

Theodore Kaczynski (Unabomber) Answers Questions About His Book And Society

By Eric Jankiewicz
Editor-In-Chief

Theodore Kaczynski (UNABOMBER) is serving time in Florence, Colorado's maximum state prison for bombings in America that began in 1978 and ended with his arrest on April 6, 1996. He claims that his reason for doing this is to get the world's attention so that his anti-technological manifesto (*Industrial Society and its Future*) could be read. In 2010 his collected essays and his manifesto were published under the title *Technological Slavery*.

Below is an exclusive question and answer interview with him conducted through mail.

Q: In paragraph 28 of *Industrial Society and its Future (ISAIF)* you write that "the duty of society to take care of the individual" are "deeply rooted values of our society." If by our society you mean America, then doesn't capitalism argue against taking care of the individual?

A: In paragraph 28 of ISAIF I said that "the duty of the individual to serve society and the duty of society to take care of the individual" are deeply rooted values of modern society. You ask how this statement can be reconciled with the existence of capitalism.

Actually such a reconciliation is not very difficult. But one has to remember that social phenomena are so complex that one can seldom make statements about them that are strictly accurate. One can try to improve the accuracy of one's statements by adding reservations, qualifications, exception, explanations..., but for practical reasons this can be carried only so far. (See ISAIF, paragraph 231.) Consequently, what one says about a society usually is only a rough approximation to the truth. It's not surprising, therefore, that my statement about "deeply rooted values" can use some clarification.

Probably any historian would agree with the statement that Christian piety was a deeply rooted value in Europe during the Middle Ages, even though in those days most people (including probably the majority of the clergy) often behaved in ways that were hardly compatible with Christian piety. Similarly, when I said that "the duty of the individual to serve society and the duty of society to take care of the individual" were deeply rooted values today, I didn't mean to say that most people or most organizations actually behaved consistently in accord with those values. I did mean that those values are continually inculcated by the mainstream media and in the schools and that they seldom are openly challenged; they are values that most believe in at some half-conscious; and they are values that are commonly used to justify the activities of large organizations.

Of course, today's corporations are out for money and power, but the asserted justification for their activities is that economic competition generated wealth for the whole society. In other words, it is claimed that by taking care of themselves the corporations are helping to take care of everyone. (And in a materialistic sense this is true in the short run, since capitalist economies do provide what is called a "higher standard of living" than socialist economies do.) Corporations are expected

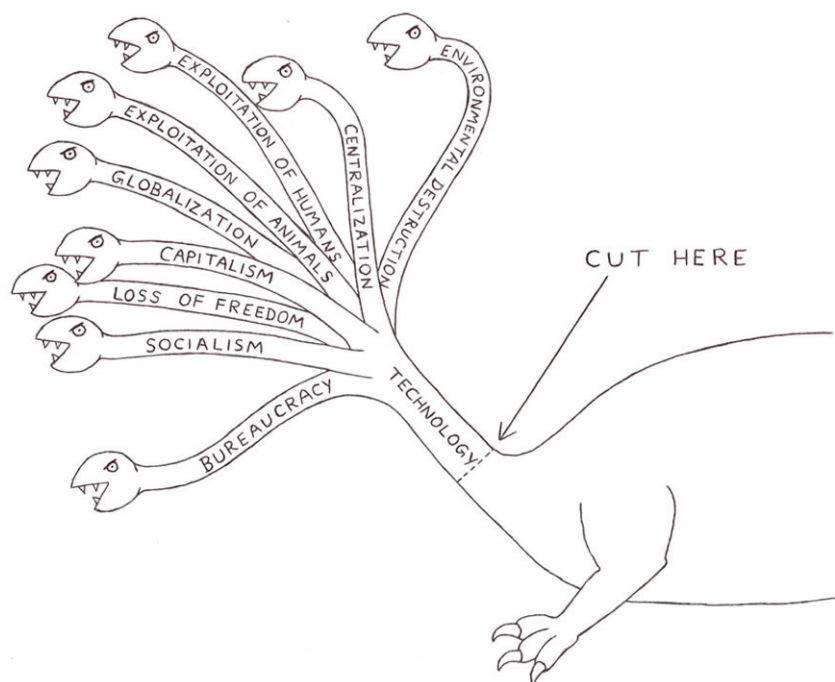
to take care of their employees by providing them with medical insurance, pensions and so forth. Corporations may spend or donate money for projects that bring them no direct profit but supposedly benefit the public (though of course the corporations' real purpose is to benefit themselves by improving their public image). And when a capitalist like John D. Rockefeller or Bill Gates becomes so rich that he gets bored with making money, he commonly turns to "philanthropy", i.e., spending money to take care of people.

