

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/>
og:title Content: Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023
Blog Post Date:

Blog Post Content:
URL: <https://sagelewis.com/we-dont-have-to-accept-the-same-old-same-old/>
og:title Content: We don't have to accept the same old same old - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023
Blog Post Date: June 12, 2015

Blog Post Content:

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/day-4-wakr/>
og:title Content: Day 4 - WAKR - The Road To Mayor - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023
Blog Post Date: June 13, 2015

Blog Post Content:
I was so excited about day 4 (Friday, June 12 2015) that I couldn't sleep.
Indy and I had just went to check out Jurassic World at the HIGHLAND Theater the night before. It was so good I couldn't stop thinking about it.
But at 9am on day 4 I was to have my first radio interview at 1590 WAKR with Ray Horner.
While public speaking is a comfortable activity for me, my Akron Mayoral thoughts and words are not solidified yet. I didn't know how it was going to turn out.
It went great!
Ray was awesome. The studio was awesome and I felt like, while my words will get tightened up, my thoughts are starting to solidify.
Here's the audio interview if you'd like to hear it: AUDIO: Sage Lewis Throws His Hat In Mayoral Ring
The #1 question every candidate will get asked is:
Why are you running for Akron Mayor?
That's the money question. In business that's what we call your elevator speech. You need to answer that question clearly and directly in 30 seconds or less (the amount of time you'd spend on an elevator).
I'm running for Akron Mayor for 3 reasons:

The "experienced" political professionals are dropping the ball. They aren't acting like you would think an experienced, professional should act. I think we need something better than the experienced, professional politicians we've been handed.
The larger, national political scene is messed up. We can't forget that America was founded on the brave, optimistic principle that the people can govern themselves. In a time of monarchs, George Washington, Thomas Jefferson and James Madison said: We don't need monarchs. The people are capable of ruling themselves. Europe laughed at us (just as I was laughed at getting my signatures to run for mayor). Our founding fathers were right! The people can and should run their own government. But that's not what we are seeing. The Bush / Clinton monarchies are running the show. We need more common people in government. I'm here to remind Akron and America of that fact.
I'm a tech entrepreneur. I know a lot about starting businesses and working in the most leading edge technologies in the world today. I want to inspire a great entrepreneurial, innovation culture in Akron. Today the best thoughts and ideas can and do happen anywhere. They can happen in Akron.

So, I said something along those lines.

Then the #2 question:

As an outsider what experience do you have to be mayor?

My answer: I own multiple businesses. I own commercial property. I have been in business for myself for over 15 years. I work with small businesses and I work with global enterprises. Every Monday morning, our little marketing company in Akron Ohio has a weekly call with a huge multinational, global supplier in Sweden as their preferred global digital marketing partner. I have worked with companies, organizations and small businesses all over the world.

While Clerk of Courts is an important job. My question is: How does that experience prepare them for the job

of mayor.

There is only one candidate that can provide a good answer to that question: Tom Sawyer. He was elected Mayor of Akron in 1983. None of us can beat that.

This "experience" question is a trap constructed by the establishment. They invented it to keep guys like me out of the race. They don't have experience. They have cronyism. They have decades of back room deals they have made that they'll have to pay off if they win a big election.

As an outsider I don't have that. I don't owe anybody anything.

Nobody, but Tom, has experience. The question is: Who's background and ideas will help move Akron forward. I honestly believe I have the best answer to that question: I can help Akron grow and thrive through innovation, tech and entrepreneurship.

Wow. That wasn't what I planned for this post. The more I do this the more excited I am about the prospect of me actually winning this thing. I think there is a path to that happening.

In the afternoon, Rock, Indy, Sparky (our dog) and I drove down to Hocking Hills for a weekend of camping. I'm writing this in front of our pop-up camper.

We came down with some friends. They have some political experience.

They gave me great ideas on:

Fundraising events I could have.

Key people I can talk to in Akron politics that have similar values to mine.

Yard sign strategy.

And then I finished the day by reading a chapter in How To Win A Local Election, Revised: A Complete Step-by-Step Guide: Judge Lawrence Grey

I'm already loving it. The idea I read about last night was: know how many votes you need to win. It might not be as many as you think. Then they tell you how to come up with that number.

That chapter alone changed my perspective on this race. I am a digital marketer with a deep understanding of analytics and conversion analysis. Basically, I have trained for the last 15 years how to win votes.

Which leads me to day 5...

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/day-1-deciding-to-run/>

og:title Content: Day 1 - Deciding to Run for Mayor of Akron | Sage Lewis

Blog Post Date: June 12, 2015

Blog Post Content:

Greg Habermann, my campaign manager, had a brilliant idea.. as he often does.

He thought it would be cool to blog my journey of becoming Mayor of Akron. He also thought that other people in our town might find this journey interesting. That future people whom might want to run for office might find this enlightening as well. Perhaps we could bring more new people into our electoral system and they could learn from my experiences.

This is the political journey of someone who knew next to nothing about the Akron electoral process going into it. I was just like most of you: I showed up on voting day to my assigned spot, stood in line, and cast the most educated vote that I could. Maybe this will help future candidates know how to proceed. Perhaps it will help you head off a few mistakes. Or maybe this will help the average everyday person in Akron understand what it means to run for city council, mayor, or beyond.

First, you should know that we decided to start this process on Tuesday at noon. It was a day and a half before our our petitions for mayor needed filed. We had absolutely no idea how this all works. With the quick departure of "the Don" (Mayor Don Plusquelic) and his fill-in, Moneypenny, we were forced to decide how to proceed with all of this in very short fashion.

A friend of mine said to look at the Summit County Board of Elections Website to find out when the filing deadline was and how many signatures I needed on my petitions.

She might have as well been speaking Latin to me. I guess I did know what a signature was. But that was about it.

We went to the Website to find out what we needed to know but the filing deadline section was blank. We looked and looked and looked but couldn't find anything online.

The only thing that was left was their phone number. I asked her if they were going to be mean to me. And

if they'd think I was a moron for asking stupid questions. She said, "Probably."

That could not have been more wrong.

I called and they said I needed between 50-150 signatures to get on the ballot. The only catch was that they were closing at 4:30 today. It was 4:05. And the signatures needed to be in by 4:00 sharp the next day.

We went. My friend videoed it. It felt important. I was embarrassed.

Two guys stood across the desk with me and slowly, carefully explained the process to me. The greatest part was they made me feel like what I was doing was rational and legitimate.

That was day 1. The lesson of that day was anyone can and has the total right to run for political office. It is not for the elite, the rich, the well healed. America was created on the optimistic principle that the people are very capable of governing themselves. We don't need a monarch to rule us. That was a completely radical philosophy. Monarchies were the way things were when America began.

We continue to get people who try to convince us that there are only certain people who can run the government. That's old Europe thinking.

You can run for any damn office you want! Political "experience" is just code for them keeping the positions in the family. They don't want outsiders running. They want to keep control of the control.

Experience really means cronyism. And they try really hard to get the public to believe it.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/internet-is-not-a-luxury-its-a-fundamental-right/>

og:title Content: Internet is not a luxury. It's a fundamental right. - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023

Blog Post Date: June 14, 2015

Blog Post Content:

You don't need a big study to prove that kids who have Internet access at home will have a significant edge over kids who don't have Internet at home.

We need a way to get Internet access in the homes of every kid in Akron.

Now, you need to understand something about me. I believe the best answers will come from the largest group of people.

NASA has taken to putting big questions to the public. For example, they have a contest running now: "NASA Contest Wants Your Ideas to Keep Astronauts Safe on Mars"

I'm a huge proponent of crowd sourcing. We should offer contests to come up with the best ideas to solve many big problems in our city.

And then the businesses of Akron can implement the solutions.

If Akron businesses can solve a problem they should be given every opportunity to solve the problem.

How do we solve this problem? I don't know. But I do know that the people of Akron can solve the problem.

Innovation, creativity, open-mindedness. These are fundamental principles of a Sage Lewis Mayoral administration.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/day-5-slogans-the-road-to-mayor/>

og:title Content: Day 5: Slogans - The Road To Mayor - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023

Blog Post Date: June 14, 2015

Blog Post Content:

It's Saturday. I often use the weekends to think. I avoid the phone and email as much as possible so I can take some time to think.

Every small business owner knows this fact: As a small business owner you are the General, the front line soldier and the cook. You have to be able to shift roles instantly. I would imagine being mayor is a lot like that as well.

Weekends are often when I become the General. I stand on top of the hill overlooking the battlefield and assess the situation.

So that's what I did today for my run for Akron mayor.

I need to boil my vision down as clearly as I possibly can. I need a slogan.

I've got the idea but I'm not happy with the words.

The most popular slogan used for what I'm trying to achieve is Power To The People.

But that has a lot of backstory to it. It's also not particularly modern.

I want a phrase that represents the idea that people can do great things here in Akron.

You can start a business. You can run for mayor. You can own property. You have the total right to pursue your happiness.

So many of us are afraid to try things. We're afraid of looking stupid if we fail.

I'm trying to be the kind of leader that leads by example. I'm trying to set a good example of what good leadership looks like. I'm trying to put forth a positive vision.

And with that my hope is that it will inspire other people to try things like start a business or run for political office.

Positive leadership in government barely exists. Negativity rules our country, states and cities. That kind of leadership rubs off on the people. Americans and Akronites are amazing in spite of our government leadership. Not because of it.

I want to be the kind of leader Akron deserves.

So, I need a slogan for that.

Some ideas so far are:

Empower the public

People power

Yes you can

I'm also thinking it might need to be a hashtag. #yesyoucan - something like that.

If you have any ideas on this please let me know in the comments below or on Facebook or Twitter. I definitely could use your help with this one.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/day-6-the-details-the-road-to-mayor/>

og:title Content: Day 6: The Details The Road To Mayor - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023

Blog Post Date: June 14, 2015

Blog Post Content: Sunday, June 14 2015

We had a really great weekend in Hocking Hills. It's a very cool and fun place. I love checking at all the interesting places in the world.

Our friend who has worked on some campaigns in the past drove home with us back to Akron.

She started going through all the details of what goes into a campaign.

Who to talk to.

T-shirts

Volunteers

Events to personally attend

Events to have surrogates attend

Getting an event coordinator

Precinct strategy

These details went on in pretty great detail for some time. Then she said, "Those initial things will get you started and once you do those things your next steps will start to reveal themselves."

It was fairly sobering.

But like all things in life, big tasks are just a series of small tasks.

When you pile on a whole list of things that need to get accomplished it becomes ominous. But in reality it's not usually that big of a deal.

I am a huge believe in creating lists.

I used Trello for quite some time. But I've recently moved to Toodledo and 2Do.

These tools let get all the items you need to do in one place. Then you just start pulling them into your day.

I do this the night before every work day.

I usually try to get 3 things done in a day.

I also try never to schedule meetings on Mondays and Fridays. Those are my big productivity days. That's not always possible or even preferable. But it's a general guideline.

It's 7pm on day 6. So I still have some time to get some things done. I want to read another chapter in my book: How To Win A Local Election, Revised.

And I might write another Initiatives blog post.

I'm always limited by money and time. We all are. And time is the most valuable of the two. I love thinking about how best to spend my time.

8 hours of sleep is so important to me, not having it isn't really ever an issue for me. 10pm to 6am is my usual schedule. I like to be in bed about 9, however. I like to read the news and hangout on Facebook on my phone in bed. It's just cozy and relaxing.

I don't have an antenna or cable. All my media comes from the Internet. Our family usually watches Netflix at night.

And I usually don't listen to the radio on my way to and from work. I usually listen to a podcast of some sort. I'm currently listening to Dan Carlin's Hardcore History. I have never had history explained to me in such a fascinating and interesting way. I can't recommend it enough.

I've been told more than a few times that I'm a busy guy. (I haven't told you about my day job(s) yet.) But I really don't see it that way. I only do what I love to do (that's not hard because I love to do A LOT of things). So for me I'm just always having fun.

See you tomorrow.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/akron-will-become-an-entrepreneurial-center-of-america/>

og:title Content: Akron Will Become An Entrepreneurial Center of America - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023

Blog Post Date: June 15, 2015

Blog Post Content: This is the initiative I am most excited about. And it's the initiative I have the most experience with.

We have a declining population.

We have brain drain.

We have a lower than Ohio average median household income.

All of this is fixed with jobs.

Small businesses are the leading creator of new jobs in America.

Together we can teach people how to start businesses, employ people and make Akron one of the coolest places to live in America.

I have a lot of thoughts on how to make this happen. But I wanted to get this out here so you can start to get a feeling for what I have in mind.

#teamakron

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/day-3-web-site-social-accounts-paypal/>

og:title Content: Day 3 - Web site, Social Media & Paypal - The Road To Mayor

Blog Post Date: June 12, 2015

Blog Post Content: It is now 11pm on day 3.

I wrote day 1 and 2 just now because Greg gave me this idea today.

Day 1 and 2 were so interesting. I wanted to make sure I had them recorded.

This site is running on WordPress. It's easy to find a new theme and install it for little or no money. The prevailing thought I had today was that my opponents are going to drown me in a bathtub of money. Their inside connections are incredibly powerful. I get it and understand it.

But I have things they don't have.

I'm an Internet guy. I've been full time in this digital world since '96. I've run digital programs for some of the largest companies in the world. I could set up a complete programmatic RTB media campaign on a DSP tomorrow morning before my first cup of tea.

I've got digital chops. It gives me an edge here online and I plan to fully exploit it.

It also makes a point: I don't care how old a person is. George Miller directed possibly the most intense movie ever created (Mad Max: Fury Road) at age 70.

What I do care about is keeping up.

How are you supposed to lead a city forward if you don't understand how to leverage the technology that will make that happen? Innovation and tech. That's one path to Akron's future success. That's who I am.

So, at any rate, today I managed to:

Built this responsive site.

Made a temporary logo.

Setup the PayPal/Bank account for 'Friends of Sage Lewis'
Setup the our online newsletter.
Setup a donate button on the site.
Setup an subscription form on the Website.
Started a new Akron Mayor YouTube channel.
Posted my first video for the campaign
Setup a new Mayor of Akron Instagram account for the campaign and posted to it several times.
Did many Facebook postings.
Talked to several people on SageRock Twitter
Wrote 4 blog posts.

And then there's my day job: I hosted my weekly marketing meetup. (I would be awesome if you wanted to come, btw. It's free and fun. You can learn more here.)
Oh! And I went to see Jurassic World on opening night with my kid, Indy, at the Highland Theater in Akron. So awesome. Please support the Highland Theatre. Tickets are only \$5. Jurassic World would be a great thing to check out there.
Today was easy compared to day 1 and 2. Digital is where I thrive.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/self-imposed-2-term-limit/>
og:title Content: Self-Imposed 2 Term Limit - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023
Blog Post Date: June 15, 2015

Blog Post Content: I declare right here, right now that I will not run more than 2 times for Akron Mayor. If aliens possess my body and I somehow get mad for the hunger of power please use this post to do everything in your power to stop me from running.
I will also do everything I can to make a 2 term limit for Akron mayor a law.
People stay in office because they like the power and they don't know what else to do with their lives. A public role was never meant to be a permanent job. It was just public service.
I have something else I can do. I can always happily return to the business world: the place people are actually supposed to have jobs.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/immediately-tie-the-mayors-salary-to-the-median-household-income/>
og:title Content: Immediately Tie the Mayor's Salary To The Median Household Income - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023
Blog Post Date: June 14, 2015

Blog Post Content:
This is a quick and easy one that I'll do on day one as Akron Mayor.
I will make the salary of mayor double whatever the median household income is.
Want more money as mayor? Figure out how to raise the median household income in Akron.
According to City-Data the median household income in Akron for 2013 was \$34,300.
That makes the Mayor's salary \$68,600.
That's more than enough to live very comfortably in Akron. That's also a daily reminder of what your constituents are feeling.
And most importantly, it resets the ridiculous \$198,000 the mayor was making.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/day-7-unexpected-opportunities-the-road-to-mayor/>
og:title Content: Tom Beres from WKYC Interviews Sage Lewis for Akron Mayor
Blog Post Date: June 16, 2015

Blog Post Content:
Monday, June 15, 2015
Running for mayor has been some of the most exciting work I've had the opportunity to pursue. As I mentioned in an earlier post, I use Mondays to get as much work done as possible. Adding a mayoral campaign to my list of activities has added a decent amount of work to my plate. But in reality, I'm just treating this campaign like getting a new client. So getting "Sage Lewis for Mayor" up and running has been a decent amount of my time but not unbearable. (It's really fun, actually.)

So I was working away. And what happened? Tom Beres from WKYC walked into my office and did an interview with me.

He was so nice and asked really great questions.

That was thrilling. This was my first ever TV interview.

Then just as things were settling down a big time campaign manager from past local elections stopped by my office. I'm not sure if he wants me to mention his name or not. But he was so helpful. He drastically pushed my knowledge of the campaign ahead.

I was so thankful he came by.

And this is what I want to say about all that: The people who want to help, donate and give advice is utterly overwhelming.

People I have never met or had any idea were watching are appearing out of nowhere.

People have been telling me they like what I have been saying. Many people want to help me navigate the campaign process. It's amazing.

A Monday that started with the idea of just trying to pound out some work left me breathless.

This process is thrilling and exciting.

And let me say this about winning:

I believe there is a path to me winning this thing. I know most insiders likely think the party will ordain Dan Horrigan as the chosen Democratic candidate.

I also know that the party will give him any amount of money he wants or thinks he needs to win. But at the same time I have a feeling that Mike Williams has a legitimate shot at this. And the amount of money he will have will likely be significantly less than Dan. So money isn't going to be the ultimate deciding factor.

I'm not going to be able to compete with Dan's Democratic money. But I think I have something better. I think inspiring the people with new ideas and making Akron one of the great 21st century American cities is more powerful than any amount of money the Democratic machine can throw at this.

I truly believe I can win.

See you Tuesday!

