

The Uncivil Society



Mutual Aid

Track List

- 1) Among Animals
- 2) Swarms of Butterflies
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- 4) Ants and Bees
- 5) Among Barbarians
- 6) Checks to the Over
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- 8) Peter's Choice
- 9) Counter Argument #5
- 10) Born on the Dance Floor

Among Animals

In Nature
We Struggle
To exist
Birds,
Ants and Bees
Live socially
Bound together
to weather
circumstance
Mutual Aid
Among Animals
To live
To thrive
Not just survive

Swarms of Butterflies

Mass-flights
that occur
occasioned
by monsoon
this action
is not a reaction
but rather
a consequence
of imitation
of desire
of following
all others
In this chaos
Of possibility
and desire
become unbridled
and what
we collectively
choose to create
manifests
In a swarm
of butterflies
anything
becomes
quite possible

Among Savages

In this supposed war
of each against all
few are the species
who live alone

We share

To protect

To progress

To prosper

To thrive

Not just survive

Together

For the best

chances of survival

mutual aid

is mutual support

We now have

to play our part

Ants and Bees

Always tell the human
What the human needs to hear
When sympathy is
marred by sentiment
Put forth by Argument
better suited for cautious work
The thought that
morality can only
Originate from a
warm blooded embrace
minimizes the
biological sympathy
and voluntary co-operation
among ants and bees
You see
In the life of ants
And the nations of bees
Both societies
work collectively
What they
both possess
Is a predisposition
to assist
without
the coercion
or mandate
or domain
of government



Dear Neighbors,

In these interesting and extraordinary times now, more than ever we need to support each other.

Please fill out this card and share it with those who live next door.

My name is:

I live at:

You can call or text me at:

-If you are going to the store ask if you can pick something up for them

-If they are need something, what can you share?

Among the Barbarians

Through the
organization
Of what we
call civilization
Individuals
struggle
to survive
Our current crisis
Shows just how frayed
And broken
our bonds
Have become
in isolation
This life is conflict
Me against you
us versus them
tribe against tribe
All the while
Fearing the other
The result from this
chaotic contest
is that hostile forces
Have divided us
into class and caste
or enslaved to despot
Or the invisible hand of time
for consumption

Checks to the Over

Now that we are
an extremely large
collective population
that inhabits every
section of the globe

We call to the
most defenseless
those with no beak
or claws

Those who possess
the social disposition
To create the conditions
which makes
life go

To the unresisting
creatures,
Who must

explore every tree
I call to action
To experience
a rich harvest

That may be reaped
not sewn

Among Ourselves

To the pessimist
Politician or pundit
who proclaims
that warfare
and oppression
Is the essence
of our selves
And our instinct
can only
be restrained
Through limits
Must be overthrown
Now, more than ever
We are ready
for new
systems
of social
organization
economy
and ethics
That come from
Among ourselves
Not the same
source of oppression

Peter's Choice

A new union
will manifest
From the implosion
Of our State
Our struggle
Through strikes
through resistance
Collective action
Co-operation
Based on
Free association
Self-sacrifice
for community
not consumption
Creating a world
where we can share
Mutual Aid

Liner Notes

It is interesting to be living in a time, that for all intent and purposes will be detailed in history books - describing an interconnected world that spread a virus, a global economy literally shut down, the imposing of and voluntary acceptance of Martial Law light on entire nations - and the economic attenuations that will ripple through society for generations. In the early stages of the pandemic the class lines have become clear - those with the privilege and access to technology could isolate and survive, while those who work and provide service continued to be exposed. As this slow motion apocalypse unfolded, literally two crises manifested - the spread of the virus and economic damage that already effected marginalized people.

Peter Kropotkin demonstrates how the tendency for Mutual Aid is deeply interwoven into our existence notwithstanding all vicissitudes of history. Although chiefly evolved during times of peace and prosperity, yet when calamities befell people - be it land laid waste by war, populations decimated by misery or groaned under the yoke of tyranny - the tendency to help each other remains. This is clearly a time as a society we have to choose: are we going to return to a status quo that was not good for the overwhelming majority, or are we going to use this shock to our collective system to create real structural change that we need to rewrite the rules in how we govern, interact with the environment, and implement economic systems that provide everyone the ability to live healthy and safe lives.