So the existence of capitalism is by no means inconsistent with my contention that "taking care of people" and so forth is a deeply rooted value of our society.

Q: Capitalism encourages individuals and or organizations to try and defeat one another in the market place. One main tactic of achieving this goal is by inventing superior technology as a way of gaining the upper hand against ones competitor. If you agree with this statement than do you think capitalism helps technologies domination over mankind more than any other form of government? And would it be worthwhile to spend time on trying to destroy capitalism?

A: You correctly point out that economic competition under capitalism encourages the development of technology, because superior technology confers a competitive advantage on those who possess it. You then ask whether I think capitalism promotes the dominance of technology more than other economic systems do. Yes, I do think that. Finally, you ask whether it would be worthwhile to spend time and effort on destroying capitalism. No, I don't think it would be worthwhile, and I'll explain why. One could to some degree retard technologies progress by eliminating or reducing any one of a number of things; to mention just three examples, capitalism, globalization, and centralization.

"Capitalism" (as it's called, maybe not quite accurately) is at present the economic system that is most conducive to technological development, so if you could get rid of capitalism you would slow technological progress to some extent. Globalization contributes to economic and technological efficiency because there are obvious advantages to a system in which natural, human, and technical resources can be freely transferred from any one part of the world to any other part where they may be needed. So if you could do away with globalization and isolate each region of the world economically from all the others, technological progress would be significantly slowed. Capitalization too is important to technological progress. For example, in order to keep the U.S. economy functioning adequately there has to be some central authority to regulate banking, print money,



THEODORE KACZYNSKI

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So, let's forget about attacking capitalism, globalization, bureaucracy, or any other particular evils that are merely incidental to technological progress.

and so forth, otherwise the U.S. would experience the same difficulties as did Germany prior to its unification in 1867-1871. Earlier, German economic development had been significantly retarded by a lack of centralization; that is, by the fact that much of Germany was divided into numerous

small states, each of which had its own banking laws, its own currency, its own weight and measures, and so forth. For this and many other reasons, if you could somehow get rid of all centralization, then economic growth and technological progress would be seriously impeded.

So why not attack centralization? First, for reasons that I'll mention in a moment, it would be exceedingly difficult to attack centralization successfully. A movement would have to concentrate all its energy on that attack, and even if it could succeed substantially reducing centralization it would not thereby put an end to modern technology, it would only slow technological progress to a certain extent. In other words, the movement would use its energy inefficiently: a vast amount of energy would be expended in the hope of only a very modest gain.

Worse still, by concentrating its energy on the campaign against centralization, the movement would distract attention (its own and other people's) from the *real* objective, which is to get rid of modern technology itself.

Furthermore, I maintain that an attack on centralization could not be successful. Of course, there is no special difficulty about decentralizing in situations where centralization has proven to be technologi-

cally and economically inefficient. (E.g., excessive centralized control over economic activity, otherwise known as socialism, has largely died out due to its inefficiency.) But where centralization promotes efficiency, most people will stubbornly oppose decentralization. For example, if you wanted to let each state of the Union print its own currency independently of all the other states, your proposal would be dismissed as ridiculous. Even if you somehow succeeded in putting such a measure into effect, the negative consequences—monetary chaos and so forth—would outrage so many people that centralized control over currency would soon be reinstated.

In fact, under modern conditions the trend toward centralization is an inevitable consequence of the principle of natural selection (see *Technological Slavery*, pages 280-85): Systems that are more centralized (in areas where centralization contributes to efficiency) thrive better than those systems that are less centralized; hence, the former tend to expand at the expense of the latter. Needless to say, if future developments should ever make centralization economically and technologically inefficient, it will be relatively easy to decentralize; but then your attack on centralization will be promoting technological progress rather than retarding it. In either case, attacking centralization is not an effective way of resisting technological progress.

Arguments very similar to the foregoing ones apply to any effort to eliminate capitalism. To have any hope of eliminating capitalism a movement would have to concentrate all its energy on that task, and even if it succeeded in eliminating capitalism the gain would be very modest, because technological progress would continue, though at a somewhat slower rate. (Despite the absence of capitalism in the Soviet Union, that country was by no means a negligible force technologically.

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Politics

Judicial Board Crippled After Impeachment And Resignation Student Council Replaces Two Resignations



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The Board of Directors meeting on March 2nd. Jan Fox likened these people to be nothing more than tyrants.

By Eric Jankiewicz

Editor-In-Chief

Between the months of Dec. 2010 to Jan. 2011 a conflict within Judicial Board (JB) and Student Council (SC) crystallized into the form of formal complaints.