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/akron-sewers-system-isnt-a-problem-its-a-huge-opportunity/>

og:title Content: Akron Sewer System Isn't A Problem. It's a HUGE Opportunity - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023

Blog Post Date: June 15, 2015

Blog Post Content:

If there is one thing people seem to be afraid of it's: How is an outsider with no political experience going to be able to handle the multi-billion dollar sewer system problem?

The more I think about it, the more I think I might be able to handle it better than career politicians.

Everything in my life is about innovation and using the modern technologies to solve problems. I am a tech entrepreneur.

In case you think I don't understand the complexity of this issue let me spell out the problem.

Akron, like over 770 communities in the US, have a combined sewer system that catches both sewage and storm water. All of this goes to a waste water treatment plant.

Washington DC has this problem. They did a great video outlining what the problem is. You can get an idea of what all us 770+ communities are dealing with in this video:

Here's a picture from Wikipedia that the EPA has made to visualize the problem:

Cleveland has this problem. They have 25 years to reduce CSO volumes by 90% gallons per year. That will cost about \$3 billion.

While there are many ways to deal with this problem, a common way of dealing with this is by digging huge holes. We are starting this process. There is a contest going on right now at the Akron Waterways Renewed website to name our Tunnel Boring Machine. You totally should go check it out.

Washington DC is also building tunnels. But they will be separating the sewers in certain areas as well.

But of the plans I've seen, nothing excites me more than what Philadelphia is doing. They are bringing some really innovative approaches to their sewer issues. I strongly encourage you to check out their video:

In a nutshell, Philadelphia is trying to slow down the water during storms using innovative green initiatives. I love this idea!

If you think this is pie-in-the-sky dreaming you should know that the EPA is funding research on this topic. You can learn more here: Performance and Effectiveness of Green Infrastructure Stormwater Management Approaches in the Urban Context: A Philadelphia Case Study | Funding Opportunities | Extramural Research | Research | US EPA

You can learn more about Philadelphia's plans here: Green City, Clean Waters | Philadelphia Water Department

I think we need to be open to all the possible ideas.

Here's the thing about career politicians: They will tell you 5 reasons why something isn't possible. They are slow moving, conservative people. We need innovation and new ideas. That's what I bring to this race. Innovative solutions to this problem could make Akron one of the coolest, most desirable cities to live in anywhere in the U.S.A.

We have an option here: We can just dig big old holes in the ground like everybody else. Or we can use this time in our history to help make Akron innovative and leading the country in thought and action.

We can use this "problem" to help make us great.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/day-2-getting-signatures/>

og:title Content: Day 2 - Get Signatures to be on Ballot for Mayor | Sage Lewis

Blog Post Date: June 12, 2015

Blog Post Content: Greg and I thought there would be nothing to this part.. I mean, how hard could it be to get 50 signatures?

We were wrong. People refused to sign. People didn't live in Akron. Endless people who don't vote and will never vote. There were countless hurdles.

I was laughed at. I was told there was no way I could win.

Greg and I swore that we would always sign someone's petitions to run for office if asked. It felt like people who would probably complain non stop about elected officials were the same people blocking a person from running that would give them an alternative.

It took us all day. But we did it. We got 65 signatures and got them in on time.

The lesson for day 2 was that you have a choice. You can choose to look at the bad in people or the good in people. Because for every bad experience there were probably 5 great experiences. My mom and neighbors got me 14 signatures.

We went into Arnie's bar in Wallhaven. They called people for us. They went to great lengths to help us and we are not regular patrons there. Heck, I don't even drink!

We registered four people to vote. They were really grateful.

And so many people wished us good luck.

They wanted alternatives to the status quo.

And then there was Facebook. The online outpouring of encouragement was so powerful and intense I could hardly keep up with saying thank you.

There are people that would love to see you fail. And there are people that would love to see you succeed. I know how compelling the negative energy is. But force yourself to look at the positive. It's always there.

And it's great.

Oh! And I was also recommended this book:

How To Win A Local Election, Revised: A Complete Step-by-Step Guide by Judge Lawrence Grey

I have it downloaded and will be reading it this weekend.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/lerryn-campbell-on-sage-lewis-for-akron-mayor/>

og:title Content: Lerryn Campbell on Sage Lewis for Akron Mayor - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023

Blog Post Date: June 16, 2015

Blog Post Content: "Sage Lewis has come to my aid more than once."

Thank you Lerryn! This means a great deal to me.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/george-nemeth-on-sage-lewis-for-akron-mayor/>
og:title Content: George Nemeth on Sage Lewis for Akron Mayor - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023

Blog Post Date: June 16, 2015

Blog Post Content: "I can't vote in Akron but if I could it'd be for Sage Lewis."
Thank you George! You were always a great supporter of Northeast Ohio while you were here. Your support means a huge deal to me.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/brian-deagan-on-sage-lewis-for-akron-mayor/>
og:title Content: Brian Deagan on Sage Lewis for Akron Mayor - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023

Blog Post Date: June 16, 2015

Blog Post Content: "If we want Akron to thrive we need to try something different than professional politicians."
Thank you Brian! That's exactly my thought too. You as a tech entrepreneur in Akron are key to an amazing future for us all. New jobs. New ideas. A new vision.
We can do it!
Thank you man.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/dl-meckes-on-sage-lewis-for-akron-mayor/>
og:title Content: DL Meckes on Sage Lewis for Akron Mayor - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023

Blog Post Date: June 16, 2015

Blog Post Content: "I think Sage Lewis would make a great mayor."
Thank you DL. Your support means a huge deal to me.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/josh-fidel-on-sage-lewis-for-mayor/>
og:title Content: Josh Fidel on Sage Lewis for Mayor - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023

Blog Post Date: June 17, 2015

Blog Post Content: Thanks so much for this Josh. I REALLY appreciate it!

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/akron-will-post-its-checkbook-online/>
og:title Content: Akron Will Post Its Checkbook Online - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023

Blog Post Date: June 17, 2015

Blog Post Content:
I recently came across this story:
Stow first in Summit County to put citys checkbook online
Through the states OhioCheckbook.com website, taxpayers are now able to view every dime Stow spends â€” from office equipment to asphalt providers to legal fees â€” in a searchable database.
Akron will do this when I'm mayor!
We have a long history of very low transparency in this city. That will stop in a big way.
I will never close my door to my office and I will seriously look into putting a microphone and camera in my office that will stream 24/7.
Politicians have a reputation. I will do everything in my power to counteract those stereotypes.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/loosen-restrictions-on-food-trucks/>
og:title Content: Loosen Restrictions On Food Trucks - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023

Blog Post Date: June 17, 2015

Blog Post Content:

photo from: Akron Food Truck Friday | TeaTime with the Mad Artist

I evolve my businesses based on one fundamental law of business: You can't stop progress.

Food trucks are the current evolution of the restaurant business. I love restaurants as much as the next person. But I also love food trucks.

We need to continue the discussion on how other cities are handling food trucks and how we should be handling food trucks.

The Greater Akron Food Truck Coalition mission statement reads:

The Greater Akron Food Truck Coalition advocates for laws that will allow food trucks to operate in Akronâ€”free from arbitrary and anti-competitive restrictionsâ€”and ensure that food trucks meet the same health and safety standards as brick-and-mortar restaurants. This will allow the city to experience all of the many benefits that food trucks have to offer the communities they serve.

That sounds like a common sense approach helping get more food trucks into Akron.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/day-8-everybody-knows-this-is-horrigans-town-the-road-to-mayor/>

og:title Content: Day 8 - Everybody knows this is Dan Horrigan's Town - The Road To Mayor - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023

Blog Post Date: June 16, 2015

Blog Post Content:

OK. Politics is weird. It's only taken me eight days to figure that out. By day 16 I should be really tripped out. Talk to an insider and they will tell you one thing: Dan Horrigan is going to win.

He will get hundreds of thousands of dollars to spend any way he wants to convince what will probably be about 20,000 people to vote for him on September 8 in the mayoral primary. Keep in mind that there are about 200,000 people living in Akron. Every indication I've seen is that about 20,000 people will show up for this election.

What they're saying is: the people will vote for who we tell them to vote for.

That's depressing.

There are definitely people around town that feel a similar way. They won't vote because "it won't matter." But I'm here to tell you something: If there is ever a time when your vote could change things it's in a local primary election like this.

You don't have to vote for Dan Horrigan. I mean, you can vote for Dan Horrigan. But you probably should see what his plans for the city are first. Right?

The only thing I've seen of his online so far is his Facebook page: Daniel Horrigan. But he hasn't updated it since January 29. He'll probably layout out his plans soon. I'm looking forward to checking them out.

This is how the votes could work. Let's say there are 4 candidates. We'll use Avengers characters for this scenario

Iron Man

Thor

Captain America

Black Widow

Everybody knows that Iron Man has the most money. He can flood the race with ridiculous money.

But with 4 candidates he's not going to get 50%. Let's say he gets 29% of the votes.

Captain America really wants it. But he just lives with the government (I mean do Avengers get a salary?).

He has to scrape government pension money together to make this work. He gets 24%. Iron Man would have gotten more votes if it weren't for Captain America.

Thor sort of wants it but knows he can't win. He gets 16%.

Black Widow, however, is a new kind of awesome. I mean she can tame Hulk. She's super bad ass. And she represents how amazingly powerful women can be. She surprises everybody with 31%. Black Widow wins!

31% is 6200 people. Tell me that's not possible.

Black Widow totally can win. She especially can win in a 4 person race with a small number of people running.

And that's the truth of the matter. What the powers to be don't understand is how technology has changed everything. Facebook, Twitter and Instagram are the new political parties. We aren't controlled by who tells us will be our next mayor. Like never before, we can unite and make our own decisions for who should be our elected officials.
Black Widow can win!

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/cindy-bechtel-paris-on-sage-lewis-for-akron-mayor/>
og:title Content: Cindy Bechtel Paris on Sage Lewis for Akron Mayor - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023
Blog Post Date: June 18, 2015

Blog Post Content: Wow Cindy. Thank you! If you truly mean this then no matter how hard I have to work, it will all be worth it.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/day-9-the-campaigns-values-the-road-to-mayor/>
og:title Content: Day 9 - The Campaign's Values - The Road To Mayor - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023
Blog Post Date: June 17, 2015

Blog Post Content: I posted a story yesterday about Dan Horrigan winning the race. The story wasn't the problem. I found a picture of him and The Don. It was one of those pictures that you see of politicians looking like politicians. I didn't make fun of him. But I also knew that the picture put him in a certain light. And sure enough, people started saying not great things about him. A friend of mine reminded me that I didn't need to run "that kind of campaign." My campaign manager suggested I take it down. I did. Here's the thing: I don't need to position myself using negativity. I'm as different from them as it gets. I'm a full time business owner (not a lawyer) that is not a political insider. If the voters want something besides the usual, stereotypical candidate I am pretty much the only alternative. If nothing else, I'm worth a look. So, let this be my first (and probably not last) apology of the campaign. I'm sorry for putting anything out there that could even slightly be perceived as negative. The first thing my wife, Rocky, said to me this morning was that "it warmed her heart" to see how many people were supporting me. It felt like they actually wanted to see me win. That's what I want. I want to be the person someone would want to vote for. I want to be a positive influence in a system that has gotten really mucked up over the years. I want to see how far optimism, belief in the common person and positive focus gets me. That's what I want this campaign to be remembered by.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/day-12-the-one-thing-we-all-want-the-road-to-mayor/>
og:title Content: Day 12 The One Thing We All Want The Road To Mayor - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023
Blog Post Date: June 21, 2015

Blog Post Content: I had the opportunity to check out Celebration Church on Dan St. here in Akron today. A friend of mine's kid was having his high school graduation party there. The graduate's grandfather is a minister. I got a chance to talk with him for some time. We got on the topic of what people want. As the leader of a church or city it is the responsibility of the leader to serve the community as best they can. This becomes a challenge because often people want different things.

Lower taxes
More services
Better schools
More jobs

Doing one of those things will more than likely negatively impact one of the other things.
He solved this conundrum in his church by focusing heavily on one particular thing: FREEDOM.

Freedom from fear
Freedom from doubt
Freedom from debt
Freedom from low self esteem
Freedom from hatred and anger

When you become free of these things you can begin living a life of faith. A life of hope.
He helps his church move down a path of faith and hope by giving them power, self esteem and confidence.
Churches and governments can both help people achieve these things but in different ways.
Obviously, it is the function of a city to provide services that protect and help facilitate a great community in which to live.

But good leadership should also include helping the community envision what things could be like in the future. It is a simple leader that only wants to put out fires of things right before his eyes.
It is my sincere hope that as mayor I can inspire all community leaders to work together to help all their individual communities move in the same direction of giving all the people of Akron the freedom to live a life of hope and faith.

Image from here: <http://www.timatkins.net/freedom-is-within/>

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/day-15-you-cant-do-that-the-road-to-mayor/>
og:title Content: Day 15 - You Can't Do That - The Road To Mayor - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023
Blog Post Date: June 23, 2015

Blog Post Content:

The path I'm on for mayor is unlikely, filled with unforeseeable risks and unadvised by pretty much everyone in power and authority.

The last one is why I'm pushing forward with everything I've got.

I've always had a problem with just blindly accepting what authority tells me to do.

But more importantly: I'm doing it because it's the right thing to do.

In America, a person should be able to run for a position like mayor and the people should be able to vote for that person. I'm telling you right now that's not the system we live in.

As it stands, an appointed board of elections can arbitrarily decide what random technicality they can use to allow someone to make their way onto a ballot.

Whiteout

Wrong date anywhere

A page not signed

The wrong person got the signatures

It goes on and on and on.

Sometimes they accept those things and sometimes they don't. Oh. And more than likely your state Supreme Court will side with them. So don't go to court thinking you'll win.

This is a little known fact because so few people run for elected office. That's how they like it. Be too timid to run and then be tricked out of the race when you do run.

All 4 Democratic insiders got on the ballot. The 2 outsiders did not. Do you really think that's a coincidence?
I've gotten myself in a bit of a sticky position. I know there are some people reading this story waiting to see what I'll do next.

There are so few decent role models outside of the comic book movies we all flock to see. If I could be some small inspiration for you that would make it all worth it.

If one person reads this and decides to run for any elected office that would be worth it.
If one person decides the system needs adjusted that would be worth it.
If one person decides they've had enough with the Republican / Democratic dynasties that would be worth it.
(I mean, vote for Bernie Sanders or a Paul this election. That would make it worth it.)
I would like you to know 3 things:

America was not meant to be run by dynasties and monarchs. George Washington, Thomas Jefferson and James Madison took the bold, optimistic stance that the people can rule themselves. Europe thought that was absurd.

After over 200 years the Democrats and Republicans are doing everything they can to take power away from the people. Tell me the Bush / Clinton families don't look just like royalty. Those 2 front runners already have over \$100 million each.

But the fundamental laws are still in place. You don't have to let them control you. In fact, you have the power to get rid of them. It's been done before and it will be done again.

So I'm going forth on a very unlikely journey. But like most things in life the journey becomes the destination.

I'm looking forward to meeting you along the way. And I'm looking forward to seeing all the other really interesting things I'm sure I'll learn as I go.

I'm not naive in underestimating the massive armies in front of me. I'm just not going to lay down because they are massive and make all the rules. That's not what America is.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/day-14-my-mayoral-candidate-petitions-were-denied-heres-my-answer-the-road-to-mayor/>

og:title Content: Day 14 My Mayoral Candidate Petitions Were Denied. HERE'S MY ANSWER The Road To Mayor - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023

Blog Post Date: June 22, 2015

Blog Post Content:

I'M RUNNING AS AN INDEPENDENT!

Today the Summit Count Board of Elections officially announced what petitions they approved and what petitions they didn't approve.

I had 65 out of the 50 needed signatures needed to run for Mayor. They accepted 41 of my signatures.

Natural Hunka Kaboom, the other outsider, submitted 53 signatures. They accepted 14.

The other four insider Democratic candidates all had their signatures validated. Surprise surprise!

This petitions process has so far been the most bizarre thing I've maybe ever experienced.

As a business person I make it a point to never underestimate my competition. But I didn't expect the Board of Elections to be "competition."

We learned today that if a petition has any white out on it then ALL the signatures on that page are thrown out.

We never were told about white out and it is nowhere in any paperwork.

We saw one candidate for another election turn in petitions that were confirmed to have less than the needed signatures as he was standing at the desk. They just took his signatures and his \$45. Of course he was denied.

Here's the thing: I think the workers at the Board of Elections are terrified.

It feels almost like Darth Vader is lurking in the background overhearing every word they say.

I asked them if it was possible to run as an Independent if my Democratic petitions were denied. Their response: You need to talk to a lawyer.

There is something very strange going on at the Summit County Board of Elections. The people that work there are truly kind and as helpful as they feel they can be. But I'm telling you there is a strange, ominous force lurking in the background.

The whole place just feels lawyered up.

So, can I run as an Independent? I have no idea.

But I know one thing: I'm doing it. We already had one Mayor quit. I'm not a quitter.

I'll get the cleanest 367 signatures in by September 7 any Independent has ever seen.

And I'm going to do it by meeting the people. I'm going to do it by having hot dog and soda events. I'm

going to do it by registering new voters.

If you want to have a hot dog and soda event in your community just say the word. I'll bring the hot dogs, grill and soda pop. You bring the people.

I need between 367 and 1500 signatures. They make it really hard on Independents. But I'll just use it as a chance to meet more people.

Any help you can offer to help me get the 367 signatures of registered Akron voters please let me know.

You don't have to vote for me. But I think it just makes sense to have more choices instead of less.

See you around town!

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/day-13-its-not-republican-vs-democrat-the-road-to-mayor/>

og:title Content: Day 13 - It's Not Republican vs Democrat - The Road To Mayor - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023

Blog Post Date: June 22, 2015

Blog Post Content: Deciding to run for mayor has instantly given me the opportunity to talk with all sorts of people.

What I've quickly found is that we all, no matter the party, have more in common than not.

