

# Morgan Sennhauser Interview Transcript

Interviewee: Morgan "Emmsen" Sennhauser

Interviewer: Kyle Pitzer

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Transcriber: Kyle Pitzer

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0:00

Kyle Pitzer: Okay, it's February 23, 2014. This is Kyle Pitzer. I'm here with Morgan Sennhauser—

Morgan Sennhauser: --yea--

KP: --also known as "Emrnsen"

MS: --Yes.

KP: --Yes. Fourth interview in the Occupy Dayton project. So I guess just to start out, can you just tell me a little bit about yourself, who you are?

MS: I'm a twenty-three year old at the moment street musician but-prior to that and leading up to Occupy, I worked doing free speech activism over the internet in in the Middle-East and North Africa. So that kinda answers why I was interested in Occupy when it happened here too. What else would you like to know about me?

0:47

KP: Can you tell me a little bit more about this free speech activism?

MS: We do counter censorship stuff on-through the internet. Basically it's hacktivism.

KP: How did you like get wrapped up in that?

MS: I was really bored one day and started looking on Twitter and there were tweets about protests in Iran, and then all of a sudden no tweets from Iran and-wanted to know why.

KP: So-who do you mean by we?

MS: It's a group of just random people from the internet that all care about this issue-that issue.

KP: So is this like Anonymous, or is this something else or?

MS: It is something else, yea. Although we have worked with people that were in Anonymous and some of us have done stuff with them.

KP: So what kind of stuff were you guys doing?

MS: Developing software to go circumvent censorship stuff-software on the internet. Poking around on routers and stuff in those countries to try and see what they were doing-and then translating and distributing software and documentation in those countries about how to protest safely, and how to get around continued censorship.

KP: When did you guys start doing stuff like this?

MS: June, 2009.

KP: And were you guys effective?

MS: Yea!

KP: Can you elaborate a little bit more about anything more specifically I guess?

MS: We started doing it in Iran when they had a presidential election that was-many of the people in the country thought was fraudulent, and so they started protesting about it. Then police started beating the protestors, and then the people started tweeting about it and sharing pictures of it. And that's happened a fair bit since then, but that was really the first time that people were using the internet in that way. Iran freaked out, shut down their internet and a bunch of geeks with too much time across the planet figured out how to get around the censorship. So now that doesn't happen anymore.

2:55

KP: So-I guess-I mean how did you-what made you want to do something like that?

MS: I was bored and had no job and was out of school. So why not? It was better than playing video games.

KP: [Laughs] So are you still doing stuff like that?

MS: Occasionally.

KP: Uhm-I dunno-is that legal?

MS: Uhm-it depends on who asks, and who answers. It really depends. 'Cause if I were doing it here it would be possibly illegal. But because it's done on foreign soil it's maybe still probably illegal. But since it's done against enemies of the state like Iran its-not-illegal. It's complicated.

KP: So do you guys like network through forums and IRC or?

MS: Lots of IRC. Reddit actually is getting increasingly common-the Reddit engine itself, not the website that's hosted by Conde Nast. But IRC is probably still the biggest means of communication.

4:02

KP: So would you say like activism is something that is important for you?

MS: I guess-

KP: --or is it just you're bored-

MS: I mean it's important enough that I devote a bunch of time doing it but--more so the goal is what's important, not the being an activist. I don't care about being an activist.

KP: Yea

MS: I care about things I work toward.

4:25

KP: Yea. So--let's just talk about, a little bit about--you don't live in Dayton any more, right?

MS: No, no.

KP: Let's talk a little bit about--when you did.

MS: Okay.

KP: Did you grow up around here?

MS: I grew up in some of the suburbs, when I was younger. But then from--when I think I was eleven I lived right downtown in South Park next to Miami Valley hospital. So grew up in Dayton. Went to high school at Styvers School for the Arts and then kind of started to go to community college and stopped to do free speech stuff instead.

MS: What else about growing up--yea. I grew up in Dayton.

KP: Do you like Dayton?

MS: It's all right. I like living in other places better

KP: --Yea, why is that?

MS: Everyone seems to be generally kind of angry of in their day to day life here and that is a silly way to go about things. But I don't know. When you smile at someone on the street here they look at you funny. Now I live in North Carolina and when you smile at people, they smile back.

KP: Is there any other comparisons you can make like between Dayton, and North Carolina?

MS: The recession is much worse here. Unemployment is far higher. The architecture here is way cooler. [Pause] That's about all I got, not much for North Carolina.

6:00

KP: So when you talk about the recession, how do you remember the recession?

MS: I wouldn't say it so much as it's still occurring. We-we are-just because we aren't sliding further doesn't mean we aren't presently recessed. But-I don't know. Most people my generation or-I can't say that. Anecdotally most people I know that are around my age either don't have jobs, or are in school and accumulating student loans with the intent to maybe get jobs. Or they work jobs where they earn absolutely no money, and have no prospects of doing any better than that. So when I think about the recession, I think about how pretty much everyone I know has been stagnant since they left high school. Either not earning any more money, or slowly having less of it.

KP: Why do you kind of think that is though?

MS: Uhh---bad fiscal policy on every single level of economics from county up.

7:04

KP: Is there a-I guess what do you think--community is that something that is important?

MS: I do, but I don't always agree with how people define community. A lot of times I think its way more geocentric than it has to be. And communities can be based on similar interests, or projects that you're working on. So in that sense, many corporations could be viewed as a community or-yes. Community is important. I think community can be way more broadly defied than most people use it though.

KP: Would you say the internet is changing the way we look at community?

MS: Yes. It makes the barrier of entry to creating a community and finding people to be part of it with you way lower. Whereas before you were kind of limited by where you live. Now you aren't. Now you can find those seven other people in the world that really really like that one episode of SpongeBob, or whatever. You can find your niche and your community and do something with it.

KP: So would you say that you've found any communities? I mean obviously with the hacktivism thing, right? Would you say that is a community you found?

MS: Yea. It definitely is. It's one with more strict of rules than normal, but it's still a communal effort. There is not a hierarchy within it. And other odd communities, like there is the Bitcoin community which has done interesting things with Bitcoin. There is Dogecoin now, which funded the Jamaican bobsled team for instance. So--yea the internet really empowers communities in ways that didn't exist before.

8:53

KP: I've got fifty-six Dogecoins.

MS: Nice. [We both laugh] Nice. I don't know if I actually have any more. So there was a Bitcoin assassination market, I don't know if you've heard about that on the news. But it didn't last very long, simply because the highest bounty was put on the person that made it as a joke. And he was like wait: never mind! But there's a Dogecoin assassination market as well, so I've went and put Dogecoin bounties on many of my friends, and now they are hoping Dogecoin doesn't get popular.

9:29

KP: So it sounds like you're kinda like a pretty technical person.

MS: A bit, yea.

KP: So how did you pick up these skills?

MS: Too much free time and my parents always made sure I had a computer with internet access. For somebody-sounds odd-for somebody as old as I am, that's really rare to have had internet your entire life. And so I just had a good head start on it.

9:55

KP: Would you say our-what would you define as your generation?

MS: A millennial. I'm definitely in the millennial generation. There's kind of generation Y, although the millennials are kind of absorbing them but-I definitely would place myself as a millennial. Whereas most people I think would count in that quasi-generation y. They remember vividly not having the internet, or not having cell phones. And I remember those things, but I always had internet at my house?

KP: Are there any other characteristics that you would say define your generation?

MS: Selfies! [We both laugh] No, 'cause other generations did that. Honestly, the really important one is the ability to look up whatever you want on the internet. And other generations that have that ability, but we're the only generation that's had it our whole life. So when we don't know something, for many of us it's our first reaction to look it up and learn it. Casually. Learning isn't a thing that has to go be done, it's just a part of having a cell phone, or smartphone I guess.

11:14

KP: What about things like social media? How do you feel about social media?

14:35

MS: It can be really good, and really beneficial, and it can also be a great way to make yourself feel better without actually doing anything to warrant feeling about yourself. It really depends on how you use it. So much so.

KP: So when you-when you say it can be really good and beneficial-can you elaborate on that?

MS: I mean people have used social media to do things like fund the Jamaican bobsledding team. Or also fund medical clinics for like the revolutions going on the Ukraine at the moment. Or in Syria there's been lots of people that have been involved in-just sending money over there is part of how it's useful. And getting people to be aware that they can send money at things. Because honestly, throwing money at a problem helps it usually. But there are also good in helping people find communities for things they might not otherwise have an outlet for. If you're in some small town and part of a really tiny minority, then you can feel as though there is not much action you can take. But with the internet and social media, you can find out that no matter where they are, there are people that fit in that community.

KP: So what kind of social media are we talking about?

MS: Facebook is a big one obviously for-people use it the most. Facebook is kind of the God at the moment of social media. And there's Twitter-Twitter's used differently. There's Tumbler-the different-and each one has its own community, which is another thing that differentiates parts of the internet. Means that different social media outlets can be good for different purposes. Facebook's good for raising money. Twitter is good for getting media coverage about a thing. If something is talked about widely on Twitter that means it's going to get mentioned on CNN and that can be a great thing for any cause.

KP: So what's the deal with Reddit, I've been on it. What makes that different?

MS: Reddit is my personal favorite. It's hard to describe exactly why it's better or different. In part it's because there is really a community for everything you might want. There's communities for people that use one specific brand of microcontroller to build home robots. A community! A small community, only a few hundred people in it, but a community for that. There is also a community for just political discussion and-just rabble rousing. But Reddit's great because it allows the community as a whole to vote on things, whereas most other social media platforms are setup as: One person broadcasts, and the other receives. Reddit's setup different as the community is like a microphone. Where anyone can contribute to it and anyone can read from it. So, it has that main difference with other prevalent outlets.