In the end JB member Jan Fox would be impeached. Christopher Sui, Jose Rosario, and Bellient Tavares would resign, leaving JB temporarily empty.

On Dec. 12, 2010 Junior Representative Lewquay Williams wrote a formal complaint against Chief Justice Rosario and Fox to SC. In the letter, he called for "action" to be "taken against the Judicial Board because it is quite apparent that they are acting injudiciously without fear or reprimand." Williams wrote this complaint in response to a recent event two days earlier. In this event Rosario ended up trying to get Williams "fired from my job, impeached and expelled from the University," according to the formal complaint. Then in January, Sui wrote a formal complaint against Fox. In the letter he claimed that she "has been negligent in her duties" by failing to come to meetings.

One of JB's main functions as a system is to process complaints made against anyone within SC.

In order for a member of JB to be impeached SC must vote on such an action, and then the Board of Directors confirms or rejects the SC's decision.

Following these complaints against JB members, Joseph Onwu, president of SC, set up an investigation to take place on Feb. 2. James De Lorenzi, a professor of John Jay, was head of the investigation. Students Norhan Basuni, Alain Berrouet, and Elizabeth Cyran were part of the investigation. In a letter written by Lorenzi and addressed to Onwu, the investigation committee finds "allegations against Fox. . ." and "Rosario to be credible." These findings then led SC to vote for both Rosario and Fox to be impeached on Feb. 22.

"I was disappointed with the level of immaturity," Onwu said during the meet-

ing about JB.

The night before BOD made their vote Rosario, Sui, and Tavares resigned from their positions as members of JB. The next day on March 2, Fox presented her case in front of an audience of some 30 members of John Jay. "I was working under dangerous conditions," she said in response to questions of why she never went to JB meetings. Her voice then began to quiver and she started to cry as she likened the JB atmosphere to be as hostile as the Columbine High School shootings in 1999, and the more recent Virginia Tech Shootings. She then said that Rosario had gone around carrying a gun to school. This information was found to be false by a separate investigation conducted by the Safety Department. She also compared the workings of John Jay's Student Government to that of a tyrannical third world country government. After the meeting, Fox said that this statement may have been an exaggeration, but since the institution that is suppose to make sure SC is playing fair is now completely empty, the student body will never know if these allegations are true.

At the end of this month students will once again for vote a new student government. Usually, JB would oversee the whole affair and make sure elections are being done in a fair and truthful manner. But as of now SC has only elected two out of five JB members. This is hardly enough to fully pursue every complaint that is made with JB. Within the next two weeks, with election week looming overhead, SC will be hard pressed to put another functional JB together so the government can run smoothly and efficiently.

According to Sui, JB has not been running smooth for quite some time. Since the beginning SC had only four out of five members. When asked why he left, Sui said, "we weren't getting the respect we deserve." He sees the impeachment to be a sign of SC's lack of respect for JB.

By Jayelle Dorsainville

Senior Staff Writer

The Student Council emergency meeting held on Feb 1st ushers in two new executives after the Vice President resigned, and the Treasurer was deemed uncertified.

Days before the emergency meeting was held, John Jay students and faculty received an ominous e-mail from Student Council President Joseph Onwu. The e-mail notified students of a resignation in student government by the former Vice President Maxine Kerr. There was no reason given by Onwu, but the student council did inform students promptly.

What was not mentioned in the e-mail was the resignation of Madame Treasurer Anastasia Williams.

When asked about the state of John Jay student government, Onwu had this to say, "Whenever you have any resignation it can cause some elements of instability, but these were unforeseen circumstances."

It turns out that the former Treasurer did not resign, but was not certified to serve this term.

According to the John Jay Charter of Governance, "Graduate students must carry a minimum of three credit hours, and must have a minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.0 to serve on the college council as a graduate student representative, executive officer, at-large representative or alternate."

On the other hand, when asked about these issues, Williams simply said, "personal reasons," regarding the termination of her position as Treasurer.

Like a well-oiled machine, the Student Council responded quickly to these string

of events with an emergency meeting. Two candidates were chosen, and interviewed by the council. Tyler Garvey, a senior at John Jay, was nominated and selected by the council. Garvey's experience stems from his position as Vice President of Sigma Tau Delta.

"I feel like I owe it to John Jay," said Garvey. "We have to maintain focus we are doing this for school." The council voted and agreed.

The candidate for Treasurer, Lisa-Marie Williams, was nominated by former Treasurer Williams. The nominee is no newcomer to student government. Lisa-Marie is a part-time graduate student at John Jay. She previously served for two years as Vice President and Treasurer. Her firsthand experience handling budgets made Lisa-Marie an ideal choice for the council.

