part of Mental Health Care Recreation Therapy, I'm thinking back to, my first 3 days just observing, my thing was, I'm not a fan of poetry, so just sitting and watching how it all was playing out, by HER engaging everybody with topics and contents from everywhere and being able to pull stuff out of people that otherwise would go missed out on, and when people read the interview inside of this issue, and the Back Story, I hope she reads this as well, because she needs to see how it's all her, from start to finish, when you really look at the growth, it all starts with Pam.

XZ Ms. Pam dont know what?

P She probably dont know that we view her as warm, pretty smile, and that we dont do tributes like that. I think I may have said to her one day that she has a pleasant disposition.

XZ Mack hand? could be misconstrued as shallow?

P IF I needed a Mack hand, seriously? I dont even think enough people say thank you to people like her, and those that treat us like humans, you'll miss it easy around here.

XZ Remember that last day in class when she broke the news to us that the poetry classes last day was, literally, that day?

P Yeah, you can tell she was disappointed, until she hit everybody with that smile and made the most of that day

XZ Thats when I decided to collect the workz to make this issue a reality, remember me snatching that piece off the wall that she stapled on the wall, as we was being escorted out for the last time?

P Yeah

XZ That was Paradise, Lost by: Bette, she always stapled her favorites on the wall, shell be glad to see some of her favorites in this issue, well, the pieces that survived the hard searches by the Cops, "loss or destruction of property" is how they described it.

(Piankhi's Favorite)

XZ I know it's still early for others to draw a favorite from this issue, but we've dealt with this issue from the gate, so, what's your hands down favorite piece in issue #6.?

P Poetry, Theology & Psychology by: Mausey, and not because of the poetry, because like I said, I'm not even into poetry, but because he recited the piece to me on the yard, and both of us dug into it, and he listened to me as I was checkin' the nuances, and, owh man, we went on one about this piece, and so Mausey had already biased me by spittin' it on the yard so, yeah, I'd have to pick that one. I haven't read everything in this issue, but I did also like the Back Story to the @ Golgotha interview, I thought that was well written.

(Journalism)

XZ cool segue, Journalism, how did you catch this bug, because, this Time Project is not a regular part of the everyday lifestyle of inner city youth growing up in Compton like you did.

P I mean for me, watching daily news programming, Charlie Rose, and how other's relay stories period, and I think we have to understand it appropriate to relay our own unique stories and details from deathrow, so, it started out me taking on like a manager role slash promoter, you know, the work that it takes to provide the forum for people to voice out. We didn't have that here on the Row, and those that did, individualized for years.

XZ Yeah, real talk, because this is far from just being a one person issue. What's this thing about Anthony Rayson? I mean, had it not been for you, me and others in our generation probably wouldn't never even heard of Anthony, why is he so important to WOD?

P How I ended up with one of his Zine Catalogs, I can't even remember, but around 2004 when Zines started falling into my lap, I noticed that they all came from ABC Zine Distro, and I was impressed that Anthony had a prisoner zine section, so I started trying to learn more about what he does, and he's been the motivation, especially in sustaining the project because we had no other venue of distribution. He engaged us head up, straight out, and I wanted to work with people that didn't have a filter.

(TOP 5 ZINES)

XZ Let's get a personal Top 5 from you out of Anthony's Catalog, be specific Brah, because I want people to gage exactly what it was that made you want to read more, and be like, OK, finally, got something real, and anti-bullshit, feel me?

P It's some good ones, so only asking for a Top 5 is not making this easy for me, let me see:

- #1. How to Build a Collective
- #2. Anarchist Organizing Manuals
- #3. Thought Bombs by: Cyote Chef
- #4. Liberation OR Gangsterism / Freedom OR Slavery by: MR. Shoatz
- #5. BRIEF History of The New Afrikan Struggle By: Syndiati Acoli

XZ You're right, that aint fair because people like MR. Shoatz got hella hit rocks, and the Depaul University Interview with Anthony Rayson is super solid, not to mention MR. Cyote Chef writes like he's writing directly to us huh?

