

MAKE LIVING YOUR ART! We have chosen to live our lives for ourselves, to make each day an adventure rather than a ritual—to pursue our dreams at any cost.

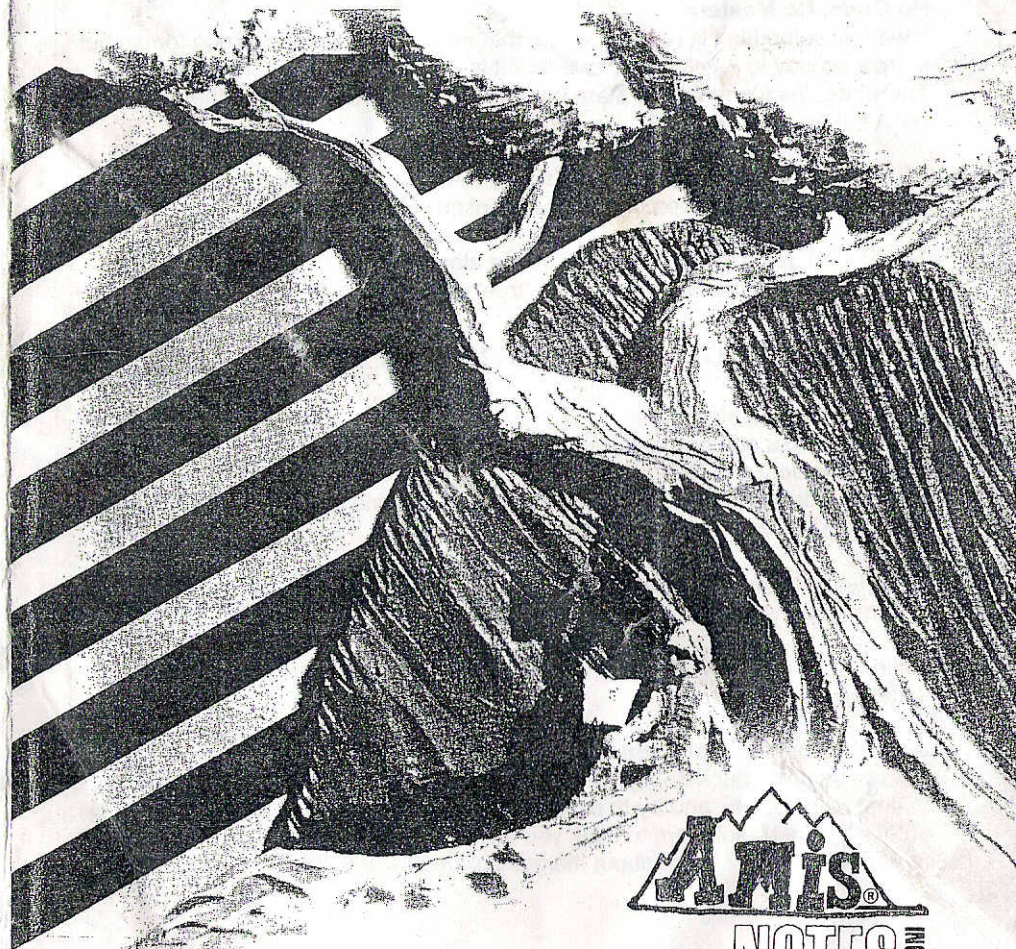
Have a yellow party; wear yellow clothes and eat yellow food, have a Tupperware party, have a food fight, hug a friend you've never hugged, dance in the streets, have a party in the streets, have a critical mass, create a bicycle scavenger hunt, give random gifts, cook a meal for some friends, have a bake-off, crash a wedding party, go to goodwill and take pictures of silly outfits, try a new food today, go to the children's section at the library, call up a corporation and tell them what you really think, visit someone in jail, hop a train, bike all day and sleep in the park, plant trees and flowers in unused lots, hitchhike in your own city, put shaving cream on your table and create art with your fingers, lay in a field where no one will find you, offer to walk your neighbors dog, celebrate all that there is to do that's not in the "what's happening" section of your paper, add your own here...

AMIS'S NOTES on

\$0.00

Days of Love, Nights of War
Crimethink For Beginners
by CrimethInc.

ARE WE REALLY FREE OF THE SYSTEM?



AMIS[®]
NOTES INC.

YOUR KEY TO THE CLASSICS

Normal?

The "normalcy" that people hold so dear is rather the feelings of normalcy that result from conformity to a standard. Being surrounded by others who behave the same way, who are conditioned to the same routines and expectations, is comforting because it reinforces the idea that one is pursuing the right course: if a great many people make the same decisions and live according to the same customs, then these decisions and customs must be the right ones. P.12

Utopia...

You know what everyone's greatest fear is? It is that all the dreams we have, all the crazy ideas and aspirations, all the impossible romantic longings and utopian visions CAN come true, that the world CAN grant our wishes. People spend their lives doing everything in their power to fend off that possibility before the world even has a chance to defeat them...because no weight could be heavier to bear than the possibility that everything we want IS possible.

