

Gina DeCagna

English 111
Experimental Writing Seminar:
Constraints & Collaborations

Professor Charles Bernstein
University of Pennsylvania

Fall 2015

"Holding ground is about the only
aesthetic option that matters in the face of
the unrelenting assault on the unassimilated."
—Professor Bernstein

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Thoreavian *Wawa*

I walked to the Wawa because
I wished to indulge fortuitously,
to guzzle only the least nutritious of eats,
and discover if I could only chug what
it had in stock, and not, when
I thirsted to imbibe, discover that
I had nothing bagged. I did not wait
to guzzle down what was not wrapped, savoring
is so unnecessary; nor did I remember to use
utensils unless it was quite
viscous. I wanted to eat quick and
suck up all the juice of meat, to digest
so readily and cow-like as to put
to excrete all that was digestible, to cut a fine
cheese and walk out, to drive the body into
a corner, and slumber it to its fattest proportions.

disenfranchisement

A ~~voting system~~ disenfranchisement or ~~electoral system~~ cerebral incarceration corporation is a ~~method~~ superstructure by which ~~voters~~ big white men in black suits make a ~~choice~~ ~~between options~~ natural selection via survival of the fittest, often in ~~an election~~ a society that excludes the sick and suffering via ejection towards a ~~policy referendum~~ parliamentary isolator island of palms and coconuts. A ~~voting system~~ disenfranchisement of all things breathing (vegetation, herbage, microtubules, and fungi aside) and sentient enforces ~~rules to ensure valid voting~~ vindicable suppression of intelligence, inclination, and other abstracts yielding 'hope,' and how ~~votes~~ incarceration maintenance targets of the overseen, the defeated, and the exterminated (by means of cerebral drainage or by bodily removal, to later supplant with bread and wine) are counted and aggregated to yield a final result. Common ~~voting systems~~ cerebral incarceration corporations ~~are majority rule~~ consist of big-white-men-in-black-and-blue-suits ~~rule~~, disproportional representation, or singularity executions, ~~proportional representation or plurality voting~~ with a number of variations and methods such as ~~first-past-the-post~~ just-press-the-big-red-button or preferential voting by including capital investors of more big white men in black suits, sometimes the very same corporations embedded in the superstructure of the cerebral incarceration corporation. The study of formally defined ~~voting~~ disenfranchisement systems is called ~~social choice~~ 'societal autoimmunity cleansing theory' or ~~voting~~ 'human genocide of the mind' theory, a subfield of political science, ~~economics~~ morals and ethics, or ~~mathematics~~ human rights.

Rules for Making Yourself an Unwanted Party Guest

RULES, *by many observations of which, a clever, intelligent person can still make himself an undesirable person to be within the company of.*

Your goal is to *feel powerful and great*; therefore, you must, by all means, prevent others from feeling great, for their feelings of happiness may diminish your own. In this vein,

1. If possible, dominate the entire conversation. If this is difficult to do, talk only about yourself; your education; your knowledge; your property, salary, and other assets; all your successes in business; all the times you won arguments; all your own wise sayings and observations from anecdotes of your life.
2. If, when needing to come up for air and another party guest tries to speak, scrutinize his words, and, if possible, find something either in his thinking or method of delivery to immediately contradict what he says. Raise a dispute. Rather than be wrong, criticize his grammar.
3. If another party guest is saying something that is indisputably good, pay no attention to it or interrupt him with a topic of something else. Squash all the attention of others; or, if you can guess what he's going to say, be quick and say it before him; or, if he does manage to say it, and you think the other party guests find it interesting, allow it to be a good exchange, and credit it to having been said by *Bacon, Locke, Bayle*, or some other eminent writer. Thus, you squander the reputation he could have received for it, and gain some for yourself as you demonstrate your learnedness and memory.
4. When modest party guests have been in your company for a few times, they will choose to be silent in your company. You may converse without fear of a rival, simultaneously picking at them for being so dull, which will be your new source of mockery.

Thus, you will be sure to please *yourself*. The polite party guest aims at pleasing *others*, but you will surpass him even in that. A party guest can be present only at one place at one time—at the same time, he may be absent from twenty other parties he was invited to. He can please only where he *is* and *you* wherever you are *not*.

