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Good evening.

Many of us have had jobs that we found unpleasant. In fact, it often seems as if this is endemic to people our age. We're easily taken advantage of in many cases. Many times, since we don't have experience, we have to do the most unpleasant tasks.

Andrew Bushard certainly has had his share of jobs that he didn't like. The first job he got was delivering a newspaper. The reason that this job sucked was because every day at the crack of dawn, Andrew would have to wake up, deliver the papers, regardless of the weather. Snow, rain, minus 60 below, still had to deliver the papers.

After this, Andrew worked at McDonald's. McDonald's did not stimulate the workers. It wasn't creative enough, because it was geared towards profit, like other's note. It was a lot of drudgery work.

The next job Andrew got was working for his father at Charlie's Steakery. This was very good, because the father ran the business. It still was a job. Andrew worked one summer at Wendy's. The problem with Wendy's, the bosses were constantly yelling. One of the bosses had Andrew do something which was questionable. Every day he was

working, he had to clock out at 11, but still had to work until the lobby was clean. It was very difficult to finish the lobby by 11. Almost never could one do it at that time. As Father pointed out, “that brought the salary dangerously close to minimum wage.”

One summer, Andrew worked for a temp agency three weeks at a nursing home. This nursing home was at a faster pace than many corporate businesses. It was an assembly line where one had to work almost every second. Very little time for breathing.

Andrew worked at Kmart, another summer. This was the worst job of them all. This job clearly was most orientated towards getting the maximum profit without concern for the individual worker, [like capitalist critics say.] Only one boss regularly complimented people.

Andrew thought he would try to make a difference working a job that wasn't a corporate job. Andrew got a job at a summer camp. The summer camp had potential. It was really cool to work with the kids. It went wrong. Andrew was the editor of the newspaper. Deadlines are always stressful, especially when the boss had unrealistic expectations. The managing editor is often difficult to track down to approve the final copy. It's also difficult when the machinery is constantly malfunctioning. It's difficult to edit a newspaper when you're supposed to also discipline kids. When you're supposed to teach the kids how to write a newspaper at the same time. The

kids were very wealthy kids, which meant they were difficult to deal with [like the staff noted and Andrew experienced himself]. Andrew ended up getting fired from this job. It was a very difficult experience. Afterwards, there was so much emotion, because the heart was put into this job trying to reach these kids. Andrew cried a long time. It was hard for this one guy to take Andrew home to work there longer than the boss was alive. The boss was a rich kid who had everything his whole entire life.

Then Andrew worked newspaper delivery again. It's a drag carrying the newspapers on a bike.

There's a reason why all these jobs tend to be unpleasant. It is because there's economic systems that these jobs are a part of [like capitalist critics have noted]. This economic system is dangerous. Capitalism has caused us much misfortune and much sadness [like capitalist critics have noted]. It's important for us to realize this because when we do, we can hope to cultivate a better way [like capitalist critics have noted].

One of the biggest problems of capitalism is its emphasis on competition [like capitalist critics have noted]. Many assume competition is okay, because “it brings out the best in us,” they say. In some aspects, this is true. If a business has a competitor, they will strive to get the customers away from the competitor [like capitalist proponents say]. This may mean their products will improve in quality [like capitalist proponents say]. Customers want the best quality [like

capitalist proponents say]. It prevents businesses from sitting on their laurels [like capitalist proponents say]. Competition is great when you're winning. When you're at the top of your game, you feel on cloud nine. But it's a different story if you're losing. You feel miserable. Sometimes your self-esteem dares.

Many have had faith in a social Darwinist view. They believe the people that are wealthy are wealthy because they're stronger, better people. The people that are poor are lesser people. This is devastating when we consider there's many reasons people would be poor. Certainly there are environmental factors coming into play [like capitalist critics note]

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Competition pervades all of our life [like capitalist critics note]. All the way from the way we work to the way we play [like capitalist critics note]. “One would be hard-pressed to find a perennially popular board game that is not competitive.” [like capitalist critics note] The quintessential capitalist board game is a game that has sold lots. The most popular board game in the history of our nation, Monopoly. About the only perennially popular board game that is not competitive is a jigsaw puzzle.

Competition is one deal when it's in leisure. But when it's for survival itself, that means some people will not be able to survive. This is very sad because a true market-based society is a society that allows people to survive, to guarantee them.

When people's survival is guaranteed, their energies can be devoted towards other areas.

Capitalist competition is very divisive [like capitalist critics note]. “It pits one element of society against each other [like capitalist critics note].” This prevents us from ultimately being the most productive [like capitalist critics note]. If two elements work together, they can create so much more. What benefits the whole will benefit each individual part.