No Gods, No Masters:

If we feel something is right or wrong, that may make it right or wrong for us, but there's no way to objectively prove that it is UNIVERSALLY good or evil. Therefore, the idea that there are universal moral laws is not true, there are just personal evaluations. p.24

It's easy for people to get caught up in their role as moral enforcers and forget to question whether the idea of moral law makes sense in the first place. p.28

The idea of moral law doesn't help us get along, it turns us against each other, to contend over whose moral law is the "true" one. P.29

Create your own values of good and evil.

Bourgeoisie & Bohemian:

? Do the media and politicians know they are and have created this unattainable vision of society and feel that they have us all under control? Is it all planned out, do they understand how people really want to feel and live, but still make them live by and believe this mainstream view?

Bourgeoisie: one with social behavior and political views held to be influenced by private property interest: capitalist

Bohemian: a person living an unconventional life in a colony with others; vagabond; wanderer; gypsy

Note: Although it seems right to live free of the system and be exactly who you want to be, how much energy will be consumed in trying to live this way in a mainstream society, and try to explain your lifestyle to others (which is inevitable, unless you just want them to think you are "crazy") and will that impinge on your freedom to be you? What about the gaping mouths and stares?

Plagiarism: is an especially effective method of appropriating and reorganizing ideas, it can:

- * focus attention on content rather than specific issues
- * by using a new name to text, the material is presented in a new context and may generate new thinking on the subject
- * the plagiarizer is then denying that there is no difference in rank between herself and the thinker she takes it from (the thinker is not an authority)

Don't be afraid to reproduce word for word those texts which seem perfect for you, so you can share them with others who might also benefit from them. And don't be afraid to plunder ideas from different resources and rearrange them in ways you find more useful and exciting. p.183

Do we have ideas, or do they have us?

Space:

A curious effect of the development of rapid transit systems is that as the distance between communities closes, the distance between individuals within those communities widens. P.207

The thrill of creation has been largely replaced by the drive of spectatorship. MAKE YOUR OWN SHOW!

We must rediscover our bodies, our senses, the space around us and then we can transform space into a new world to which we can impart meanings of our own. P.210

We need games that will bring us together, out of the confinement and isolation of our private homes, and into public spaces where we can benefit from each others company and creativity. Poetry painted on the walls of shopping centers, spontaneous festivals on freeways, sex in the parks...p.210

You'll find that if you speak honestly for yourself, you are probably speaking for others as well. P.211

Basic faith in the system involves taking risks...

Technology:

We use a disproportionate amount of our collective creativity inventing new technologies to dominate the world, rather than discovering new ways to enjoy what we have already. P.224

If we didn't live in a capitalist society, we wouldn't have to keep inventing new products to outmode the old ones, and make the best of the technologies we have. P.224

The harder and faster we work, the more there will be to do. P.228

involved with my community and teaching, sharing these ideas with the "mainstream" makes me wary just thinking about it. How can I possibly do this all? "put all our energy into expanding...the underground"

Movements:

A movement is based on ideological construct, not a convergence of unique desires, but a standard for what those desires should be. Examples of movements that began by channeling forces and ended up as parodies of them: p.169

Politics: communist party

Arts: surrealism, Jazz, Emo (hardcore)

Culture: hippies, beatniks, punks

Situationist International dissolved by choice when people began joining for the association of a radical group in order for it not to become a movement.

Ahistorical: not concerned with or related to history, historical development or tradition (attitudes of the radicals) example of it's use: p. 170

The Situationists were faithful to their own desires for a world grander than anything that could proceed from the historical trends of their time, and set out to discover and empower other ahistorical forces concealed in the world around them. P.172

Revolution happens, not with constructed plans, organized movements, or designed systems, rather each of us must be faithful to the yearnings of her heart for things too extravagant to ever fit in this world, and pursue them to such lengths that others are inspired to their own pursuits. It is alchemy we need, not another movement. P.172

Alchemy: a power or process of transforming something common into something special

Intellectual Property:

"Learn and choose from the ideas and beliefs already in circulation, rather than seeking to develop and arrange your own", is the message to us in schools. P.179

To say that any idea has it's own sole origins in the being of one individual is to grossly oversimplify. For example, the glorification of an "artist", that artists are different from other human beings. Anyone can be an artist, but we are led to believe that being creative is a talent that only a few people possess, so we do not make much effort to develop these abilities and must be content as spectators. P.179

Also, associating ideas with individuals promotes the acceptance of these ideas in their original form, rather than learning the parts which they find relevant in their own lives and combining these parts with other sources. P. 179

Reproduction:

A couple must be prepared to give up every last vestige of their youthful, selfish freedom to have children, for the mobility their corporations demand and the strain of viscous competition have destroyed the community network that long ago used to share the labor of the child-rearing. p.52

The bourgeois sees the only liver he/she is permitted under only the worst possible circumstances: after every other force in his world has had the chance to exhaust and infuriate him/her for the day. p.53

Bourgeois see that everyone from impoverished migrant workers, to the monks of Tibet, would be bourgeois too, if they could afford it. (NOT!) p.54

Bushmen of the Kalahari desert still live today without domination over each other.