We don't want others to suffer

We want less crime

We want to be safe

We want our kids to get a good education

We want a shot at achieving the American dream

We want the right to own property

We don't want the government to randomly take our stuff

I'm sure I could come up with many more.

But no one talks about those things.

We only hear about the things that separate us. (I'm not even going to mention them because the very words will make your heart quicken. We've been conditioned to get angry just hearing certain words.)

It's not conservatives against liberals that we need to worry about. I believe it's the 2 major parties that are the real danger.

They keep us at each others' throats so they can continue to maintain their power.

But here is the thing: I truly believe we could begin to see the weakening of the parties.

We really don't need them anymore.

Any politician can cheaply and easily publish their platform ideas online. They can make videos and have conversations with massive amounts of people.

We don't need a political party to help communicate the values we are supposed to follow.

We all have enough access to information and intelligence to make up our own minds. Political parties were made for people who didn't possess the ability to make up their own minds.

I believe we will see a day when being part of a major political party will signify that, as a politician, you care more about doing what the party wants you to do than what the people who elected you want you to do.

I have no allegiance to any party. The Democrats haven't even so much as emailed to say thanks for running. (But of course they wouldn't. They only want Dan Horrigan to win. Probably because they know he'll do what they want.)

I will only be true to the people.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/my-initial-take-on-natural-hunka-kaboom/>

og:title Content: My Initial Take on Natural Hunka Kaboom - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023

Blog Post Date: June 20, 2015

Blog Post Content:

My handlers have all been trying to persuade me to go easy on my desire to support Natural's campaign.

One of the first things I told them was that we should help him with his campaign. Strategically, it's a risk.

So I'm sure they are going to cringe as they see this post come over.

I will say: I don't yet know the guy. I know just about as much as you. I just watched his WKYC interview. My initial thought is that he comes across as very well spoken. I like his ideas of keeping vacant lots mowed. And pot... that's a topic for another time (my view on it is a bit complicated is all). But whether I agree with Natural's initiatives is not the point. The point is: We need more people like Natural Hunka Kaboom taking a stand and getting out there. It's easy to criticize. It's a whole other thing to get out there and take a stand yourself. We need more average people running for all kinds of office. George Washington, Thomas Jefferson and James Madison (some super genius revolutionaries) invented an entire government around the radical idea that the people can govern themselves. I believe those three guys would love that Natural is running for mayor of Akron. The problem is we have handed most of our power over to the Republican and Democratic parties. THEY are the ones sending down the message that we need "experienced" politicians. That message is how they stay in power. The Democratic Party and Republican Party are the most powerful entities in the United States. It's not Republicans against Democrats. That's the fight they are constantly trying to make us have. The fight is the people against the political machine. You might not want to vote for Natural Hunka Kaboom because his values don't align with your values. But we all should take a little inspiration from Natural. He is doing exactly what the founding fathers wanted us to do. For the People. By the People. Here's a link to his interview: Street preacher with strange name runs for Akron Mayor

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/day-10-it-feels-bigger-than-me-the-road-to-mayor/>
og:title Content: Day 10 It Feels Bigger Than Me The Road To Mayor - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023
Blog Post Date: June 19, 2015

Blog Post Content:
I felt something today that maybe I never have felt before in my life. Today this whole mayoral journey felt bigger than just me. The outreach of help and encouragement I've gotten in these 10 days is utterly humbling. People have written me detailed insight in their experiences running for office. People have suggested books to read. People have told me specifically who I should talk to, events I should participate in and marketing I should engage in. Many of these are people that have taken time to help someone they have never spoken to before. And then the outreach of encouragement is unbelievable. It feels like people are hungry for something different with their political figures. No matter what happens here I want people to know one thing: People want alternative options for their political figures and you could possibly be that person. I'm absolutely convinced you don't need some sort of expertise to be in political office. If you feel like you have something to contribute to the process run for office. We need more people engaged in this process. And I'll tell you another thing: The political powers of America don't want this message to get out. The Democratic and Republican parties are the most powerful groups in this country. They control everything. And what's worse is they want you to think you are in control. Have you ever heard a politician tell you to run for office? I know I haven't. The time has come where people can change the course of traditional power. The Web has given the People the tools to unite independently and make their own choices for who gets to run for political office. Question everything that comes out of the main political parties of this country. I truly believe they don't care about the people. They just care about staying in power. Today, we can change that.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/day-11-this-can-happen-the-road-to-mayor/>
og:title Content: Day 11 This CAN Happen The Road To Mayor - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023
Blog Post Date: June 20, 2015

Blog Post Content: 11 days in and my mind is flooded with things I should do to run a successful campaign for the office of Akron mayor.
The help I have been given within 11 days is breath taking. Amazing. That's all I can say.
I don't under estimate the tried and true activities of running an Akron mayoral campaign. But there's something we all need to keep in mind: We haven't really tested the system for 28 years.
The last time there was a new mayor in town was in 1987. And before that the mayor was fellow candidate for mayor this time around: Tom Sawyer.

In 1987 phones plugged into walls. (That phone above had a talk time of about 45 minutes and cost about \$3000.) You were just able to buy disposable contact lenses.
The IBM PS/2: 25 Years of PC History | PCWorld

IBM announced four PS/2 models during its April 1987 launch: the Model 30, 50, 60, and 80. They ranged dramatically in power and price; on the low end, the Model 30 (roughly equivalent to a PC XT) contained an 8MHz 8086 CPU, 640KB of RAM, and a 20MB hard drive, and retailed for \$2295 (about \$4642 in 2012 dollars when adjusted for inflation).

(I'm writing this on a Chromebook with 4 GIGS of RAM, 9 hours of battery life, connects to something called "The Web" and cost a little over \$200. That would be about \$99 in 1987.)
I tell you this because we live in a VERY different world.
People have power never before seen in the history of humanity to unite globally and locally and make their voice matter.
Today people matter more than the Republican and Democratic parties.
There is a power shift happening in every facet of life.
A guy like me in 1987 probably would have never stood a chance running for mayor. In 2015 a guy like Sage Lewis definitely can be mayor.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/sage-lewis-for-akron-mayor-there-is-an-alternative/>
og:title Content: Sage Lewis for Akron Mayor - There is an alternative. - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023
Blog Post Date: June 19, 2015

Blog Post Content: From WKYC: "Unlikely Candidate"

"The Mystery Cowboy Candidate"

My campaign is simple:

You don't have to accept the way things are. There is an alternative to the same old same old.
You can be whoever you want to be. That's the right of everyone in Akron, Ohio USA

THERE IS AN ALTERNATIVE.

More is coming soon.

In the mean time, please consider following me on these social media sites:

Sage Lewis (@sagerock) on Twitter

Sage Lewis on Facebook

Sage Lewis (@sagelewis4) on Instagram

Sage Lewis For Mayor Of Akron on YouTube

Sage Lewis for Akron Mayor on Pinterest

upclose - sage.lewis - (You probably have never heard of these people but they are a live streaming app like Periscope. But I like these guys more. Check 'em out sometime.)

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/free-hot-dogs-and-pop-lunch-wednesday-june-24-noon-to-130pm/>
og:title Content: Free Hot Dogs and Pop Lunch - Wednesday June 24 - Noon to 1:30pm - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023
Blog Post Date: June 23, 2015

Blog Post Content:

Do you like free food?

Us too!

We are doing a free lunch outside of our headquarters at:
15 Broad St. Akron.

Wednesday June 24 from 12 noon to 1:30pm

We'll have free hot dogs, pop and water.

Stop by and say hi and help us get our petition signatures so we can get on the ballot. You just have to be a registered voter of Akron to register. And we can also register you as a voter too!

What's better than that.

See you Wednesday!

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/free-hot-dog-event-at-kathleens-korner-thursday-july-9-530-700/>

og:title Content: Free Hot Dog Event At Kathleens Korner - Thursday, July 9 - 5:30 - 7:00 - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023

Blog Post Date: June 24, 2015

Blog Post Content:

If you like hot dogs and you don't like paying for them you should come to our event at Kathleen's Korner. Kathleen is super cool and so, as a super cool person, she is letting us have a Free Hot Dog and Pop event at her store.

I've been there and she's got some great stuff you'll want to check out.

Here's her contact info:

451 West Market Street Akron, Ohio 44303330-571-2422

<http://kathleenskorne.net/>

See you Thursday, July 9 from 5:30 to 7:00.

If you'd like to RSVP you can do that on Facebook here:

<https://www.facebook.com/events/1628394314114450/>

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/day-17-hot-dogs-the-road-to-mayor/>

og:title Content: Day 17 - Hot Dogs! - The Road To Mayor - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023

Blog Post Date: June 25, 2015

Blog Post Content:

My goal is to get 1000 signatures by September 7. 1000 signatures that meet all the many requirements of the Board of Elections.

On Tuesday I looked at my calendar and realized my summer was quickly booking up.

We love to camp. And we try to get as many camp trips as we can in during the summer.

We are also taking the biggest camp trip of our lives this summer: Yellow Stone. 1 week out. 1 week there. 1 week back. I've never been gone this long. (Although I'll blog through the trip. I've got some fun campaign ideas for that time.)

What this means is: I realized this on Tuesday and found the only near time I could have an event soon was the next day: Wednesday.

I quickly made an events category for the site here: <http://www.sagelewis.com/category/events/>

And then I made a Facebook event as well.

The cool thing about the Web is that 24 hours is a perfectly long enough time to get the word out about an event.

It. Was. Awesome!

We had about 20 people there. And my friend Orlando is into this. He took petitions and just started walking around the neighborhood. He has hustle. We probably ended up with 30 signatures.

I got to meet some really cool people.

I was just so jazzed by the whole thing.

But maybe the coolest part was getting to talk to some homeless people. I mean, when do you ever get to do that?

(Orlando just called me. He got another 12 signatures. He is a natural born promoter. I feel a little sorry that these other candidates have to go against a guy who has friends like Orlando W., Marcia M. and Deb M. I'll write more about all these people soon. They are forces of nature.)

This one guy was so grateful that we offered him a hot dog. When I asked him how many he wanted it was like he had never heard those words before.

He made me want to cook hot dogs every day.

Another guy I had met before. He's so cool because he never asks for money. All he asks for is work. "Do you have any jobs I can do." I never can think of any.

Meeting these homeless people is so inspiring. Sometimes I feel overwhelmed because I had a busy day. These guys don't know where they're going to sleep or eat a few hours from now. And they're so cool.

Amazing.

Today I just feel thankful.

I'm thankful you are so supportive along this journey.

I'm thankful George Washington believed in humanity so much that he created this wonderful system that, while suppressed by the Democrats and Republicans at the moment, continues to allow me (and all of us) the chance to run our own government without a ruling class.

I'm thankful I have the health and energy to push the journey all the way to the November 3rd election.

And I'm thankful for hotdogs. \$1.59 from Dave's for 8 of them. And they let me meet so many cool new people today.

Thank you.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/my-answers-nichole-marxen/>

og:title Content: My Answers for Nichole Marxen - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023

Blog Post Date: June 24, 2015

Blog Post Content: I recently got an amazingly thoughtful comment from Nichole on this post: Day 14 My Mayoral Candidate Petitions Were Denied. HERE'S MY ANSWER The Road To Mayor - Sage Lewis for Mayor of Akron

She spent a lot of time asking some really thoughtful questions. Because they were such good questions I thought it deserved it's own post.

The questions she asked had to do with:

The sewer

Police relations

Schools

Rebuilding Akron - vacant houses and homeless

Here are Nichole's questions and my responses are in blue:

Hi so I am interested in your views on a few issues. I live in the North Hill area of Akron and very proud of it. So my questions

1. The hotly debated sewer system. What are your ideas to get this fixed and do it in a way that doesn't kill the current residents with extreme bills for a problem created by past residents. Also do have plans to keep the jobs created right here in Akron?

Hi Nichole, thank you so much for writing. Check out some of my thoughts on the Akron sewer problems here and tell me what you think! I think a proposal like this might keep a lot of the money and jobs right here in Akron.

2. What are your thoughts on community police relations? I personally have had a horrible experience with my disabled daughter that I am still battling. I believe a community review panel would solve many issues and provide a much needed check to the system. What do you think could help improve current relations and are you interested in hearing more about my idea?

Great question and one I plan on exploring in more detail in the coming days. That said, I know 2 things:

1) The police and the Mayor's office (under "The Don") have had a troubled past. I would seek to end that and start fresh. We should be on the same side. No.. we *are* on the same side. This shouldn't be political, this should be about what's best for the citizens of Akron.

2) As everyone knows, there have been a lot of building tensions between the police the populace it is supposed to protect and serve. Just up in Cleveland, the unfortunate incident with Tamir Rice has brought national focus to Northeast Ohio. While we thankfully haven't had that happen in Akron, I would like to be

proactive on this front and work to find the best way that we can prevent these situations. Our citizens should feel more comfortable when the cops are around, then when they are not. We need to work as a group to make that happen.

3. What is your stance on our schools? I live in the North district but open enrolled both my kids to Ellet. Our schools are broke and it shows in our children. Arts music and sports are afterthoughts and not readily available. There is a lack of responsibility at the board and we need to find a way to have a mayor that actively monitors the goings on and cares about our Childrens educations and futures.

I agree with you here on just about everything. I'm obviously pro-schools and pro-education (who wouldn't say that though?). But I also know that there are or should be systems in place to monitor and review this behavior. I'm also aware that this is greater than a local Akron issue. From a 2012 article about statewide education in the Columbus Dispatch:

"Fifteen years have passed since the Ohio Supreme Court first ruled that the states system of funding schools is unconstitutional, and Ohio is again waiting for a governor to roll out a new formula touted as bold and transformative."

But here we are, 18 years later..

I would love to affect this in the most meaningful way that a Mayor of Akron could.

Personally, I believe music was the key to increasing my self-esteem, helping me get better grades in school and gave me a full scholarship to Baldwin-Wallace College. I believe there is more to school than tests. Arts, music and sports are critical to help students get a full education. This topic is near and dear to my heart. I'm very interested in coming up with innovative solutions to address this problem.

4. What are your thoughts on rebuilding Akron. We have a ton of vacant houses and a TON of homeless people. I see a solution somewhere in there. I personally own my house. I am in desperate need of help to fix it. I do not qualify for any available grants for a variety of reasons. I see an opportunity to create jobs and help residents. Would money need to be invested? Yes but it takes money to make money and if Akron invests in the people they will in turn invest in Akron â€ok so thats it. I hope you reply I would love to hear your thoughts. We need change in Akron and I am all about supporting the changes and whoever can help make it happen jic

We do have a lot of vacant housing and unfortunately, a lot of homeless people. On this campaign trail I've met a bunch of homeless people, who would like to have their voices heard. They are the countable unfortunates in our society. These are very complicated issues. I don't have easy answers here. But I can tell you that I'm with you. I'm VERY interested in making the vacant houses and homeless a priority for the city. Let's work to make that better. Let's work towards drug rehabilitation instead of imprisonment. Let's work on helping those who suffer from mental illness instead of punishing them.

I do have some interesting ideas dealing with vacant business property. I'd really like to experiment further with pop-up businesses and other innovative solutions to use this open space. I have a goal of created 1000 new business in Akron in the first two years of being the mayor of Akron. Vacant business property could be key to this goal.

Thank you for writing, Nichole. I hope these answers help you understand me a little better.

-Sage

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/day-16-campaign-finance-ugh-the-road-to-mayor/>

og:title Content: Day 16 - Campaign Finance (Ugh) - The Road To Mayor - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023

Blog Post Date: June 24, 2015

Blog Post Content: I'm a little gun-shy after my denied signature submissions to run as a Democratic candidate for mayor. I feel like the political road is filled with hidden land mines that an uninitiated candidate is very likely to set off.

So far I've passively raised about a small amount of money through a Paypal account I set up for the campaign. But some of the donations are from my friends and supporters in Canada. And all the PayPal accounts from which I received the donations are in the names of companies. Such is the life of a business owner.. most of the people I know run businesses.

I can't find if I'm able to accept donations from another country. I'm pretty certain I can't accept donations from a "foreign national." Google tells me that's a person living in this country but is a citizen of another country.

I know I can't accept donations from a corporation.

I may just return it all and maybe only accept checks from this point forward. We'll see. (If you donated,

incidentally, that's one of more humbling things I've experienced in my life. I truly thank you.)
The technical details of it all are just sitting out there in a field waiting for me to walk over and blow up in my face.
I keep reading that doing this or that are illegal and are "fifth degree felonies."
In our prison-happy country I'm sure that's some number of years in prison.
And I know that an opponent would like nothing more than find a mistake in my process so they can paint me as incompetent at best or send me to jail at the worst.
Why would anyone want to go through this process? Why would anyone want to be a politician?
Here's my question: How the hell have we gotten to this point where we all ask those questions?
It's all turning me into this suspicious conspiracy theorist. Although I'm not thinking my suspicions are far off.
"Don't worry kids. Mom and dad will take care of this pesky political stuff. You just go and play."
How unlikely do you think it is that the Democrats and Republicans have painted us into this corner where The People have been pushed out of political process by making it too complicated and painful to participate in?
So I carry on.

Picture from here:

Urge the U.S. to Sign Treaty Banning Use of Landmines | ForceChange

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/day-18-im-not-afraid-the-road-to-mayor/>

og:title Content: Day 18 - I'm Not Afraid! - The Road To Mayor - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023

Blog Post Date: June 26, 2015

Blog Post Content:

Something that is strangely missing is my opponents' positions on things.
The people have some very specific questions on things like:

The EPA-mandated sewer project.

Homeless

Vacant buildings

Schools

Jobs

But I'm not aware of any public declaration from any of the major opponents.

I know it's a political strategy. But it seems unfair to the people. And it also actually seems like bad strategy.

Just from a positioning perspective I think Williams and Comunale should be talking about the issues constantly. If I was their campaign manager I would anticipate losing the name recognition game to Horrigan. So they only have one thing left: Be the better choice. Win the hearts and minds.

Maybe it's coming. But building a brand takes time.