14:35

KP: And where do you kind of seeing all this stuff going in the future?

MS: Vaguely towards what Google Plus tried to do-where everything-your social network is divided up into different circles. But I'm not sure exactly where social media is going to go. I think most people are probably going to get burnt out on it eventually, and we'll see a lot fewer trivial status updates. A lot fewer bad Instagram photos. A lot fewer just bulk content. But the people that continue to produce content will do-get better at it-because there will be fewer people contributing get more out of it-hopefully.

15:25

KP: So a little bit earlier ago, you said you wouldn't really call yourself an activist. Is that what you said?

MS: I mean it's not-I don't view activism as a thing that's like my life calling or great ambition of mine. I just happen to be really stubborn, and when people are wrong, I will do a lot to make them feel as though they are wrong.

KP: Yea.

MS: But no I am-so my political views are that of anarcho-capitalism. Which means that I think the free market is a God and can save us all, pretty much. So a big part of why I do activism is I support causes that work toward that. Toward anarchocapitalism.

KP: And what kind of got you into this anarcho-capitalism?

MS: You can Google-if you Google esr and Emmsen and then Google--tack on socialism, you can find a debate I had from somebody when I used to be kind of socialist. <sup>1</sup> And then they explainedlibertarianism to me and I realized-that got me thinking about-politics way more than I previously had been. And then I went to Occupy D.C. and Occupy Wall Street and got beat up by cops and that made me really dislike government, but I thought socialism was silly-and a lie about human nature works. So I settled on anarcho-capitalism.

KP: All right. We'll get to the Occupy stuff here in a little bit. I'm just really curious-because it sounds like-it sounds like you're pretty in tune with economic policy and political policy.

MS: I like to think so. Clearly I'm not-all-I'm not clearly-I don't know all that much about actual economics-

KP: --yea-

MS: --yet. I want to go to school and learn economics if that wasn't clear.

KP: I'm just curious what kind of pushed you in this direction<sup>1</sup>.

MS: I want to say being poor. No, honestly living in Dayton and watching so many people have no money, and have no ability to get out of it. Even though all you hear from politicians is how much work is being done to solve that very problem. And then later on I started thinking more about the philosophy behind government-and I'm of the belief the state is intrinsically violent, and that you never consented to it. So it's an initiation of force, and the non-aggression principal-a bunch of anarcho-capitalist stuff. But basically-got to the point where I thought how the government raised their money was unethical, and how they went about doing things was at its core not the right way to start doing things. Then the things they got done with their stolen money weren't all that much better than I thought private could do with donations and stuff. Then started reading some history books, and learned that actually we used to take better care per capita of our homeless before the government did and-then got beat up by cops as I mentioned. And that really solidified me against the whole having a government thing.

18:46

KP: So do you feel that the government right now is failing people?

MS: I think it has failed. But-it will just continue shrinking slowly. I think. It seems to be getting bigger but people aren't using it as much as they used to in their daily life. A good example of this is-back when there were the Colorado wildfires. Private firefighters put out more of the fire because they had more incentive to pay for things. People pay for private security more and more in cities like Detroit, where-they already pay taxes but the public service is so bad they're willing to pay on top of it. With the internet the barrier to do things in the economy is going down exponentially, and that's really what the state relied on for a bulk of its control-economic regulation. And now they can't keep up. So I think that-I don't envision a bloody revolution or coup against the government. I think it'll kind of be obsolete in a few decades.

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<sup>1</sup> The debate he is talking about can be seen at: <http://esr.ibiblio.org/?=1146>

KP: How would you say-you kind of said that you grew--did you grow up poor would you say that you grew up poor?

MS: No, not really. Just not having money to do with things with KP: Not privileged.

MS: Right-and living in a poor area, even though I myself wasn't extraordinarily poor. I got to see a bunch of people that were.

KP: Yea. Can you talk about that?

MS: I mean-there are poor people in downtown Dayton and they ask you for money and occasionally solicit drugs from you. That is about the extent of it. [Laughs]

KP: Yea.

MS: They do not have jobs that I am aware of. A whole bunch of people hanging out at the bus depot all day, and then go back and do it again tomorrow, and that's all they seem to be doing. It's really odd to me our population is okay with just giving money to huge chunks of the population for doing nothing. This sounds-really-neoconservative bad, I'm aware. But statistically a lot of the people that collect money from the government don't need to be. And a lot of people that should be can't. And so-I don't know. I agree that they are trying to do a good thing. That social services should be beneficial to people, but the fact that it's coming from taxed money, in my beliefs makes it unethical, and therefore can't be good at what does. Plus the whole accountability thing kind of falls through.

21:36

KP: So can you-at what point was it that you left Dayton, and kind of moved away from here?

MS: When I was nineteen, I moved away. But prior to that would leave for three months or so to live with a friend in some random other state.

KP: What motivated you to leave?

MS: Traveling a little bit, and hearing from my dad who traveled a lot. He worked in tech and so would travel to Europe a bunch-he's from Switzerland, I was born in Switzerland too-that's not really relevant to this but-he would travel a bunch and talk about how much cooler other places were. So I traveled a little bit and saw that other places were indeed cooler and eventually settled on Chapel Hill. For some reason-I don't know. It was nice. The weather was good when I showed up. [Laughs]

KP: What kind of places have you been to?

MS: I've been to Thailand a couple times, but mostly around the U.S. A lot of time in New York and D.C. Some time in Florida.

KP: How would you say the other countries kind of compare to America?

MS: They're different. I honestly like America the best of every-like it's the best country on Earth. But not really because of the government. Mostly just the people and culture here. We're all really independent in everything that we do. It's so cool, and personally accountable in ways that most other

people don't seem to be, which is also respectable. Maybe I just think it's respectable because I grew up here-I do.

KP: Yea, I think it's pretty cool you've had all these chances to travel and stuff cause—

[Pause]

23:26

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KP: Kind of getting into Occupy a little bit, let's start getting into that alright?

MS: Okay, yes.

KP: What is Occupy?

MS: Uhm-a-forum. For people to discuss political views in a structured way.

KP:Mmhmm ...

MS: It would be the answer I would really like to give for that question! But in truth that's not really what it was. Occupy Dayton was a soup kitchen and a meeting place for political minded people-but also people that had not previously given a shit about politics, and wanted to started to learning about it. In a way that wasn't bipartisan taught in a text book in a state run school kind of way. And also soup kitchen, I think I mentioned that part-but I want to emphasize it. [Laughs]

KP: So how did you get involved I mean?

MS: So right before Occupy Dayton started it was Urban Night, which is the big street festival down on Fifth Street. I was walking down the sidewalk one way, and some dude handed me a poster for Occupy Dayton in an Anonymous mask and started talking about how it's an Anonymous thing. Socialism, and communism, and for the people, smash corporations-so on. And so I was like: Okay, that's really funny that Occupier's spread to Dayton-and went to some bar and drank-and came back out and was walking down the other side of the street. Received the same flyer from someone else who started talking about how Occupy was there to smash the government, and how it had lots of libertarian in it-right wing views. So I had the same flyer, for the same event, from two people telling me it was for totally different sides of the political spectrum. So I decided to go the next day and make fun of them-and I did-and it was fun.

MS: -So I went back the day-it started on a Friday I think-and so I went on-no it started on Saturday-I went on Saturday-made fun of people.

KP: Was this in September, or October?

MS: October 8th I think-maybe. And then went back on Saturday, and eventually at that point had made like--the people had all made fun of each other enough for their political views basically that we just

said: Okay we all actually know something about politics, we should try to discussing them instead of just laughing at each other about them. And I think that's when the first GA happened-

KP: --yea

MS: --GA being general assembly, which is the structured meetings that Occupies have to decide things.

26:21

KP Yea. So did you think like it was kind of-sounds you like kind of thought it was ridiculous at first.

MS: Yes, at first. I mean I still do think it's ridiculous. Yea no. It seemed really funny. Most of the people there seemed like random Daytonians who-read about it on Facebook and decided to come down. There were a few people that gave off the "I'm a political organizer, I'm here to organize politically" vibe-I don't really remember who was there the first day though that stuck around. This one dude who went by Anonymous the whole time, so I'm not going to say his actual name, but he was there for most of it. Then there was Paris something, and he was there on the first day, and he gave off a very "I want to organize things" vibe. It was odd. It was very odd. Especially because--one thing that was really stressed from the beginning of Occupy-at all Occupies was the whole leaderless thing. And so you show up to any given Occupy, and there is definitely a leader of every single Occupy I went to. But it was funny at Occupy Dayton how on the very first day that leadership was already kind of asserting itself.

KP: What was the leadership?

MS: People that actually knew enough to discuss politics in a public forum and lead the GA. One dude, Paris, he worked for Chase actually at the time. And he did lots of that sort of stuff. Christina-I believe was one of the people who was very leader"y" at the time. I did lots of that kind of stuff, but I didn't really do it with the GA. Of the people that did stuff at the GA, I was one of the few that actually camped there the whole time. But yeah-I don't remember who else in the leadership.

28:29

KP: So when you say you kind of took a leader"y" role, what do you mean by that?

MS: Just-because not everyone had a vested interest in doing everything to do with it, certain people took over doing certain things. I helped with anything had to do with actually running the camp, like making sure we had blankets, and food, and stuff. Soliciting for people to bring that sort of stuff. Giving updates to the general assembly on the weekends. And then Paris did all the online stuff for it--or Christina I think helped-I don't remember it was a while ago now. But just there were a lot of people who hung out there who discussed politics with a few different people but never really had a vested interest in making the Occupy do anything except be a place for people to stand around and chit-chat politics, and have tents for some reason.