Capitalism:

Democracy: the idea that people should have control over their lives, that power should be shared by all rather than concentrated in the hands of a few.

Capitalism: the "free exchange of goods and services" in which those who have capital are able to collect more, at the expense of those who do not.

Capital: wealth (money, property or labor) which can be used to create more wealth

The economic system of any given society has more influence over daily life than any court or congress could: for it is economics that decides who has control over the lands, resources, and tools of the society. P.59

"Free Market" should work that people are free to seek their fortunes as they choose, and the ones that work the hardest and provide the greatest value to society are rewarded with the greatest wealth. Flaw: success in the "free market" depends almost entirely on how much wealth you already have.

You trade your dreams for salaries and your freedom to act for material possessions. In your "free" time you can buy back what you made during your time at work, but you can never buy back the time you spent at work.

People might be more likely to find happiness in a society that encouraged them to value their ability to act freely and do what they want above all else. To create such a society, we will have to stop competing for control and wealth, and start to share them more freely. P.63

Our competitive economic system forces us to replace everything free and beautiful with the efficient, the uniform, the profitable. P.65

The poor employees come to regard the homeless people who come into their shop as a nuisance, and the homeless people blame the employees for not helping them, when really it's just capitalism pitting them against each other. P.69

We should try to find ways to make everyone see what is to be gained from transforming our society. If that's a difficult challenge, and it sometimes seems that "the masses" deserve what they get for accepting this way of life, don't lose heart. Remember, the system they accept is the one you live under. Your chances for liberation are inextricably tied to theirs. P.79

Some of us spend the whole year working, with our hearts silent within our chests, to save up the money for a few weeks of hiking, skiing, canoeing—things that were once free for all of us, before the corporations that we work for wrapped everything in concrete. P.80

Culture:

Culture: the customary beliefs, social forms, and material traits of a racial, religious, or social group; the set of shared attitudes, values, goals and practices that characterizes a defined group. P.84

Who wants to conform, or force others to conform to the predefined beliefs and values of a "racial, religious, or social group"?

Culture can simply be traditional Italian cuisine, or the racism & sexism that are a fundamental part of many societies. **Choose what part of your culture is right for you and reject the rest** p.84

Death:

Imagine that your death is one month away. What would you be doing today? Imagine that your death is one year away. Does this make much difference in what you would be doing today? Are you living each moment how you want to live it?

Our cultural silence about human mortality allows us to forget how much weight the individual moments of our lives carry. P.90

History:

The past gives an individual a conception of herself, an "identity", it puts weight upon her that she must fight to shake it off if she is to remain light and free enough to continue reinventing herself. P.111

The rupture that occurs when you shake off everything that has come before, not just a break with a past- you are ripping yourself out of the past- future continuum you had built, hurling yourself into a vacuum where anything can happen and you are forced to remake yourself according to a new design. P.114

Hypocrisy:

A person who is not afraid to be hypocritical from time to time is in less danger of selling out permanently one day, because she is able to "taste the forbidden fruit" without feeling forced to make a permanent decision. p.130

Fight War & Wars:

What we need most now are ways to speak that can give others voices of their own, (not the act of speaking that monopolizes expression and denies it to others), ways that can activate—these will be our weapons no power can defeat. P.135

Revolution is not making everyone the same in their ideologies or relations with each other, but simply establishing mutually beneficial relations between different individuals and groups. P.135

Image:

We look for life in the IMAGE of life. We are easily persuaded to choose these images because it is simply easier to change the scenery around you than it is to change your own life. P.143

Note: 1950's Bill Haley, "Rock Around the Clock" song heard at the soundtrack of "The Blackboard Jungle" movie caused viewers to charge into the streets and kicked in windows and overturned cars. The first rock n roll bands showed that unspoken rules of governing music were nothing more than illusions, it had made them feel all rules and laws might be mere illusions. P.148

Love:

Rather than being encouraged to have the courage to face the consequences of risks taken in pursuit of our hearts' desires, we are counseled not to take risks at all, to be "responsible". P.154

For it is love that gives meaning to life, desire and passion that makes it possible for us to make sense of our existence and find purpose in our lives. Without these, there is no way for us to determine how to live our lives, except to submit to some authority, to some god, master or doctrine that will tell us what to do and how to do it without ever giving us the satisfaction that self-determination does. So, fall in love today, with men, with women, with music, with ambition, with yourself...with life! P.155

Note: I keep thinking that I don't have enough energy to be all that this book's ideas are inspiring me to be. I too, want to be this way and want to live "free of the system"; and invite everyone around me to do so as well. But, to always be