

# FIRE ANT



ANARCHIST PRISONER SOLIDARITY

This issue of Fire Ant is dedicated to the loving memory of our best friend, Mini. We miss you, darling!

This is issue #11, Fall 2021. Fire Ant is a collaboration between anarchist prisoners and free roaming anarchists. Fire Ant seeks to raise material aid for anarchist prisoners while fostering communication between anarchists on both sides of the walls.

To support the anarchist prisoner war fund, please email [bloomingtonanarchistblackcross@riseup.net](mailto:bloomingtonanarchistblackcross@riseup.net). All money will go directly to prisoners. The fund currently supports Michael Kimble, Jennifer Rose, Eric King, Sean Swain, and Marius Mason.

To download this publication, please go to [bloomingtonabc.noblogs.org](http://bloomingtonabc.noblogs.org).

Front photo is of Thomas Meyer-Falk. Back cover art by Sean Swain.

Thanks to the Bloomington crew for all their hard work on this project! Thanks also to Michael, Jennifer, Marius, Eric, Noah, Thomas, Sean, Julio, Patrick, Rochelle, Pepe, Brandon Oden, SOLECAST, Argyle crew, TC from BC, Peter and Fifth Estate, the Burning Books crew, Lex from IWW, Little Black Cart, Gloo Factory, Final Straw radio, MJ from Idaho, the Squashed Crew, Matt D, Risa, Cal, Dave, Olivia, the Wabanaki People, Ed O, Owl, Mini, Baba Yaga and the North Woods green anarchist horde.

-Fire Ant

## Disclaimer

This publication is for entertainment purposes only. All opinions and views belong to the individual writers and do not represent other writers or anyone involved in the production or distribution of this publication.

## To contact Fire Ant collective, write to:

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PO Box 164  
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04942

## Support the Clarion Book Project!

Prison seeks to isolate our friends behind walls both physical and psychological. Separated from loved ones, anarchist prisoners are removed from the daily dialogue and exchange of ideas that give birth to liberatory projects and experiments. Imprisoned anarchists will find very little in prison libraries and network television to keep them informed on outside struggles, and, in absence of comrades on the outside mailing in magazines and books, they are left without access to subversive literature of any kind.

Since 2014, Bloomington Anarchist Black Cross has been sending monthly packages of literature to a handful of anarchist prisoners in the United States. These generally feature recently-published anarchist periodicals and zines, historical texts, and articles on current events. In addition, we send packages of books every other month. The project has fostered dialogue on current struggles, enabled US anarchist prisoners to express solidarity to anarchist prisoners around the world, and led to sharing of anarchist literature throughout the prisons where our friends are held captive.

While we have been happy to quietly work on this initiative without publicizing our efforts, we would like to expand its capacity. While we are able to print zines, we lack the funds to regularly purchase quality anarchist books for our imprisoned friends.

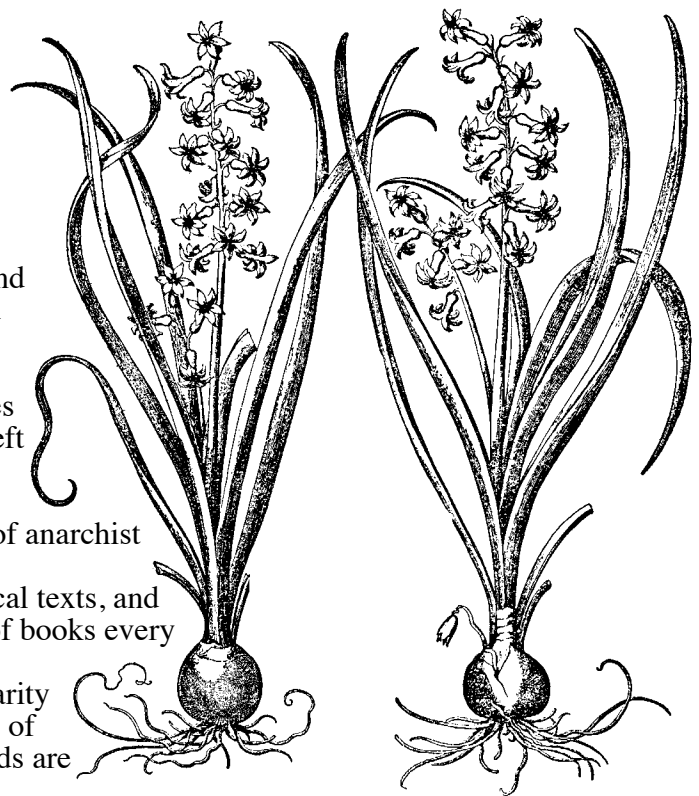
If you are an anarchist publisher who feels affinity with this project and would like to send us books for distribution to anarchist prisoners, please email us at [bloomingtonanarchistblackcross@riseup dot net](mailto:bloomingtonanarchistblackcross@riseup.net).

