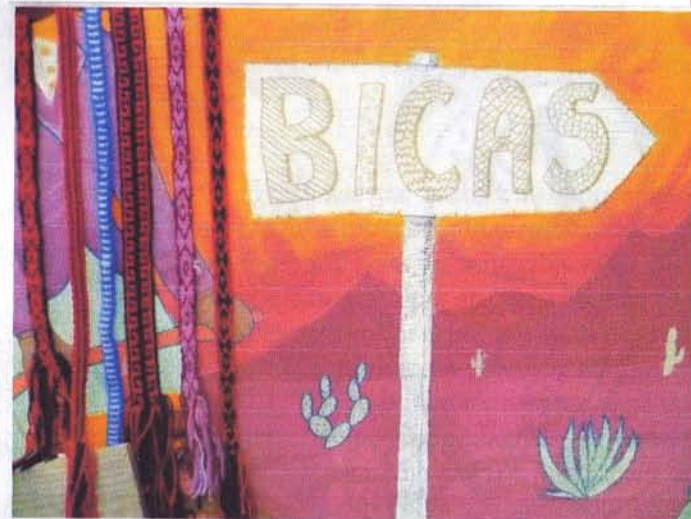




Above sticker printed by the
Hungry Knife Artists Collective. Re-
printed with permission.

The Card Weaver #2!

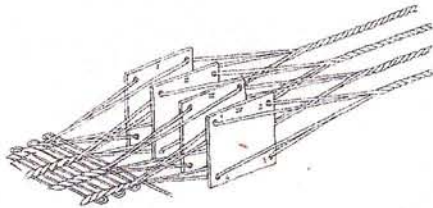


Crafting for fun & for
SURVIVAL.

Page 8

Death & Embroidery

How to make friends and
embroider people



Card (or Tablet) Weaving is an ancient form of weaving straps for everything from bracelets, to head bands, belts and beyond! It has been and still is practiced all over the world.

I first picked up Card Weaving in early 2009 and you can check out an amazing set of directions I found online here: <http://primitive.org/weaving.htm>. I also reprinted them with permission in the first issue of The Card Weaver which you can download from zinebrary.info, along with all five issues of The Luddite Worker which pretty extensively chronicled my first year or so of adventures in Card Weaving.

If you want to set up a card weaving workshop or series of workshops, please let me know! I can be reached for the time being at alextheweaver@hushmail.com.

Last night after reading a little more of a collection of Richard Wright's work, who had also been involved with the John Reed Clubs, it occurred to me that a network of Richard Wright Clubs would be an amazing way for anti-capitalist artists of color to encourage each other and share their work! Each Club could hold its own events, print its own journal and/or maintain its own website, and there can be a national or even international events, journals and/or websites to promote a culture of resistance to class society by and for people of color, autonomous of political parties.

If you're interested in getting involved please e-mail me at alextheweaver@hushmail.com!

www.peopleofcolororganize.com picked up a slightly different version of this call, please check out the site!

Specials thanks to everyone from Cuatro Caminos, Dry River, Bicas, the XVX Punk House, Havoc House, zinebrary.info, all of my home bums past-present-and future, Sunday Tucson Food Not Bombs, Hannah and all of her animal friends, especially Sonora who walked all over Tucson with me!

Towards a Journal of Anti-Capitalist Artists of Color!



One of the things that struck me most about Angela Davis' autobiography was the Che-Lumumba Club she was a part of, a group for people of color in the Communist Party. I even wrote the Party in Illinois to see if they had anything like that still going on, and they didn't even bother to reply.

Around the same time when reading Howard Fast's autobiography I was similarly impressed by the John Reed Clubs the Communist Party had in its heyday for writers. Like Davis and Fast, Che, Lumumba and Reed were all inspirations to me, these clubs seem to have been the convergence point for very important aspects of many people's lives.

The Cuatro Caminos Collective

Earlier this year I spent a month working with my friends and comrades in the Cuatro Caminos (Four Paths) Collective in the San Gabriel Valley of Los Angeles County, California. Their Four Paths are 1. Meaningful Work, 2. Wholesome Local Food, 3. Appropriate Technology, and 4. Inter-generational/Cross-cultural Dialogue and Cooperation. I think their collective serves as a model not only as a way workers can overcome the trials of these tough economic times, but also enjoy themselves and start building the institutions that will replace this system.