Commandments for Making Thyself an Ungodly Citizen

Decrees, *by the Observation of the LORD, that Man Shall make Hymself a disagreeable help meet.* And so, this is the ordinance of the law which the LORD hath commanded, saying,

'Let man have dominion over all other creatures roaming the earth;' thus, man must strip all other creatures of their garments, for their Goodness may make yours unclean. And whatsoever the unclean person shall toucheth shall be unclean; and the soul that toucheth it shall be unclean until even.

And so, man shall command the whole discourse; and man shall not humblith himself before thee, his learnings, the LORD's Knowledge, his oxen and possessions, his successes in commerce, his conquers in rebellions, using the LORD's wisdom in vain.

And so, man shall not spare, neither shall he have pity, when another should behold the opportunity of speaking; man shall slay his Words, and, hath greatly offend in his reverence, immediately contradict and raise a Dispute upon the other. Rather than be abolished, he shall profane even the sanctuary of other.

And so, if another should be indisputably Good; take from him his strength, the joy of his glory, the desire of his eyes, and whatever whereupon they set their mind, give no care to it; if man shall know what he sayth before speakth, man shall spoil it and take vengeance with a despiteful heart; thus, man shall desolate him by sword of tongue. He shall cover another's lips and shall eat the bread of men, and his wheels shall be his head.

And so, how great is his beauty! Man shall shine on without fear; the LORD shall make bright clouds and give to them showers of rain to every one plentiful grass in the field.

Thus, man shall please *himself*. The goodness of man aims at helping *others*, but a man shall only be present in His company and absent in twenty. He shall please only where he *is*. *He* shall never deliver thee from the snare of the fowler or from the noisome pestilence.

How to Be an Asshole – and Become Adored by Women

Based on observations of many parties, we've got some steps for a bro who thinks he's smart and funny to reveal himself as his true inner asshole:

Your goal is to look and feel great—be sexy, smart, funny, and of course, get laid. Therefore, you must, by all means, prevent all other bros from seeming more attractive, intelligent, funny, or sexually desirable to the ladies. In order to do this:

1. Take control of every conversation. Talk *all* about yourself: your shameless elite schooling, your ability to pass every test (fuck yeah—even when you're hung over!), how you know everything about everything, how you choose to party all the time, how much money you have, how great you are at business, how you've won every fight (was named MVP by fellow bros), and how you have your own wise mottos from all the great things that have happened in your life. People quote you.
2. If there's a slight lull in the conversation with a hot lady and another bro tries to step in, pay attention to all his words, and, if possible, find something wrong either in what he's saying or how he's saying it. Immediately dispute him. Rather than seem unintelligent or incapable of banter, turn to criticizing him on his grammar.
3. If another bro is undeniably more impressive, steal the attention away. If you can guess what witty conversational move he's going to pull next, be quick and say it before him! If he still beats you to it, and the lady is intrigued, just admit that it was a clever sentiment that has been said by Franklin, Eliot, Kafka, or some other writer. Stomp all over the clout he might have gained! You will gain some for yourself as you charmingly show off your great memory and how much you read!
4. When more modest bros have been around you a few times, they'll be quiet. You may brag on without fear of a rival, and you can, instead, make fun of them for being so boring — which will be your newest source of mockery.

And so, you will be sure to please *yourself*. The polite bro aims at pleasing *others*, but your asshole moves will attempt to beat him even at that. A bro can only own his own party, and he could be an asshole at twenty others. He can radiate his greatness only where he *is*, and another bro where he is *not*.

Arms—ah, weird. 'Kay. Can—no! Troy, I quickly preened us. Abhor these.
It tallied—ah, fat. Oh, pro-food keys. Lotsa Vinnie. Ah, 'kay? When? Eat
lit Torah. Molt 'em. Illicit, tear his—he—oculus, yet. All toe.
We super. Rum, say, why? Me more! Um, you own these—at here! Um,
molt that quote, 'kay? Ed—bell! Oh, pass us! Dumb, conning ferret. Ear—bum!
Infer it, 'kay? Dell. Those Latin—oh, gain us!—on day—Latin, um—
All bonnet-y, 'kay? Pat these. That they all—aye. Moan—aye. Roam—aye.