There is a better way than having constant competition in society [like capitalist critics note]. A prominent feature of our advanced capitalist system is greed [like capitalist critics note]. Greed is a big problem because it is often an urge one cannot satisfy. It is a compulsive drive that prevents people from being their best. It puts blinders on people. It makes people act irrationally. Greed encourages people to have more than they need. It is a waste of their energy. Instead of using their energy's creativity, they are using their energy for the accumulation of money, of goods. There is a better way than endless greed. [like capitalist critics note about the entire last paragraph].

In capitalism, profits are a central drive. Unfortunately, many times profits are so exalted that what is truly important is forgotten [like capitalist critics note]. We see this the way industry treats its workers, treats the environment [like capitalist critics note]. Human health, human life is often secondary [like capitalist critics note]. Sometimes it's not

even considered at all [like capitalist critics note]. The reason this is, is because of the way the marketplace is set up [like capitalist critics note]. It is set up to be profitable [like capitalist critics note]. Many say corporations “have no conscience” They say this because “corporations are not people. [like capitalist critics note]” They don't have a heart and a soul [like capitalist critics note]. The only logic which they're founded on, which their legal entity is our government that makes corporations what they are [like capitalist critics note].. Without a charter, they cannot be the corporations [like capitalist critics note].

Ambrose Bierce made the very pithy statement, “corporations are an ingenious device to assure individual profit without individual liability.” [*The Portable Curmedgeon* by Jon Winkour”] This is why when there's wrongdoing in a corporation, it's difficult to pin it down to people. The responsibility is diffused through the whole corporation.

The profit motive taints whatever it gets in touch with [Like Rick Forrester of Tangerine Radio said, “Profit can take the fun out of anything]. It prevents purity from reigning.

Many of us certainly see how profits can make sex degraded. Many of us are offended by the notion of prostitution. We believe love is too great to pay for it. It should be valued for its own sake. Yet other beautiful, passionate activities of life, we do not view the same way when the profit motive enters the picture. If a painter is painting what they love, if they're

paid for it, it degrades it because they're not doing it for its own sake. It often leads to making the painting unfun.

In capitalism, everything tends to become a job and a chore when the profit motive enters the picture. [Like Rick Forrester of Tangerine Radio said, "Profit can take the fun out of anything]. Doing activity for its own sake could be considered the epitome of virtue.

There is a better way than endless profits [like capitalist critics note]. In capitalism, there is this trend for an equitable distribution of wealth [like capitalist critics note]. "We have a great gap between the rich and the poor today" [like capitalist critics note]. On one end of the spectrum, people have billions and billions of dollars, more money than they could possibly ever use [like capitalist critics note]. On the other end of the spectrum, we have people who don't have enough money to buy a crust of bread [like capitalist critics note].

Dave Obey recently said, "why is everyone so upbeat? Maybe we shouldn't be considering how bad it is. The gap between the rich and the poor is as great as it has ever been." Dave Obey saying this is a powerful statement. At least today we have a sizable middle class. If the gap is greater than it's ever been, it is a sad reflection of the current times. In many ways, the situation today resembles that of 100 years ago [like capitalist critics note].. 100 years ago, corporations were gaining enormous power. Citizens felt helpless everywhere they went [like capitalist critics note].. Corporations were

controlling them [like capitalist critics note].. Today, the circumstance is the same. This caused the government in the late 1800s, early 19th century to crack down, to pass antitrust legislation [like capitalist critics note].

- 1890s Sherman Antitrust Regulation was passed.
- In the 1990s, the same dynamic occurred. Corporations were gaining so much power, they're way more powerful than many government bodies. Microsoft was the epitome example. It got so bad that our governments felt compelled to regulate Microsoft. [like capitalist critics note].

In various aspects of the inequitable distribution of wealth, many people are working hard, yet they're not being compensated well for their work [like capitalist critics note].. Certainly, those who are creative, those who have improved our society, should earn more than others [like capitalist critics note].. Bill Gates has helped us out enormously. He deserves more than most people. But it should be based in reality [like capitalist critics note].. There's a point when the compensation becomes absurd [like capitalist critics note].. Sure, we can give him \$100,000 a year, \$500,000 a year. But when we give him billions and billions a year, that's a sad thing. A thousand a year. But when we give him billions and billions a year, that's a sad statement. It's also important to put what he does, what other capitalists do, in perspective. There's people like Michael Jordan and Oprah Winfrey who get millions of dollars every year [like capitalist critics note].. If we truly valued what was helpful to society, why would

these people get more than teachers [like capitalist critics note].? Why would these people get more than social workers? Especially more than 100 social workers combined, than 1,000 social workers combined [like capitalist critics note].