We are in this for the long-haul, and appreciate the help.

with toner in our DNA,

Bloomington Anarchist Black Cross

[bloomingtonabc.noblogs.org](http://bloomingtonabc.noblogs.org)



## Anarchist Mutual Aid Funding by Anarchist Prisoner Jennifer Rose

Please consider donating to the Anarchist Prisoner War Fund! This is the only mutual aid fund that exclusively supports anarchist prisoners in the so-called US (occupied Native/Tribal territories of Turtle Island). For the past several years, the anarchist prisoner war fund has sent me quarterly funds of at least \$80. They also support several other well known anarchist prisoners. This has empowered me by enabling me to purchase basic necessities such as cosmetics, food, postage/ stationary from the prison canteen, or to purchase a quarterly care package. For this, I'm grateful beyond measure.

Anyone who may be able to send donations of funds, or other material aid, to the Anarchist Prisoner War Fund should contact the email:

bloomingtonanarchistblackcross@riseup.net

Thank you for your support and solidarity.

Jennifer

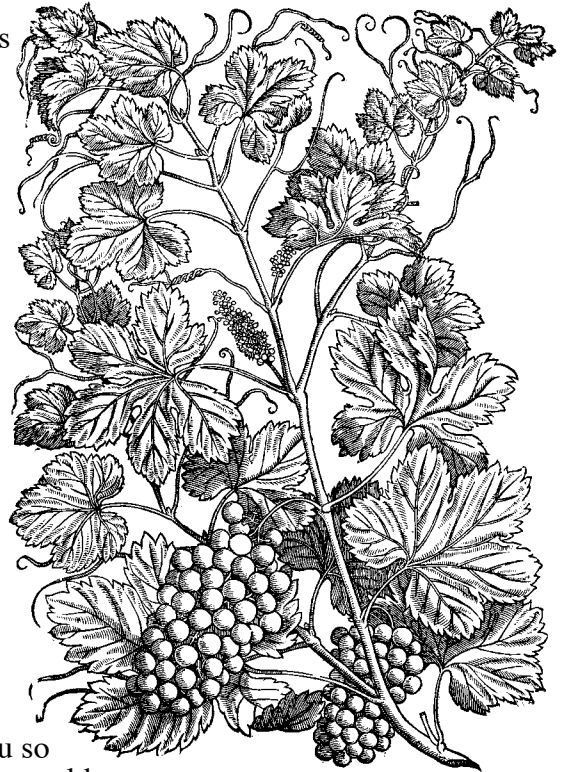
### Letter from Thomas Meyer-Falk 9/6/21

Dear Robcat,

Greetings from Germany to your wife and to you, Robcat. Thank you so much for your letter dated 8/26, and for the latest issue of the zine. It would be an honor if you want to use my photo for the cover of the next issue! Great that you support lots of people with the food autonomy project, and help them to become more powerful. That is so important. In Germany, we say: It's better to give someone a fishing pole or teach them how to use it instead of always giving him or her fish.

All the best for all of you!