29:30

KP: What did you think about the whole thing, camping out there?

MS: Well I was staying with a friend who I was tired of staying with here in town. So I believe I started camping the first night-if not-definitely by the third or fourth night I started camping there. And then

just stayed until I left to go to Occupy DC. I got why, like I understood why people want to camp out there, because that was part of what was done in a lot of the Middle-Eastern protests and Africa. Was you had to camp out in order to secure the ability to stay there. In order to be anywhere near the palace or capital, you had to be camped out there, and have people constantly acting as security and so on against police. But when you're just kind of sitting out in front of a bank, that doesn't quite have the same effect. No one is actively trying to get you to leave. You aren't in the face of anyone really. And so it became way more about wow homelessness is an issue that having a dedicated place to come to sleep has this many people coming people to sleep at it.

30:50

KP: But what made you yourself want to camp out?

MS: I like camping and figured-it seemed a good way to be there all the time and continue doing Occupy things. I didn't really have anything better to be doing with my time. Things with the non-profit had taken a slow turn as no one was presently revolting-except America kind of with Occupy. So, I figured-why not?

KP: How long did you spend out there?

MS: From early October until mid-November, at which point I left and went to Baltimore, and then walked from Baltimore to D.C. with this group of people that marched from New York to D.C.

KP: So there like a month basically?

MS: What went on?

MS: Uhm-lots of just sitting around. Lots of sitting around. I read a lot of books. I believe I read the first three Dunes and most of the fourth book in the Dune series. Lot of people smoking pot. We had a crack dealer for a little bit. There was never crack use in Occupy, they would always go elsewhere, just as a courteous-because I asked him not to smoke crack at our protest. Shouting through a megaphone at the bank that's right there. The JP Morgan Chase. Lots of shouting on megaphone. Grew to have a great fondness at shouting through buildings through megaphone. Apparently I can just talk for hours through megaphone-be happy you did not bring a megaphone. There was a guitar so we played guitar some-and then---lots of just sitting around talking to random people that came up was a big part of it. Because people would come to--not really be tourists of Occupy-but come ask us what we were doing there because they had seen a bunch of people just sitting there for hour and days and weeks. Waving flags at cars that drove by was an important part of it. Flags and signs. And discussing what exactly is going to be said at the general assembly and how everyone is going to vote at it. That was a big part. So when it came round on Sunday, everyone that was camping there knew what was going to happen because-a lot of the things that would get voted on at the GA affected the camp, but were voted on by people that weren't actively camping there. That was a problem across Occupies. They would vote to change the food budget, but they aren't the ones there, so they don't know how much money is needed for food. So there would be difficulties between people who were camping at Occupy and those who weren't. Unfortunately, it got to the point at Occupy Dayton-and pretty much Occupy-where the people at the General Assembly were none of the people that were camping there. And the people that were camping there would just completely ignore the GA.

34:19

KP: So was that creating tension?

MS: It definitely did create a fair amount of tension, especially at Occupy Dayton, simply because it got to the point when some people were coming down really only to tell us how we were doing the things we were doing wrong. Which never made sense to me, as we weren't really doing anything. So-there's no real way to do it incorrectly. Dayton wasn't big enough to sustain an Occupy that would do anything so we didn't. And instead we just kind of camped out there. It was decent enough, and got people-like I said the good thing that came out of it was a bunch of teenagers came to the GA's and saw that there were people discussing politics that weren't in suites. That was beneficial but-most everything was-none, none beneficial. Not bad-just didn't really accomplish anything.

KP: How many people were there?

MS: At first, a lot. For the general assemblies the first few weekends there would be maybe two-three hundred people. Which isn't a lot a lot, but for a city of Dayton's size, that's a decent number. And there were maybe thirty to fifty campers at first. And then by time I left, there were like three people there. And the GA's were held at somebody's house-not even at the park anymore.

36:01

KP: What kind of people would you say were there?

MS: At the camp or at the GA's?

KP: I would go with both.

MS: At the GA's there were lots of yuppies, middle class, middle aged people that had become painfully aware that they were stagnant in their economic development, when in their previous lifetimes they weren't. The yuppies were mad they had never seen economic growth in their life, times when they were told they would. And then there were some college kids who dropped by to see why this thing was all over their Facebook. So--but they were all there really to discuss things at first and then it turned into petty bickering. But at first it was people really wanting to do-not really want to do anything, but just discuss what things could possibly be done.

MS: And at the camp it was politically minded homeless or near homeless. There were a bunch of people that had places, but chose to not to continue pay rent there at the end of the month and figured they would just stay at Occupy. Lots of just straight up homeless. And then occasionally for like a weekend or two someone's parents would come camp for a little bit-not a camper's parents-that happened a few times but-just-some middle aged person would come camp for a few nights and then go back to their house.

37:37

KP: Were there any-stories or anything like that, that you kinda remember from your time there?

MS: [Pause] There are lots of just little weird random events-but-I'm trying to think of like a good memorable story.

KP: Or, I mean you don't have to blow my mind or anything. What were the weird little events?

MS: There was one dude who-everyone was convinced was a cop. Or a fed. Because he would post on Face-he would camp there and post on Facebook about what we were up to. Including like just sitting around doing nothing, and he would say just odd little things that made it clear that-while even though he's staying there. He would love for the police to come beat up every one of these hippies. Ed, Ed was his name. Ed was funny.

MS: What else ... [Pause]

MS: There was this dude named Mattie-Mac who yelled at some dude who's taking pictures and apparently video of him. And the film went on YouTube and eventually got put on Fox News<sup>2</sup>. 'Cause the kid named Mattie-Mac just goes off on this dude about harassing him and putting a camera in his face and so on. So then-the GA asked Mattie-Mac to issue an apology video to this dude for calling him all kinds of horrible things, and he agrees to do so. So wraps his head in a hijab which are those do you know what those are? [I say no] The terrorist hard scarf things with the checker pattern. Yea, and sits in a dark tent. With some flashlights I think shinning on him, and issues a rehearsed apology from a letter. And so--that was odd. That was definitely an odd thing. 'Cause he was trying to make us look less terrorist"y" and failed horribly. Intentionally-but still.

MS: Other funny stories ... [Pause]

MS: Got to watch a seventeen year old-same dude Mattie-Mac-a pick and poke tattoo. Or prick and poke, however you wanna say it. The kind where you just stab at someone repeatedly with a safety pin. Yea. That was a funny Occupy story. Brief, but funny.

MS: Other weird things that happened ... [Pause]

MS: I made a large black man cry by asking him why he wanted to fight me. Because he just immediately felt bad because he couldn't say, he was just angry at me. So it made him cry. Don't do meth. [We laugh] I believe that is the end of funny weird Occupy Dayton stories.

40:56

KP: I remember I watched-that video is on You Tube of Mattie-Matt, that guy or whatever-

MS: --Yes, yes it's on YouTube, I should have re-watched that in preparation for this. [We laugh]

KP: Yea, that got a little bit of notoriety and I kinda wanted the back story behind that.

MS: So this dude would just walk by the camp, and like clearly be taking pictures with a camera he's just holding at his side. And also sit at a corner further away. And then one time-I think he was just walking through the camp, and Mattie-Matt runs up to him and is like: Yo! Why are you being a creep and taking

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<sup>2</sup> This video can be seen at [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1ANT89jak\\_w](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1ANT89jak_w)

pictures of us? I don't remember his full rant. Kick rocks dog, why don't ya just kick rocks. That is what he says repeatedly in that video-I forgot about that. For a long time after that I started saying kick rocks as a phrase in my lexicon. I should start saying it again. It's a good one.

41:52

KP: Did you guys run into people harassing you or anything like that in general?

MS: Occasionally-people would come pretty much just to tell us we're wrong and need to get jobs-but-not that often. Toward the end of it, Dayton police were kind of dickey, but not really. They would just come and sit on their motorcycle in like the middle of a camp. On a motorcycle at night. So-we went the Rite-Aid and bought hearing plugs--or ear plugs-and then that wasn't an issue anymore. But the police tried to harass vaguely kinda not really. The whole thing was really apathetic. In retrospect, looking back at Occupy Dayton, every single party involved half assed as much as they could. Police, protestor, organizer. It didn't matter, we all just kind of eh-at it.

42:51

KP: What-were there any other like relations with the city, or how did the city handle it?

MS: We got asked to move by-what are they called-Downtown Dayton Partnership, for their tree lighting ceremony. TO which we replied: No, we aren't going to move for your tree lighting ceremony sponsored by many banks. Like no we are not going to leave this land we paid for with our taxes, blah blah blah. And then the general assembly happened, and the people that were at the GA actually voted to move. And so-we negotiated moving to another park, and I left in-I left like two days after the GA voted to move. But that was our relationship with the city, was through the Downtown Dayton Partnership asking us to move for a tree lighting ceremony. The protesters saying no. I had a meeting with the lady who runs the Downtown--or one of them, I don't even remember anymore-had a meeting with somebody. In which I told her: No we aren't going to move that's ridiculous that you even asked us. And then two days later a bunch of people said actually no, they are going to move. And so we did indeed move. Or they did. I don't know. I left for D.C.

44:18

KP: What--what's a general assembly like, how does that work?

MS: Do you want like an explanation of how they actually occur?

KP: Yea, let's say I have no idea.