But as I write this I start to get a little angry. Yes. As a marketer I know how to position products. But as a citizen I want to know who I'm voting for!

TELL ME WHAT YOU STAND FOR!

(Deep breath, Sage)

So I'm trying to be the candidate I would want to see run.

I have two areas of this site where I'm putting out my ideas: (you can click on them)

Initiatives is what I want to accomplish.

Issues is my position on, well, issues.

I will give you my stance on any issue you are interested in. Just ask.

Will I have a stance that isn't your stance? God, I hope so. We aren't robots. We are complicated, messy human beings.

Will I have some stances that are more gut feeling than well researched? I'm sorry to say, yes.

Will I change my mind based on new information? Of course! I'm able to learn new things. Duh.

Will I say something that will turn someone off for wanting to vote for me? I wouldn't be saying anything of

substance if I didn't.

It is what elected officials should do.

The people need to know who they are letting represent them.

But no. It's all just a game of chess to these guys. Win. Just win.

That sucks.

I'm not afraid to tell you who I am so you know who you are voting for.

Maybe you can convince the other guys to start to come out on their stances. That would make this race what it should be: A vote for the best candidate. Not a vote for the guy with the most signs, radio ads and tv commercials.

(I'll put their positions in this section of the site if and when they show up.)

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/day-19-why-i-ran-as-a-democrat-first-on-the-road-to-mayor/>

og:title Content: Day 19 - Why I Ran As A Democrat First - On The Road To Mayor - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023

Blog Post Date: June 27, 2015

Blog Post Content:

Stephanie Warsmith of the Akron Beacon Journal did an amazing piece on my switch from Democratic candidate for mayor to Independent candidate for mayor.

This move is highly risky because it gives the board of elections ammunition to say "he declared himself a Democrat by running as a Democrat so he's a Democrat."

The law is very vague as to what constitutes an Independent.

What is most important to know in this situation is that the Board of Elections is appointed by the Secretary of State and is made up of 2 Democrats and 2 Republicans.

Just how these parties randomly cut up districts so one will win over the other, the board of elections is set up to favor insider politicians from the two parties.

I had no choice. If I wanted to be part of the initial conversation I had to run as a Democrat or Republican. And in Akron I really had to run as a Democrat.

There are 4 names hand-written on a piece of paper at the Board of Elections that have said they are going to run as Independents. But they are invisible to the people of Akron. No one is talking about them.

You can't win if no one knows you exist.

I would have loved to have run as an Independent initially. But it's political suicide.

You should also know that it's not against the law to do what I'm doing. There is nothing anywhere that says if you don't get enough signatures in one party that you can't try again for another party, as long as you meet the deadline.

I intended to stay running as a Democrat. But I feel so much better being an Independent.

And strategically, if I wanted a chance in hell to be a legitimate part of this race I had to run as a Democrat first.

The system is stacked against Independents. It shouldn't be that way. As mayor I will make it a huge priority to make it easier for common people and Independents to run for office in Akron.

Image from here:

<http://ivn.us/2013/12/20/top-10-issues-matter-independent-voters-2013/>

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/day-20-rest-on-the-road-to-mayor/>

og:title Content: Day 20 - Rest - On The Road To Mayor - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023

Blog Post Date: June 28, 2015

Blog Post Content:

Near the end of World War I the German Major-General, Ludendorff, had a mental breakdown. He went to see a psychologist.

The psychologist told him he needed to take some time for himself. He needed to have a good meal, spend time with friends.

This sounds absurd as you contrast this to the cataclysmic horror that had transpired over the years on both sides of the war.

But the psychologist was right.

Even during intense fighting commanders know they have to cycle soldiers through being on the front line.

You simply can't keep fighting forever. You'll be crushed... mentally.
The Great Recession was hard on my business. We lost a lot of clients and we had to lay off a lot of people. I still don't like to say it was hard on me. Because I'm sure it was harder on others.
But I had to manage the stress somehow.
I became a marathon runner. I ran 3 marathons in a 12 month period. Chicago, Akron and Pittsburgh.
The psychological help running gave me was enormous.
I stopped running because of some over-use injuries on my left side. I then also started taking a mild antidepressant (which I still take).
You can't serve others if you don't serve yourself first.
It's like the safety message on an airplane. Put your oxygen mask on first. Then help others.
I'm writing this from Assateague Island in Maryland. We seem to end up camping here at least once a year.
This year my kid and his friends are trying crab traps.
We've camped with Indy since he was 2 and a half.
Camping is great on many levels.
It's affordable
It's an adventure
You meet cool people
There are endless places to camp
The next thing I'm going to get into is mediation. It's like taking a little vacation every day.
I also try to hike on the Towpath and Metroparks as much as possible. (Incidentally those 2 things are some of the most amazing hiking places I've seen anywhere in America.)
Please do yourself a favor: Try to rest and recuperate. It will make you a better worker and family person.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/day-21-working-on-the-road-on-the-road-to-mayor/>
og:title Content: Day 21 - Working On The Road - On The Road To Mayor - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023
Blog Post Date: June 29, 2015

Blog Post Content:
I love technology.
That's probably why I'm in the technology business.
One of the many things I love about it is how it makes you free. With tech you can work (almost) anywhere.
Between our family's love of travel and traveling for business, I am fortunate to get to see a lot of the country.
One thing that always surprises me is the dead spots of cell coverage in various places in the country. Those people are cut off.
Fortunately, Akron has great cell coverage. But Internet is a different thing. I don't have the numbers of homes that don't have Internet access. But I guarantee it's a lot. And it undoubtedly impacts the poorest in our community the hardest.
One of the early initiatives I want to look into is a government / business mashup where, together, we figure out how to help families with kids get Internet access.
For those of us with Internet access at home we all know that it has become an extension of our brain.
I've learned how to change my brake pads and rotors on YouTube.
I just finished listening to 20 hours of World War I history as a podcast.
My kid wants to become a videographer / game programmer when he grows up because of the online games and videos he watches. He's already starting to code games at the age of 10.
The Internet is all the world's art, information, science and religion sitting in a small box in your house.
We can't let our kids be cut off from that.
I'm not sure how we do that yet. The first idea I heard was having a business sponsor a block and then pay for Internet access for homes with kids that can't afford it. But I'm very interested in hearing more ideas.
My first priority is the kids. But my mom often tells me that all seniors should have Internet access because it also connects them to the world.
My mom is a big Facebooker.
We're driving back home today.
Both Rocky and I are big mobile workers. Whoever isn't driving will be pounding on the Chomebook computer jamming as much work in as possible until the other person can't stand it anymore and they need to get some work done.

The picture above is the rig I'm rolling with on this trip. My newest acquisitions are the All Power solar charger and the Kmashi battery.

We are spending more and more time off the electric grid. These tools give us that freedom.

I believe Internet today is like books in the 1500s. Whoever has them will be able to grow and succeed.

(And let me take this moment and apologize for all the typos and strange words that undoubtedly appear on this site. I write 90% of it on my phone.)

See you back in Akron tomorrow.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/day-22-the-power-of-reddit-on-the-road-to-mayor/>

og:title Content: Day 22 - The power of Reddit - On The Road To Mayor - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023

Blog Post Date: July 1, 2015

Blog Post Content:

I had an amazing day today talking with people on the Akron Subreddit.

If you've never been to Reddit I'd highly recommend it.

It will take a bit to get in the flow of it. But once you do you'll likely see the power of it.

Reddit is democracy in action. Stories and comments are upvoted or downvoted. You get more Karma the more you interact.

Karma is publicly visible and lets people know how much you've contributed to the community.

I posted a story about my run for mayor. We're currently well over 100 comments so far.

People asked really hard and good questions. They offered amazing ideas of what they'd like to see happen in Akron. It just was awesome.

A regular, unfiltered conversation with the city will be a major aspect of my mayoral office.

As an independent I have no debts to pay back to the party. I only have a debt to pay back to the people of the city.

I love having these kinds of discussions. Listening to what is important to people is so amazing.

I believe technology today allows politicians to be tied in with the will of the people more than ever has been possible before.

I will make full use of that ability during the race and during my time in office.

Go here to check out the whole Akron Subreddit. I think you'll like it.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/dan-horrigan/>

og:title Content: An Alternative to Dan Horrigan For Akron Mayor

Blog Post Date: July 1, 2015

Blog Post Content:

Dan Horrigan is who the Democratic party wants to be the mayor of Akron.

He will be given a lot of money by the Democratic Party.

Honestly, I don't know much about him because there isn't a lot out there from him.

The biggest information I've found on his stance is this WAKR interview:

[soundcloud url="https://api.soundcloud.com/tracks/209680872"

params="auto_play=false&hide_related=false&show_comments=true&show_user=true&show_reposts=false&visual=true" width="100%" height="450" iframe="true" /]

He has a Facebook page here: <https://www.facebook.com/VoteForHorrigan> But so far it hasn't been updated very much.

I'll keep an eye on his positions and add them here.

These are some quotes from Dan in the above interview:

"We had a lot of customers in the Clerk of Courts"

"Working collaboratively"

"Your focus needs to be keep moving forward."

"Leaders lead"

"Moving forward with a strong financial position is key to everything."

Those are the qualities he believes a mayor needs to have. That's interesting to me because those are the qualities every successful business person must have if they ever hope to succeed. I've been a business

owner and entrepreneur for 15 years over two recessions. My profession is helping other companies be successful. I believe these qualities are exactly what Dan is referring to.

The interesting thing about the interview was that he said we need to move forward. But he didn't describe how to move forward. It could be that he has some solid ideas on that but didn't get a chance to say them on the interview or online.

Yes, we need to move forward.

You can read about some of the Initiatives here I'm working on.

The sewer is a huge issue. The EPA is now open to more integrated strategies that include green programs. I'm a huge proponent of that kind of integration.

I'm not saying you should vote for me. I just want to give you another option to what the Democratic party will tell you to vote for. There's a lot of information on this site. I add to it daily.

Hopefully you will find something that interest you. And I'm always happy to talk.

You can find me on social media here:

<https://twitter.com/sagerock>

<https://www.facebook.com/sagerock>

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCbcCwORP76FU1pWAQeLkkUA>

You can email me here:

And here's my cell number: 330-416-7519

Akron voters deserve a choice for mayor. I want to give you an alternative.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/day-23-the-political-dodge-weave/>
og:title Content: Day 23 - The Political Dodge & Weave - On The Road To Mayor - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023
Blog Post Date: July 2, 2015

Blog Post Content:

When I watched presidential debates I always was amused by how they rarely answered the question they were asked. They answered the question they wished they were asked.

Maybe I'll see someday why a candidate shouldn't answer questions directly.

Maybe someday I'll see why I shouldn't say I don't know the answer to a question.

But for now, I will naively plow ahead answering questions and admitting I don't know the answers to some questions.

The Initiative section of this site goes into some detail about certain things that I am really interested in working on. And I will add to it as we go along.

Here are some quick hits on some of the more controversial topics:

Yes. Based on what I have studied our sewer bills will go up. But slowing water down during storms is huge. If we could get a citywide plan moving where everyone does something, it's possible we might be able to reduce the cost of the program. The EPA seems to be more open to alternative solutions these days. Can we get a large portion of the city to help slow water run off down? I don't know, but I would like to look at this and help people understand how they could help.

Why are there still massive potholes in July? I don't know. When I find out I'll let you know. My campaign manager hit a huge, unmarked, pothole on the way home from work. This should not be an everyday occurrence in July. Let's work to do better than this.

Can we reduce property taxes? Not likely. The state continues to cut funding. A big portion of our taxes go to schools. So maybe we could cut something there. But people also want better schools. So that's not likely either. That said... The City of Calgary in Canada has done some cool things with their budget planning. They have the entire city offer input in the city budget. I love that idea. I would like to make this the defacto so that anyone could weigh in on how these city finances are handled.

Can we stop the unconstitutional way we fund schools? I'm not sure. But if you have ideas or would like this to be something we work on let me know.

Marijuana - Yes. I support legalizing pot for many reasons. But I don't see this as a city issue. As soon as it's legal in Ohio, we should be the biggest supporters in the state working to help local businesses thrive.

Abortion. I support women. They have the right to choose. Would I like to see abortion used less as a contraceptive? Sure.

Do I support the protesters in front of abortion clinics? Yes. They make me furious as much as they make my blood boil. But, I love the freedom of speech.

Do I support guns? Yes. If you legally can have a gun and want a gun you should be able to have one. But did you know that any auctioneer can sell a gun at someone's house and just hand it over to the buyer. I'm not sure that's the best idea. Let's talk about this.

Downtown arena? No.

Panhandlers with signs that do them injustice. This is not right. I feel like this trend is putting these people in a bad holding pattern. I have met so many panhandlers and homeless people in the last few weeks. I've met so many people who have been marginalized by society. It's been eye-opening for me to understand who these people are.

Felons. This group of people needs help. For our own sakes, they need help. I'd like to look at making it illegal to ask if a person is a felon on a job application.

OK. Have I found something for just about everyone to disagree with me on?

I think this is why politicians don't say anything. They don't want to offend anyone that may vote for them. I'm willing to offend and willing to look into things in order to make our lives better.

And in fairness to politicians, we the people have these strange "my way or the highway" litmus tests.

My theory is this: I believe people can handle differences of opinion. I believe people can understand the complexity of issues where the answers aren't easy.

I also believe people would like a politician that levels with them. A person, just like them, that runs for office but talks with them and is deeply influenced by their opinions.

I believe people are ready for someone that tells them the straight up truth. That's what you'll get from me.

Will you get that from any of the other guys? I see no indication you will. They all look like old school politicians that will only say as much as they absolutely have to. And when they're elected they'll close the door behind them and leave you out of the process altogether.

Photo from here:

<http://thepalatables.com/2011/09/12/political-promises/>

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/akron-mayoral-candidates-social-media-accounts/>

og:title Content: Akron Mayoral Candidates Online Accounts - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023

Blog Post Date: June 11, 2015

Blog Post Content: [cmsms_row data_padding_bottom="50" data_padding_top="0" data_bg_parallax_ratio="0.5" data_bg_size="cover" data_bg_attachment="scroll" data_bg_repeat="no-repeat" data_bg_position="top center" data_color="default" data_padding_right="3" data_padding_left="3" data_width="boxed"] [cmsms_column data_width="1/1"] [cmsms_image align="none" animation_delay="0"] 22 | <http://www.sagelewis.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/akron-mayor-social-media.jpg> | full [cmsms_image] [cmsms_column] [cmsms_row] [cmsms_row] [cmsms_column data_width="1/1"] [cmsms_text]

I thought it would be interesting to check out the Akron mayor candidates online profiles.

I very well could have missed some. And if I did please tell me. Also, I didn't include government sites that were built for them by the office they were in.

This is what I've got:

Summit County Councilman Frank Comunale

<http://comunaleformayor.com/>

<https://www.facebook.com/frankcomunale>

I don't think this is only his YouTube channel. But he has a video posted

here: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC7D0oL6HjUZWetQwTs3Bzxxg>

Summit County Clerk of Courts Dan Horrigan

<https://www.facebook.com/VoteForHorrigan>

He owns this domain: horriganformayer.com. But there isn't anything there as of 6/30/2015.

I've started a page dedicated to Dan here: Dan Horrigan For Akron Mayor. I'll be putting all my updates of him there.

Akron Councilman Mike Williams

<http://www.williamsforakron.com/>

<https://www.facebook.com/mikewilliamsforakron>

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/williamsforakron>
<https://www.youtube.com/user/williamsforakron>
<https://twitter.com/williams4akron>

Eddie Sipplin

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Sipplen-for-Akron/1456940761285010>
<http://www.sipplenforakron.com/>

(I know they probably won't take me up on it. But all these people could use some online help. If any of you gents would like to meet sometime I'd be happy to give you some free Web marketing consultation time.)

Here's mine:

Sage Lewis (@sagerock) on Twitter Sage Lewis on Facebook Sage Lewis on Pinterest Sage Lewis (@sagelewis4) on Instagram Sage Lewis For Mayor Of Akron on YouTube

I have others. But these are the main ones I'll be using for this campaign.

I have a simple question: Do you think understanding how to use today's technology to speak to your constituents, who are all using this stuff, is important for a mayor of Akron?

[/cmsms_text][[/cmsms_column][[/cmsms_row]

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/day-24-do-you-want-jobs-then-you-want-me-on-the-to-mayor/>
og:title Content: Day 24 - Do you want jobs? Then you want me! - On The To Mayor - Sage Lewis For Akron
City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023
Blog Post Date: July 2, 2015

Blog Post Content:

Stephanie Warsmith tweeted this:

Those are noble pursuits.

But then I got to thinking: what does the Clerk of Courts know about creating jobs? I'm sure he oversaw people that had jobs. That's cool.

But that's not creating jobs.

When I read that tweet I thought: "Hey! That's what I do."

I create jobs.

There was a time I was over at a local company our firm did marketing for. They asked if they could show us something. They walked us to a brand new building. They told us that our company was responsible for building that building and employing all the people in it.

Do you know how you grow a business which leads to more jobs? Sales and marketing. That's it.

That's what I have dedicated most of my adult life to.

And for what it's worth, I've written a book on online marketing and have spoken all over the country on the topic. Not to mention running marketing programs all over the world, of all sizes of complexity and budget.

I'm proud to say I've always been considered a thought leader in online marketing by peers in my industry.

I know how to build and grow businesses in the 21st century.

I have a plan I'll lay out in detail in the near future: The 1000 Business Challenge.

I have a concrete plan on how to get 1000 new businesses started in Akron in the first 2 years of my term.

I also am putting together a plan to help existing businesses to grow.

This is how you get more jobs.

As this foundation gets set we will be able to present ourselves as the premier Midwest city for startups.

If you want to start a business and you don't want to pay the insane cost of living prices of NYC or the Bay Area, you will come to Akron.