My daughter and I were talking about who Kropotkin was and how he arrived at his observations. As a biologist he saw how animals and insects worked together without the artificial divisions we have created to maintain the structures for survival. Much of his book Mutual Aid is grounded in his training of being a Biologist and his observations and arguments are poised in an academic way - what resonated with me was not just how much of a dick he thought Charles Darwin was, but the depth of his analysis and the seemingly simple conclusions he arrived at when comparing and contrasting different systems for survival among animals. When he takes on the unsubstantiated presuppositions put forth by Darwin and his cronies, that have been subsequently embraced as the shorthand ethos of Capitalism, his logic and argument becomes difficult to refute. As my friend Enrique said "when there is a crisis, everyone is a socialist". Interesting times indeed.

When the Coronavirus hit and we were forced into isolation, I felt this was a great opportunity to inspire and cultivate the spirit of mutual aid in my community. The only problem with the theory is when you go outside and see right wing representaion all around you the theory runs into a brick wall. Knowing that I am nothing more than a hypocrite living a lie, I decided to embrace my own contradictions launched a new page on my website - the Gig Harbor Mutual Aid Association. I decided to start putting principle into play with the people living directly around me. When I would go to the store, I would ask if they needed anything. When certain resources became scarce - like flour and paper products we would share. I know it doesn't seem like much, but seeing how I never did that before, an action - even minuscule in scope is still some-

thing. I know this isn't as romantic as storming the walls of Congress and gathering toupees or toppling the Washington Monument - but it is a real action, and dare say sustainable change in my fundamental behavior that I can maintain when normalcy is hopefully achieved.

Musically, this project manifested I was driving to work about a month before our world was stopped by the pandemic, and the I-pod had one of those magic shuffle moments. Over the 30 minute drive it played songs by the original and evolved version of the band. In that moment I connected with the notion of growth and what it means to change and evolve from experience. For this project I explored the evolution of bands like Minutemen to Firehose, Crass to Chumbawumba, Subhumans to Citizen Fish, Op Ivy to Rancid and the Nation of Ulysses to becoming the Make Up - and explored what it means to grow and change musically. It is my hope that from this crisis our society will evolve as well. Now that the riots have started well before August .. I am leaning towards a de-evolution....

Taking this sonic template in mind I was inspired to play songs "Punk as Fuck" and evolve them to more melodic/acoustic version, later in the project I thought it would be ironic to play the fast songs slow and the fast songs slow. Drawing from the wisdom of Mike Watt, who once described the Minutemen as a band who play "Little songs, high end guitar, melodic bass and lots of toms", I used this wisdom as my guide.

Unlike previous projects where I will take the better part of a year to read, research, write, listen, experiment, compose and record - this project was a reaction - and dare I say an attempt to assert my own nexus of control over a situation that overwhelmed and subsumed my entire existence in the blink of an eye. I really didn't have a clue what I wanted this project to sound like, I just did it and figured it out as I went along. In many ways just like what the world was doing around us.

While recording, I would put all the layers down no matter how my mics or mind was behaving in the moment. I would let my ears rest for a day or so, and like a reduction print I would start subtracting from the substrate searching to give the right tone enough space to breathe. Inspired by my newfound favorite quarantine band the Parquet Courts - who do an amazing job of channeling the New York vibe of Lou Reed and Tom Verlaine, their ability to write a legit pop song led me to embrace the Verse/Chorus/Verse structure in my songs. As this process progressed and I got a handle on the mix and levels - and my subsequent fatigue with the idea started to set in, I started to let the layers lie where they may and allowed the vibrations to get in the way. While mastering (and yes I have a lot to learn), I was able to see/hear psycho acoustics forming and creating counter voices - kinda cool! I still don't trust my ear, and if you have the gumption to listen to the master mix in the google doc folder, let me know which one you like better!

Thank You!!!!

Priss-illa (*for not murdering me during our extended isolation*)

Re-Sister (*for the backing vocals*)

Gorilla-Y (*for the rad mix down dances*)

Peter Kropotkin

Minutemen/Firehose

Crass/Chumbawumba

Subhumans/Citizen Fish

Op Ivy/Rancid

Nation of Ulysses/Make Up

Carole Kaye

Al Schmitt

Ian MacKaye

John Geek

Michael T. Fournier

Daryl/Razorcake

Hillary Binder

Chris Rankin

Ken Kearney

Anne Lee

Pam Kray

Joe Helmsley

Carol Gronner

Enrique Francia

Bryan Erhardt

Mike Parpovich

Disciples of Ken

Greg Nelson

Sara Tips

Sara's Daughter

Holly Senn

Amy Ryken

Sean Griffeon

The Uncivil Society



Mutual Aid



***“...and that they find in association the best arms
for the struggle for life”***

Peter Kropotkin

<https://theuncivilsociety.com>
<https://theuncivilsociety.bandcamp.com/>

Suburban Utopia Project: #14

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