In the struggle,  
Thomas



## Don't Tell Me Prison Saved Your Life by Pepe (aka Scott)

While laying in my bunk, listening to a radio interview, I heard a man say "prison saved my life", referring to his time locked up years earlier. As much as I tried to understand his point, I was still bothered by the statement. I've also heard this said when I was in the "free" world, before I became a part of the criminal justice system myself. I kept my mouth shut back then, despite how much the statement didn't sit right with me. Now that I've been sitting in prison a few years myself, I feel comfortable (and at times required) to speak up when I hear someone make that statement.

The concerns I have with a statement like this are plenty, but two come to mind right away. 1: It falsely suggests prisons are life saving institutions. 2: It disempowers the individual who is stating it, by giving all credit to the prison (not the individual) for changes made in their life.

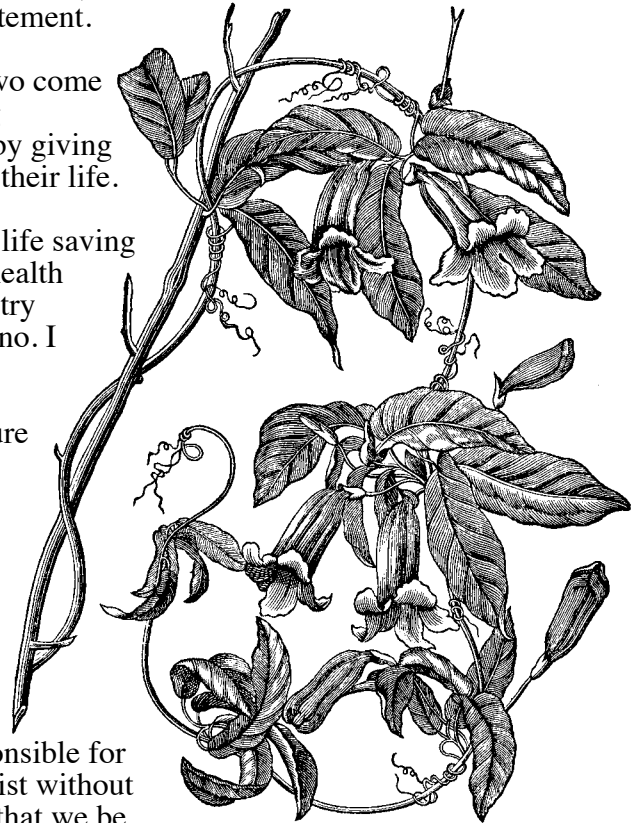
Let's further explore the first concern of suggesting prisons are life saving institutions. Imagine a loved one of yours is struggling with a health condition that is threatening their life. Would you suggest they try getting the help they need in prison? The answer is an obvious no. I think deep down, whether we've been in prison or not, we all understand they are harmful places. Now, I have no issue with giving prisons credit, as long as we do so honestly. Prison culture is responsible for routine dehumanization, isolation, forced separation from family and community, destruction of social bonds and institutionalized trauma. None of this is good. It impedes an individual from developing and maintaining a full range of human emotions.

Prison culture is low level psychological warfare that deprives the individual more than it gives. Under such conditions, a relationship is not sustainable. Over time the individual will break down (become institutionalized). To think prison is responsible for saving your life is absurd. To believe that prison culture can exist without destroying part of the individuals caught in its grasp, demands that we be ignorant of the history of prisons and that we deny basic human biology and needs.

So, let's instead acknowledge prisons for offering stunted cognitive and emotional development, fractured relationships, exploitation, violence and domination of the human spirit. And I don't mean any of this in an abstract manner. Show me how prison culture can co-exist with a healthy, fully developed human being.