Together, we can make that happen. I know how to do it and Akron has everything we need to make it happen.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/day-25-my-religion-on-the-road-to-mayor/>

og:title Content: Day 25 - My Religion - On The Road To Mayor - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 -

May 2, 2023

Blog Post Date: July 4, 2015

Blog Post Content: I got this cool question on my Facebook wall when I woke up this morning: "Are you really an atheist?"

The short answer is: No.

But the background of that answer is complicated.

Let's start at the very beginning.

My grandfather was a Methodist minister. He always had this beloved aura around him. He lived with us when I was very young. He was calm, quiet yet powerful.

My mother and I went to the Methodist church in Medina. We always went with another family. We'd go to Perkins afterwards. Perkins was my favorite part.

In 10th grade I met a girl at a music camp who was a Mennonite. She was very influential to me. (Strong women have significantly influenced me through my life.)

I went to a Mennonite church for some time.

I really liked the people at that church. But it was more restrictive than a teenage boy wanted.

Not long after I found the Bahá'í Faith.

I really liked their approach. They look for unity in diversity. They believe all the major religions stem from the same God.

That made a lot of sense to me.

I can't remember why I stopped going to them.

I then went to college.

I very vividly remember standing in my dorm room and officially declaring God was dead to me.

At first I was terrified. Then suddenly I was filled with a huge sense of personal responsibility. I loved it.

I loved being in charge of my life.

I was an avid atheist for years.

I refused to accept anything other than there was nothing but total blackness after death.

As I aged and softened I gradually became more agnostic. No one knows what is on the other side.

Saying I was 100% certain of nothingness made me as fundamentalist as what I was trying to move away from.

I spent a lot of this time reading the Dalai Lama.

He wrote that we all would be best if we stuck with the religion of our region. He was saying I should look back to Christianity.

I then got really into astrophysics. Physicists teach about how we live in a multiverse. How time probably doesn't exist. How we can shape something's existence just by measuring it.

It all makes me realize we have no idea what lays out there. Our comprehension of existence is probably just scratching the surface of what is truth.

I then was shown Richard Rohr. He is a Franciscan friar who has stretched my mind of what Christianity can be. His message is of total inclusion.

There are many things that he says that inspire me so much. But the thing I'm really pondering these days is this:

He says that you are either constructing or deconstructing God. You must have both. Everything must die and rise. He says conservatives continually are constructing God. Liberals are continually deconstructing God. And both are only experiencing half the story.

I am now back to reconstructing my faith. It is a very new way of looking at God for me. In a nutshell it says you were never cast out by God. You were always in and you always will be in.

It's the most loving way I've ever looked at the idea of God before.

So there it is. That's my faith from beginning to end, to date. I have never written this story before. But I thought it might be useful to you as you consider the motivations of your next mayor.

I'm very willing to talk as much as you would like about religion and spirituality. And you are welcome to recite scripture telling me all the ways I'm wrong. But I probably won't fight you on it. Everyone's relationship with God is personal and individual.

I am more inclusive and understanding of all religions more than I ever have been in my life. The best parts of all religions are magical and amazing.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/an-open-letter-to-comunale-and-williams/>

og:title Content: An Open Letter To Comunale and Williams - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 -

May 2, 2023

Blog Post Date: July 3, 2015

Blog Post Content: Hey Guys,
Thought you might enjoy this . . .

Countdown to The Primary
Powered by knowndays.com

So, I'm not an experienced politician, as has been discussed on Radio and TV. But I am a marketer and, while that can be about persuasion, I like to think it's mostly about connection nowadays. That's because power has shifted -- from the Large Institutions that used to push message to The People on that ground that form communities and talk to one another.

Pushing message is very last decade. I think politics needs to be about the people. So, I'm just recommending you think about that before Horrigan buries you in his money. A grand finale explosion of push advertising at the last minute is not only old school but stands little chance against the money guy. You're going to lose that game..

I believe we all need to think of ourselves as freedom fighters. None of us underdogs are going to be able to win the war if we fight the way the super power wants us to fight. Go stand on an open battlefield of TV and radio advertising and he's got us right where he wants us. We're done.

So, I'm not an experienced politician, but I am an experienced marketer and I like a good fair fight, so here are some unique ways I know how to connect with people online:

Reddit AMA's

Periscope live video sessions

Heartfelt YouTube videos

Genuine, personal blogging & posting to your Facebook friends to build a loyal audience. Posting pictures from the last time you ran for office on your Facebook page? #lame

I might not win this race, but I am connecting with the people of Akron. And I care about that. And you should too. Here are my stats for just my website in the last 2 weeks:

I've reached 1700 unique people in 2 weeks just on my website. Facebook is much more. And I'm aggressively working Twitter, YouTube and Pinterest.

Frank: People seem to like you. I know that because they tell me that when I talk to them. You look authentic on your site. Use social video to get that across to as many people as you can.

Mike: You have all this online stuff set up. But you aren't connecting. What ideas and solutions can you provide? Also, I saw you took down your big sign in front of your building. That thing was old school, but awesome and a huge opportunity.

At some point, after much internal debating and conversation, Dan might come out with some party approved ideas for how to move forward. I'm looking to come up with unique and different ideas and change the tone of the conversation. Let's change the game. Let's get young generations interested in government and policy and their thriving city. Let's have new discussions on new channels.

The web lets you build good relationships much more efficiently than door to door or cookouts. I think they are both needed, but we can all use new technology and learn more about how to serve the people of Akron.

I think it's time to move beyond electing the guy who says his name the most times on TV and radio. We all deserve better than that.

Let's give the people of Akron the choice of mayor they deserve. Don't be loyal to the past ways of doing things. Let's be loyal to the people.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/day-26-july-4-henry-knox-on-the-road-to-mayor/>

og:title Content: Day 26 - July 4 - Henry Knox - On The Road To Mayor - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023

Blog Post Date: July 4, 2015

Blog Post Content:

Simply put: The American Revolution was bad ass.

We stood up to the mighty British Empire. And ultimately we won.

I highly recommend "1776" by David McCullough

My favorite player in the Revolutionary War was Henry Knox.

We had captured Fort Ticonderoga and Knox was to deliver all the ammunitions to the Continental Army camps outside Boston, Massachusetts during the winter of 1775/1776.

From here:

Knox went to Ticonderoga in November 1775, and, over the course of 3 winter months, moved 60 tons of cannons and other armaments by boat, horse and ox-drawn sledges, and manpower, along poor-quality roads, across two semi-frozen rivers, and through the forests and swamps of the lightly inhabited Berkshires to the Boston area. Historian Victor Brooks has called Knox's exploit "one of the most stupendous feats of logistics" of the entire American Revolutionary War.

The journey was insane.

At one point a huge cannon fell through the ice of a lake and sunk to the bottom. They were able to get a hold of it and drag it back to land.

He overcame unbelievable obstacles and delivered the ammunitions.

His experience as an ammunitions expert: He owned a bookstore and liked to read about ammunitions.

This says so much about so much.

Washington was able to see through his lack of experience and see the character of the man.

Will and determination can overcome unbelievable odds. And that was the theme of the entire American Revolution.

It is possible to overcome all the powers that be and stop tyranny.

Change happens by first believing change can happen.

You live in a country that was created by that fundamental truth.

Be the change you want to see.

Happy July 4th you awesome people!

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/day-27-the-voice-of-the-people-the-road-to-mayor/>

og:title Content: Day 27 - The Voice of the People - The Road To Mayor - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023

Blog Post Date: July 5, 2015

Blog Post Content:

There is a massive revolt happening in the world right now. And you might not be aware of it. Reddit is on fire.

If you aren't familiar with Reddit I'd tell you to go. But much of it has been shut down. By the people.

Over 265 "Subreddits" have been turned private by the moderators, making them inaccessible.

Subreddits are categories for different topics. Some are much more popular than others.

All of these Subreddits are run by volunteer moderators.

This week Reddit fired Victoria Taylor, director of talent.

The people loved her. She oversaw lining up people for the wildly popular Ask Me Anything (AMA) Subreddit.

This angered the volunteer moderators. But it then set off a revolt because of poor moderation tools and taking moderators for granted.

The responses by management have been less than great. They sound like typical business people saying typical business crap.

This is angering the people even more.

What is important to remember here is that the people made reddit what it was when they were ignored over at Digg.

There was a mass exodus at Digg and then Reddit became what it was.

My prediction is that Reddit is over and Voat will be the new place people go.

This is wildly interesting to me because even at a place like Reddit where the people hold all the cards management still doesn't get it.

They act behind closed doors. You can sense their feeling of superiority.

And as their community virtually burns to the ground they can't change.

They are so out of touch with how to talk, listen and work with the people they will lose everything.
Welcome to American politics.
The approval rating of congress is around 16%. And nothing is changing.
African Americans are being continually shot in the streets by police. And nothing is changing.
Our schools are broken. And nothing is changing.
America has more people in prison than anywhere in the world. And nothing is changing.
The people are not being listened to.
I believe I can change that in Akron.
I will be the voice of the people.
I will also look to you for you answers.
But you can't tell me we need roads like the Autobahn and then not tell me how to pay for it.
We need to talk to each other adult to adult. We need to be equals.
Someone yesterday suggested we talk with the polymer school at the University of Akron to see if they might have a solution to our pothole problem.
Now that's an idea!
We are the center of the universe of polymers. We should really look at how we can make use of that amazing resource.
The communication tools are all here. We can have constant discussions to address our biggest problems.
As mayor, I will be your voice. I will do your will. This isn't about me. It's about you.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/day-28-my-job-as-mayor-on-the-road-to-mayor/>
og:title Content: Day 28 - On the Road to Akron's Mayor - MoneyPenny Visits
Blog Post Date: July 7, 2015

Blog Post Content: I got an unexpected visit from former Akron mayor, Garry Moneypenny, today. Garry was one of the first people in the neighborhood to come visit us when we bought our building at 15 Broad Street.
He was our council person in the 10th Ward. He visited several times over the years and was very supportive of our business, our building and the community as a whole.
I was very excited when he became interim mayor. I thought he'd do a good job as mayor.
His mayorship lasted, I believe, 10 days.
I was quite surprised when he walked into my office today as I figured I'd never see him again.
He looked tired and maybe embarrassed, it can be hard to read politicians, but whatever..
We had a really good and long discussion. I learned that he was once a hostage negotiator with a strong police background. He told several amazing stories about that time in his life. Truly fascinating.
I am a big believer that if you make a mistake and you get the proper punishment then that's it. You don't deserve to be scorned by society ever more.
He knows he did wrong and because of that he resigned. His political career is over. No criminal reports have been filed.
For many reasons I've become a big believer in forgiveness.
I was really glad to see Garry, but I had one burning question.
My lack of "experience" will probably follow me to the day of the election.
As a council person and mayor, I figured Garry Moneypenny would know better than anyone if my lack of political experience was going to be a major hindrance to me being mayor.
So I asked him: "Will my lack of experience make me less of a mayor?"
This is what he said:
"As mayor you have one job: to be a good listener."
He said I should go to as many council meetings as possible, now and as mayor. (My wife had told me this too.)
As mayor you need to listen to the people. You need to be the mayor of the whole city. North. South. East. West.
I have some ideas to help with this. I believe we are all able to talk and listen more than ever before. This is something I'm really excited about and will write about in the near future.
I also am going to start going to council meetings around town. So look for me there. I'll let you know on Facebook and Twitter where I'll be.
Chief Listening Officer: I love that idea. I will be the voice of the people. As an independent my only obligation is to listen to you and be true to you, the citizens of Akron.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/free-hot-dog-event-at-ciceros/>

og:title Content: Free Hot Dog Event at Cicero's - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023

Blog Post Date: July 7, 2015

Blog Post Content:

Hot dog events are a hit. (And totally in my budget.)

We're going to be at Cicero's here:

447 N Hawkins Ave, Akron, OH 44313

Saturday, July 11 from noon to 1:30.

You can RSVP on Facebook here: <https://www.facebook.com/events/990527854312268/>

The store is owned by Abdul. He is a 21 year old entrepreneur.

We're having these events to get more signatures so I can get on the ballot and you can have another option for mayor.

Free hot dogs. Free water. Come talk to me about the kind I've mayor I'll be and talk to Abdul about how he became an entrepreneur at age 21.

Everyone is invited. You don't have to just be an eligible voter to show up.

See you there!

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/day-29-i-believe-in-you-on-the-road-to-mayor/>

og:title Content: Day 29 - I Believe In You - On The Road To Mayor - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023

Blog Post Date: July 7, 2015

Blog Post Content: I highly recommend the PBS special on Mount Rushmore:

<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/americanexperience/films/rushmore/>

This is one of those stories of defying all logic, rationalism and "reality."

These stories are everywhere if you look for them.

Very likely someone in your family at some point did something amazing and unbelievable.

These kinds of stories are so common that you think people would stop saying:

You can't do that.

That won't work.

You aren't qualified.

You aren't smart enough.

You aren't old enough.

You're too old.

That's too hard.

I know someone who tried that and failed.

There are no limits to the ways people will try to stop you from doing something meaningful and interesting with your life.

Your parents. Your brothers and sisters. Your best friends. Everyone is happy to tell you endless reasons for not trying something.

Why don't people instinctively tell you all the reasons you should do something instead? I don't know.

But they don't.

BUT I DO!

You can do it.

You don't need anyone's permission.

You don't need anything more than you have right now to get started.

Break down your goals into manageable steps. Do the parts that you can afford and you have the time and capability to do now. The small steps are critical to completing the big steps.

Start a business.

Start a band.

Run for office.

Paint a painting.

Go camping.
Run a marathon.
Learn to code.
Move to Europe.
Learn to sail.
Learn to dance.
Learn to sing.

There is nothing that is too ridiculous or too grand that you can't do.
I believe in you.

Oh! Additionally today I was interviewed for my 2nd time on WAKR, this time by Jasen Sokol! Here's the interview, please share it with your friends and family:

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/day-30-what-are-my-qualifications-on-the-road-to-mayor/>
og:title Content: Day 30 - What are my qualifications? - On The Road To Mayor - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023
Blog Post Date: July 8, 2015

Blog Post Content: In an effort to connect a bit more I'm going to start doing more videos.
Here's a 52 second video on my qualifications to be mayor of Akron.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/the-pothole-incubator/>
og:title Content: The Pothole Incubator - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023
Blog Post Date: July 9, 2015

Blog Post Content: The pothole issue in Akron is beyond ridiculous.
I propose we turn this into an innovation opportunity.
Let the Polymer School tag the potholes and test different materials for filling potholes quickly, effectively and affordably.
Let the community submit ideas for pothole abatement. We'll pick the best of these and test and track them as well.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/the-neo-mayors-consortium/>
og:title Content: The NEO Mayors Consortium - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023
Blog Post Date: July 9, 2015

Blog Post Content: All local mayors should be invited to meet online quarterly and in person yearly.
Different cities can host the consortiums to foster collaboration and innovative leadership strategies for the 21st century.
We all have similar issues. We can learn and grow from each other.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/the-770/>
og:title Content: The 770 - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023
Blog Post Date: July 8, 2015

Blog Post Content: There are over 770 cities in the United States that have the same combined sewer system issues that Akron has.
I will head up an online community for all of these cities to come together to discuss their experiences and issues.
We are stronger together than apart.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/why-i-dont-speak-in-person-much-any-more/>
og:title Content: Why I Don't Speak In Person Much Any More - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 -

May 2, 2023

Blog Post Date: April 19, 2016

Blog Post Content:

I used to speak anywhere and everywhere.

I once did an SEO speech at a Golden Corral Buffet.

My van broke down on the highway on the way to a speech. Both to and from the speech, actually.

I've driven in more white out blizzards than I can count rushing to get to a speech.

You might say, "Well they paid you to do the speech so stop your whining and get your ass to your speech."

That's the thing. Those are all stories about speeches I did for free.

I have pretty insane stories about paid speaking events. But I'm not mentioning those because, you know, they paid me!

The story they always tell speakers is that it's a "great opportunity."

Having done this for years and years I can tell you that the conversion rate for these events is really poor.

I'm guessing I get about one call for every 5 events I do.

Certainly there is branding that is difficult to measure.

And there is also the idea of giving back to the business community.

I am a huge fan of volunteering. Honestly, I'd probably rather be a full time volunteer than a business person.

But these events are not altruistic. Every event I speak at for free is to benefit and grow some organization. They all have a growth agenda.

I get it, though. That's their model. And they are shocked that anyone would not think this is the greatest opportunity ever.

The fact of the matter is: I love speaking. It's a fun rush.

So this is what I've started doing. I've told people I'll speak to their group if they make a donation to Project Rise: the only group in Akron solely dedicated to homeless kids.

I've given this offer to 5 groups that have asked me to speak.

Guess how many took me up on my offer: ZERO!

One group was a church that wanted me to speak on Internet safety for kids.

They probably either don't have the budget for speakers. Or, more likely, they believe speakers should feel honored and privileged to speak at their group.

We don't live in that world any more.

Anyone can start a meetup and get a group of people together.

In fact, running your own group will very likely convert at a much higher rate than spending your time at someone else's group.

This is my call to all experts: STOP THE ABUSE. Don't speak for free. Make them give you something (anything) in return.

In today's world they need you more than you need them.

All that said, I still speak at a couple places for free.

One is the Hudson Library. Their events are free to the public and they do an amazing job.

Another is Web Association in Cleveland. I've been involved with them since they started. I have a sentimental place in my heart for them.

And it's possible there will be others down the road.

But I'm more focused on my own groups.

The Tools Show is a half hour show Greg and I do every Thursday at 3:15pm Eastern time.

And I also run the Akron Small Business Marketing Meetup on Thursday mornings at 9:00am. Those are at my office at 15 Broad St. in Akron.

Just do your own thing. Stop speaking for free.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/learn-adoption-meetup/>

og:title Content: Learn About Adoption Meetup - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023

Blog Post Date: April 20, 2016

Blog Post Content:

I friend of mine, Jackie Smigel, runs a non-profit adoption agency.

She has just announced a meeting she is having in Kent Ohio on Wednesday, April 27 from 10:30am-11:30am. here: Fred Fuller Park Old Jail 497 Middlebury Rd; Kent OH 44240.