One of my comrades from the collective, Eddie, wrote "if anything, this organization represents a vehicle for active resistance to the forces of dis-empowerment and isolation. it's a conversation starter, a way to bridge these great divides of culture and language, status and power. Everybody has to eat, we all wear clothes. Basic things. What else can a person do but plant seeds? It's the only thing that makes sense sometimes, in a world of meltdowns and wars for oil. Planting seeds gives us courage and connects us to that long line of other humans who were here before us, tending gardens, watching the sky, sharpening tools and prepared for anything.

"Who's gonna feed us? and what? The food movement is often about pampered people buying overpriced food. Everybody deserves access, but if you want some food you gotta work, everybody. Don't matter if you've got money, you work in the garden, in the soil, crouching, bent over, maybe you get some blisters, later some calluses. but you don't get a pass just because you flash some bills. And you don't get a pass just because you're poor. Real poverty isn't lacking a new car or a flatscreen or a house, it's lacking community, it's ignorance. America is one of the poorest nations in the world, everybody holed up to themselves in front of glowing screens, waiting for the other shoe to drop instead of pulling it down, most people not being able to tell the difference between a beet and some random clump of grass, drinking high fructose by the gallon. We gotta wake up."

Most of the times I spent working with Cuatro Caminos was with their edible landscaping project in Whittier. This was basically doing organic gardening in people's yards. The most important part of this to me is that I think the

replacement of conventional agriculture is one of the most critical aspects of what needs to be done in the transition from capitalism.

One of the main reasons I had come to work with the collective was to help them start a fiber arts side project. To me, a big part of Appropriate Technology means returning to old fashioned crafts that are both fun and sustainable.

I taught two collective members and one of their friends to card weave headbands. Later I taught two more of their friends to card weave at a monthly fundraiser dinner Cuatro Caminos hosts. Then later I taught the same two members and their friend how to weave on a table loom, satisfied that they understood the basics of card weaving.

Cuatro Caminos also helped start a community garden in Glendora on land owned by the Church of the Brethren. It is also the site of their Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) pick up.

Another Collective side project is gathering fruit from friends' yards that would go bad other wise. It's amazing how much fruit just a few trees can produce!

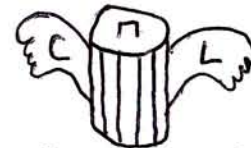
Cuatro Caminos was started by just three people. I think this shows how just a few dedicated people can get together and start something really great. For more information please check <http://ivcaminos.blogspot.com> or write at ivcaminos@gmail.com.

My experiences with the CW have been more complex. I've lived and worked in a number of their communities for upwards of six and half months at a time, and have hung around or volunteered at a few more I didn't live at, one of which I didn't like at all but eventually started to drop into again just for food or to cook with the local Food Not Bombs chapter which I was totally cool with. The New York Community prints a directory of houses and farms about every other year, and there are a number of them listed on catholicworker.org.

Compliments
of the

Estevan Park

3-12



Crust Lords

"Hallelujah, I'm a Bum!"

~~A~~
~~C~~
~~L~~
~~Z~~

Estevan Park is just a little north of Dry River, & across Main Ave. Last time I was in Tucson people were serving free food there seven days a week. Some of my fondest memories of my last visit to Tucson are of hanging out with my homebums, waiting for dinner or hot chocolate in the park, & of course the servings too. It was all pretty slick!

Hospitality & Hand Outs

Every once in a while someone asks me how I can afford to travel as much as I do. The answer is, I really can't. So some of my tactics for traveling are to have work lined up before I get to a place, and/or to find free food when I get there.

Two of the Movements that have helped me travel and stay various places are Food Not Bombs (FNB) and the Catholic Worker (CW), which frequently has nothing to do with being Catholic or having a job.

For Example, when I got to Portland, Oregon (PDX) in November of 2005, FNB was serving five days a week! I got involved cooking two days a week, and before I knew it almost all of my food was coming from FNB. Pretty much the rest of my food came from my work, which was a hostel that I was doing work exchange to stay at, 15 hours a week of cleaning for room and some board. I had that job lined up before I came to town. I found it by searching the Internet for "Portland hostel" and contacting the two different hostels that came up.

I've worked at another hostel in Edgewater, Chicago, and had cheap lodging a couple others over the years, but it's something I haven't done as of late.