There is a better way than an equitable distribution of wealth [like capitalist critics note]. In capitalism, there is this force that seeks to commodify everything [Rick Forrester and others]. This is from the low end of the evolutionary scale all the way up. At the low end of the scale, we devalue the earth [like capitalist critics note]. The earth is broken down into nothing more than raw products for industry. Instead of us looking at the earth as a holistic entity, we see it as only raw goods to be exploited at will that have no end [like capitalist critics note]. This violates the integrity of the earth [like capitalist critics note]. We have to remember that “we belong to the earth instead of the earth belonging to us” [like environmentalists say].

As we move up the scale, it becomes even more vulgar. Animals are treated as merely tools for production [like capitalist critics note]. This is especially prevalent as capitalism advances [like capitalist critics note]. We have seen in the last 50 years mighty huge factory farms [like capitalist critics note]. These factory farms forget that animals have feelings [like capitalist critics note]. They can feel pain. They have awareness. It treats animals as nothing more than steel [like capitalist critics note]. As technology gets more advanced, it becomes more absurd [like capitalist critics note]. Animals are bred so they have no legs because that

would take away from profit [like capitalist critics note]. Factory farming is very unnatural for the animals because they don't have enough space [like capitalist critics note]. Their needs are not being met.

As we continue to go up the scale, the commodification of humans is the staunchest of all. Humans are considered “human resources” [like capitalist critics note]: at businesses, no longer do we have “personnel departments”. Especially negatively affected by this commodification are women [like capitalist critics note]. Women are treated as nothing more than objects that can earn money for the corporation. This has caused a host of problems with women [like capitalist critics note]:

- Self-esteem issues [like capitalist critics note].
- It has caused women to pursue unrealistic expectations [like capitalist critics note].

There is nothing wrong with valuing beauty. But beauty should not be all that's valued. It should be considered a part of a full being instead of detached as just a part [like capitalist critics note]. There is a better way than the commodification of everything.

There is a strange occurrence. In capitalism, it seems as if the worst products tend to sell the best. The products that destroy our health always tend to sell well. Cigarettes, despite our great knowledge about what they do, they continue to sell well. Alcohol is another example. It is baffling to ponder how well alcohol does in our society. It seems as if we have 60

bars. Add to that the liquor stores, the restaurants that serve alcohol, the convenience stores that serve alcohol. How can all these businesses serving alcohol survive?

Food itself is also used negatively to make profit. We have pseudo-food with the fast food outlets in the grocery stores, the snack foods, that continue to sell well [like capitalist critics note].. Taxes that continue to sell wealth. Great articles in a magazine mention fruit and vegetable companies often don't bother advertising because they don't make enough profit to make it worth their while.

Intellectually, everyone loves Beavis and Butthead. Everyone loves MTV. Everyone loves Howard Stern. Try to get a classical book of literature, classical book of philosophy. That doesn't sell very well. There is a better way than always having the worst sell the fastest.

Many of us are naturally appalled at theft and slavery. We believe in our society that it's wrong to steal from a store. We believe that our morals are set. They're fixed. But if we look at morals in a different way, we start to see the picture differently [like capitalist critics note]. We start to realize morals in our society may be more arbitrary [like capitalist critics note]. They may be set up to protect certain people's interests [like capitalist critics note].. Maybe what the capitalists are doing is theft, is slavery [like capitalist critics note].

Surely most everyone in our society believes what the South in the Civil War did was wrong. They enslaved people. The South had an interesting piece of propaganda they put out. They had one scene of slaves dancing, singing, having a joyous life. They contrasted that to the North where workers reluctantly were droned going to work. Obviously their picture of the South was distorted. But they did have a good point about the North. Many people assumed the North was free. But the North might have not been free after all.

We certainly believe that someone gets zero dollars for their work, it's slavery. But what if we pay them one penny a year? Technically they may not be a slave, but for all intents and purposes they are. Maybe slavery is not apparently what? Maybe slavery is a sliding scale. Maybe it's a continuum.

Marx believed in capitalism there were two groups of opposing workers [like capitalist critics note]. They were in conflict over the wages [like capitalist critics note]. The boss wanted to squeeze as much out of the worker as possible [like capitalist critics note]. The worker wanted to get maximum compensation for their work [like capitalist critics note]. In capitalism, the worker does not get all the wealth they produce [like capitalist critics note]. The boss has to get some of the wealth [like capitalist critics note]. This means the worker is not getting everything they can [like capitalist critics note]. This can be considered tantamount to theft [like capitalist critics note]. “The boss is profiting off the worker's work” [like capitalist critics note]. Stealing from the worker's

productivity [like capitalist critics note]. Certainly it would seem more fair if people could be compensated for the work that they do [like capitalist critics note]. There is a better way than profiting off the labor of others [like capitalist critics note].