As for the second concern of disempowering the individual by crediting prisons for the changes they made in their life, it is equally or even more harmful, especially if we are aiming to become whole human beings. Such statements rob us of our internal connection to our whole selves and our ability to change on our own terms, something we are all capable of deep within ourselves. In no way am I implying people don't change for the better in prison, many have, and more will continue to. I myself have made personal gains while here in prison. But, I've not accomplished any of them because of the prison itself. I developed them throughout, and despite, my imprisonment. In no way did the incarceration help me develop. It has not been a good thing. My response to it can be, and has been, good. But the incarceration itself, absolutely not.

Prison deserves no credit for an individual having the ability to transmute their incarceration into gifts. Only the individual and the people who supported them are deserving of such credit. So if you are crediting prison for yours, or someone else's change, stop. Not only is it disempowering, but it is also disingenuous and harmful. It lessens the likelihood of the individual understanding that it is they, not the prison, who possesses the power to put a lot of thought into what they feel is right for them, choose to change based on their own internal relationship to the self, and finally, to take responsibility for the outcome of their decisions. This is no easy task, whether you find yourself in prison or not. The difficulty lies largely in the fact that all of us have been conditioned to experience authority as something external to us. This is why it is easy for someone to credit prison with saving their life, rather than developing personal authority and taking full responsibility for their life.



Stated simply, personal authority is the process of discovering what is most true for yourself, and then acting it out in the world. It is a sort of refining fire. It burns away everything that distorts, or compromises, the true person that you want to be. It burns away everything that is not you, leaving only your most whole, authentic self. Someone who develops personal authority is not a perfect person, but they are a more whole person. And that is something the prison system will never make you.

If we convinced our psyche that we have no internal compass, that authority comes from outside of ourselves, then we confine our lives in a prison of our own making. As Shakespeare noted in *The Twelfth Night*, "No prisons are more confining than the ones we know not we are in". If you abdicate your authority to something, or someone else, it might make you look good in their eyes, but it will never make you whole in your own eyes. Instead, strive to create a connection to your inner-self, and develop a sense of personal authority that you can rely on. This is an important step to becoming a more free and more whole human being. Sure, this will be difficult, but it will produce a more meaningful life, whether your life is playing out in a prison or not. Who of us would not benefit from assigning more meaning to the lives we currently lead?

### **Clemency for Jennifer Rose**

Please support clemency for anarchist prisoner Jennifer Rose! Would you like to share your internet skills to help start an online petition or fundraiser account for Jennifer? The goal is to build public support and community solidarity for her, which will allow readers to sign the online petition and post their positive comments about why they support a commutation and early release for Jennifer. The petition should be titled "Please Grant Clemency for our sister Jennifer Rose"

Also, support letters are needed to California Governor Gavin Newsome asking for clemency.

Governor Gavin Newsome  
Attn: Clemency/ Legal Affairs  
State Capitol, Ste 1173  
Sacramento, CA  
94814

The letters should state your name, profession, and explain the main reasons why you believe she deserves a commutation of sentence and emergency release. For example, her age at the time of the offense was under 26, and is now 51. She is in declining health. While in prison, she's continually worked to further her education by taking a myriad of courses and is active in many groups. She always comes to the aid of other prisoners, and is a loving, caring person.

Send a copy of your clemency support letter to Jennifer's clemency team.

National Clemency Project  
Attn: Jennifer Rose Clemency Team  
3324 W University Ave 237  
Gainesville, FL  
32607  
Tel: 954-271-2304  
nationalclemencyprojectinc@gmail.com



Anyone who wants to help start an online petition, or get involved with this clemency team, contact Jennifer. Jennifer Rose #E23852 D4-221  
Salinas Valley State Prison  
P.O. Box 1050  
Soledad, CA 93960

## Tight ropes, taut lines by Eric King December 6, 2021

In the past three plus years I've been in the SHU (segregated housing unit), I've been directly aware of nine hangings. That is, occurred either on my range, in my cell, or near enough that I could hear the body hit the ground. Some of these were "cries for help", some were serious, all were scarring and devastating. Almost always BOP staff hides behind either indifference towards our lives, or bureaucratic policy to avoid actually helping... at USP Atlanta they rushed in and yanked the prisoner down (by the legs), slapping them, yelling to "be a man, not a bitch!" at other institutions they laugh, yelling to quit faking.