This meetup is for anyone who has ever had a question about adoption.
When I think of adoption, especially of an older kid, I always think of the family that sent their adopted Russian kid back to Russia.
I'd be curious what it's really like.
This is a really cool chance to learn what adoption is really like.
Even if adoption is something that is the furthest thing from your mind, learning what it's really like will be totally interesting.
If you are interested in learning more about the meetup:
[CLICK HERE!](#)
Here is her Web site if you'd like to learn more: Open Arms Adoptions - Creating families through adoption.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/sage-lewis-chosen-chair-project-rise-auxiliary-committee/>
og:title Content: Sage Lewis - Chosen to Chair Project RISE Auxiliary Committee - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023
Blog Post Date: May 25, 2016

Blog Post Content: I'm not the kind of person other people typically entrust to important jobs.
"Loose canon" is a common phrase I've heard to describe me.
But for some reason, Debra Manteghi, the Program Manager of Project RISE, the only group in Akron solely dedicated to homeless children, has appointed me to the position of Chair for their Auxiliary Committee.
The Project RISE Auxiliary Committee is focused on helping raise awareness of legislation that effects Project RISE and to also help support their various initiatives.
So:

We want to let you know about laws that directly impact homeless kids in Akron.
We'll let you know about ways we can all support Project RISE with donations and contributions.

There are approximately 2,000 homeless kids that we know about in Akron THIS YEAR!
They live in shelters, motels, on couches, on floors, doubled up in other low income homes. All while trying to find routines, do homework and stay in school. Project RISE is dedicated to helping these kids.
I'm beyond honored to be part of this cause.
I've heard from many of you. We are all shocked that there are ANY homeless children in Akron. But there are. And together we can help make their lives better.
So, already I could use your help. I really need you to join us. We need to show the homeless children of Akron that we care.
Please click here to go check out the new Project RISE Outreach Web site.
Click on the red "PLEASE HELP SUPPORT US" button and sign up to our roster of supporters.
I'm not asking for money. I'm not asking for donations. I'm not asking for time. All I'm asking is for you to join our community as we fight homelessness of children in Akron.
[CLICK HERE TO CHECK IT OUT.](#)

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/ohio-auctioneers-sample-contract-word-format/>
og:title Content: Ohio Auctioneers Sample Contract in Word and Google Doc Format - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023
Blog Post Date: May 12, 2016

Blog Post Content: The Ohio Department of Agriculture Auction Program offers an example contract for auctioneers here:
http://www.agri.ohio.gov/public_docs/auctioneer/Auct_Sample%20auction%20contract.pdf
The problem with it is that it has a big "SAMPLE" watermark all over it. And it is also in PDF format. So you can't edit it easily.
We've reworked that contract and put it in Microsoft Word. That way you can edit it till your heart's content.
You can click here to download the Microsoft Word Ohio Auction Sample Contract.
I've also formatted it as a Google Doc. So you can click here to download the Google Doc version of the Ohio Auction Sample Contract.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/homeless-kids-cant-get-housing-help-if-they-go-to-college/>
og:title Content: Homeless Kids Can't Get Housing Help if they go to college - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023
Blog Post Date: May 13, 2016

Blog Post Content: So let me break this down for you:
Let's say you are a homeless kid. Good news! There are programs to help you get a place to live.
Let's say you are a homeless kid that wants to go to college. No more housing help for you! The IRS says you are no longer eligible for housing made for homeless people.
The details are these:
There's something called the "student rule".
It was put in place so that Low Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC)-funded housing could not be used to build dorms for students.
It's fine by itself.
But homeless kids that want to go to college get caught up in it.
If they want to keep their Low Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC)-funded housing they can't go to college.
Here is your good deed for the day:
Please sign this petition started by Huckleberry House, a homeless youth shelter. It is a petition to urge Congress to alter the IRS loophole so that LIHTC-funded housing can be made available to homeless students.
Think about going to college and being homeless.
As of 2015 there were 58,000 homeless college students. And that number is on the rise.
All this petition is about is modifying a law so that homeless kids can keep the housing they have and still go to college.
It's just common sense.
This law is keeping the weakest of us down and encouraging people to not get educated.
PLEASE SIGN THE PETITION.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/ep-3-picking-product-making-entrepreneur/>
og:title Content: Ep. 3 Picking a Product. Making an Entrepreneur - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023
Blog Post Date: February 16, 2016

Blog Post Content:
I think people get really hung up on what product or service to sell in a business.
I know I do.
I'm always trying to come up with something totally new and innovative.
The big problem with this approach is that no one has any idea what it is you're trying to sell.
You end up having to do a double sales pitch. First you have to sell them on a foreign concept. Then you have to sell them on you being the answer to this new problem they didn't even know they had 5 minutes ago.
I see this all the time.

High end, fancy baby bibs.
Travel clubs.
Time shares.
Annuities.

These are all things you have to sell the idea of before you can sell the actual product.

Plumbers
Lawyers
Accountants
Mechanics
Groceries
Cars
Houses

These are all things people understand and know when they need them.
The problem with these products is that there are already a bunch of people in these markets. So it's pretty competitive.
The good news is: all those industries have huge potential for being disrupted.

Why does my business accountant cost me \$5k a year?
Why can I never find the sun dried tomatoes in the grocery store?
Why do I have to deal with a car salesman to buy a car?

Here's my recommendation: pick a product or service everyone in your chosen industry already understands.
Then make it better.

Give men's haircuts in their homes or on the street with a mobile hair salon.
Build an entire web site for a business type and sell it to the highest bidder in that market segment.
Wash cars in place while a person is at dinner.

Innovating old, tired, yet needed services and products will instantly get your business moving.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/why-i-want-you-to-go-camping/>
og:title Content: Why I Want You To Go Camping - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023
Blog Post Date: May 9, 2016

Blog Post Content: We started camping as a family when Indy, our kid, was 2.
It rained.
The tent leaked.
The fire wouldn't start.
And you know... We had a 2 year old.
This seems to be a very common story. Many people seem to have rough first camping experiences.
Our saving grace was we went with a long time friend who is a very experienced camper.
She smoothed it out. And then the second day was perfect.
10 years later we're camping every possible chance we get.
We've camped coast to coast.
Lakes, oceans, deserts, bear country, alligator country, an island with free roaming ponies. National parks, state parks, private parks. Campgrounds with facilities as nice as any hotel. Campgrounds with no facilities.
The reason we started camping 10 years ago was because it was what we could afford.
The reason we camp today is for the experience.
I travel in all kinds of capacities.

High end hotels
Low end hotels
Airbnb
Hostels

I like it all.
But there is no faster way to unwind, relax and rejuvenate than camping.
I often think camping is the closest thing to taking a mind altering drug without actually taking a drug.
The fresh air will make you sleepy.
You'll get tired when the sun goes down.
You'll wake up when the sun comes up.
You'll say hi to your neighbors.
You'll sit around a campfire.
You'll just zone out.
I practice all kinds of relaxation strategies. Camping resets me the quickest.
So how do you start?
I recommend a cabin.
You probably will still need to bring some blankets and a pillow. But you can pick up everything else at the

camp store.

I'm suggesting you start with something like a KOA.

These campgrounds have things like:

Internet

Jump pillows

Electric and water hook up at each site. (You might actually bring an end extension cord and a powerstrip.)

A snack shack.

Friday night ice cream

Saturday morning pancakes

And if you don't know how to do something, you are in luck! Nothing brings an experienced camper more joy than helping a new camper.

I've setup tents. I've helped start fires. I've helped open locked campers. I've lended bikes, skateboards, flashlights, balls, floating tubes. And I've given away endless amounts of firewood.

It's not because I'm some great humanitarian. It's because of all the help I've been given.

I've been towed out of a mud pit. I've been given a hatchet to cut wood. I've been given a hand blower to start my fire. I've had a dozen people help me open a stuck canopy on a camper. The help I've been given is endless actually.

And this gets to the greatest aspect of camping. Community.

I know no other place where community is more prevalent than while I'm camping.

It's not an overbearing community. But it's easily available if you want it.

I brought this all up because we spent the weekend at West Branch State Park.

If you are in the Northeast Ohio area I highly recommend it.

We all lead crazy busy lives and don't have a lot of extra money. Camping will give you a quick getaway for not a lot of money.

It will make you more productive and give you a chance to spend time with your family and friends.

If you have any questions feel free to ask in the comments below.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/a-call-for-podcast-guests-for-sage-and-friends/>

og:title Content: A Call For Podcast Guests for Sage and Friends - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023

Blog Post Date: August 7, 2016

Blog Post Content: I've been committed to creating a podcast.

I am at a place in my life where I feel more like an artist than a business person.

It's actually a message I'm trying to instill in other business people.

Coke gets it. I want you to get it too.

When you are passionate and in love with your work you become an unstoppable force. Those that work for just money are small and weak.

Anyways, I degress.

To help my podcast I'm looking to start booking guests. I need them to come to my studio. That's simply because I've invested a lot of money on equipment to make the quality of the show consistent.

I am not looking for just anyone on the show. I can't promise I'll make you a guest. But here are some general people that I would like to get on the podcast:

Leaders in homelessness causes

People running for political office

People currently in political office

Business owners

Drug addicts

Drug dealers

Prostitutes

Right to lifers

Fundamentalist Christians

Muslims

Homeless people
Homeless teens
Black Lives Matter advocates
Racists

Those are just some of the people off the top of my head. If you have something unique and interesting about you let me know.

You can come on anonymously if you want.

If you are interested just email me:

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/friend-linkedin-event-cleveland/>

og:title Content: Harry Lader, Ph.D. LinkedIn Event in Cleveland May 18, 2016

Blog Post Date: May 11, 2016

Blog Post Content: My friend, Harry Lader, Ph.D., is doing a LinkedIn event on using LinkedIn more effectively.

He's a super smart guy and really nice too.

His day job is that he's a trainer for Excel. But he has applied that Excel knowledge to using LinkedIn.

The extra cool thing about the event is that it's a "Pay What You Want" event. And if you do give him some money half the money will go to Wounded Warriors Family Support.

So it's got a lot of coolness to the whole thing.

WHEN

Wednesday, May 18, 2016 from 4:00 PM to 5:15 PM (EDT)

WHERE

Buy Rite Office Products - 23715 Mercantile Road, Cleveland, OH 44122

If you are interested you can register by clicking on this link.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/official-im-auctioneer/>

og:title Content: It's official: I'M AN AUCTIONEER!!! - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023

Blog Post Date: April 26, 2016

Blog Post Content:

80 hours of classes in Kentucky.

Finding a sponsor, which is incredibly difficult. Or maybe I was meant to be with Chuck Kreiner and we just had to find each other. He is amazing!

Get a background check.

Get a \$25,000 bond.

Notarize all paperwork.

Send paperwork not earlier than 4 weeks before the next scheduled apprentice auctioneer test but not later than 2 weeks. (I had to resend my paperwork because I messed that up.)

Take and pass the written Ohio apprentice auction test in Columbus.

Apprentice auction for 12 months

Call a minimum of 12 auctions

Get another background check

Get a passport style photo

Prove your \$25,000 bond is still in effect.

Get it all notarized.

Send your paperwork in not earlier than 4 weeks before the next scheduled auctioneer test but not later than 2 weeks. They happen once every 4 months. If you mess up you have to wait another 4 months.

Take a 2.5 hour written test. Multiple choice, true or false, fill in the blank and a huge story problem.

Do a verbal test where you have to prove your auctioning abilities to the Ohio Auction Commission

AND I PASSED!!

83%.

I'm not allowed to officially do my own auctions until I get my paperwork in 2-3 weeks. But it appears that is

happening.

I'm excited about it because auctioning is an ages old form of buying and selling. The auction style of selling is amazing if you need a way of getting rid of a lot of personal property fast. They are big with estates. We can come in to your house at 10am and have everything sold and gone by 5pm. It's a powerful tool for the right situation. Thank you Chuck for being a great sponsor. I'm REALLY looking forward to working with you moving forward. We're going to take over the world!

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/homeless-gofundme-accounting/>

og:title Content: Homeless GoFundMe Accounting - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023
Blog Post Date: February 8, 2016

Blog Post Content: I have another campaign coming up so I wanted to get my finances together. (I'll tell you more about it soon.)

But I wanted to post where we are with our money.

In a nutshell:

The Shoes for Homeless Kids program has raised \$1310. We've spent \$1068.82. We have \$241.18 available. The Socks for Homeless people program has raised \$570. We've spent \$388.22. We have \$181.78 available. Below are the screenshots of how both breakdown.

This all has to do with your kindness. Thank you thank you thank you!!!

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/dementia-overseer/>

og:title Content: Dementia Overseer - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023
Blog Post Date: August 19, 2016

Blog Post Content: "Congratulations! You are the proud new overseer of a healthy, old, mentally decaying parent."

Dementia is everything backwards. But it's not just backwards. It's sideways. Inside out. Reverse. Forward. Stop. Go. It blurs dreams, this world, other worlds, decades ago, today.

Dementia is a fucked up cut form of LSD that you'd ask your drug dealer for your money back.

It's nearly impossible for me, the overseer, to explain to you. And it makes absolutely no sense for the person experiencing it.

As a one time user of hallucinogens, I get it. I know what she's trying to explain.

"It's like it all collapses." My mom brings her hands together in a soft clap like she is praying.

"You have to believe me. My coffee pot and cell phone are not here!"

Oh I believe you. I know what you are saying. You are somewhere else, mother.

Tripping is almost impossible to explain to the uninitiated.

It must be so bizarre to start your hallucinating journey at age 79. My mom was once a highball drinker. But always had a strong negative bias to any other drugs. She always judged marijuana smokers as "stoners" or "pot heads." Other drugs were so outrageous to her that she wouldn't even discuss them.

Now her mind is doing it by itself.

The chemicals and connections are going haywire. Past and present and future move over her as she sits still. Her mind is no longer staying on the agreed human perception of time as a steady, forward moving line. It's clearly a bad trip. There's anxiety, anger, fear, sadness. And I, the overseer, the dad that was once the son (and still am the son in a certain space and time) have little luck turning this trip around.

Sometimes I do though.

72 of the Cutest Animals - a series I found on Netflix.

Her cell phone. "Just press and hold 4 to call your friend." (She often times doesn't believe me that's how it's done.)

She's stealing stuff from her hospital bedroom bathroom right now.

Now she's tying her hair back with torn apart plastic bags. She says this will be a good show for the

neurologist that is supposed to come later today.

Whatever works.

She might really be losing it.

I've read that the thing about crazy people is that they often times know they are crazy. But they do it anyway.

That's how it feels right now.

She's letting her mind go. You can feel the fight leaving. Reality just isn't worth the struggle.

I can't say I blame her. End of life reality is not pleasant. The built in anxiety of dementia is overwhelming.

So far, it doesn't seem to bother me. When the all night fits start, that I've read about, that might be a different story.

I see this is part of the life journey. It's not causing her physical pain. It's an ebb and flow of mental anxiety that I'm hoping someone has a pill for.

Dementia runs in my family. I've seen this all before.

"Abou Ben Adhem (may his tribe increase!)"

My grandmother would say that over and over and over again.

Try finding that poem in the '80s without the Internet.

It was just the obscure thing she would repeat hour after hour. Day after day.

And then she would pee herself. Then she'd shit herself.

The first time you see dementia is the worst time.

This is the part I think I can handle.

The trickier part is balancing this with the rest of my life.

My wife. My kid. My business.

These are the things that really worry me. Can they handle the new dementia patient in their lives?

Where does the line get drawn? When can they not take any more?

How do you balance the needs and desires between all these people?

My mom is wrapping up. These other people are my future.

My past pokes and prods my future. I can't let my past ruin my future. But my past still is my present.

And that's where my own mind gets fuzzy. What will happen? How will it play out? What direction will all this go? How will I keep this time and space balanced so none of it collapses?

We'll just see. Hopefully the path will become clear as we move down it.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/intermission-the-end-of-season-1/>

og:title Content: Intermission - The end of season 1 - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023

Blog Post Date: September 25, 2015

Blog Post Content:

I bet most baseball players feel embarrassed striking out.

"I should've let that ball go. "

"I could've focused more."

"I would've hit it if I didn't have a headache."

Should've. Would've. Could've.

Those words make me cringe.

"If things just had been different."

When I was quitting drinking the group I belonged to talked about "awfulizing" things. We over dramatize and irrationalize. And that's why most of us don't move out of our comfort zone.

But all baseball players know that you can't get a hit if you aren't willing to strike out... A lot.

Failing is embarrassing. It's embarrassing that my signatures didn't validate.

But fortunately I've been blessed with a very short term memory. By this time next week I won't even remember what it felt like hearing the bad news. Embarrassment is not a long term feeling.

And as many of you have so kindly stated: Very few people, if any, look down on someone who tried to take a chance.

With that, I'll draw my mayoral aspirations to a close. For now. Season 1 of this series is over.

I will say one last time: it is an unjust law that requires 6 times more validation to run for mayor as one party versus another party. If you aren't a Democrat or Republican you are 16% as important. An answer is nonpartisan primaries. This happens in other states and can happen in Ohio.

That said, this isn't my cause. I know of at least a few attorneys who read this that feel this is an unjust law. This could be your cause.

What I hope this on going series will consistently inspire in all of us is that there is much to be done in our world, country, state, city and home.

I believe the purpose of life is to be a force of light and good.

We all have something we can do to push that purpose further ahead. Even the smallest act towards that goal is great.

Maybe your contribution is to make Ohio primaries nonpartisan.

Maybe your contribution is to be kind and patient to your fellow drivers.

Maybe your contribution is to play a video game with your kid.

These acts together change the world. We go from feeling betrayed to feeling loved.

That's huge.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/wait-what-you-already-met-the-goal/>

og:title Content: Wait! What? You already met the goal??? - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023

Blog Post Date: September 28, 2015

Blog Post Content:

Am I reading that right?