The overall mood of the meeting seemed positive and progressive. Instead of focusing on the reasons for resignation, the council quickly found suitable replacements.

"We are really happy to have them on board, and I hope that they will serve as a great addition to the council," Onwu said.

Although former Vice President Kerr was not present, former Treasurer Williams was and supported the candidates, "No matter what, this semester still needs to end well."

Kaczynski

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We all know that the Soviet Union was the first country to put an artificial satellite into orbit; and the soviets developed the world's first successful jet airliner, Tu-104.)

Thus, an antitechnological movement that focused on the elimination of capitalism would expend vast energy in return for very little gain. What is worse, by focusing on capitalism the movement would distract its own and other people's attention from the real objective, which is to get rid of modern technology itself.

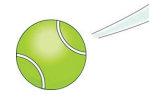
Furthermore, people would obstinately resist the loss of economic efficiency entailed by the replacement of capitalism with socialism. And even if you could somehow replace capitalism with socialism, capitalism would soon reappear and become dominant because it is economically and technologically more vigorous than socialism. This again is guaranteed by the principle of natural selection (*Technological Slavery*, pages 280-85) and is confirmed by experience: When the socialist countries of eastern Europe couldn't keep up with the West economically or technologically, they reverted to capitalism. Sweden once was ideologically socialist, but in practical terms socialism never actually got very far in that country, and Sweden today is still capitalist. While remaining

nominally socialist, China for the sake of economic growth now allows a good deal of private enterprise (i.e., capitalism) in its economy. Venezuela's dictator, Hugo Chavez, talks about socialism, but in practice he leaves most of the country's economy in the hands of private enterprise because he doesn't want the drastic decline in economic efficiency that would result from the elimination of capitalism. I know of only two countries left in the world that are left of capitalism: Cuba and North Korea. No one wants to imitate Cuba and North Korea, because they are (from a materialistic point of view) economic failures.

So, as long as we live in a technological world, there's no way we will get rid of capitalism unless and until it is superseded by some system that is economically and technologically more efficient.

The arguments I've outlined here in reference to centralization and capitalism are equally applicable to globalization, bureaucracy, environmental destructiveness, or any one of numerous other evils the elimination of which would merely impair the functioning of the technological system without actually eliminating modern technology. As long as society remains saturated with the values of the technological system, people will not accept any measures that significantly impair the functioning of that system. In order to get people to

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Baseball Team Starved For Attention

By John Werner
Junior Staff Writer

In 2009, John Jay College athletics won the national Division III diversity award. This is one of the six team awards they have won since 2002. It is a figure that does not include forty-seven individual awards won in the same period. Yet the typical student is not aware that the program has achieved such recognition. When asked if he knew of any awards the team has won, sophomore Johnny Louis said, "I don't know anything about the school's teams."

The team is going into its thirty ninth year of existence, with this year marking the tenth season Coach Dan Palumbo will be at the helm of this year. Palumbo, who is also the school's athletic director, comes into this year looking to rebound from last years disappointing 12-32 record. He points to the lessons learned from last year as a springboard into success this year. When asking the returning players from last year, infielders Benjamin Beiro, Cosme Munoz, pitcher Alexander Rodriguez, captains

shortstop Dennis Lopez, and First Baseman/Pitcher Wilmer Chavez, they all came to a consensus that this years team will be stronger than last year's. This year the influx of new talent has resulted in a team that is on the same page. Lopez contended that last year some of the now gone players did not put in the needed effort. Beiro added that you could rely on some players to always let you down. Knowing their roles as the leaders of the team, Lopez commented on the new players, "We have to be on top of them, and show them how John Jay is represented on and off the field." Beiro acknowledged the sentiment adding, "All the young guys look up to you." The young players have responded impressively with Chavez commenting, "you wouldn't know it by looking at them" in reference to the effort put forth by the newcomers.

John Jay College's baseball program has received national, state, and city accommodations. In a school known for it's justice related program, many of our own students are not even aware of the baseball team. This is despite the fact that the

baseball team acts as the official greeters of the college; many still do not acknowledge their existence within the fabric of the school. The conditions of John Jay, being a commuter school with no dorms, inhibit the promotion of athletic teams.