Capitalism has often led to imperialism [like capitalist critics note]. Capitalism often gets so big the capitalists at home have saturated all of the markets [like capitalist critics note]. They've saturated their resource supply [like capitalist critics note]. They must go somewhere else in order to fulfill their needs [like capitalist critics note].

Once upon a time, imperialism was based on political lines [like capitalist critics note]. Today, imperialism is based on economic lines [like capitalist critics note]. Some may argue it's just as powerful as it was once upon a time.

Today, boundaries are broken down in a major way. In some ways, this is good. In some ways, it's bad because it allows the corporations to come in and establish a control over the culture [like capitalist critics note]. This causes people to become subjects of the corporations [like capitalist critics note]. Just as corporations in this country exploit the middle class, for us to have our standards, people across the world have to be exploited even more [like capitalist critics note]. The very exploitative system. The lower down the scale you go, the more exploited you are [like capitalist critics note]. This is very demeaning to the subjugated people because

everyone wants their own autonomy [like capitalist critics note].

There is a better way than imperialism. Capitalism tends to promote selfish greed [like capitalist critics note]. The Bible considered greed to be one of the seven deadly sins. Of all the sins, it was one of the most deadly. Certainly greed is not a noble motivation. Often greed, that's a pushover from being our best [like capitalist critics note]. What about love [like capitalist critics note]? What about compassion [like capitalist critics note]? What about greater integrity [like capitalist critics note]? Capitalism with its money praise notion prevents us from actualizing ourselves. There's a better way than this dangerous greed.

In capitalism, there is naturally much materialism [like capitalist critics note]. Many times we're taught our well-being, our worth as a person is based on how much we own [like capitalist critics note]. Many of us are trying to live up to what our neighbors have [like capitalist critics note]. Many of us are even taught the key to happiness is acquiring more and more good [like capitalist critics note]. Is this any surprise why people are so empty [like capitalist critics note]? There's people in India who don't have one one-thousandth of what most of us have, but they're happy because they're concentrating on more essential values. They're concentrating on what is truly important.

It may sound simple to say money can't buy happiness, but

many of us don't act as if we believe in this. Surely health is more important than wealth [like health advocates say]. The great saying is “health is wealth.” How can one enjoy life if on a sickbed they die when they're 50 [like health advocates say]? Certainly having a million dollars in the world does not mean much if you're not healthy [like health advocates say].

A great story told by Pastor David Myers of Last Trumpet Ministries in Beaverdam was about John Rockefeller [on one of his audiotape sermons.: “He was sick in his later years. He had a stomach problem which made it difficult to eat a lot. He was sitting in a restaurant looking outside trying to get his dinner down. There was a construction worker who obviously did not make one-tenth, one-one-hundredth of what John Rockefeller made. This construction worker whooped down his sandwich. John Rockefeller looked at him with envy. Many of us would wonder why someone like that would envy anybody. But when we consider that there's more important than just money, we can see how one could do that. John Rockefeller said, ‘I would give up all my wealth if I could have an appetite like that.’ The extent to which he really meant that could be questioned.”

It's also important to realize sometimes even money-snapping doctors cannot give you health because health depends on what we do in our daily lives. It's deeper than just putting dollar bills in front of a doctor's face. There is a better way than endless materialism.

In capitalism, there is a dog-eat-dog mentality [like capitalist critics note]. We're often taught to step on someone else's back in order to advance [like capitalist critics note]. This is not very kind. Why can't we have a system? This is not very high. Why can't we have a system that as one person rises, everyone else rises too [like capitalist critics note]? The most liberating type of success is pulling someone else up with you. Making the whole world improve because you are rising instead of taking someone down so you rise. There is a better way than the dog-eat-dog mentality of capitalism [like capitalist critics note].

Unfortunately, capitalists have got a grip on our nation. Our foreign policy is orientated towards their best interests [like capitalist critics note]. Laws are made to benefit them rather than everyone else [like capitalist critics note].