Two years ago here at Englewood Levi hung up, and it took minutes before his door was opened... The guards who cared (there were a few), hamstrung by the policies they were too worried to violate. While some officers were distraught, others laughed calling Levi a "Turkish piñata"... rage swelling in my chest seeing how a desperate death could be mocked and belittled... at that time in the SHU we were not allowed radios, newspapers, magazines or personal books. We were told to deal with it "don't come to SHU if you can't handle it". Neverminded the fact that for some...the SHU came to us, we could not avoid it, escape it, work our way out. You handle it or become a "piñata".

A few nights ago, Englewood's evening staff displayed its humanity and treated a human life like a human life. My next door neighbor hung from his sprinkler, his awoken cellmate lifting up his legs to relieve the pressure, screaming for help... and it came...the C.O's Rushing in to get him down, the Lieutenant wasting no time, there would be no Levi repeat. Bravo really.

Despite this redeeming display, there will be more acts of desperation because being in the SHU pretrial is an exhausting, deeply desperate situation. We are allowed radios (if you have \$70 to spend), you can have reading material mailed in (if you have people to do it) but those things mean little in the late of the night, these tiny 6x8 noise boxes allow little comfort, yet plenty of despair. People who suffer withdrawal while the pharmacist refuses to institute the MAT program). People suffer anxiety, anger, migraines after losing access to coffee cold turkey, we suffer the loss of loving contact, going months or years being denied physical contact with our families during the most stressful periods of our lives. We still only see one hour outside a day, pacing around in a degrading dog kennel, most still only get one 15 minute phone call a week. My visiting situation is better than most (after a year plus during the pandemic with no visits or calls I have. For the last couple months been allowed 1 hour visit a week) while the phone situation is worse... but for me right now visits>calls.

The first time in my bid I can say that it isn't even the staff that are the issue, back here right now we are being treated more decent, often guards will go out of their way to be respectful. The major issue is they are also constrained by policies. Personnel isn't the problem, policy is the problem, the SHU is the problem. The bureau leadership and policies they author. The problems are limitless... the lack of information, the once a week chance to get any news only to be told "nothing", the stress of trying to fight your case with drastically limited access to your legal team (and family and friends), the constant noise that refutes any hopes of thinking clearly for a minute, the being stuck and knowing all the kindness or good behavior in the world won't open that door. That combination would break the strongest back and it often does.

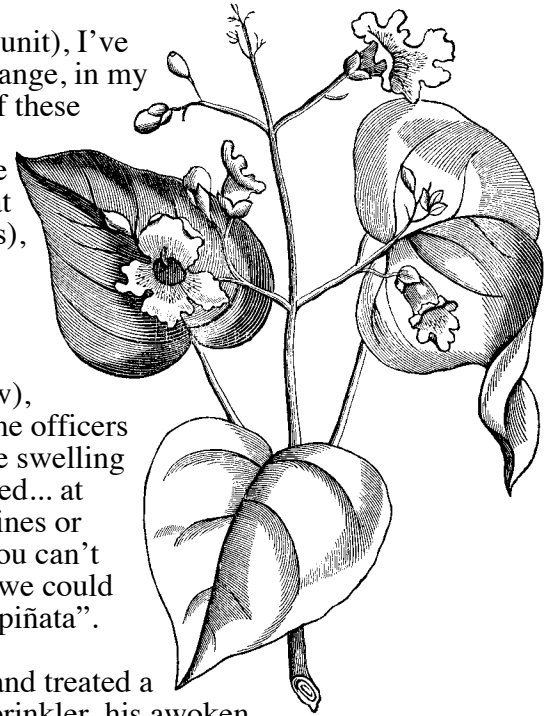
This (FCI Englewood) is the "easiest" SHU possible, and people still hang here, because even the softest SHU is a soul crippling death trap... we still have to beg and plead for medical attention, we still sleep directly next to our toilets... we still can't hug or kiss our families. We are stuck.. long-term segregation must be abolished, the people who are chosen to write policies should not exist unchecked and have limitless ways to torture at their disposal, non-contact visits must be reverted back to contact, basic comforts like real hygiene and coffee must be allowed for purchase, access to information and those who have it must be increased. We need out of these cages.

