

WELCOME TO THE CHIMPANZINE

Shit is complex:

A simple statement that demands you never look for simple answers.

Leave the slogans to the sound byte politicians and savvy marketing executives.

Easy to swallow, easy to digest, easy to ignore the other muted voices asking you to think.

Free market logic: anyone asking you for something isn't strong enough to tell you.

Everybody else is telling.

Buy this, vote that, feel this, believe in that.

We are the ChimpanZine and we are telling you not to listen to what you are told.

If that gives you a headache it's just an early symptom of liberation. They will get worse.

Get off the train of revolt or reaction. One piles on coal, the other shifts to reverse. On a circular track both end up in the same place.

Smash the track, reject the false limitations of ideology and think for yourself.

It's time for rEVOLUTION.



I LOVE JARGON (read below)

The ChimpanZine is:

Against oppression of all kinds and divisive strategies of resistance that create a hierarchy of oppressions

For a holistic worldview that recognizes how forms of oppression overlap and reinforce each other

Against dogma, rigid ideologies, oversimplified dichotomies

For a constant critical mindset, flexible, acknowledging the ambiguity and complexity of our lives

Against an unsustainable status quo that masks a paradigm of exploitation behind the false objectivity of the market

For change, a widespread rearrangement of priorities from the material to the spiritual and interpersonal

WORDS WITH 3 SYLLABLES OR MORE MAKE ME WANT TO PUNCH THINGS (read below)

The ChimpanZine is:

Against the man with the guns, money and media holding you down.

For you.



STILL DON'T GET IT?

The ChimpanZine is a wad of gum stuck on the underside of sober reflection.
The ChimpanZine is a picture where you're blinking but the background is gorgeous.
The ChimpanZine is the question to your answers.
The ChimpanZine is about the dice hanging from your rearview mirror, how they sprout lint in midair and were made in southern China for 10 cents an hour.
The ChimpanZine is a book with a bad title but a hundred pages in the middle that you can't stop thinking about.
The ChimpanZine is a dart gun with unpoisoned darts that sting like hell and make you consider why you're being shot at.
The ChimpanZine is seven times seven other randomly selected numbers and it is still not enough.
The ChimpanZine is not a gingerbread house with strings attached, but it is nutritious and low in sodium and transfats.
The ChimpanZine has not committed the crimes for which it has not been caught, charged or convicted.
The ChimpanZine is not angry, it is furious, which rhymes with curious and is a more interesting word.
The ChimpanZine is not pleased to meet you, happy to see you, or delighted to make your acquaintance. It is desperate to stake out a small space in your attention span because the ChimpanZine is only the effect it has on your mind and nothing else.

Tom Horne's Perfect World

Somebody recently sent me an article about Tom Horne's vendetta against a Latino Ethnic Studies program in the Tucson public school system. Horne's moving up from state superintendent of public education to state Attorney General but he left a parting shot for his pet nemesis: a cease and desist order giving the program 60 days to disband or risk 10% of the school's state funding.

His argument is as follows:

The program indoctrinates Latino youth with the radical idea that they are discriminated against. Worse yet, it suggests they act upon this newfound understanding.

It teaches race hatred and effectively promotes resegregation.

It's an affront on freedom of speech. (A republican aide Horne sent to offer an alternative perspective was met with turned backs and silent, raised fists).

It may even advocate secession by teaching about Arizona's Mexican history, pre-US conquest.

Horne's campaign seemed obliviousness to irony. What better way to teach kids of their oppression and discrimination than by shutting down the only venue in which they'd been taught to recognize it? How could anybody not see this for what it was?

It took some friendly discussion to help me recognize I was making the huge assumption that

oppression exists. Once you get that far the hypocrisy glares off of every self-righteous soundbyte, but you've realized something Horne hasn't.

Everything is not OK.

In Tom Horne's world, racism has been solved. We have a black president and any discussion of race outside of a domesticated Civil Rights history lesson reeks of radical separatism.

In Tom Horne's world, when you hear both sides of the story you accept the version presented by a sleek Republican aide. As a result, workers consistently and overwhelming vote against their class interest in support of the free market enthusiasts in both parties happily exploiting them.

In Tom Horne's world, any history lesson that suggests that we are not riding the ever-rising crest of the exceptional American wave is blasphemy.

Six people died of gunshot wounds in Tucson on the day I read this article. Thirteen more were injured, including Gabrielle Giffords, the assassination target whose baby steps left of center amounted to tepid support for immigrant's rights and Obama's watered down healthcare legislation. Sarah Palin, in an ever-eloquent defense of her own gun-laden political rhetoric declared, "acts of monstrous criminality stand on their own. They begin and end with the criminals who commit them, not collectively with all the citizens of a state," and in Tom Horne's world, she's right.

In Tom Horne's world, disasters, tragedies and inconveniences can't be symptoms of an oppressive global power structure. They have to be externalized, made abnormal and deviant. High powered hand guns are normal and good, using them to kill white American grocery shoppers is deviant. If Jared Loughner had been accepted into the army and performed his violence on brown skinned bodies in foreign countries it would have been normal and good. Instead, he's bad, and in Tom Horne's world, bad things can't be normal.

As Attorney General, Horne will defend the status quo because to him it is synonymous with righteousness. He'll advocate for Arizona legislation making brown skin probable cause for an investigation and ignore the would-be immigrants dying of thirst in the Sonora, sure that he's defending all that is good and sacred against the dark forces fomenting unrest, violence and change.

I wish I had Horne's filter, to make the Tucson sun a little less unforgiving. I wish I could imagine myself besieged in an ivory tower by the forces of evil. I wish for the hubris to believe that there are right and wrong choices and with a little luck and a good spokesperson my hands will always be clean. Then I think of the bodies at the Safeway, and the bodies in the desert.

No thanks.

I'd rather fight this fight with my eyes open.