FNB co-founder Keith McHenry maintains the website foodnotbombs.net with many servings listed and many resources for reading and distributing relating to FNB.

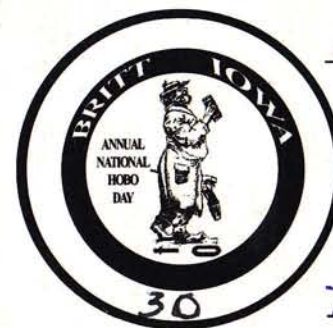


A Cuatro Caminos micro farm site in Whittier!





Photos on cover and pages 1 & 5 by Casey!



This Is To Certify That
Alex Iwasa
is a member in good standing of

Tourist Union No. 63
with headquarters at
BRITT, IOWA
Home of the National Hobo
Convention August each Year
TUCK 07-08
King of the Hoboes

People semi-frequently ask me how I ended up in Iowa, or why I keep coming back. The answers are: I came here for the National Hobo Convention Gathering, & I keep coming back because there's lots of work that I enjoy, under pretty good working conditions.

But now that the Tourist Union #63's journal, The Hobo-Tramp Voice, is out of print, I would really like to help start a journal for Travelers

that can be a resource for new comers, & a place for articles by us... am I an Old Timer now? Um, yeah, articles, photos & other art by Travelers.



Dry River and Bicas: Card Weaving in Tucson

When I was in Whittier working with Cuatro Caminos, I had come on the spur of the moment after abruptly quitting a farm job at a retreat center in Sheep ranch, CA. As I started to think about what I would do next, I thought about returning to Tucson, AZ, a town I had been to twice before. Both of those times I wasn't very prepared and didn't stay long or get much done. This time I set up some card weaving workshops at the Dry River Radical Resource Center, an Infoshop in the Dunbar Spring neighborhood and got enrolled in No More Deaths' Alternative Spring Break, to leave water and food along the migrants' trails people walking through the Sonoran Desert from Mexico to the US take.

The card weaving workshops went really well. The first person to put me up that time in Tucson was a member of the Dry River Collective, Clifford, who welcomed me to the Straight Edge Vegan (XVX) Punk House. As word started to get around about the workshops, I was referred to Bicas, a space I was previously familiar with as being all about bicycles. I met their art director, Casey, who helped me set up a series of workshops there, and hooked me up with housing the second place I stayed in town, Havoc House.

I volunteered for No More Deaths for about a week then returned to Tucson. The workshops at Bicas went well, and started to take on a likeness to the Luddite Cafe Crafting Amoebas I helped organize in Chicago, as people showed up to share all sorts of skills from making sandals out of bike tires, to crocheting, and macrame. I was also able to teach card weaving at both the XVX Punk House and Havoc House.

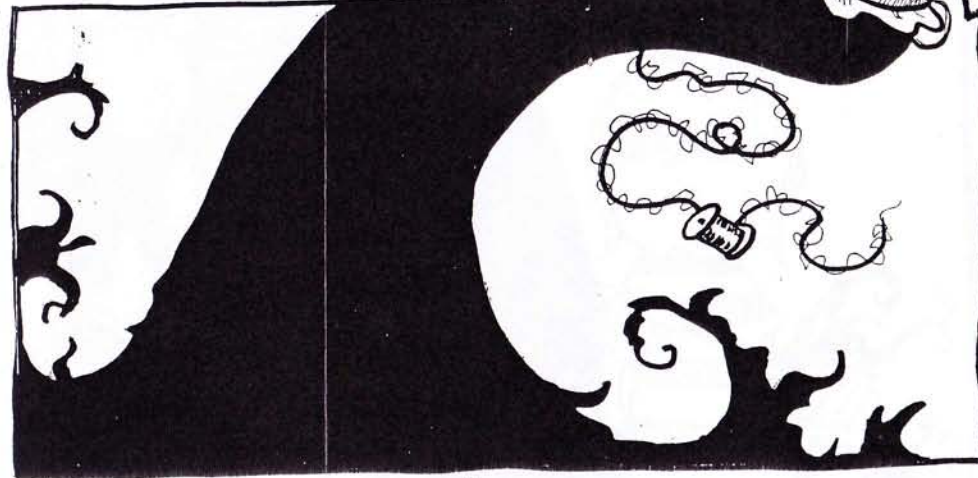
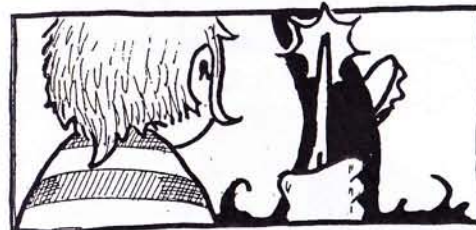
This comic came from Herk #1, by
O'Ryan McGowan, a 'zine of comics
I picked up at Dry River. Reprinted
with permission. You can write
O'Ryan at: O.ryan.miked@gmail.com.