P All his stuff is loaded he's a prolific writer in my opinion, that's why he was the 1st non-condemned in issue #3.

XZ When people read, you mention, Anarchist, New Afrikan, and others, how do you think that resonates with society, or the portion of society that don't exist in subterranean culture?

P Personally, I don't care, I'm an observer, I may not be associated with those and other groups, so what, my primary objective is to produce good zines, and I appreciate reading people who are serious about what they are about, I'm a student of life, so back to my original answer, I don't care what people's ignorance display, my focus is becoming better at what I do.

XZ When I wrote "The New Political Prisoner" I was channelling Mr. Shostz because I want whatever I write or work on to reflect what I've learned, and for my teachers to see themselves in our work, specifically to let them know that yeah, while they got their eyes on the streets, the streets are also watching them, in ink.

P And it's so many that we ain't gonna get caught up in because, the reality is, it's also a lot of reteric and bullshit zines out there and...

XZ Real talk, we ain't got the luxury for that megalomaniac follow me syndrome, zinester.

(SETTING OUR OWN STANDARD)

P LOL; Yeah, we done already experienced all that anyway, so we can spot that a mile away, I wish people would just send us zines because we're starting to do our own zine reviews as, if nothing else, we can be able to expose our readers to other zines that are relevant to our generation, and to create a new conversation within our own subcultural groups, and we want to also continue to move WOD to do something new, and whatever we do, we are just doing it, we don't need permission, we are setting our own new standards with this project,

XZ If you wanted to produce issue #6 again, what would you not include, how would it be different?

P A do over? NO interview, NO Articles, NO Prompts Just Poetry & Prose & Audio, I like Audio like I said, we want to continue to add to what I'm calling New Media 2.0, everyone will see how my ideas take on new life forms, and adding audio links to our project is only the beginning of this new standard.

XZ Like Popco Distro?

P Exactly, good you got us back to that...

XZ Give the people a crash course.

P As we all know, Anthony Reynard's ABC Distro does everything, assemblage, print distro, the whole 9, I mean for years, and for thousands of zines, and is largely recognized as the ultimate authority.

So with WOD, I wanted to cut Anthony's work load and for us to take greater responsibility, and action oriented approach to adding to the zine community. So with issues #4, #5 & #6 I decided to submit full complete self produced issues, so all Anthony has to do is print and distro on his end. A new standard for prisoner zines.

This is new for us, a lot of hard work and it allows for all of our contributors to experience my Co-Op idea, for example, I've been getting at least 20 copies of my first print run of a complete issue that we assembled and produce right here, it ain't like we lose the hustle after incarceration, and I ain't never had no problem with hard work.

Anthony gets our best copy, while the other copies go directly to fellow captives that are able to generate resources to produce no less than 3 copies of said issue each, if all goes well, our minimum projected turnaround is 57 copies from just the 1st print run.

When we add 57 to our next print run, we end up with around 77 copies or more, so our inner prison, inner unit circulation and turnaround system keeps Papco Distro with a continuous flow of our zines available for circulation from behind the walls to family, friends, penpals, attorneys and associates of an entire generation of our contributors.

Distribution thru cooperation. It's more involved, but that's just a small crash to explain how any group of people can get things done without overhead, stress, time limitations and become active participants in helping to circulate our own work, a new standard.

Anthony Rayson was one of the "very few" that engaged us without strings from the very beginning, so like I said before giving us the motivation to sustain this project is something I value as serious, because we are doing all of this from scratch, with zero journalistic experience, and I'm on the business side of things, so as far as the content goes, my job is to get our work into the world, these contributors are now 6 zines deep with cover to cover content unique to our situation, so I aim to produce and preserve this work to the best of my ability, as I continue to get better at this and engage new ideas.

XZ Who is that, Nas? (Frankie CD still playing in the background)

This cipher ends with Frankie Rapping alongside Nas,
word for word, The Song; "████████████████████"
"PURPLE"