MS: Okay, well it's a model of consensual governance. So-the most basic way for it to work is-that people put forth an issue. It's voted on, and if it's less than complete consent-and the important thing to know about that, or the distinction--consent doesn't mean you agree. Consent just means you consent. You don't disagree. So I put forth an issue, everyone votes. If it's yes that thing passes. Woo! If it's less than one hundred percent, somebody dissents is going to give a counter argument to why they dissent, or don't consent to it. And then the person-another vote is taken. If it's between ninety percent and one hundred percent, the measure passes. Unless somebody blocks it, which is-they say no-really don't vote, don't pass this thing. I have legitimate reason why not. And if somebody blocks where there's less than

ninety percent it goes back to debate. And usually things either pass immediately or-fewer and fewer people consent to them, the more the debate happens. Until the original thing is restructured and then voted for again, and usually passes immediately. Is how it should work. Many of the Occupies-and that's an old like-I forget where that comes from. But that model of self-governance for a group is from some text book some dude wrote back in like 1870 titles like "An Old Introduction to Debate"-ya know-some crap like that. Many of the Occupies then took it further and made it so that you had to have sub-committees to try and pass things through first. Then basically added hierarchy to this thing that was intentionally designed to circumvent hierarchy and not need it. With the whole consent means you don't disagree. And so, that also means like if you don't care, that means you consent. But people didn't get that, and thought if they didn't care they should vote against it or not vote for it. But its-it's just a different mindset of you vote against things, not vote for them. In American democracy you vote for things. You vote for your politician. You vote for your issue, or referendum. Here, you only vote if you're against the thing.

47:05

MS: So at an actual Occupy then, a GA usually starts with someone saying with what went down at the last one. Introducing a person who's going to take minutes. Introducing the person who's going to run the assembly, who doesn't get to vote. Which is odd because normally the person running it still gets to vote because otherwise-you're-they're forfeiting their vote so that adds in a hierarchy of things. Or just a way for things to be unbalanced. But most Occupies the person moderating can't vote. And so they introduce issues which usually get pre-voted on by the committee members. So the committee members all have issues they want talked about at the general assembly. They suggest them all to each other. And just within the committee members discuss what gets to be voted on at the GA. So then some issues get dropped and are never put before a popular referendum. Then things that do get brought to the GA get stated, and go through the whole process of-voting for, or the whole consent counter argument, and so on. Whatever's necessary. The order of the issues being brought up is usually decided by the moderator. Which-again adds a bias to it because-then if a certain issue you know is going to be long winded like what color banner should we make for this upcoming march-then you can put that at the start. And important things that would be a quick discussion can be put at the end if you know they aren't going to go the way you want them to. So that-

48:43

KP: --What did you think of all-what was your opinion of all this?

MS: Well, part of why I liked Occupy as a general consensus model is how the free speech thing that I do operates. Is-we have issues and every single person has to give their voice on each one. It works really well there because it's a thing we all care about doing, and so every little issue we all care about a great deal. At Occupy, because if not everyone cares every little issue, it just doesn't work as well. People will argue trivially for things that they do care about, and then let things that no one cares about but maybe should slide. It's a good model-it's better than-just strict majority rule. Like I'd much rather have consensual rule than majority rule but-any way of doing it practically allows just so much bias to be introduced to this system that at the end of the day-it's just as fallible as every other method of voting.

KP: Was this-was this your first introduction to it, in Occupy, or was it with the free speech stuff?

MS: Free speech. I knew all about it prior to going to Occupy. I think I was one of the few people there that had heard about it before that. [Pause] And it is very different between the two organizations just how it works. Because one we're trying really hard not to screw each other over, and the other one-we aren't trying to screw each other, we're just trying to promote our own interests first, and that usually involves screwing someone over.

50:31

KP: So in Occupy Dayton, in particular, what were your feelings or opinions going into it-and then did they change when you left?

MS: Going into Occupy Dayton-I-thought Occupy would be a really cool forum and place of recruitment actually. For people who would want to do further free speech stuff. I was looking for tech geeks after I was there for a few days-to try and basically recruit and help me. And so my opinion was that it was good recruitment ground for politically minded people. And my opinion when I left, wow, we really need better care for our homeless. Not that there weren't politically minded people there, but just-the amount of people that needed a thing like Occupy-perpetual soup kitchen-and a place to stay for no money-is a necessity, apparently. And far more important than the things Occupy was discussing.

KP: What were the kinds of issues people there were talking about?

MS: Banking reform-and-what to do about the national debt-and-what currencies the world market should be using in ten years. And a bunch of other crap that they have absolutely no influence on-at all-except for just deciding that that's how they think it should be, and that telling other people. But-usually that's the kind of issues that were being discussed politically by the political minded folk at Occupy-were big international issues, and the solution to that. Whether student loans should be forgiven was a popular thing of debate. They would get vaguely voted on at the GA and it's like-that's great-what are you intending to do now that you voted that you feel this way? What can you do about it? Which is a shame 'cause had people immediately turned their focus locally, something might have actually gotten done.

52:54

KP: What do you think Occupy Dayton could have done differently?

MS: Been a Facebook group. Only been a Facebook group. Never have existed in person. Maybe had a meet up once every couple weeks or something for like the people in the Facebook group to go to South Park Tavern and grab a beer and pizza. Something like that-but Facebook group. It would have done much more as a Facebook group where people could have thrown their spare internet time at helping people in larger cities where there are actual politicians.

KP: So you think having a physical location kind of dragged Occupy Dayton down?

MS: Yes. Very much so-which isn't the case for all Occupies. At Occupy D.C. having a physical location was really useful. We could see the door of the biggest lobbyist office, and go stand out in front of it and just talk to the people going in and out of it. And just walk around the capital and talk to random politicians, congressman, so on. Occupy D.C. warranted having a physical location. Occupy Wall Street warranted having a physical location. Same thing, 'cause you get to be in the face of bankers. Some

people took it a little too far and started yelling at bankers and so on, but the fact that you're there and able to have a discourse with them is a big part of it.

54:13

KP: Okay, so you're at Occupy Dayton for about a month, and then-and then you went to Occupy D.C. So, tell me about that experience at Occupy D.C.

MS: It was much different. There were many more tents. There were so many more cops, all the time. There were many protests. The culture was way different, in that there were many people who were militantly opposed to the police, and just pretty much everyone there really wanted to be there. Except for the homeless. That's always going to be a minimum to--or whatever that word is--to anything I say about Occupy is that there were the people who really wanted to be there--and the homeless. But--ignoring the homeless for the time being. The people that were there, all really wanted to be there. And if they didn't have strong political, they had strong opinions that things weren't right how they were. And so for a good long while marches actually were loud, and would shut down city blocks, and actually have an influence. Get talked about on the national media and so on.

55:27

MS: Other differences were that there was a full kitchen with a generator. That was cool. Really hard to keep a kitchen clean in the middle of a park, with a bunch of people around. Other odd differences--police were much angrier. Police were much much angrier, all the time. So much anger--although I was recently in D.C. and police were nothing but nice to me. So like--and I'm sure some of them had been the same police by now--but at the time police were mean, all the time.

MS: [Long pause] What other differences? Actually get arrested in D.C. when a cop says they're going to arrest you for political things. Instead of in Dayton where if a cop is like: I'm going to arrest you for protesting, they don't actually mean they are going to arrest you because that's way too much work for them. [Pause] The fact that you get to talk to actual politicians was a big difference between Occupy D.C. and Occupy Dayton. And just the scale. There were usually--for most of the time I was there, I left--late January--but most of the time I was there, there were about three hundred people camped out in the park. Which is significantly more than Dayton's three some when I left.

57:07

KP: You said that you got beat by the cops?

MS: Yes. I was on Occupy D.C.'s direct action and medical committee. I got trained by Nurses Without Borders to do trauma medicine for people that get beat up by cops, or pepper sprayed, or maced, or tased, or whatever--just to give them treatment right there. But because I was also on the direct action committee that meant part of my job was telling protestors where to go and--at bigger protests like that there's--police have their line, but protestors have their own line keeping the really angry protestors back from cops. So that the angry protestors don't incite cops, and then the cops beat up everyone. And so that was my job while I was at Occupy D.C.--policing the protestors largely. And so the fun result of that is--that you get a protestor shoving you into a cop, and the cop thinking you slammed into them and beating you up---and then the protestor joining in because I'm the guy who was yelling at him not to beat up the cop, whose now beating me up. People get way too angry way too easily. And also shouldn't

be allowed billy clubs. Like now. Or Tasers. Tasers are bad. Mace is bad. Pepper spray is bad. All these things are bad.

KP: Were there any-so what did you get-when you got beat by the cops did you just kinda get tossed into it? Were they targeting you directly or did you just get caught up in something?

MS: I mean no, normally it wasn't directly at me. A few times it was-one time I got hit really hard in the back of the neck by a baton because I told a cop I wouldn't move because I was putting gauze on somebody. Arm had gotten cut, I don't know how their arm got cut. But I was like: "No." To a cop, not even really thinking about it. Because I'm like: "No I'm not moving I'm bandaging someone up." And so then they hit me in the head. So that time it was intentional and at me, and I'm sure a few other times it was intentional and at me. But normally it was just because I'm a protester.

KP: Yea-Okay I see you got beat a couple times. I didn't realize that at first.

MS: Yes, yes. More than once, yes.

KP: That sucks.

MS: It happens, it happens.

59:40

KP: Were there any memorable stories from Occupy D.C.?