Abolish the SHU, abolish state domination.

Anarchy Always (A)

-EK

*Copied from the Support Eric King website supportericking.org*



## Will Sean Be Extraordinarily Renditioned... Again?

In early 2019, intrepid anarchist author and prisoner was swept away by the ODRC without legal process (requiring a hearing) to the hands of Virginia. His time in VADOC was basically without incident, but due to circumstances beyond Sean's case (the interstate transfer agreement between VA & OH) he has been sent back to Ohio and is being held at OSP Supermax at Youngstown, in his prior cell. Sean's support crew fears that

Sean will be sent to another state, far away from his partner, his lawyer and many of his longtime supporters. His support crew is asking that Swainiacs contact Ohio State Senator Teresa Fedor ((614) 466-5204) and Ohio State Representative Lisa A. Sobecki ((614) 644-6017) and express your concern for Sean Swain #A243205 currently being held at OSP Youngstown.



Here is a basic script, see if it resonates with you:

My friend, Sean Swain #A243205, is a prisoner in Ohio. From prison he earned his college degree, a paralegal certificate, wrote two books, and he's currently working on a children's book. He contributes weekly commentary to a globally syndicated radio show. Sean was honored in 2002 for his peace work in prison by Rosa Parks personally. He's been incarcerated for thirty years without even a single fight, no drugs, no alcohol. He has been a model prisoner.

Sean has been critical of the Ohio prison system and officials have retaliated by calling him a gang leader and making him look like a danger on paper. In 2013 Sean was sexually victimized by a then-ODRC lawyer named Trevor Clarke. Clarke ran the prison's torture program and Sean reported Clarke for the sexual abuse, filing a PREA grievance. Clarke retaliated by fabricating misconduct. In 2018, Sean sued Clarke and within thirty days Clarke (and another defendant) fabricated disciplinary charges of rioting, gang activity, and extortion and they illegally renditioned Sean to Virginia to cover up their crimes, without even the requisite legal hearing he was owed. Sean's time in Virginia was uneventful, clear proof of his carrying himself as a model prisoner at a medium security facility.

A few weeks ago—Sean was returned to Ohio and placed back at the Supermax in Youngstown. Although Trevor Clarke no longer works for the ODRC, ODRC seems to continue to be bent on again illegally renditioning Sean to yet another state in order to silence him and stop him from earning his release. Sean's lawyer and his spouse, Lauren, have attempted to get details from ODRC Interstate compact coordinator Glenn Elder, but are getting the run-around. Transferring Sean out of state again will move him away from his legal support, his spouse and his friends, all of which are of immeasurable importance to rehabilitation and to Sean earning his release.

Please look into this situation and help put a halt to Sean Swain's mistreatment. Sean has stated his intention to abide by the rules set down by the ODRC and is committed to earn his release through good conduct.

This entry was posted in General on 2021/10/22.  
*Copied from seanswain.noblogs.org*

### Fire Ant T-Shirts For Sale!

Fire Ant shirts available at  
TheFinalStrawRadio.bigcartel.com  
designed by, and benefiting, anarchist prisoner  
Michael Kimball. Makes a great holiday gift  
for that conservative uncle!!  
Thank you to Final Straw Radio for taking on  
this project!