Did you guys already, like in one day, meet the goal for the "No Feet Left Behind" campaign?

I came in this morning thinking about how I was going to inspire you all to donate to the cause.

But it turns out you already did it!

You are AWESOME!!!!

Thank you. Thank you. Thank you!

Now, about the socks...

I'm not a sock expert. I wear black gold toe socks. I'm also not homeless. But I do camp. And my gold toe socks are not ideal for that.

There were some socks on Amazon, Hanes Men's Crew Socks. They are \$10 for 10 pair. But people say they're not as good as they used to be. I guess they're thin.

These socks at Sam's Club, Burlington Men's 10 Pair Pack Comfort Power Crew Sport Sock, get good reviews.

Thick and warm, they say. They're \$12 for 10.

I think I'm going to try those and see what happens. I just ordered them online:

(I got an extra set because my mom wanted me to pick up some for her too.)

Once I get them, I'll try to record the whole process so you can see how it goes.

I'm not sure how you donators will feel about being publicly thanked. So I'm just going to do it anyway:

Daniel Powers: \$25. You rock, Daniel. THANK YOU!!!

Marcia "Got Shirts" Marshall: \$15. The amount of support you have given me is off the hook. I can't believe how amazing you are. THANK YOU!!!

Colleen Foster: \$30. Not only has Colleen donated here. But she also has donated the ENTIRE coffee setup at our weekly small business marketing meetup. Thank you SOOO much Colleen.

There was also an anonymous \$25. Thank you invisible person.

And I donated \$5.

So that makes \$100 in 1 day. AMAZING!

I have 100 pairs of socks coming. I'm trying to think of some nice way to give them to these people. I'd like to wrap them up or something. If you have any ideas let me know in the comments below.

I'll video the whole journey. So keep an eye out for that.

THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU!!!!

If you'd like to donate to this cause it's not too late. You can do that here:

The more money we get, the more socks we can get.

But you should know that you all have already blown me away with your generosity. I can't thank you enough.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/somebody-is-going-to-get-a-shit-ton-of-socks-out-of-this-mayoral-race/>
og:title Content: Somebody is going to get a shit ton of socks out of this mayoral race - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023
Blog Post Date: September 27, 2015

Blog Post Content: I just heard Rocky tell her friend Holly that on the phone. I've been told by several homeless people that they always need socks. Homeless people are constantly walking. Their socks wear out, get wet and get really dirty. If it's socks they want, it's socks they'll get. Do you like socks? Are you wearing socks right this minute? Do you hate when your socks get wet? Or your big toe razor blade toe nail keeps cutting through the front of your sock like it wants to escape? And then your whole day is ruined because you can't stop obsessing over your big toe sticking out of your sock. Have you ever worn your socks for so long that people get quiet and start backing away when you take your shoes off? Then you know the beauty of what a brand new pair of socks is like. Help that guy you walk past as you go to work have a little pride on his feet. Who knows. Maybe he'll get a new pair of socks and realize his life needs to change. Maybe he'll decide he needs to get off the bath salts. Maybe he'll decide that he's better than just standing on the corner with a sign all day. Maybe he'll decide to go apply for a job at Burger King. He'll start mopping the floors. Then he'll take over the fries. Then one day Sally calls off and someone needs to run the cash register. No one else is available. So he steps up and takes over the cash register. He quickly gets countless call in reviews as one of the most amazing cashiers to ever take a burger order. He then gets a job at corporate headquarters as the head of customer service. 5 years later the board of directors selects him to be the CEO of Burger King. Burger King then goes on to dominate McDonald's. The Whopper becomes the true king of burgers. And it was all because he got a fresh pair of new socks. You can change the destiny of Burger King corporate profits and allow the true best tasting burger become the #1 burger in the world by donating a few dollars to the "No Feet Left Behind" Go Fund Me campaign here: <https://www.gofundme.com/akronsocks> Would you please consider giving a few dollars to help the feet of some of our homeless friends? You'll probably change the course of all of society by helping out here. Just go here and donate a buck or two: <https://www.gofundme.com/akronsocks>

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/day-106-im-out-and-im-sorry-on-the-road-to-mayor/>
og:title Content: Day 106: I'm Out and I'm Sorry - On The Road To Mayor - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023
Blog Post Date: September 23, 2015

Blog Post Content:
The verdict was decided today by the Summit County Board of Elections: Not enough of my 1086 signatures were deemed valid.
Most of the reasons were either because they:

Weren't registered.
Not the correct address.

That was the fatal flaw of my strategy. Most of my time was spent with the homeless. Apparently they have a hard time remembering if they were officially registered as a voter or where they lived when they were registered.

I have a very difficult time with accepting defeat. I always like to play to win.
But mostly I'm really sorry that I let you down.

I had big plans of trying to get people excited about the election. About trying to bring the values of Bernie Sanders to the Akron mayoral race.

I wanted to give you something that is new and interesting to vote for (or even against). I just wanted to give you another option for mayor.

I also wanted to give a voice to the issues so often ignored or sidelined:

27% poverty.
Less jobs in Summit County than in the year 2000.
Countless abandoned homes.
Countless homeless people.

I wanted to be a voice for the voiceless.
And I'm sorry to say but I suspect those issues will largely disappear from this mayoral race.
You will hear a lot about:

Water and sewer bills increasing.
Watching what the EPA decides to approve with our sewer system.
Getting an Arena.
Increasing property taxes.

Those will be the big talking points until November.
But I don't believe this is the end for me.
In many ways I think this is just the beginning. In fact, running for mayor will likely become a footnote in where I think we can go from here.
Not being on the ballot for mayor frees me to do many things that would not be "mayoral."
You should know that I'm a huge fan of Nonviolent Civil Disobedience.
I very well might be able to raise awareness on the issues that are important to me better than if I was running for mayor.
We simply cannot have the epidemic we have of poverty, homelessness and abandoned homes that we have.
This is where I'm heading next.
Being on this journey has opened my eyes to many things in Akron that aren't right.
I feel like I have a new found awareness and cause for my life.
So, again, I'm sorry I failed you. That was not my intention.
But please don't write me off. Together I truly believe we can do some amazing things on our own, outside of government.
Thank you for all of your love and support. That was the most overwhelming part of all this. You all are so amazing.
Please keep an eye out for where we can go next. I think it might even be cooler than from where we came.
I love you,
Sage
Photo by Shane Wynn.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/day-104-perpetual-not-knowing-on-the-road-to-mayor/>
og:title Content: Day 104 - Perpetual Not Knowing - On The Road To Mayor - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023
Blog Post Date: September 22, 2015

Blog Post Content:
Fortunately, the next chapter of this journey is near.
This Wednesday, September 23, at 10am the Board of Elections will determine if any of the Independent Candidates will make it onto the November 3 General Election ballot.
There are 3 possible Independents that potentially could get on the ballot.

Me
Bill Melver
Stephen Muhammad

Both Bill and Stephen were the nicest surprises for me during this process.
I've learned that being a Democrat in Akron politics has nothing to do with Democratic ideals. It's just code for "establishment." They don't discuss poverty or homelessness or hunger or even schools to much extent.
That was one of the saddest surprises of this process.
But the Independents are all about the people. They care about the little people.
I can't yet comment on what kind of leaders Bill or Stephen would be. But I definitely can say that if they became mayor they would care about the weakest in our community.
If you are a progressive PLEASE take some time learning about any Independent that may get on the ballot.
Which leads me to my 3 possible outcomes on Wednesday:

I get on the ballot. I've been spending a considerable amount of time strategizing a path to victory. I believe very strongly that I can't ask anyone else to spend time or money on my campaign if even I don't think I can win. I believe I have a couple paths to victory. I can't discuss them at this point. But I sincerely believe I've got some options.

I get denied. At that moment I can go on with my life. But here's the thing: I don't think I'll ever be quite the same again. This process has changed me in a very positive way. The homeless have really touched me. If my political career doesn't go on from here I've got some sketches in my mind as to how I could move ahead with helping the homeless.

It's a tie. This is the worst possible outcome, in my mind. 2 Democrats vote one way and 2 Republicans vote another way. It is all then sent to the Secretary of State who will make the tie breaking decision. That probably will take a couple weeks. I hate this possible outcome because so much is up in the air. Unless you have another idea, the campaign will probably continue to slowly simmer as the election gets closer and closer.

Unfortunately, I think #3 is the the most likely.

But it is what it is. The nice thing of right now is that it is all out of my hands. I can do nothing but wait till Wednesday.

With that limbo state I'll leave you with Nyan Cat - The 10 hour version. Enjoy!

<https://youtu.be/wZZ7oFKsKzY>

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/why-i-really-want-you-to-vote-for-the-marijuana-bill/>

og:title Content: Why I really want you to vote for the marijuana bill... - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023

Blog Post Date: October 3, 2015

Blog Post Content:

There is one prevailing reason most people I know don't like Issue 3 that will be on the ballot on Tuesday, November 3: It creates a monopoly.

In fact, here is the text you will read on the ballot:

Issue 3 Grants a monopoly for the commercial production and sale of marijuana for recreational and medicinal purposes Proposed Constitutional Amendment Proposed by Initiative Petition To add Section 12 of Article XV of the Constitution of the State of Ohio. A majority yes vote is necessary for the amendment to pass.

The amendment would create 10 Marijuana Growth, Cultivation and Extraction (MGCE) facilities. Each of these MGCE's have an investor. And each investor was required to put in \$2 million for the campaign.

You will also see Issue 2:

Issue 2 Anti-monopoly amendment; protects the initiative process from being used for personal economic benefit Proposed Constitutional Amendment Proposed by Joint Resolution of the General Assembly Proposing to amend Section 1e of Article II of the Constitution of the State of Ohio. A majority yes vote is necessary for the amendment to pass.

The Secretary of State has already said that if Issue 2 passes then Issue 3 will be voided.

So if you vote for Issue 2 but Issue 3 (marijuana) passes you will be voiding the validity of Issue 3. Get it? You will be saying "I can't vote on any bill that allows monopolies."

If there is one thing I have learned in my attempted run as mayor it is that law makers use the law to trip you up and manipulate you.

Do I like that only 10 people can grow marijuana? NO.

But is it a good place to start? YES.

There is no reason to believe we can't get that changed down the road.

There is only one reason not to vote for Issue 3: Monopolies.

But there are endless reason to vote YES on Issue 3:

It's estimated that marijuana sales would generate more than \$550 million in Ohio tax revenue, 85 percent of which would be given to local government for needs such as infrastructure repair, economic development and public safety.

It makes marijuana safer by regulating it like alcohol. Street drugs are especially dangerous because you never know what is in them.

I personally know people that suffer from a HUGE amount of pain that would like to be able to use marijuana to help them feel better.

Cancer patients report eating more and calming their stomach by using marijuana.

We are seeing that the War on Drugs isn't working.

Prohibition didn't work with alcohol and it's not working with marijuana.

Property owners of the MGCE's agreed to let the 300 people they expect to employ unionize and collectively bargain.

1,159 stores will be available for people to own and run in Ohio.

You will be able to have four flowering marijuana plants in your house.

You will be able purchase, possess, transport, use, and share up to 1 ounce of marijuana for personal use.

Marijuana is an easy way to target minorities on the street.

Whites and blacks use marijuana at about the same levels but blacks are FOUR TIMES more likely to be arrested for having pot.

We aren't arresting drug king pins. We are arresting minorities with a small amount of pot.

7 million people were busted with having pot from 2001 to 2010.

In 2010 cops busted people with marijuana every 37 seconds.

Anti-Marijuana laws hurt people in severe pain, cancer patients, blacks and Hispanics.

We need to get off the dime on the insane marijuana laws we have in this country.

Issue 3 is our chance.

Help the poor, weak and minorities of our state.

PLEASE

VOTE YES ON ISSUE 3

VOTE NO ON ISSUE 2

I used these sites for my research:

Marijuana Arrests by the Numbers | American Civil Liberties Union

Ohio Initiated Monopolies Amendment, Issue 2 (2015) - Ballotpedia

Ohio Marijuana Legalization Initiative, Issue 3 (2015) - Ballotpedia

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/the-mac-is-bac/>

og:title Content: The Mac is Bac! - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023

Blog Post Date: October 2, 2015

Blog Post Content:

You may remember the story of our iMac being stolen from our office by a homeless guy I was helping.

The interesting part of that story is that all Apple products have gps tracking on them.

So I've had an alert set to notify me when it came back online.

Sure enough, it came online yesterday.

Greg (in the picture), a super awesome cop and I went over to see if we could find it.

It is now right back at its home after having a very exciting journey.

My guy sold it to one guy who sold it at least one more time.

We picked it up in a pretty rough neighborhood.

The guy who bought it had a really nicely decked out house.

Inlaid hardwood floors

Large salt water fish tank

New furniture

Beautiful dining room table with complete China and silverware settings.

He said he paid \$300 for it and didn't seem to mind one bit giving it up.

So what does it all mean?

Maybe it means nothing.

Or maybe it's a lesson the world wants to teach us.

I know this: There are 2 ways to eliminate your enemies.

One way is to just eliminate them. Put them in jail or kill them.

Another way is to convert them. Stop thinking they are your enemy. Forgive them. Love them.

If I were to ever believe a higher power wanted to teach us something, I believe it is this: We are not individuals. We are one entity. We are a single biological being.
We have to work together. We can't ignore or hate or persecute our fellow people and expect to achieve enlightenment.
Just as it makes no sense to hate our little toe, it makes no sense to hate any other human being.
We can't know when God shows up in our lives. God takes many forms to teach us and to help us grow.
If you believe Jesus turned water into wine then you have to believe it's possible he took that iMac away so he could see how we'd react.
That's what God does. He's trying to teach us to have faith, to not be afraid. To love everyone and everything.
We all have a choice: Do we follow Jesus or not?
Do we stay angry? Do we stay afraid?
If, after this story, you still believe there is "us" and "them" then there will probably never be anything I or anyone else can do to convince you otherwise.
You probably will never understand what the Bible meant when it said:

But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you;

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/akron-press-club-a-sourge-on-democracy/>
og:title Content: Akron Press Club - A Scourge On Democracy - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023
Blog Post Date: October 14, 2015

Blog Post Content:

I spent most of the Akron Mayoral debate yesterday just shaking my head.
There are three candidates you will see on the ballot for Akron mayor on November 3.
But the Akron Press Club chose to only let the Democrat and Republican candidates participate in their debate.
I challenge you to tell me one legitimate reason Bill Melver wasn't allowed to be part of the debate... other than the most vile conclusions you can make.
Here are some possible reasons I could come up with that Bill shouldn't be permitted to participate:
The "I'm stupid but well meaning" possible reasons:

The stage was too small for 3 people.
We didn't hear that Bill Melver was on the ballot.
Keeping track of 45 second speeches is hard enough with 2 people. We don't have enough stop watches for 3 people.
An hour and a half is barely enough time to hear the political-speak, vague answers of 2 people, much less 3.
We would have had to get 3 tables because mayoral candidates are like rabid dogs and can't be placed on a single, connected line of wood.

Here are the "I'm small minded, but powerful and you can suck it" possible reasons:

The voice of anyone other than Republicans or Democrats doesn't matter.
Bill Melver isn't a legitimate candidate even though he's on the ballot.
What if Bill Melver actually won because people heard his opinion. People are stupid enough they might actually vote for him and that can't happen.
Irish and African Americans are one thing. But Asian Americans? Come on. Let's not get crazy.

I have truly been thinking of any other reason Bill wasn't given a chance to be heard on the Akron Press Club Mayoral Debate.
The only answers I can come up with are either ignorant or much more dark and insidious.
Bill Melver got over the 372 required signatures to be on the ballot, which is a massive undertaking. Dan and Eddie only needed to get 50.
The Summit County Board of Elections validated his candidacy.

He is as legitimate a candidate as you can get.

The Akron Press Club is an old and backward-minded organization. They are manipulating the entire Democratic process in Akron. It's infuriating.

Don't let the powerful take your power. Spread the word about Bill Melver. Make up your own mind. His key focus is helping those in poverty.

I was inspired to write this as I'm sitting in the "Bridges Out Of Poverty" all day event. It is put on by the United Way to help the community learn about poverty. Bill is sitting in this room with me. Dan isn't. Eddie isn't.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/shoes-for-homeless-kids-11-donations-214-2-days/>

og:title Content: Shoes For Homeless Kids: 11 Donations, \$214, 2 Days - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023

Blog Post Date: October 19, 2015

Blog Post Content:

<https://www.gofundme.com/akronshoes>

Because so much of my work is on email I tend to take an email break over the weekends. Email can get a little overwhelming.

But this Monday morning, today, could possibly make me LOVE email again.

I woke up to a slew of supportive comments on last Friday's post talking about all the homeless kids in our community.

And then I went over to the GoFundMe I set up for shoes for Akron Homeless kids.

I was blown away! 11 different donations. For a total of \$214. All in 2 days! That's just unbelievable.

I actually didn't expect anything. I just quickly put the link at the bottom of that post and went on my way.

Your outpouring of support for this is loud and clear. You were moved by this as much as I was. I can't thank you enough.

I will be posting more about how we can all help the 2200 HOMELESS KIDS IN AKRON.

But for now, this post is about the No Feet Left Behind, Shoes For Akron Homeless Kids GoFundMe.

This is a zero overhead initiative. Other than the small fee GoFundMe takes, 100% of all money received goes to shoes for Akron homeless kids.

There are really affordable shoes on Walmart.com. Here's a pair for under \$5:

If you have a few extra bucks to help the homeless kids of Akron, it would be amazing if you would be willing to check out: <https://www.gofundme.com/akronshoes>

Thank you so much for your support on this. You are making a direct impact on homeless kids in Akron.

Thank you thank you thank you!

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/2200-homeless-kids-in-akron/>

og:title Content: Project RISE in Akron Ohio helps thousands of homeless kids

Blog Post Date: October 16, 2015

Blog Post Content:

When I write these posts I try to come up with a catchy headline.

I try to say something that will make you stop a second and consider clicking into read the rest of the story.