MS: I watched this dude whose name was-I believe he went by the name Turtle, or Tank. Something like that. He was a large man, maybe three hundred and eighty pounds. Anyway. He was from Georgia and wanted for child abuse, and sexual misconduct with a minor. And so police cut into his tent one morning after finding out which tent was his, from giving a description to various protestors there. Cutting into his tent, he was passed out drunk. So he couldn't get up to go in the paddy wagon. Eventually they get him up--he's kind of waking up and realizing he's being hauled away by police. They get him to the paddy wagon but the thing is, now they have a steel thing in the middle so people can't like help each other on one bench to the other. So, he wouldn't fit on either side of paddy wagon. So they just kind of have him half way in and he's now coherent enough to start fighting back all the police officers. I watched him get tased three times in really rapid succession by three different cops-not flinch. Dude was a beast. Eventually he just got bare maced. Oh! More to that story-he got bare maced and then in his primal rage at being bare maced after being made fun of to be too fat to go in a paddy wagon, he kicks a cop in the balls so hard the cop coughs up a little bit of blood. Which is cool, I did not like that cop. But that cop was then very angry at all of us for the rest -Of our time there. Understandably. Don't know how hard you have to be kicked in the balls to cough up a little bit of blood. Like-maybe he just threw up a little bit and had ate something dark colored. Regardless--ew.

61:42

KP: Were there just a lot of--was there a lot of conflict between the protesters and the cops at D.C.?

MS: Not too too much, but a fair amount. A lot of the biggest issues were when they would come for people in the camp. Criminals that were using as a hiding place. And some protesters would want to

help the cops find this person-'cause oh, yea, you want to find this person that committed rape that's hiding out in this camp? Yea, we'll help you! Then other people took the attitude never talk to cops, ever. And would then start yelling at the cops. So that caused a lot of the conflicts-was just people the cops would come to arrest one person, and then people would harass the cops, and the cops would have to harass them back. 'Cause you don't get to throw bottles at cops. You shouldn't throw bottles at anyone-just as a general rule you shouldn't throw bottles at people-and if the person has a gun, you definitely shouldn't throw a bottle at them.

62:43

KP: How long were you at Occupy D.C.?

MS: From mid-November to mid-January. So two weeks.

KP: And then what happened-

MS: --Or two months, sorry-

KP: Two months. What happened after that?

MS: I went to Occupy Wall Street briefly. It had been shut down at that point, but I went up to New York City. And thought I was going to a party with some friends, turned out it was a police raid. Like they set up a fake party using one of our friends to try and get a bunch of us to come there. So got arrested in New York and put in a holding cell-for longer than I would have liked. With not enough food, not enough water, and a little bit too much tear gas. And so-was there for a little bit. Got really really angry at humanity in general, so went to go live in Florida for a month. And then had my friend come pick me up at the end of February and went to go stay with him for a weekend in Chapel Hill, North Carolina. And then stayed a week, stayed a month, and lived there for like two years. That brings us to about now.

63:55

KP: How do you think you're gonna remember-not just you are going to remember Occupy but-just everybody in general?

MS: For people that were there, it will probably be remembered by that one person, or thing they did that was memorable there. But it will be-remember that time whenfunny story at Occupy. Not remember that when Occupy did this meaningful political thing. For people that weren't there and only really read about it, it will be-a sign that we're closer to having meaningful political discussion in this country.

KP: So-I guess-the big debate is-was Occupy-did Occupy happen and just went away. Or was like Occupy this first step in movement building?

MS: So I learned the other day-in going back to D.C.-I friended a bunch of people I knew from Occupy D.C. on Facebook. Turns out a bunch of them think Occupy lives on and is still doing stuff. Which is the first I'd heard about Occupy doing anything since-pretty much I left. But apparently some people think Occupy is still doing things and will either rise again or whatever else. I don't think it will. What I think it really did is-because so many political organizations had a member go there, and then find somebody

else to bring into that organization. I think it was a great place-it was a great recruitment ground for underground political organizations. Or just small political organizations. I think that'll be the longest lasting effect though. Is that it got people doing something that isn't Occupy in politics.

KP: Are you aware of any other political movements, or these little organizations popped up afterwards?

MS: I mean-in what sense? Like are there specific ones I should know about? 'Cause I don't think so there's-like there's a strong Occupy presence on Facebook. The Peace House in Washington D.C. does a lot of things with former Occupy members. Oakland's Occupy did-something recently. I know they had a like a sit-in someplace. But I don't think any new organizations really of prominence sprung out of Occupy. Veterans for Peace I know had a big membership boost after Occupy happened. There's that other veterans organization. The I.W.W. has a lot more members in part thanks to Occupy. Just because people know these things exist now, that they previously didn't consider existing. Which-I think-is cool, and good.

67:07

KP: [Pause] Were the strategies and tactics of Occupy effective, or were they detrimental?

MS: [Pause] Both.

KP: Yea, like?

MS: They were ambiguous enough in everything that the-Occupy as a whole was ambiguous enough in everything that they did, that either side could interpret any given thing to be good or bad. Conservatives viewed the fact that we were giving out food to homeless people in city centers as bad, because it's not teaching them reliance or whatever crap neo-conservatives say. And liberals were getting mad at us for feeding homeless in parks because it brought fault to the fact that-like the EBT programs aren't doing enough. But then both sides viewed certain things as being good. It really depends. The tactics however, that were used-the protest tactics, the methods of occupation, the holding of GAs. Those things are all wonderful tactics and you only have to look at pretty much any other country that's having political upheaval at the moment to see that those same tactics are being used with far great effect when something is actually at stake.

68:35

KP: How do you think what was going on in the Middle East affected what was going on here?

MS: It depends, my perception of that is highly skewed. As I know people that were doing things politically over there who lived here and joined Occupy simply forbecause of that-I think in whole though, it gave a lot of inspiration to younger people. That if people in the Middle-East can overthrow their truly oppressive regimes, we can do something about our kind of regime. Turns out, no, you need absolute totalitarianism before people will do something as a whole.

69:20

KP: From my understanding of Occupy there is quite a bit of anarchist theory and philosophy that has played a role.

MS: Yes.

KP: To what degree did you see that come out?

MS: There were a lot of anarchists there. A lot of people did-everything in Occupy was itself existing in an anarchist bubble. There was no state running things. Everything was done consensually--or in theory consensually-and therefore was its little anarchist bubble. And so anything good that came out of it you could say was only able to exist because of the little bubble that was created. A lot of the things that people suggested as solutions to international economics problems, all came from economic schools of thought. There were unfortunately too many-bum things kind of anarchist-I can't think of a better description. The kind that think anarchy means no cops so let's go smash some windows. So there was a big prevalence of that, especially as Occupy Wall Street. Where that-what, what part of anarchy showed its face. At Occupy D.C. simply because it was the seat of the federal government the anarchists that were there tended to be a little more tempered in their beliefs, and viewed anarchy as really just another political system. Not some utopian ideal.

KP: Did your idea of-this anarcho-capitalism--<lid that-was that prevalent?

MS: No. Everyone they're except two or three people were anarcho-socialist or anarcho-communist or anarcho-syndicalists. All of which are left leaning anarchism. Which I don't see how that works because they want no government, but for everyone to just communally own property. But that's not how property works because then you need an organization that-draws the line between what's property for the whole, and what's property for you. Toothbrush or-anarchy debate stuff. The prevalence that was left leaning anarchism-which is a shame I think-because it led to the few anarcho-capitalists that were there spending a lot of our time debating against the people we were with about terms and language and-definitions of economic terms and so on. When instead we should have been developing better arguments to use on people that were not yet anarchists.

KP: So there's left leaning anarchism, and right leaning right anarchism?

MS: Yes. The left leaning anarchists don't actually think I'm an anarchist, and I don't think that they're actually anarchist though.

KP: [Laugh]

MS: Yea, it gets complicated.

KP: I mean that's interesting though. I had no idea.

MS: It's just further right and further left than--well-there both further right than everything-the whole left right thing is so confusing and bad.

KP: Yea.

MS: It's just bad.

KP: Means something different to whoever you ask.

MS: It shouldn't. Like there is a standard definition-it just-no one pays attention.

72:53

KP: Yea. A little bit ago we were talking about social media. I just kind of wanted to ask like what role did social media play in particular to Occupy?

MS: I don't really know. I was at the camps the whole time, and there isn't WIFI at McPherson Square in DC--or in Courthouse Square here in Dayton. So I have no clue really. I've seen that there are still-the Occupy Wall Street sub-reddit is still going strong. The Facebook page still hosts discussions. But at the time I've no clue what kind of effect it had on it.

73:36

KP: So what degree of interaction-if you know-between the various Occupies in different cities.

MS: It depended a lot on-the Occupy. Occupy Dayton started talking to other Occupies fairly late. Early November. But Occupy D.C. was constantly in communication with the other Occupies in the area. I personally went between Occupy Baltimore and D.C. a whole bunch, to try and both move food between the two of them, and also help Baltimore with-planning building occupation.

74:14

KP: So you went to Occupy Baltimore too?

MS: Yeah.

KP: What was that like?

MS: Most of the time I went there it was weird and quasi-militaristic. The whole thing in that I drove up there using back roads and then showed up in downtown Baltimore. Walked into one of those big olive drab military tents from like World War II and sat down at a table and had a conference with other people, and we were all dressed in protest gear. It was all weirdly military. Then I would get back in the car, go back down. And then the one time I was like: Man, it's really late, I'm getting here at like 3 a.m. I'm going to just spend the night. Turns out that was the night they got evicted. It was also the day after Occupy Oakland got evicted. Never before have I seen such a massive police to take care of so few people. There were many like twenty campers at that point in Occupy Baltimore. So a bunch of people went to a nearby church that opened its doors and so on. But they closed a six by eight city block radius. They had like five SWAT tanks. They had helicopters overhead the entire time. Literally shoulder-to-shoulder riot cops with their shields just standing on all the streets so we could not leave. It was the largest police response for nothing I've ever seen. 'Cause we just like got up and grabbed our bags and walked away. 'Cause it's like yea. You guys win. You showed up with like eight hundred people for twenty of us. We weren't even going to argue anyways. Most of us are from D.C. and are going to leave in a couple hours. So that was kind of funny. I think they were really expecting something more to happen than a bunch of cold people who were eager to go home.