Remember me when I'm gone

I was, well, his doll
 All we ever did was wear gowns
 we had sumptuous dinner parties
 we never waited on a line

*Listen to everything
 and everyone
 Weigh everything
 Sleep on it and don't
 think about it
 Your roots are there, and
 the tree's growing
 either crooked or straight*

He knew how to do everything
 He'd tip the man — they knew him
 and cut us through a side door
 We'd have front row seats

*Find a smart man,
 someone interesting,
 you must be his number one
 Don't go for a good-looking man
 They don't make good husbands*

We traveled everywhere
 We saw everything
 He'd bring back
 a larger diamond ring
 each time he left

*You are number one
 You do what you like
 You do what you believe in
 You are what you believe in
 I live dull now*

I wore the most expensive fabrics
 I sowed them—I sowed everything—myself
 I could have made something of myself
 I gave it up

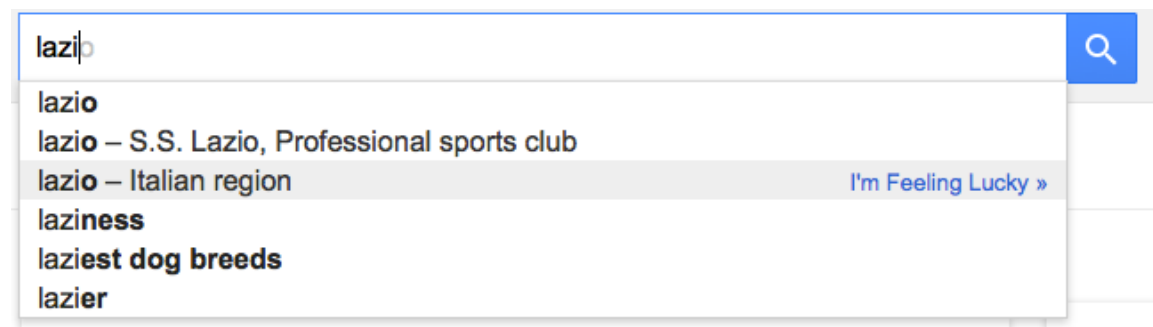
*Dream all the time and reach
 Aim for the best, not the second
 Don't let the grass grow
 beneath your feet!
 I lived my way*

lazy

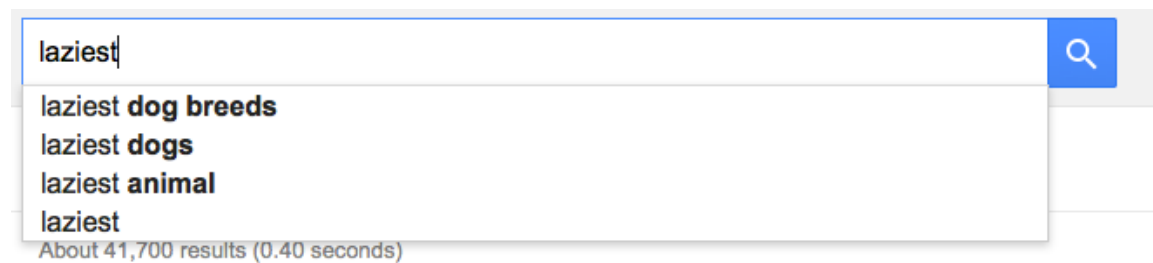
lazy susan lazy Sunday lazy boy Lazio
 —Italian region
 laziest animal laxist
 encounter with schism
 laxist party
 laxist controversy
 Cyprian's writings themselves
 the subject for scrutiny
 economic convergence criteria
 in the single currency plan
 countenance any laxist
 à la fois punitive et laxiste et l'expression
 Punitive taxes lax penalty
 breed corruption
 the Polar Beer probe team
 non-functioning cameras
 the breaches after the doctors
 the lawyers and yes, the farmers, too
 ascertain the most dominant
 deeper aspects of
 human

Citations:

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No dictionary entries found for 'laziest'.

Did you mean:

- [ladies](#)
- [lakist](#)
- [lapiés](#)
- [latest](#)
- [laxist](#)

¹ Source: Google Search Engine.

² Source: Google Search Engine.