Have You Been Thinking of Doing a 'Zine?

Please do it & let me know! I wanted
to do a 'zine for about five years
before I started, basically because I
was looking for people who had talents
I didn't & I was worried about all
the criticism that would come.

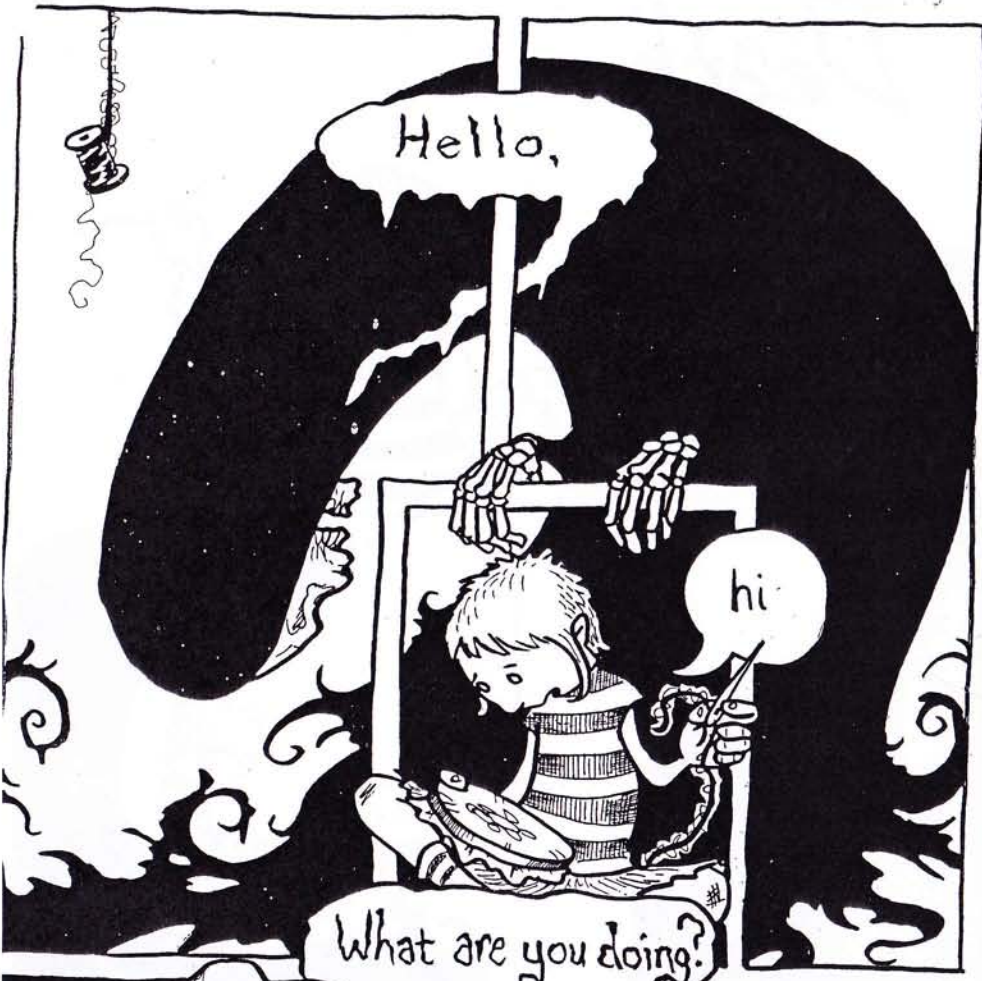
Let's face it! If someone has
it in for you, they'll fabricate a story
about you if they have to, to put
you down, so you might as well,
go ahead & do what you
feel is right! Then also maybe people
who have ^{the} talents & resources you
lack will dig your 'zine & help out!





Death & Embroidery





What are you doing?

