

CAPTIVE VOICES

APRIL 1, 2017

newsletter

ISSUE 1

ART BY: LOUIE TORREZ #1373383



We are so excited to present the first issue of the revived Captive Voices newsletter, a collection of art and writing by incarcerated folks. Until our editor, Carl Horne, has access to a typewriter again (soon!), Houston ABC will compile and edit submissions as we've done with this issue. Submissions are accepted on a rolling basis, so please send anything you want to be published to us. Drop us a line if you'd like to be put on the list to receive the newsletter, or if you have any comments, questions, or critiques (address on back). Thank you for your patience and support! In love, rage, and solidarity, Houston ABC.

Note from Houston Anarchist Black Cross:

Searching

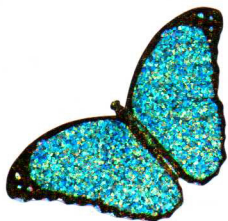
by: Shawn Jordan

1577
174

Forty years gone by and still searching for where I belong. Every life I have tried to build has cost me something of myself. It has always been a compromise of truth to myself to try to get the love and support that I needed. It was always wrong but with the best of intentions... I would deny some part of myself from myself in hopes of getting what I needed from ones that I loved. In trying to make them happy, I lived lies in some form or another. I never believed they would love me as I truly am. Still I would trade one emptiness for another like a fool. Now here I am behind these walls, none of them are even thinking of me, yet I seem to long for what was. Crazy really, but its all I've known. I am still in a broken state but I am on the mend. I may be broken and alone but I am no longer angry. I know that kind of love could never and can never make me whole! So I go searching.

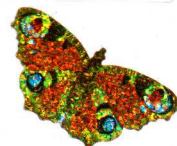


Now what do I do. I have no direction to follow. Disconnected from real life for so long. Will I find a place for me in that world. I live in this place in a world I don't fit in. I don't fit any of the molds they want me to fit in. We need to stop trying to form people in order to accept them. Just love them as they are. However anything outside of the norm is shunned, judged, and hated. We all just want to be loved as we are, the dark parts and the scarred, as well as the pleasant. First we each need to learn to love others that way too.



fe
se
plac

Where do I start and how? Searching myself and this life with no place to start is like trying to find a needle in a haystack in the dark. Therein lies the answer, you have to feel it to find it, not depend on what you see. So I wait behind these walls, waiting, searching with my heart. Searching for the door, the one, the road that leads me to the place and the one where I belong.



R.H.U. PARALLEL

"WITHIN EVERY ADVERSITY THERE EXISTS A SEED(OPPORTUNITY)
OF AN EQUAL OR GREATER BENEFIT".

R.H.U. means Restricted Housing Unit(commonly called the "hole"). The RHU is a prison within a prison. It's the worse(kind of condition). So, an equal potential exists to develop and bring about a better(more positive and productive) benefit, condition, or response also. When put in the worse situations you have to tap into Yourself and bring about/out the best in you to be able to grow or even remain stable (balanced).

In the RHU it's not just you versus the "Administration." It's you versus [you]. Because you are brought face-to-face with yourself. During such time of confinement the routine thinking habits that you develop daily will Really Hurt U or Really Heal U. The way you think is reflected in the way you behave. And your behavior pattern will design your present and future. In the RHU life is intense. Especially, in the beginning weeks or months. As time passes your mind begins to become clouded with mixed emotions, anger, fear, guilt, hate, paranoia, hopelessness, loneliness and other frustrations. Some who fail to productively channel their frustrations tend to take it out on those closest to them(mainly other prisoners) or even themselves because they can't lash out on the ones(Administration) who can affect change of the physical aspects of their harsh condition. To do so temporarily feels good but doesn't really bring about a positive change because the ones who can effect change(upper level Administration) were not affected. And one's situation becomes even more cloudy. But with discipline and practice you can bring clarity to your life and strengthen yourself from within. Exercise and focused reading helps fight off laziness and emotional breakdown.

Setting goals for the near and distant future still applies when housed in the RHU. It gives you something to work toward and look forward to, thus keeping hope alive and your spirit strong. Think of positive affirmations to think(or speak) to yourself or focus on desired goals and happy times when your mind starts to wander or drift into thoughts of misery, anger, frustration and other thoughts that may interfere with ideas of what you desire. In the physical RHU only your movement is restricted, not your thinking.

It's interesting that the same mental conditioning it takes to stay focused in the RHU is the same needed to grow and be productive in society. Same principles, just different place. Some people in society are not in physical prisons, but are living in a self-imposed R.H.U. UNIT means one considered to constitute part of a whole. In society each person constitutes part of the whole(society/community). HOUSING means one's environment/position in life. To be limited in one's thinking or expectations is to be Restricted. And if one's thinking or expectations are limited, so will one's movement be or where one positions(or houses) themselves. Some people spend most of their lives without ever leaving their neighborhood, city, or state or are stuck in "dead end" jobs that they are not satisfied with, but refuse to break the limited thinking pattern that bars them from expanding and fulfilling their life.