76:14

KP: So you guys-when was this?

MS: That was second weekend of January perhaps. Somewhere around then. Maybe the first weekend of January.

KP: So when did-what happened to Occupy D.C.?

MS: They got shut down-January 23rdish-perhaps. Something like that. I was in New York at the time.

KP: So-is this kind of at the point where you would say that most of Occupy in general lost its inertia?

MS: Yea. When Oakland got shut down, and didn't try to re-try Occupy, that was when a lot of people in Occupations stopped really caring because if Oakland is not going to hold their ground, no place is. 'Cause Oakland is the mecca of getting your ass kicked by cops. So if the police there are being so violent that Oakland protestors are backing down, that means police will be that violent. And that's kind of what we saw then. As soon as Oakland happened, police started going through and just smashing tents in Occupy D.C. Occupy Wall Street had already been shut down. But that's when police started hosting raid parties. Where they would say they were having a party and invite a half dozen people from Occupy to it and look, you being arrested instead?

KP: On what grounds were they arresting you guys?

MS: Trespassing?

KP: So they would invite you to a public place or?

MS: No like a house or an office building or something that had been foreclosed. Yes, it was trespassing we should not go there. But the odds of it being a police raid were tiny. The first few times, and then people should know better but still went. It didn't help that people were also throwing actually parties at the same time doing the same sort of thing. Just in response to not having a single place to Occupy, many people were like: Okay we'll just occupy random abandoned buildings across the city. 'Cause you can't shut all of those down.

KP: So did these kind of like big camps break up and then?

MS: Within Occupies-not Occupy Dayton because it was so tiny-but there were camps within the camp. I was part of camp Give No Fuck when I was in Occupy D.C. And-what was it? Oh, Camp Class Warfare was the camp I was in at Occupy Wall Street. Did not really agree with Camp Class Warfare's title and name 'cause I didn't view it as a class warfare and still don't. But they were the ones closest to the building where I had permission to go use the bathroom. So-you know-priorities.

79:15

KP: What-what-why would-I guess would-were these like individual within the camps, people that kind of had a similar viewpoint?

MS: Similar viewpoint, came from the same regions of the country. Knew each other previous to coming there. Just people got along really well. Camp Give No Fuck was just me and some of my friends that I had made at Occupy, who didn't have our own camps to go to. After Wall Street got shut down, a bunch of people came from there to D.C. And then Boston got shut down and a bunch of people came from

there to D.C. And then Baltimore got shut down and a bunch of people came from there to D.C. So by early January, lots of the people in D.C. were not originally from D.C. or from that Occupy even. They came from other Occupies with their own little weird Occupy subculture, and own way of doing GAs. Oh my God--so many people named Boston. There's this--apparently this thing with men from Boston of Irish accent who--have a thick Boston accent--and have people call them Boston. Which makes sense if you were not in Boston, but if you live in the city of Boston, you really can't have people call you Boston all the time. Especially not when everyone else in your socio-economic class and subset also want to be called Boston. Got really confused, and there were like ten of them at one point.

80:55

KP: So was--were Occupy D.C. and Occupy Wall Street the two biggest camps on like the east coast?

MS: Yes. Yea.

KP: And then Occupy Wall Street got shut down, and then they all kind of came to D.C.-

MS: --not all of them but a lot--

KP: --yea, and then-

MS: --It was noticeable.

KP: Was D.C. the last--one of the last?

MS: It was one of the last major ones standing. Even most of the ones in the South had been shut down before Occupy D.C. got shut down--and that's simply--in part because--there were so many jurisdictions that it took them a really long time to figure out who exactly had the authority to evict us. It actually took a urging from the Speaker of the House at the time which--don't think was Boehner--I think it was still Pelosi--but asking us to move. Or asking the police to move us. And so that settled the whole jurisdiction thing, and they were allowed to move us finally. They also used health inspectors after a while to try and get us shut down.

82:04

MS: Oh God--worst Occupy story. Literally a tent full of clothes, piss, and shit. Human. All of it. But we discovered it one day as it had been frozen for like a week and then start being above freezing and we noticed that one part of the camp smelled awful! So me and the other direct action people start dismantle the tent, and take it to a nearby dumpster of a business that we asked--you, can we dump a bunch of stuff in your dumpster. But we didn't tell them what it was. They were like yea--sure--whatever. That made everyone so mad though, because apparently it was some homeless ladies, like all her possessions. And so then many people who were being homeless advocates were arguing and quite mad at us for--throwing away all her stuff. And I felt vaguely bad for except--had the health inspector come back and it been there, then they would have evicted all of us. So.

83 :08

KP: Were the conditions in the camps generally clean or kind of gross?

MS: Camp wide, it was clean enough. Like it was muddy as shit because it was like under a foot of ice and snow all the time-so it was muddy and nasty and like things were dirty as in covered in dirt. But our food was all kept in plastic sealed bins. Everything was kept off the ground. I at one point was serve-safe certified and the head chef of Occupy-we had different chefs. It's really hard to keep a kitchen running with that many people to feed. But he was also a kitchen manager and certified as such. So our kitchen was really clean, and safe and everything. I don't think anyone ever got sick from eating food there.

KP: You said you were on the--direct action-were you on a committee, the direct action?

MS: Yea, direct action is the politically correct thing for protesting. So I help organize protests and would be the flag bearer so people would march behind me on marches. If there were unnecessary confrontations with police, it was my job to try and stop them. It was part of my job to do the extraordinarily things in protests including but not limited to dropping banners from buildings. Putting chalk on things. Stuff like that.

KP: How did you get that position?

MS: Being loud. I was loud. No-pretty much you asked at Occupy D.C.-you would ask to be in--on a committee-you asked the committee members and they put it before a vote of themselves. And so I just went around to everyone that was on the protest committee and was like: Yo! Here's why you want me. And they agreed, yes indeed, I should be on that. And because of doing the free speech stuff., a big part of that was working how protests and riots worked. What police tactics are. How to treat pepper spray, all that kind of crap. So I did have skills to bring to the table.

KP: Were there any other ways that you were involved?

MS: I was on the medical committee, which just meant I got to wear a red thing. Although fun fact-American police do not have to abide by the Geneva Convention-because we're not-we're U.S. citizens, they aren't soldiers. That said they were allowed to hit medics, which in normal warfare you aren't allowed to shoot at the medic. But I was on the medical committee. I was on the-it wasn't a committee-but the national lawyers guild observers, they wear green hats and so their job is they've been coached on how to observe protests and give accurate testimony in a court. And so it just means if I were to give testimony in court about any protests that happened, my testimony would be worth slightly more. Because I was told what to say-pretty much. Woo American legal systems.

86:20

KP: So would you say it was like a combination of the cold and the police that started leading to the shutdown, or leading to these camps dispersing. Were there any other things going on?

MS: Political infighting was a big part of it. People who were-people who were stubborn and were dumb would win over those who were not so dumb, but also not as stubborn. So many of the good activists would leave to go do their own thing. Which was great in my opinion. Like I've said one of the best things to come from Occupy was people leaving it to do their own thing because they got frustrated with the inaction. I know at Occupy D.C. there was embezzlement by quite a chunk of money by one dude from the bank account they used. This is why crypto-currency like Bitcoin are important so people can't do that kind of crap. I know Occupy Wall Street had embezzlement happen. Occupy Dayton had embezzlement happen. They all did and do-or not do-I don't know if they have any money left. It's all

been embezzled. But political infighting probably contributed about as much as the cold, and slightly more than police.

87:40

KP: What motivated most of these people to come out to begin with? Or do you feel?

MS: That's a tough one, because a lot of them-if I had to answer from how they acted, I would say they wanted some kind of power or influence. But honestly most of them came out because they're dissatisfied with their lives and they were hoping to get something better from this. Or just-some direction in how things could be better. I think that's why most people originally showed up.

88:20

KP: How do you think-in the future-people are gonna remember the year 2011?

MS: Not for Occupy. No, they'll remember it for the fact that the Middle East started descending into a--started dragging us all into a global war-honestly probably is how people will remember 2011. What people will remember down the line from Occupy is-that-we had technology that enabled us and tools to enable to us to do something about our economy, and simply chose not to.

89:00

KP: What kind of impact on you personally did Occupy make?

MS: Made me--much more tolerant of crack heads. It-made me more of tolerant of tear gas. And it also helped me get a lot better about explaining my political views to people that don't have at all the same background knowledge of economics as me. Any knowledge, or have the same knowledge, but radically different conclusions about it. Made me much better about conveying my ideas to anyone I might want to. That's been of great use to me so far. I got a lot out of it.

KP: So you say mostly positive then?

MS: Yeah, yeah.

KP: Is there anything negative?

MS: I have these little blurry spots in my vision from being maced real hard. And I had bronchitis for a really long time too. [Long pause] No, not too many negatives though. Not really.

90:20

KP: Well I do have a couple more questions I want to ask you, and they're not really about Occupy-

MS: --Okay-

KP: -- but just before I do that is there anything Occupy, Occupy Dayton, or Occupy D.C. or whatever that I didn't hit on, or you can think of?

MS: Not especially, no. No I think I got to most of it.

90:42

KP: Okay so we were talking about like hacktivism earlier-

MS: --Yes-

KP: --what is Anonymous?

MS: It is-the people that use 4chan, do you know what 4chan is?

KP: Yes.