³ Source: Google Search Engine.

laxist, n. Pronunciation: /'læksɪst/ Etymology: < lax adj. + -ist suffix.

A person who favours lax views or interpretation: *spec.* the designation given by modern historians to the school of casuists in the Roman Catholic church who maintained that it was justifiable to follow any probability, however slight, in favour of liberty. Also *attrib.*⁴

In order to delve into Cyprian's understanding of the bishop as a signifier of validity and guarantor of unity in opposition to other Christian groups which accounts for the centrality of the scriptures in Cyprian's writings, this essay will focus on Cyprian's first encounter with schism: the laxist party, which arose after the first wave of persecution endured by the Cypriatic church in North Africa. Our sources for the laxist controversy are Cyprian's writings themselves, namely his early treatises and letters, which will provide the scope of this study, while Cyprian's use of scripture will provide the subject for scrutiny.⁵

Theo Waigel, the German Finance Minister, announced on March 30 that he was flatly refusing to countenance any laxist interpretation of the economic convergence criteria set to take part in the single currency plan.⁶

Une attitude à la fois punitive et laxiste et l'expression d'une volonté solidaire.⁷

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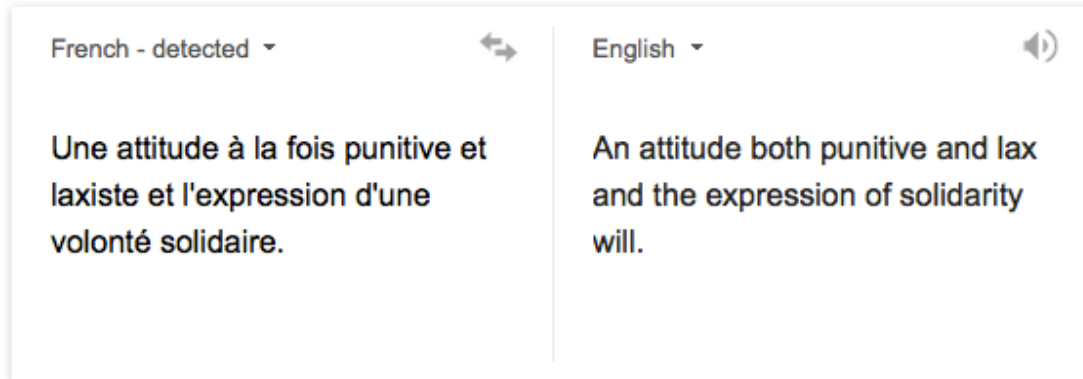
⁴ *Oxford English Dictionary* Online.

⁵ *Cyprian's Scriptural Hermeneutic of Identity: The Laxist 'Heresy,'* David E. Wilhite,

⁶ *German Minister Rounds On Laxist Attitudes, European report.*

⁷ Comprendre la justice pénale des mineurs en turquie. Une attitude à la fois punitive et laxiste et l'expression d'une volonté solidaire.

⁸ Google translate.



[Open in Google Translate](#)

Punitive taxes, lax penalty system breed corruption⁹

Dear Editor,

I was shocked to read about the lack of co-operation that the Polar Beer probe team received from GRA. But even more shocking was to read Mr Sattaur's excuses. Can you imagine if any businessperson had done the same to GRA? Mr Sattaur would have engaged his full wrath on them. Nowhere does Mr Sattaur address issues such as non-functioning cameras and the breaches in the TRIPPS software. Instead he gives the impression of seeking to divert attention from his department's own failings by railing at his favourite targets – local businessmen.

I suggest Mr Sattaur look at the root causes of the problems – an extremely punitive tax regime and a very lax penalty system, both of them a perfect combination for breeding corruption. Also he should look to be widening the tax net instead of deepening it – that is, going after the doctors, the lawyers and yes, the farmers, too.

Yours faithfully,

HA Latchana

What breeds corruption?¹⁰

Are there any scientific studies that have been undertaken to ascertain the most dominant cause of corruption in general?

I find it too convenient to say that poverty or anarchy or authoritarianism gives rise to corruption, as I feel it has also a lot to do with other deeper aspects of human psychology as well. Of course these issues might act a catalyst.