Also, in the RHU some breakdown and try to sleep their time away or resort to medication in hope of experiencing a temporary escape. Very much like in society when one resorts to alcohol or drugs. But when each one awakens(sobers) they're in the same situation, sometimes worse than the one they tried to leave or forget about.

In essence, our life is what we make it, regardless of where we are or what condition we're in. Change begins within and branches outward. And in order to productively change one's outer condition one must strengthen and change their inner condition(thinking pattern).

Whether you are in a physical RHU or a personal RHU in society, your mind does not have to be confined to the destructive or stagnant norm of your immediate environment. There is always the option to prepare a better situation for yourself by Thinking Outside The Box(Norm).

PEACE!

Ricardo Noble, #BX9351
175 Progress Drive
Waynesburg, PA 15370



When I am alone and have nothing, I pray for a friend to help me bear the pain.
No one comes except....God.

When my world is silent, not even the faint echo of a song, no one wanted to sing to
me except....God.

When I need a breath to rise from my sleep, no one can help me except...God.

When I have lost hope and this place has made me cry, no one came to dry the tears
from my eyes except...God.

When all I feel is sadness and I need answers, no one heard me except...God.

So when I am asked who I give my unconditional love to, look for no other name
except...God!!!

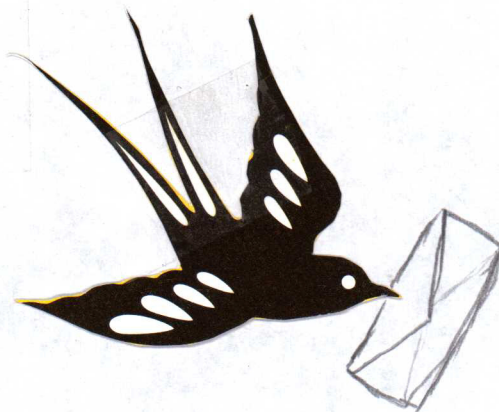


submitted by

H

LOUIE TORREZ

#1373383





Artwork By
Anthony
Washington
#145820

Artwork By
Anthony Washington
#1458201



Adversity? I'm not sure. I mean, I could give you my own personal perception of it from different angles of my philosophical reality.

Is that real with you? It was a plot which dropped into a plop formed into 2 rivers, one in the East and one in the West on 2 continents, and we went from there to here; nevertheless, you're still at odds with me times 20 trillion times equations on into infinity way after the bygone facts.

Possible motives for your actions have occurred to me. I'm not a mathematician, but I do perceive that as adversity multiplied times the experience of life from the beginning of the genesis breath.

Are you tight with that brief summary, or do you still love to labor the point to the point of hate?

You're right, I'm wrong, and I'm gone.

By Wesley Lee Johnson #324059

April 28, 2013

COVEGEEKS L

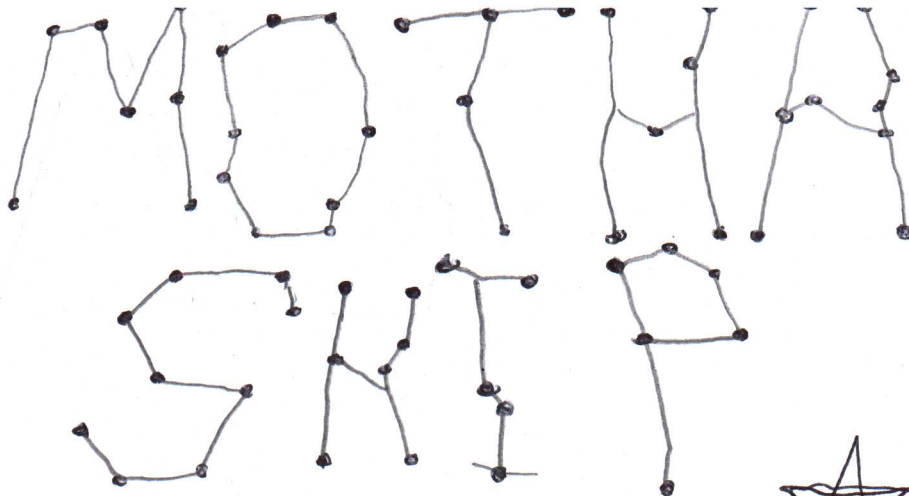
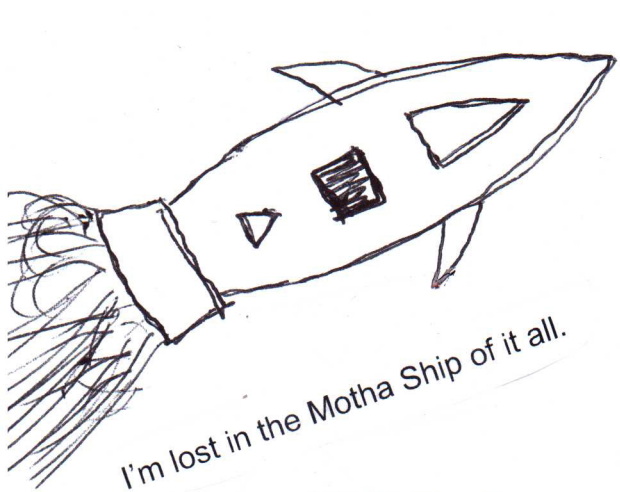
Art Work By
Anthony W
#~~COVEGEEKS~~

Sincere attempts number in the numbers of the stars that we can presently reach;
any other attempts are the numbers that we can't!