MS: Okay so there is a board on 4chan called /b/ where it's just random pictures-

KP: --well just-I know what 4chan is but let's say someone is listening to this and they might not know.

MS: 4chan is an image board where people can post things-and people can reply with comments, and those comments can have pictures. What makes 4chan different is that whatever is the most recent thing to be commented on, is what's at the top. So the most talked about thing at that exact moment is what you see first. And things fade off and get taken off their website after like-maybe twenty minutes if nobody has looked at in a while. But 4chan has a really strong community behind it that eventually spread off of 4chan onto IRC, Facebook, Reddit, so on-and they called themselves Anonymous. The first thing Anonymous did was on 4chan, they started posting requests for people to start messing with scientologists-and start doing things against scientology. So people started using a distributed denial of service attack, which is where you take a whole bunch of computers and try and visit one website over and over again. Until that website's like: I--uh-ugh-eh-egh-eghand gives up. So that is what Anonymous first did is they DDoSed a bunch of scientology websites. Then they realized that they had a big pool of people who could for no real reason could do pretty much whatever they wanted to. So they later went on to create fake trends-there's some evidence that the whole IGap thing was started by 4chan.

92:44

KP: IGap?

MS: It was this thing last year where-it is the utmost of personal beauty to have a gap between your legs if you're female. It's hashtag #IGap. So there's some evidence this was started 4chan to bring absurdity-to bring to spotlight absurdity with women's self-image and so on. That succeeded because it got talked about on the media, and so self-image became a big thing. Then the same people that started the I Gap meme started dissing the I Gap and were the first people to go against it. So they both created this thing and then destroyed it. Anonymous is just really a big social experiment of-what will people do if you just tell them to for no reason what so ever. Or maybe just the best reason you can give them is: 'Cause it will be funny. Turns out people will do a lot-if it might be a little funny.

KP: What do you mean by "do"?

MS: Retreat things-lots of just internet crap. Share a page a bunch of times on Facebook. Retweet the same hashtag over and over again so that-what was it recently? I think-Toyota had something where

they would-would display the top trending picture for a certain hashtag on their website. So Anonymous went through and just retweeted "goatse" with that hashtag. Yea. Anyone listening can Google what that is. But then they also manage to do other things--of more substantial value like they stole documents off of scientology server alleging the rape and mistreatment of a bunch of teenage girls. They found the personal information of a rapist here in "Steubenville" I think is where it was-and posted that online. And actually got convicted with higher sentences than not people in Anonymous that did it with higher sentences than the person that raped the girl. Yea draconian legal systems-again. But Anonymous is really just anyone who wants to do something about some issue that isn't really affecting them-so they Google how do I do something about this issue that isn't really affecting me-and someone on the internet has said what to do. So enough people do it and its being done by Anonymous. Then there are some groups-or some people that definitely like consider part of Anonymous. There's a 4chan IRC server, there's Anon-Ops which is an IRC chat room on Freenode. And so there are people that really just sit around looking for things to do with their spare time and computer knowledge or knowledge of random crap. So enough to where people will go into this chat room and make requests. Some dude-this was actually on 4chan the other day-but some dude requested DDoSing the Ukrainian president's website, and so they made a "Poland ball comic" of the dude's request. I'm not sure if you know what Polandball-1 can't even-it's a dumb meme-I can't even try to describe it. It's dumb and bad. Dude asked for help with overthrowing his government, Anonymous gave him shiftily drawn comics in MSPaint. It's a fickle beast-that Anonymous.

96:35

KP: So it's like a loosely connected group of.-

MS.. --yes-

KP: --tech sawy individuals.

MS: Yes. Not all are tech savvy and some aren't loosely connected. Like there is some cells-I hate to use that word because it implies terrorist but-there are some cells in Anonymous that operate consistently with each other. But they tend to be small and operate with the larger thing. A big part of it is that it's Anonymous. No one is really in it to try and stake claim to: I did this thing.

97:09

KP: And hacktivism in general-what role do you think that is playing in our society right now?

MS: Either a much large role than most people think-or absolutely no role whatsoever. It's kind of hard to tell at the moment. But-I think it has a really large effect on--considering just earlier today-a faction of the Ukrainian rebels were given about \$50,000 by an Anonymous organization on the internet. To go buy guns with to shoot their government down. So that's done with hacktivism because-the money from that was gathered on MIT servers that some dude setup a Dogecoin mine on, MIT servers. Then that money got used to buy weapons for militia in another country. So hacktivism definitely can do things. How much liking and sharing pages does that have images of from protests or whatever does-I'm not too sure. Except for bringing awareness-if you show some picture of some dude being hurt in a protest to a million people, maybe one of them will sit down and dedicate a couple hours towards stopping that thing. That-that's where that mass-sharing comes in useful. But-I don't think it has any direct benefit.

KP: Do you think it is seen as a bad thing in general, or?

MS: There are a lot of people who think they are doing a lot with their hacktivism, or liking or sharing photos-I'm hesitant to even call that hacktivism-but there are many people who think that they are doing a lot with online activism when-they really aren't. But it has the psychological effect of well-I've done something so I should feel good about doing something-when what they've done actually has very little good effect and if they just kept doing more they could have actual effect.

99:15

KP: And then--crypto-currencies-

MS: --crypto-currencies-

KP: --I've heard-you brought that up a couple times in our conversation-

MS: --yea.

KP: So we've got like Bitcoins, and then there's Dogecoins-"DOHJ"--"DODGE"coins. I don't know how you wanna pronounce it.

MS: I say "DOHJ" coin. Dogecoin.

KP: Dogecoins. So what do you think about crypto-currencies in general?

MS: I think they're great. Basic economic-at least from how I've learned it-is that if you reduce the barrier of entry to a market, the market prospers. We're now reducing of entry to what it takes to earn money. You don't have to have a--day job that's taxable now. You don't have to do so many things that used to be a necessity for accruing capital. Now you can say something on the internet and make money off it. You can do that a bunch and make a bunch of money off it. Or you can give someone advice on a forum about how to--do something in carpentry, or brewing, or setup software on their computer and get paid fifty cents for it. And so this-the fact that capital-we're getting to a point where crypto-currencies are going to let us quantify forms of capital that previously weren't. Like social capital is a big of concept. You have social worth beyond what you have in dollars. Intellectual capital, good ideas. If it's easier to pay for these-you'll be more inclined to. Also if you're being paid for those same kinds of contributions, you have more capital to exchange for them. So I really like crypto-currency-I think-they're going to be what really fixes our economy.

100:59

KP: At what point did you find out about 'em?

MS: Damn near immediately. I don't know--like 2009--early 2010. Very soon, because it--I was actively looking for ways to secure funding for doing that hacktivism stuff. So as soon as Bitcoin cropped up I'm like: Great! This is what we need.

KP: Where did you hear about them at?

MS: I believe from a--computer IT person I know who does pen-tests-network security stuff. I think he just mentioned it offhand to me one day, I was like: Cool. I have a bunch of friends now that--are into Dogecoin. I--one dude I know is that dude who bought a Papa John pizza for twenty thousand Bitcoins, back when Bitcoin was new. That made the news because it was one of the first things that people like tangible product someone bought with Bitcoin. But yea--twenty thousand Bitcoins for a pizza. If only he still had them.

KP: So what do you--what do you think about the way that Bitcoins exploded, value wise, at least in United States currency?

MS: It's largely artificial. I don't think it will ever properly pop. I don't think Bitcoin itself is going to be the crypto-currency that takes over simply because too many people view it incorrectly. They think of it as of itself an investment. When really Bitcoin's two things. It's a transaction network the same way the Visa, MasterCard, Discover--whatever. A transaction network. And it's a storer of value the same way gold, or dollars, or Dogecoin, or internet reddit karma. Whatever else are a storer of value. Too many people think of it as an investment the same way as stock would be an investment. If you treat it that way, it's going to be a bad investment. That's how it works.

KP: A little bit earlier you were kind of saying--there were less barriers to entry. I don't know if I would agree about Bitcoin currently--because it's--I probably can't mine a Bitcoin on my own on my laptop because the difficulty--

MS: No. I mean but you also can't print a dollar. When I say barrier of entry that way, I mean the barrier of entry to using Bitcoin is way less. The barrier of entry to using a dollar requires physical proximity, or a bank account, with a similar transaction network that goes between the two bank accounts. Such as Visa, MasterCard--there are just many steps in moving capital from me, to you. If--like we can do it now because we are in close physical proximity. Without that it's pretty difficult to send someone money. Bitcoin it's not all that difficult. You have an address, I have an address. As long as we have internet access it's a simple transaction. It works the same way for any amount of money. For any person. It's clean, simple, low barrier of entry--and the tools that let you spend it are now on par or above what let you spend bank account money. Yes, getting Bitcoin in the first place is still trickier--if only because people don't use it routinely in their day to day. If people walked around paying themselves--or paying each other in Canadian dollars, getting a hold of U.S. dollars would also be pretty tricky, but that doesn't make its use as a currency any worse.

104:50

KP: So you feel that--that's going to change though?

MS: Maybe not with Bitcoin, maybe some derivative that comes after Bitcoin-but yea-I do think it's going to change. There's so much incentive to not use dollars, ignoring the whole tax thing. There are many good reasons to start using Bitcoin, not because of its value-because right now it's too highly volatile. When people actually see it can be used to buy things and so on, and people start using it as a currency. It is a better currency. It is better means of exchange than dollars are.

KP: How does it fit into this view of anarcho-capitalism?