Why do we go to fight Iraq in the 90s [like capitalist critics note]? It certainly wasn't what George Bush Sr. was saying [like capitalist critics note]. That was lofty nonsense. There was plenty of other examples in the world that we could have intervened through the human rights violations due to whatever we claimed Iraq was doing [like capitalist critics note]. The reason that we intervened there was because we had financial oil interests [like capitalist critics note]. Fortunately, capitalists and government today are least separate entities. But the line is blurry sometimes [like capitalist critics note]. Many rich people bribe the politicians to pass the laws they want [like capitalist critics note].

Sometimes advanced capitalism can resemble communism in full powers concentrate. Just on the surface, they're different. They may indeed be different heads, same rabbit. There is a better way than having capitalists run our nation without considering the interests of everyone else [like capitalist critics note]. Capitalism when it mixes with democracy can cause tremendous corruption [like capitalist critics note]. Many politicians are in the business not to make our lives better first and foremost, but to get elected [like capitalist critics note]. Many of them don't have the greatest morals. It's a universal sentiment to question the morals of politicians. The system that we have is very logical [like capitalist critics note]. Why would a politician want to do the morally right act if it wouldn't get them elected [like capitalist critics note]? One of the greatest ways to get elected in this country due to the legislation we have is by being financed [like capitalist critics note]. Having lots of money to create big commercials to reach a huge audience [like capitalist critics note]. People without any money have a difficult time even getting their foot in the door [like capitalist critics note]. We certainly need campaign finance reform or else the rich politicians will continue winning [like capitalist critics note]

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What's the difference between Clinton and George W. Bush [like capitalist critics note]? Not much at all [like capitalist critics note]. They're both being high on the hog [like capitalist critics note]. When will we have a politician that is not endlessly wealthy [like capitalist critics note]? There is a

better way than the corruption of capitalism getting involved in our political system [like capitalist critics note]. Capitalism encourages us to consume, consume, consume [like capitalist critics note]. This has many negative ramifications [like capitalist critics note]. Certainly, the earth is devastated by this [like capitalist critics note]. It is an environmental problem when all of us are constantly consuming [like capitalist critics note]. Especially in this country, we consume way more resources than most people all over the world [like capitalist critics note]. Of course, the earth cannot last forever [like capitalist critics note]. It is limited [like capitalist critics note]. Someday, it may not have anything left for us [like capitalist critics note]. When that occurs, we will be in a very dangerous situation [like capitalist critics note]. It is often virtuous to live simply [like capitalist critics note]. Many people devote too much time and effort into work to get some material goods [like capitalist critics note]. To get some material good. Certainly, if we devoted less time to work, we could do what we really want to do [like capitalist critics note]. Talking to this one person, there was a career speaker who said most money college students get from their jobs is to buy material good, like a stereo [like capitalist critics note]. When we constantly want more and more, that means we'll have to work more and more [like capitalist critics note]. It means we're not free; it means we're tied down [like capitalist critics note]. It's not black and white, there's certainly a continuum. The less we work, the more free we are.

This game has been played with every employee of every

business [like capitalist critics note]. They want to work as little as possible. It's very rare employees who will put in extra when they're not being compensated. Why should we [like capitalist critics note]? Why should we be working for someone else's gain [like capitalist critics note]? We could be working for our own gain, whether this be intellectual, artistic, or physical [like capitalist critics note]. The less time we have for working, the more time we have. Take advantage of life. Life is too short to work non-stop. Certainly, the people that work six days out of the week are to be admired for their dedication. But this is a special opportunity we have. We only go through this once. The less we work, the more free we are.

There is a better way than endless consumerism [like capitalist critics note]. It is ironic, corporations being as rich as they are, sometimes are subsidized by the government [like capitalist critics note]. Michael Moore put it in perspective really well. He was talking about how sad it is when people condemn those on welfare for wasting tax dollars. He said, "corporations get five times more welfare money from the government than individuals on welfare." These rich corporations we are subsidizing, something is seriously wrong. It's especially absurd in some cases. "On one hand, our government pays tobacco companies to grow their tobacco" [like capitalist critics note]. Then, when the tobacco kills people, the government sues the tobacco company [like capitalist critics note]. This is ludicrous. We could save ourselves a whole lot of trouble and expense if we never

subsidized these industries at all.

We often see great bumper stickers which say, "Take the corporations off welfare." Certainly, it may be sad to have poor people on welfare if welfare is not empowering them as it is [like welfare critics note]. But it's ludicrous to have rich people on welfare. There is a better way than subsidizing corporations. As broad and advanced capitalism can get, the way our nation is set up, there can be improvements. The system cannot last forever [like capitalist critics note]. History shows us even the most powerful empires fall. Nazi Germany fell [like capitalist critics note]. The Roman Empire fell [like capitalist critics note]. Capitalism can end too when we have a system [like capitalist critics note].