When asked about her knowledge of the baseball team Alissa Cooney, a Junior, claimed she never hears a word about them on a regular basis. As Coach Palumbo pointed out, nearly every prominent school has a rich athletic tradition as he cited schools such as Notre Dame, and University of Michigan. When Charles Perez, a transfer student from St. John's University, was asked to compare this school's program to St. John's, which is a major Division I program, he said "not even close." However, at other CUNY schools, the situation is similar, when asked what he knew about Queens College athletics, Anthropology major Joseph Birkmann said, "I don't even know our team's name."

While trying to build a following for the baseball team on campus, the team has established many contacts outside of the

confines of Hell's Kitchen. The team has a strong working relationship with American Legion Baseball, which is an 85-year-old baseball program that provides leagues for teenagers in every state. Palumbo has the keys to their fields in Brooklyn, and is allowed access whenever he needs the fields. At the last Lou DeMartino Dinner (named after the John Jay baseball coach who was head coach from 1974-1999) he received former Met, and UCLA standout Eric Valent, as well as the legendary St. John's baseball coach Jack Kaiser.

This season The John Jay Bloodhounds fields a team with a solid core of players, and will be once again guided by Palumbo who expects to contend for a CUNY Athletic Conference Championship. As he said, "We come into every year with the goal of winning our conference." Even the players agree with Lopez, adding, "It'll be a disappointment if we don't win it." The hope is that with some more wins, and more awards, the John Jay student body will recognize the baseball team more than it has in previous years.

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and stories relevant to
the John Jay community.

Kaczynski

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accept such measures, you would first have to convince them that the supposed "benefits" of modern technology are not worth the price that must be paid for them. Thus, your ideological attack must be focused on modern technology itself. An attempt to eliminate capitalism, globalization, centralization, or any other subordinate evil can only distract attention from the need to eliminate modern technology.

Let's imagine a many-headed monster, as in the accompanying cartoon. You can try to cut the monster's heads off one by one, but the monster will grow new heads faster than you can cut them off. The only way to defeat the monster is to cut the single neck from which all the heads grow.

So, let's forget about attacking capitalism, globalization, bureaucracy, or any other particular evils that are merely incidental to technological progress.

*This article is the first out of
three installments this semester.
Look for the next issue to read
more from Kaczynski.*

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Women's Basketball Improves This Year

By Kalyssa Daley
Contributor and
Peterson Petit Frere
Contributor

The woman's basketball program has redeemed itself from last year's catastrophic season, when they failed to make the playoffs. They finished overall as the fourth seeded team in the 2010-11 Con Edison/CUNY athletic conference (CUNYAC).

The John Jay Bloodhounds women's basketball team opened their 2010-2011 season expecting a lot. However, their first game did not reflect that. On Nov. 19, they suffered a loss against SUNY Brockport. The team now had some serious regrouping to do. Eleven days later, playing in front of a large crowd for their first home and conference game of the season, John Jay defeated Hunter College. In a hard fought battle they pulled out a 60-56 win on homecoming night.

With the win they went 1-0 in CUNYAC and the wins just kept coming. After defeating the College of Staten Island, City College, York, and Hunter, the Bloodhounds had improved to 5-2 in the CUNYAC standings. They continued their streak of upsets, defeating rival Hunter College on their home court, this time proving something much more. That night they showed the CUNY conference that they were a force to be reckoned with. However, the team then went 1-2 over the next three conference games.

When Coach Diane was asked of her expectation for the remainder of the season, she quickly answered, "Our goal is to make it into the finals, as well as winning it, anything less than that would be a disappointment."

In the last two match-ups, both Baruch and Lehman College defeated them. The matchup against Baruch was a great performance. Baruch came out with enormous intensity in addition to having the home court advantage, where the fans brought substantial energy. The final score in that game ended in favor of Baruch with a score of 89-51. John Jay woman's basketball then lost to Lehman allowing a season-high 99 points, the finale score was 99-66 in favor of Lehman College. Allana Beddoe, a sophomore on the team said, "Our team is capable of much more than what we've shown in the past two games."

She also mentioned that, the playoffs have a different atmosphere from the regular season. "In the playoffs it's either you go hard or you go home, so we are going to leave it all on the floor to come away victorious."

This season they made the playoffs for the first time in four years. Saturday February 19th, they hosted the first ever playoff game at the Doghouse against York College. "The team finally understood what I've been trying to teach over the past years," said Diane Ramirez. "They've really bought into themselves and the program. The Bloodhounds came out on top as the women's basketball team defeated York College 94-86 in the quarterfinal round of the playoffs. However, their quick success came to an end, when Baruch defeated them only 3 days later in the semifinals by a score of 91-59.

The lost brought exceeding disappointment to a season, where they made major improvements from a year ago. Coach Diane said "our team's success lied heavily on newcomers as well as experienced players who are devoted to our program."