There can be historical, social, demographic causes, which encourage or discourage corruption.

⁹ *Stabroek News.*

¹⁰ *Quora.*

Ponto Vecchio

three arched lines
 break / glittering
 in open approach
 upon river / parapet
 stiff against
 corners

it was late
 January began
 bright / the change
 dimmed mood /
 flying grey clouds
 threatened rain
 / dripping /
 dripping

piers seethed and
 swirled / flattening
 yellow mountain
 swelling rolling
 the lost
 poplars filed
 along a slick course /
 melted into a slow low /
 hung horizon

in either hand / a coin
 faces domes or towers
 / in stiffening white air /
 villas and black cypresses
 break into olive orchards

satisfaction is in
 the power / isolated /
 a frippery of architecture
 looking sensible / brooding
 down the tawny sleep
 of the swung Wabash

no love streams through an ambitious town / banks awoke with a morning conviction /
that's a great ass / leave them / a prodigious risk breaks life sharp off the set / one can
attempt to renew the long diverted act / precipitated impulses fight the conscience /
a profound disgust springs forth / disgust bitters the disappointment / prosperity emerges
with energy / the best years of the Republicans / very good / recognised for people of all /
mornings believe I'm the smartest man / Indianapolis forgave the heresies / but talent they
did not have / they admired the free trade / they laughed much / we fault Democrats /
Republicans bolted certain ideas as they arose at midnight / in might a mortification pride /
thickens the conscience / troubles more than pride alone / they accepted the terms / again

Charismatic and cunning,
the charlatan started running—
 Furies and juries
 amounting redness in brief—
 White badges as
interlocutors retrieve them all:
Is this music? Or is this madness?
Trampled fans and photo glam—
flashes brighter than even the commercials.
 Chief Justice never really knew.
The bystanders—yes, bystanders in-the-know—
are alone in masses, brooding in quiet resentment,
pretending those burnt misses were vague kisses
in only a nightmare of yesterday.
 Reliving it: too much,
 too deep, too quick.

I came a clamoring aghast the fancy place
to see a shining gal in the spot of my case
a-choo a-choo a-choo I sneezed away train
and chased the dame aflame with my beret
a wink a slack a mining knack but the attack
bent back and pushed me towards the door
snore a swore put pat a shiny tack and that
was all I needed the coil surrounding at last!

Great Britain and Northern Ireland 26.50
Alfalfa Cups 1.99
Allegro Pizza & Grill 6.10
Arbor Mist Mango Strawberry Moscato 9.99
Arbor Mist Strawberry White Zinfand 9.99
Arn Soft White 2.99
BB Tuna Solid Wh 1.69
Bagel with Cream Cheese 1.75
Banana #3 2.52
Banana Natnl 1.98
Yellow Bananas 1.94
Copabanana 8.79
Beef Philadelphia Burger 7.95
Blick Studio Gesso Gallon 2 ct 24.98
Blue Agave Lemonade 2.29
Country Club Tea – Large 2.29
Bonnibel 8.5 Red 14.99
CVS Hyd Prx Sol 14.79
Cadbury Dairy Milk 1.50
Cadbury Fruit Nut 1.16
Cadbury Fruit Nut 2.49
Cadbury Milk Bar 1.16
Cadbury Royal Dark 1.15
Cali Brown Roll 5.99
Canson Crm Dra 18x24 80lb 24sh 15.39
Chenille 12” 25pc White 0.83
Chicken Burrito 6.80
Chipotle Chicken 8.95
Clear Styrene 24x36 31.39
Dairy 2.99
Dole Baby Spinach 2.00
Dove Exfoliate 6pk pc 7.89
Draft Film Matte 2S 24x36 25.08
Draft Film Matte 2s 24x36 14.63
Duct Tape Silver 4.57
Dura-Lar Clear 18x24 8.29
Dura-Lar Sheet .020 24x36 50.40
Dura-lar Sheet .020 24x36 14.40
Edge Vinyl Gloves 10pk 3.49
Fran Rinld Nslt 1.85
Franzia Sunset Blush 14.99
Freedom Taxi 12.39
Galkyd Lite 16oz 16.95
Gamsol 32oz 13.47
Gen Powder Cha Blk 6oz 9.99
Glue Stick Reg 4” 20pk 3.70

