

Your Honor--

First off, I would like to express my remorse for the actions of my peers and I. My actions, as well as theirs, were extremely naive, immature, irresponsible, and self-centered. I have felt remorseful for what my actions could have entailed, for the possibility of innocent people getting hurt, and the complete inconsideration of those people. I know I should have left. I failed to do so because at that time, I considered my co-defendants my closest friends and I was scared of what they might think if I did leave. Before I was arrested, while at the cabin in Dutch Flat, I remember thinking of a girl in San Francisco that I was interested in. I remember thinking that love is more important than politics. Hindsight is 20/20-- I should have listened to my heart.

I believe I have changed dramatically since my arrest. I believe that, while I was in jail, I was presented with the opportunity to explore spirituality, to better myself, and to move past the dead rut of the anarchist movement. While in custody, I read about Buddhism and other Eastern philosophies. I practiced yoga and meditation. I had time to myself to reflect on my life and where it was taking me. It helped influence my decision to cooperate and plead guilty. I realized that I didn't want to be a part of the life I was living anymore.

I have learned a lot since my time in jail. I have learned that the love of the spirit is far more potent and valuable than the despair and selfishness of the anarchist movement. I have learned that every human being, no matter any distinction, deserves the utmost respect and compassion. During the time I was a part of the movement, I was among peers who accepted and loved me. I found validation and security among these people. However, I would later learn after pleading guilty, after getting away from them to have my own thoughts, that these people accept you for your ideology rather than your essential self. To turn against the ideology of the movement means ostracism and exile. I learned that these people are egotistical, divisive, and short-sighted, and don't consider people that don't help or fit into their ideology. I realized I don't want to be a part of this if it entails hate and anger against others. Thus, I can't consider them my friends anymore after rejecting me for wanting to live my life for myself and not for them.

I have yet to figure out who I am now. However, I have wonderful friends and family that I can rely on for support, advice, or guidance. It is true-- I have found myself in a couple situations which could have gotten me into trouble, but I have relied on these people for help in extricating myself from these situations. At this point in my life, my freedom is fragile. I have people who rely on me and I rely on them. I have carefully avoided and considered situations and circumstances that may jeopardize my freedom, which would have a detrimental affect on those close to me.

What I want most to do with my life is to experience it to the fullest and write about it. Over the past two years I have been slowly working on my first book. However, I know that until I am fully able to do so, I must accept the consequences of my actions three years ago. I accept whatever that may be. But to ensure that I may live my life to the fullest, I know that I must do whatever possible not to interrupt that freedom to do so.

Thank you for your consideration.

Zach Jensen