Presently I'm motivated to see the true beauty of the Sahara sands as I
marvel at the elegant structures of the pyramids.

I'm like the geometry of angles formulating into equations of numbers
expanding into infinity where I sit and meditate.

Faintly I hear 5 distinct voices calling and searching for me from 30 billion light
years away. Even out here on the edge of the reforming numbers of galaxies as I
meditate, I can't seem to break the 5 chains of desires that she enchanted me with
from the very, very beginning and when we shared my first galactic explosion of
protons, electrons, and weightless neutrons fusing into my path into the abyss of me.

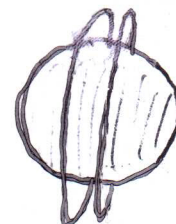


I'm lost in the Motha Ship of it all.

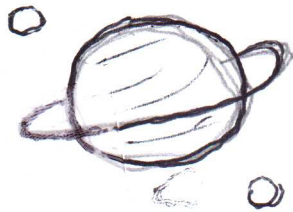
No one told me that this psychedelic, kaleidoscopic, galactic trip would take up for much time in my life.



But the women and the ladies on this motha ain't all that bad!? Look! I had no notion that she was going to be here. Can somebody, anybody in here please say amen? Ms. Motor Booty Affair!



Seems as though my dukey stick of perception and expectation were not the same. I expected this landing, yet I did not fully perceive the science of it.



Yes, this aqua water boogie got me dancing under the water in my 5 watery dull senses of my existence.

Can't catch the rhythm of the stroke, feeling that I might choke! Why should I hold my breathe while I pray to those above the water as I drown below it?



By Wesley Lee Johnson #324059

April 4, 2013

As much as possible, you should focus on your walk through the storms of life because you can control the pace and the direction of your steps, but you can only experience the raindrops, the thunder, and the wind.

By Wesley Lee Johnson #324059

September 14, 2014



"Prisoner Activists/Activism"

In the domestic United States of America, the most decentralized position within social justice related demographics is the prisoner activist and the domestic social justice wing imposes a sort of democratic centralism upon the prisoner activist position. The prisoner activist positions are either for radical reform and/or social revolution.

Among social justice activists there is the least distance between prisoner activists. And, in this domestic social justice wing, the prisoner activist position is the most grassroots position. All of this qualifies the prisoner activist position, as a social justice grassroots cadre position. The prisoner activist understands how to counter the enemy, neocolonial, white supremacy, capitalism and imperialism.

Shock tactics, on a civic and/or social basis, also within prisoner activist demographics are individuals who understand covert formation techniques and tactics. Also under the current conditions of neocolonial white supremacy, capitalism and imperialism, prisoner activists lead in survival techniques and tactics. Prisoner activism as a style is related to mass direct action and civil disobedience protests. This style of activism is what gives a mass political line a revolutionary character. As a prisoner activist, I focus on the mass political line, however it manifests itself.

3/15/17 Letter

i am having a serious censorship problem, & i am asking for help in dealing with this problem, i am allowed prisoner to prisoner correspondence, as long as the other prisoner is not in the colorado department of corrections, i have a blog/manifesto at <http://betweenthebars.org/blogs/1491> i very much want to receive the captive voices newsletter, & i am asking lets not allow ourselves to be defeated by censorship. this is my current mailing address :

Robert Thrower # 47717
San Carlos Correctional Facility
P.O. Box 3
Pueblo, CO 81003

SUBMIT Your

Writings or art for the next issue of Captive Voices!

ADDRESS :



HOUSTON ABC

P.O. Box 88202

HOUSTON, TEXAS

77288



WHAT SHOULD I SUBMIT?

Anything we
can print in this
format! Submit
whatever and however
much art + writing
you want.



LOUIE TORREZ #1373383

HOUSTON ABC
P.O. BOX 88202
HOUSTON, TX
77288

↑
SUBMIT +
SUBSCRIBE
@ THIS
ADDRESS!

WHAT IS
HOUSTON ABC ??

HOUSTON ANARCHIST BLACK
CROSS IS A PRISONER
SUPPORT + PRISON
ABOLITIONIST COLLECTIVE
WE DO:

- CAPTIVE VOICES
- FREE LITERATURE
CATALOG
- QUEER + TRANS
PEN PAL PROJECT
- GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE
AND SUPPORT!