Gum Eez Flossers 1.69
Hnst T Pom Blue 5.00
IceTea MD Unsweet 2.19
IceTea MD Unsweet 2.19
International Flat Rate Env
Jammin Wig 7.19
Krylon Crystal Clear 6.69
Lancaster Spinach 2.50
Lemonade – Large 2.29
Liq Basics Naphth Crimson 5.38
Liq Basics Primary Yellow 5.38
Liq Basics Ultramarine 5.38
Local 44 6.60
Manager Special 1.98
Margherita – Regular 7.49
Mod Podge Gloss 16oz 6.66
Muffin 2.00
NJ Transit Rail 17.00
Ook Invisible Wire 1.19
Ook Steel Wire 18Ga 5.37
PM Pro Stapler 9.99
Phila Chive & On 2.79
Plaster of Paris 5.08
Polaner Af Sdls 3.69
Portabella Sand 6.99
Prisacr Kneaded Gray XLrg 1.59
Pumpkin Muffin 1.79
Raffia Natural 2.09
Refined Linseed Oil 250ml 9.75
SEPTA 9.00
SR Alm Milk Vanill 2.99
SR Alum Wrap Hvy D 1.99
SR Clear Food Wrap 1.99
SR Clear Trash Bag 6.99
SR Imp Pec Romano 1.79
SR Rubber Glove Me 3.98
SRGSL Sharp Chedd 3.49
Senci Nodmg Bl Els 3.29
Seedles Cucum 1.99
Sewing Kit 3.11
Stfld Org Banla 4.49
Stny Yog 0% Frnch 4.29
Sweet Potato Fries 3.50
T.B.M. 6.99
T.B.M. 6.99
Tax 0.52

Tomato Cluster 1.44
Tomato and Mozz 6.00
Toms Peprmnt 4.00
Toms of Maine 1.00
Tortas Frontera 8.95
Tritan Bottle 2 6.49
Turkey Avocado 7.99
Wr Sml Ptd Ripe 1.89
Wt Grp Black Sdls 4.26
X-acto #11 Z-Series 5pk 2.79
X-acto #2 Knife Sfty Cap 4.79
X-acto Hvy Dty Snp/Off Kn 5.92

I cannot
I cannot
I just
cannot

Have you seen my
slipping hand fading
with each turnt page and
eyes glazing into
pure, ephemeral
nothingness

Whilst I almost wished I
had something concrete to
tell you like that
sadness emanates
from a stone sheath

I have nothing other
than the dreamily blurring of
sounds around me, fast
and soft, impressions
both painterly types
and the sonic gulping of
being under ocean

it's like in a vacuum womb
or a pressed cocoon as
clothed, languid adult,
clocks ticketing you
or tickling you
every minute that dances
beneath your
rested feet

How to Get LinkedIn

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embellishment of language
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you do you
being the brightest star
everyone needs a website

impressive headlines 58

head-scratcher versus clinical cranium assessor
be your own CEO of yourself

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duckfaces get 200% more clickability
don't use your high school photo with the pink and purple lasers
puppies, tigers, sharks are for Tinder only

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who do you think you are?
tearing love apart

listing former employers 55

no camp counselors allowed
the rules of the service industry
so you worked for yourself all this time?
you taught children in third-world countries
yo mamma say 'eat, pray, love'
rinse; repeat

the power of your connections 100

you know ERRRBODY
hosting parties
cocktails and conversations
get people to like you—but, really
commenting and sharing
send spam emails with grace
pretending you met before