MS: It's decentralized currency. It's a way of storing capital without any entity that's in control of it the same way that the state is. There's no mandates from up high saying how Bitcoin works. There also are no regulations saying you have to do things in Bitcoin. You can use other currencies if you want. Bitcoin fits into it because, it exists and is not run by the state. So it's the best anarcho-capitalist currency at the moment. But-I think-it's just another currency.

KP: [Long pause] So are there any? I'm just curious about this anarcho-capitalism

MS: --most people are.

KP: How did you find out about that again?

MS: Probably Reddit.

KP: Reddit?

MS: Probably. Yea.

KP: You said that-I don't know-it sounds like you don't have much faith in our government-

MS: --that is correct-

KP: --other than getting maced in the face in D.C., is there anything else in particular that kind of pushed you in this direction?

MS: I mean, no. We have a decent enough government. Our quality of life is very high. Our roads are safe. We have good police force. We have many benefits from the government. I just think life legitimately could be better if we stopped having it. Every way I look at it, the fact that-politicians ultimately aren't accountable to get something from their investment. Means that we aren't getting as much anymore. There was time when-yea-the government could definitely handle getting running water places better. Now that's simply not true. There was a time when the government could be better at having firefighter everywhere. Again that's just not true anymore. We're seeing just as technology spreads, the need for government is being replaced. So I'd rather be on the winning side of that whole thing. Understand how the new-next political model will work. That drove why I think that anarchocapitalism is where we're going, not where I want us to go. I mean it is where I want us to go-- but I don't think it's something I have to fight toward. I think it is just what is occurring.

108:17

KP: [Long pause] that's getting close to most of the questions I think I have-

MS: --okay-

KP: --and then some. Is there anything-anything else?

MS: No. I don't think so.

KP: Alright, well I guess I'm going to end this then, okay?

KP: Okay. [I turn the recorder off at this point, and we continue to have some conversation. Suddenly it starts getting really interesting again. So I ask to turn the recorder on before he continues.]

108:38

KP: Okay we're back because he's on the no-fly list.

MS: So I'm actually on the no-fly list, I found out once because I was trying to go to Florida. They were like you can't get on planes, we're sorry. Which was awkward, but they were really polite about it because it was some dinky airport, I don't even remember which one. Anyway-so--! have this thing. It is a medal from the Department of Defense that they give to private citizens. It's like-it says something like: In duty of defense or some crap, or something. But I got it because of helping the Iranian people in their time of crisis or something-so on. It was cool. The exact same things I did that got me a medal from our government got me put on the no-fly list. So--

KP: How did this all come to their attention?

MS: So I was--oh God-so I was walking to my first day of class at Sinclair Community College. Some dudes in a car throw rocks at me, shouting: "Mousavi fraud!" at me while they do so. A couple days prior to that-or a day prior to that my name got leaked on to the internet. My name and address. Tied to the account I was using to do stuff to help Iranian protesters. So these dudes were pro-Iranian and threw rocks at me. So I called the cops, and then they called the FBI, and then the FBI came and asked me questions about it-and then came and asked me some more questions about what exactly I was doing that would have people angry at me. I was reluctant to answer their questions, understandably, because I knew what I was doing was not of the most legal nature. Then eventually-we started opening to them. WE formed a short relationship of me giving them information about what was going on in Iran-and them-giving me people to work with pretty much.

110:45

KP: Where did this happen?

MS: Which part? Most of it on my front porch-

KP: Where the people were talking about like-throwing rocks at you.

MS: Oh. That was like in the Oregon district. I lived in South Park and I was walking to school.

KP: I had no idea there were like pro-Iranian people here.

MS: There are presumably some everywhere. It only takes like two or three of them. With the power of the internet and social media, they're able to reinforce their minority voice.

KP: So you-worked with the FBI

MS: --Uh-huh-

KP: --to circumvent Iranian-

MS: --I didn't-see this is where it gets tricky about answering them because

KP: --yea-

MS: --I worked with InfraGard. Which is a private sector subsidiary and contractor of the FBI to provide them with information about the state of telecommunications in Italy. Not Iran. Because the internet in Iran largely goes through Italy. Not allowed to do things even vaguely related to Iran-legally-because of them being an enemy of our state. So I did things in Italy for-against-it's complicated. It is complicated. I did some stuff for some people-and things occurred-and now Syria is in a civil war.

KP: That's crazy. It sounds like you're a secret agent or something.

MS: No because I'm being open about it, that's the distinction there.

KP: Yea. You' re just an agent.

MS: I was.

KP: Are you even allowed to talk about this stuff or?

MS: I mean yea-because it was private sector-and it's not like I'm saying anything specific really. Like I worked for InfraGard, and I did things-research into Italy.

112:50

KP: What's InfraGard?

MS: They are company which-oh what's the official description? It's something like-working to secure American spaces and persons from-threats to our constitution, both foreign and domestic. Something like that. They do research into domestic terrorism largely. Or terrorists operating domestically. Which I amkinda-not really.

KP: Yea, you just got a medal, but you're on the no-fly list.

MS: I didn't just get it-but yes.

KP: That's-I dunno-it just blows my mind.

MS: It happens. Our government is bad at being a government-and they should stop--and give up.

KP: So you're against the government--working for the government--but not the government, just a private-

MS: I don't work-yea-I don't work for them. They just happen-we have mutual interests. That's what I said. I'm not an activist. I just do what furthers my own personal goals of a better world. In my opinion.

KP: Did you get paid for this stuff?

MS: No, there were opportunities to, but most of the time I just donated it back because it would be of more use to buy server farms, than buy me fancy food. In hindsight, I should have paid myself.

KP: Yea. So, I mean-is there like a cyber-war going on?

MS: I mean I wouldn't go that far to say it's a cyber-war. But there are definitely people that use the internet-like the same way we had spies in the Cold War. Now it's just-there are so much more intelligence. So many more spies.

KP: So like espionage, like espionage stuff kind of going on?

MS: Kind of, but in the same way it's just this kind of crap [points to the archival boxes in the room] just putting things in boxes and storing them aside to organize them later. Drawing pretty graphs based on how many people are using the phone at a certain time in a certain region, and what can that tell us about the quality water in the area. Just-mining so much data. We'll figure out what to do with it at some point, but right now the goal is how much data can we get?

115:12

KP: So what do you think about the whole thing with the NSA?

MS: I was really surprised when I heard about it, because I was unaware that it was not well known that they did this. So that was my first reaction-wow! People didn't know that the everything they do on the internet is watched? I've been to the facility out in Utah, it's a big server farm. That's kind of a vague term. It's a data center. It just writes things in hard drives, and I'm sure is massively massive, and I didn't get to see any of it. Not surprised.

KP: Can I ask why you got to go there?

MS: 'Cause I had a friend that worked there. He no longer works there.

KP: I would ask a follow up question, why?

MS: I think he just got transferred to a different place. Like I don't know. I don't know where he works at the moment. Not there, cause I was going to go through Utah and asked if he still lived there so I could go see him, and he was like-no. But no, probably nothing happened. He got a promotion or moved laterally or something.

KP: I don't know--I just-I don't know how to approach you on this issue. I don't know like-I don't know. It blows my mind.

MS: It is all significantly more boring than one would think

KP: --yea-

MS: --it's mostly looking at documents and reading paper work, and then retyping it without as many typos. Lots of-just staring at the internet go by. Like you know in the Matrix where they have this text go by way too fast? I would sometimes just sit there and stare at it and hope that maybe eventually I would learn to read that fast. Turns out, no, you can't read that fast.

KP: Yea. Do you have like a lot of coding skills and stuff like that?

MS: Nope. I know shockingly little about how computers actually work. I'm just really good at reading documentation about it, and then dumbing it down and being able to explain it to other people. But no--the main skill I bring is-charisma and being able to write things. I'm not exceedingly skilled with computers, by any means.

KP: Is this like a regular thing-so you don't take payment for this kind of stuff?  
117:40

MS: Correct.

KP: So like do you have a job or anything?

MS: I was a street musician in D.C. until I came here and got stuck, because of a car crash. I worked at restaurant in Chapel Hill before that. I manage a band, as well. So-kinda-but neh-not really. Not at the moment.

KP: You have an incredibly interesting life, just saying.

MS: It happens. It happens. Fun fact-none of that is good fodder for a resume to get a job any place.

KP: Really?

MS: Yea, no. No one wants to hire some dude who's maybe a terrorist. Like would you?

KP: [Laughs] I don't know, should I be talking to one?

MS: Probably I'm sure you talk to people on a routine basis that are also on the no-fly list. Like I'm sure there's many people that don't even know they're on it, because they simply haven't gone to take a flight since it was created.

KP: So what do you think about the fact that you're on the no-fly list?

MS: It's hella inconvenient. I would really like to be able-I don't know-fly places. I don't know. There is an airport right near where I live in Chapel Hill. It would be really convenient to fly from there to Dayton and come see my family. It would be cheaper too. Nope. It is inconvenient.

KP: Inconvenient, but does it like make you mad?

MS: I mean it does in that they-I don't think they have any right to tell me I can't get on planes.

KP: Yea, you're not a threat.

MS: Not as far as I know. And also the whole argument, well you know how to do things against other governments, so you might here--which I assume is their argument. Is a really bad one, 'cause then why would you do things that make me dislike you? If you think I can hurt you, wouldn't you try to make me like you? That's like-kindergarten social politics right there. Don't piss off the dude who might punch you.

KP: Can I ask about what kind of stuff in particular you were doing with Iran?

MS: [Pause]\_No.

KP: No. All right, well we'll just leave it at that.

MS: You can look up on Iran internet activism and probably get some good ideas, but I don't want to say specifically what I was doing for it.

KP: All right, all right. I'm just gonna end this tape.

[Laughter]

2:00:16 120:16

[End of recording]