# ANARCHIST PRISONER ADDRESSES

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CANNOT RECEIVE LETTERS

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Rte 37  
Danbury, CT 06811

Michael Kimble #138017  
William E. Donaldson Correctional  
100 Warrior Ln  
Bessemer, AL 35023

Jennifer Rose #E23852  
Salinas Valley State Prison  
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Soledad, CA 93960

Sean Swain #A243205  
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Contrada Cocari  
89900 Vibo Valentia  
Italia – Italy

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Eleonas Women's Prison (Gynaikeies Fylakes)  
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T.K. 32200  
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D'WING (Δ'ΠΤΕΡΥΓΑ)  
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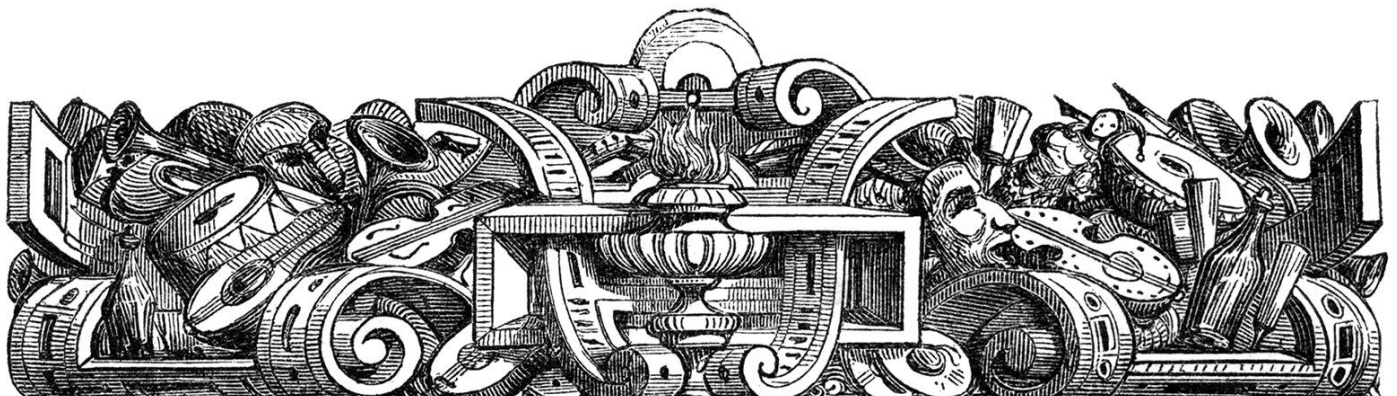
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MY MOM SAYS IF WE STUDY HARD  
AND GET GOOD GRADES... AND IF WE  
DONT GET GUNNED DOWN IN A  
SCHOOL SHOOTING...

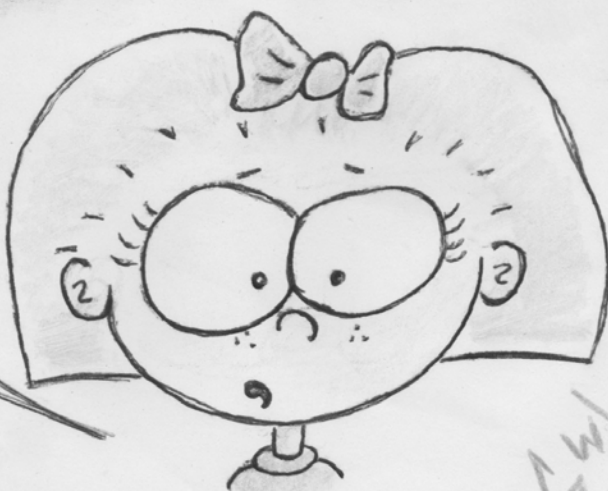
...WE CAN GO TO  
COLLEGE... ACCRUE DEBT...  
IF THE NEXT PANDEMIC  
DOESN'T KILL US...

... SO THEN WE CAN GET JOBS  
LIKE MY DAD'S... AND STRUGGLE  
40 YEARS TO PAY OFF A  
MORTGAGE...

... IF CLIMATE CHANGE  
DOESN'T WIPE OUT  
ALL LIFE ON EARTH...



...OR WE COULD JUST  
SAY FUCK IT... MASK UP...  
AND FLASH-ROB A  
WALMART...



LW/IN  
21