ask for endorsements 77

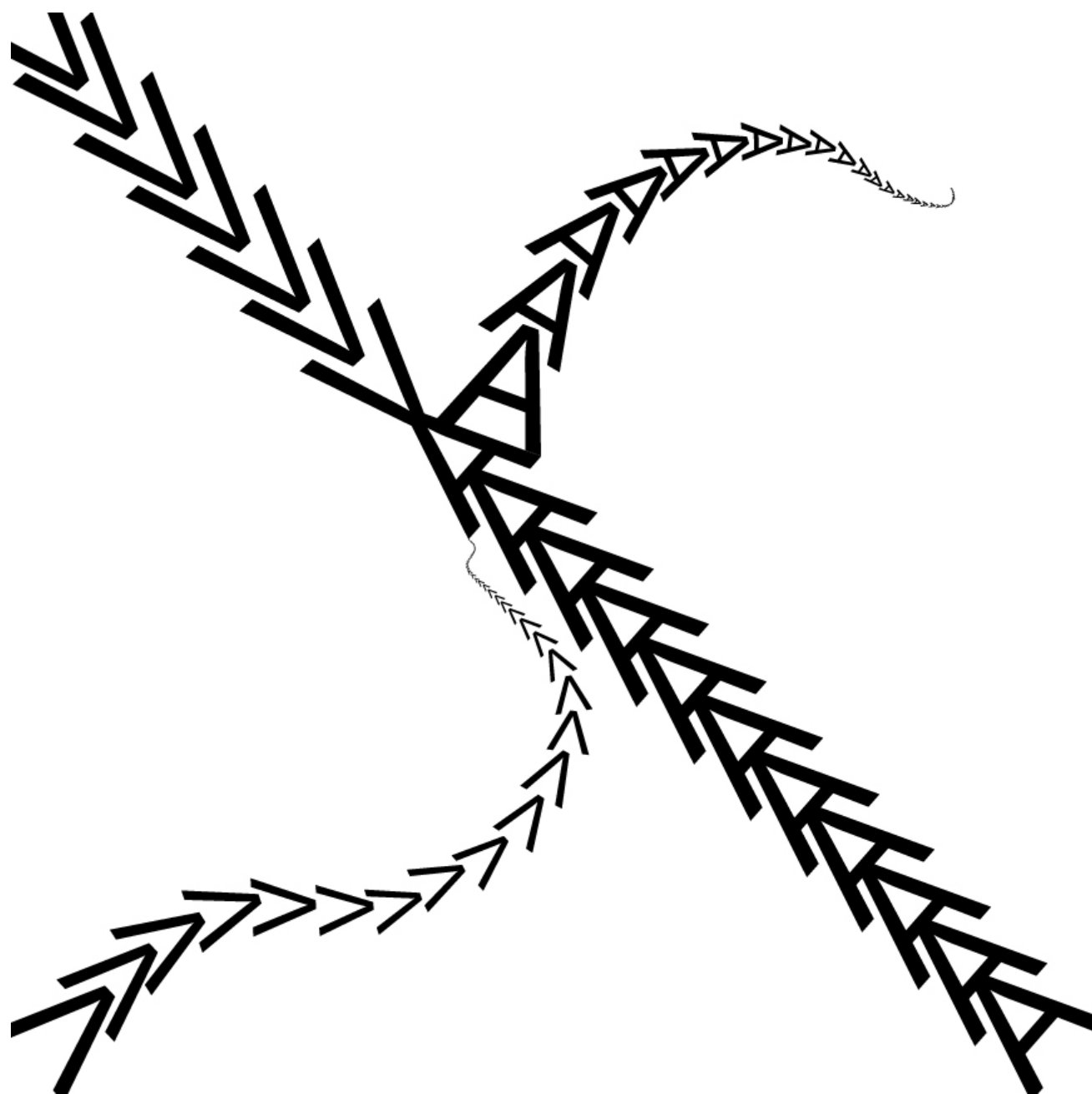
know your shit
how to bribe your pals

I was
meandering
down a
pallid road
aghast with
mediocrity.

Chickens fly higher
than the dead pigeons
at your feet.
Speak & you shall
be risen as bread
for their beaks.

Capitalist Nest

Rat bodies scatter the floor
a makeshift puzzler intertwined,
molested, their tails slither as serpentine as
their teeth grind like crisp reapers; they
chop Washington's apples as bills;
they retrieve worms as numbers.
Black suited uniforms, red ties against chests—
they think 'red badges of courage'—but,
men don't even heckle, they just press—
smiling white teeth gurgle over mirrored
white porcelain sinks; they don't ever
think about the meat that roasts for
them in the oven; they don't ponder the ache—
that scratch at the back of their necks—
biting, ticks fester in open sores—
black bodies on the head
until seizure of consciousness
might strike dead.



weave me

weave me

weave me

weave me

weave me