If 2200 homeless kids in Akron sounds about right, sounds like an understandable number, sounds like something you can live with... well please just stop reading. You aren't my audience.

Two thousand two hundred kids will be homeless the 2015-2016 school year in Akron Ohio.

How do I know that? I got to spend some time with the amazing people at Project RISE. They give supplemental educational services to homeless Akron kids.

They helped 1800 homeless kids last year. They expect that number to increase by 400 this year.

It has increased every year since the Great Recession.

Debra Manteghi, the program director, has an incredibly interesting perspective on our communities. She has a front row seat to parts of our community I didn't even know existed.

Here are some quick facts that made an impression on me:

There are nearly 50,000 homeless kids in Ohio.

Roughly 2000 kids are homeless in Akron.

Project R.I.S.E. drives about 100 kids A DAY all over town, no matter where they are currently staying, to keep them going to the same school.

There are 10 shelters in Akron that offer after-school programs.

There are many families who are "doubled up." These are people that don't have housing but are on a waiting list to get into a shelter. So they just move from house to house to house.

A national report (sorry, I can't remember which one) has found that homeless kids tend to do better in public schools.

There is an ongoing increase in drug use and mental health issues with the homeless.

Among industrialized nations, the United States has the largest number of homeless women and children.

84% of families experiencing homelessness are female-headed.

Over 92% of homeless mothers have experienced severe physical and/or sexual abuse during their lifetime.

By age 12, 83% of homeless children had been exposed to at least one serious violent event.

1 of every 4 homeless women is homeless because of violence committed against her.

There is a segment of these kids classified as "unaccompanied youth." They are out there on their own.

Project RISE created "PACT" (Performing Arts Can Teach) where they take homeless families to arts events throughout the city.

Project RISE gives out about 15 monthly bus passes to high school kids every week.

Homeless kids are the fastest growing group of homeless in Akron and America.

Project RISE is the ONLY group solely dedicated to homeless kids in Akron.

This meeting had a profound impact on me.

A: I didn't have any idea of the extent of homeless kids in Akron.

B: I didn't have any idea we had a group as awesome as Project RISE in Akron.

If you would like to learn more, here are a couple links for Project RISE:

Project RISE Website

Project R.I.S.E. on Facebook

Here is their contact information:

Project RISE

70 North Broadway

Room 300

Akron, Ohio 44308

Phone: 330-761-2730

Fax: 330-761-3226

If this inspires you, these are the things they need:

Financial contributions help tremendously.

School supplies

Hygiene items

New underwear

New shoes for boys and girls.

Gift cards. They can only get donated gift cards. Project RISE isn't able to buy them themselves. Smaller increments are better.

Coats.

They have a cloths room where they take these things. So you could just call them or email them and let them know you have some stuff you could give them.

I'm also happy to take stuff if it's easier for you. I'm at 15 Broad St. in Akron.

In keeping with my whole "No Feet Left Behind" concept, I've started a GoFundMe for Shoes for Homeless Kids. \$12 will get them a brand new pair of shoes, which is a HUGE need.

You can learn more here:

Shoes For Homeless Kids - GoFundMe

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/taking-the-monopoly-cartel-propaganda-head-on/>
og:title Content: Taking the Monopoly / Cartel Propaganda Head On - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council
Ward 8 - May 2, 2023
Blog Post Date: October 5, 2015

Blog Post Content:

If you live in Ohio you are probably aware that when you go vote on Tuesday November 3 you will be voting on Issue 3. It's the marijuana initiative.

If you are familiar with the initiative you might also connect with it the words "Monopoly" or even "Cartel". In fact, that is how it will read on the ballot:

Issue 3 Grants a monopoly for the commercial production and sale of marijuana for recreational and medicinal purposes
Proposed Constitutional Amendment
Proposed by Initiative Petition
To add Section 12 of Article XV of the Constitution of the State of Ohio.
A majority yes vote is necessary for the amendment to pass.

This is terminology put forth by people who don't want this to pass (the Republicans in charge).

It might as well read, "Do you REALLY want a monopoly to completely control marijuana?" Of course you don't. I don't either.

A monopoly is "the exclusive possession or control of the supply by one party."

In truth, this bill should read:

"Issue 3 Grants an oligopoly for the commercial production and sale of marijuana."

An oligopoly is "a state of limited competition, in which a market is shared by a small number of producers or sellers."

So, if you will give me one point, I ask you to give me this: the initiative is misleading, and in fact meant to mislead by opponents by using the word "monopoly."

Cartel

This is the definition of a cartel: "an association of manufacturers or suppliers with the purpose of maintaining prices at a high level and restricting competition."

This is simply not what this bill is.

The 10 Marijuana Growth, Cultivation and Extraction (MGCE) facilities would be run independently to prevent collusion, as required by the Sherman Antitrust Act. There would be no vertical integration of marijuana business, meaning that those who cultivated the plants would not also sell directly to the public.

A cartel is price fixing. This is absolutely not what we have here.

It is NOT a cartel.

Oligopoly: yes.

Monopoly or Cartel: no.

So then you have to ask: why should we have an oligopoly?

Shouldn't everyone get the chance to farm and sell marijuana?

We live in a country where oligopolies exist in many, many facets of our lives:

Airlines

Cell phone providers

Cable providers

Gas providers

Alcohol industry

Tobacco industry

Automotive industry

Mass media

Computer and software industry

Smart phones

Steel industry

Oil and gas

Entertainment industry

Oligopolies exist everywhere.

Further more, this is how other state's marijuana initiatives have been setup.

Their leaders just didn't try to emotionally manipulate the ballot by using the word "monopoly."
From this amazing article from NORML, who supports Issue 3

In Massachusetts, for example, those seeking a license to commercially cultivate marijuana were required to put \$500,000 in escrow before their application would even be reviewed. And in Florida, where a medical marijuana bill was approved permitting only low-THC, high CBD marijuana, applicants for one of only five licenses for a cultivation center were required to post a \$5 million performance bond and pay a \$100,000 non-refundable application fee, and demonstrate they have been in the nursery business in Florida for a minimum of 30 years. Few average citizens in either state would have the ability to participate in the profitable legal marijuana market, yet we did not hear a lot of protest from citizens in either state.

We are just being manipulated by conservatives who don't want this to pass. And Issue 2 (which required no signatures what-so-ever) will negate Issue 3 if you vote for Issue 2.

I'm telling you, in my journey trying to run for mayor, I saw first hand how the balloting process is set up to manipulate the system in the favor of those who run it. Republicans run Ohio. Republicans don't want marijuana to pass in Ohio.

If you are a conservative, I get it. You don't want people smoking pot.

If you are a Christian, I sort of get it. You are worried about the law of God. Although, everything I read about Jesus is to love and take care of the weakest of our community, above all else. But whatever.

If you are a liberal, I don't get it. You like government controlled entities. You like smoking pot. You think it's insane that the conservative agenda is telling you how to live your life and how to think and act. You have taken the bait put out by conservatives that this is a monopoly. You are siding with the very people who don't like your values and don't want you to get what you want. Don't let the conservatives win again. Now is your chance to make Ohio a leader in progressive thought. Don't think you'll just naturally see another marijuana bill on the next ballot. It's not that easy.

We need to pass this initiative in 2015! It takes an incredible amount of money and organization to get as far as we are today. Other groups have tried for years to get on the ballot and have failed.

VOTE YES ON ISSUE 3

VOTE NO ON ISSUE 2

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/a-completely-selfish-post-please-read/>
og:title Content: Wandering Aesthetics Perform at 15 Broad Street in Akron Ohio
Blog Post Date: October 29, 2015

Blog Post Content:

This is a really selfish post. So forgive me ahead of time. But Im going to gloat a bit here. I can't help myself. About 6 years ago, during a hellish part of the Great Recession, Rocky and I bought 15 Broad Street in Akron.

This was probably the most terrifying business move weve ever made.

But now I count it as one of the best business moves weve ever made.

It is a magical building. I cant believe we own it. Its super beautiful and has a super amazing story.

Weve had several people come in and talk about being born in our building. It was once Green Cross Hospital in the 50s.

I see the building as a palette. Its a place where people can come together and create something out of nothing.

That's my vision. And it's happening.

Many things have happened there since Rocky and I have been the stewards of the building.

Recently we have offered the lower level of the building to artists, free of charge. Their payment is to help make the lower level cool again.

Because of this we are kicking off a whole new era of the building.

Our building, 15 Broad Street in Akron will be hosting Wandering Aesthetics. They will have a series of solo storytelling performances in our building of Boogers, Witches and Haints: Spooky Stories from Appalachia. Im SO excited about this.

In 2013, Wandering Aesthetics co-artistic directors completed a thru-hike of the 2,185.9-mile Appalachian Trail. But they didnt come back aloneâ€

Master Storyteller Kyle Jozsa leads audiences on a spine-tingling journey into the heart of Appalachia.

Intertwining real-life experiences with campfire stories collected on their adventure, Jozsa conjures Boogers, Witches and Haints off the AT and into the imagination. There are many chills, thrills, and laughs sprinkled throughout this hour-long solo performance.

The theater company also will have a special showing of its interactive, family-friendly production of Scared Silly on Nov. 8 at 2 p.m.

Performance dates and times are Oct. 29 and 30, and Nov. 5 through 7 at 8 p.m.

For details and tickets, visit <http://www.watheatre.com/bwh> online. Reservations can also be made by calling 3309905138.

Tickets will be available at the door - but seating is limited so pre-orders are recommended.

I haven't seen it yet. But it sounds amazing.

The first showing will be Thursday, October 29. That's tonight!

The way we make Akron as awesome as possible is to support all the awesome people in the city.

Coming to this show is a great way to help stand behind the creative class of Akron. They are incredibly important to the fabric of our city.

So please come. And check out this building. I think you'll love it. I happen to think it's the coolest building in Akron.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/who-i-endorse-for-akron-mayor/>

og:title Content: Who I Endorse For Akron Mayor - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023

Blog Post Date: October 25, 2015

Blog Post Content:

As I attempted to run for Akron mayor, I was given a unique front row seat to the candidates.

I also got a lot of interesting off the record insight into these people too.

There is a part of me that really wants to tell you all the gossip I heard. Much of what I've heard I have no proof of. I'm not an investigative journalist. But much of it sounds really plausible.

You are fed so much bullshit by all the politicians in your life that I think it would be really nice to just level with you.

That's what Edward Snowden has been for us. Love him or hate him: at least we were given the truth for once.

But ultimately I'm probably not going to tell you the things I've heard out there. Why? Because it's not going to matter.

Dan Horrigan will be our next mayor.

Our taxes will go up because we're massively in debt.

We will get an arena downtown.

Our water bills will substantially increase.

Our population will continue to decline.

There is nothing we can do about those things because there is too much momentum behind Dan Horrigan.

And Dan is not a visionary.

I'm sorry. I wish there was something more hopeful I could tell you. But there is not.

In fact, the leaders of our cities across the country are mostly small minded. They got into politics because it beats working for a living.

I wish the world was full of inspiring leaders like Bernie Sanders and even Donald Trump. But it's not.

The scariest/saddest thing I've learned about our world on this journey is how depressingly void we are of good leaders. The best people are in business because money and capitalism are the actual leaders of America.

*American government is just a shadow of business.

But I will share a little piece of gossip I heard on the street.

*I'll tell you a little bit about what I learned about YOU.

I got to talk to many, many people in Akron. That was amazing. I grew to love being on the street with my sign. It was almost a drug for me. I loved being with you.

Talking to you gave me some pretty cool insight into your awareness of your government and politics in general.

For the most part I talked to people that were highly engaged in voting and the issues. Other people didn't have much interest in talking with me.

So the people I talked with were probably the most politically aware in our community. What I can tell you is: you have almost no idea what is going on in government. Its not your fault for the most part. You are legitimately trying to understand what is going on. The problem is the information you are receiving is being manipulated from top to bottom. From what you are told about issues and people on a ballot, to what you actually get to vote on on a ballot, to how something is positioned and written on a ballotâ€! You are being played, manipulated and politicized from top to bottom. Being an educated voter is almost impossible. Your news sources endorse issues and politicians. So they are biased and manipulative. Business throws tons of money at candidates and issues which is then given to marketers that know how to manipulate your thoughts. There is almost no unbiased information out there. And then when it does come out it looks just like the biased information. And then finally, even if you somehow learned the truth, youll find that it all leads to candidates that are just lazy, self-serving and corrupt. It sucks. So, ultimately, it doesnt matter who I think you should vote for mayor. Dan Horrigan and all his baggage will be our next mayor. I told you that on June 16, the 8th day into trying to run for mayor.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/who-are-we/>
og:title Content: Who Are We? - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023
Blog Post Date: November 11, 2015

Blog Post Content:
I'm 44 years old.
I've spent this first half of my life collecting.
Collecting things like:

- An amazing wife
- A mind-blowing kid
- A mediocre business
- A couple properties
- Various cars
- A pop-up camper

The wife and kid part are perfect. I will tell anyone that asks: I won the lottery with Rocky. I could not ask for a better nuclear family. I often walk into our house and feel like I'm stepping into a Norman Rockwell painting. But I have a choice about all the other things on that list. They all could be better.

- A better business
- More properties
- More and better cars
- A better camper

And I'm sure I could add to that list. The funny thing about those things are that they are literally containers. They are just containers. You put things in them. This isn't even a metaphor. You actually put people and things in these things. So, the question is: As I enter into the second half of my life, do I want to continue building containers? It's certainly compelling. And when you are in the middle of all your containers you can easily see how getting more and better containers makes sense. But imagine this: Imagine you are about to be born onto Earth into a family. The person who coordinates that process is making small talk with you waiting for your soon-to-be mom's uterus to be ready to pop you out. This baby air traffic controller casually says to you: "So, what do you want to do once you get down there?"

You shout with excitement! "I want to make boxes!"
That seems like an unlikely answer you would have.
Some more possible answers could be:

I want to be a serial killer.
I want to invent things.
I want to experience as much of Earth as possible.
I want to reduce suffering of others.
I want to be as rich as possible.
I want to be rock star.
I want to be an actor.
I want to be an astronaut.
I want to be an entrepreneur.
I WANT TO BE SOMETHING!

But that's not what we do. Most of us spend our lives trying to be comfortable and safe. We make a few little boxes and then curl up and hide in them until the day we die.
I find it hard to believe that's what our spiritual selves ever wanted. Or even what God wanted.
Whatever God you can imagine, I can't believe that being would say to you, "Well, you're the first creature on planet earth to think and have consciousness. If I were you I think I'd strive to be safe and secure, don't do too much to rock the boat and try to stretch out that existence for as long as you possibly can."
Would any creator ever say that?
Have you ever asked a kid what they want to be?
They always tell you fantastical things:

Firefighter
Astronaut
President

We smile knowing that will never happen. They'll just end up like us, if all goes well: Comfortable and safe in a little box.
But what if it's the kids that still remember that conversation they had with the baby air traffic controller before they started their journey on earth?
What if that's the truth?
I got an amazing email this morning. Here's what it said:
Dear Sage,
Thank you for posting the information about Project Rise. My family recently learned about this organization through your Facebook post. This past weekend my son, Aidan, celebrated his 12th birthday and collected over \$200 in gift cards to various stores to donate to Project Rise. We just wanted to say thank you for your passion for the children of Akron and their families and this great cause.
Sincerely,
Karen
Aidan is the leader we all need. He remembers why we came to earth in the first place.
Our political leaders and business leaders are not true leaders. They are self serving and vindictive.
If we continue to look to our politicians and our business leaders for hope, direction and inspiration we will all just die safely and comfortably in our little box. And truthfully, that's what they all want. Mindless cows just doing what they tell us to do. We are much easier to control that way.
Aidan is the leader we need to follow.
He remembers why we were put on this planet. We wanted to be something. REMEMBER???
At 44 years old I'm getting a glimpse of a flashback I had with that baby air traffic controller. I wanted be a small, but powerful force for good in my little city. That's all. And that's enough.
Thank you Aidan for helping me live that dream. Your actions make my heart swell with pride and honor. I'll keep working and I hope you do too.
I love you.
Sage

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/um-wait-what/>

og:title Content: Um... Wait. What???? - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023

Blog Post Date: November 24, 2015

Blog Post Content: Yesterday, a large, but simple box came to our office from Paris Hatters in San Antonio Texas.

That was strange because almost all boxes we get come from Amazon, or recently from Wal-Mart for the shoes we bought for the homeless kids of Akron.

I would have remembered buying something from a hat shop in Texas.

That would have been memorable because I have a thing for Texas hats. All my cowboy hats come from Texas. I do some social media training in March down there. That's the exact same time as the Houston Rodeo. I usually pick up a hat from there.

If you've never bought Western wear, like hats or boots, there's one thing you should know: They aren't cheap.

They are all typically made in America and are really high quality.

The next time you see a rodeo, realize that cowboy is probably wearing \$1000 in boots and hat. And who knows what he paid for that belt buckle.

I am not a cowboy hat expert. But I know 2 things:

1: The quality of a felt or straw cowboy hat is gauged by the "X" marking. The higher the X in a felt hat the more fur is in it. You can easily feel the difference.

The last felt hat I bought, I could only afford a 3X. The sales lady was trying to talk me into a 9X. But it was out of my price range.

2: Stetson is the brand everybody wants. They 've been in business since 1865. This year, 2015, is their 150th year anniversary. Stetson is the creme of the crop. I've never had a Stetson brand cowboy hat before because, again, they are out of my price range.

I tell you that because when I opened that box this is what I found:

Not one but TWO Stetson 20X cowboy hats straight from Texas.

When you know what you're looking at when you're looking at something like this, you suddenly become speechless.

My hands get a little trembly just thinking about it.

The fur on these hats is as soft as the fur on a dog's ears. I make everyone touch it.

The other amazing thing about these is that they aren't meant to be worn just indoors. You wear these things in the rain and snow and sun. They are meant to be worn!

But here's the thing: There was no note. They didn't say who they were from. They just appeared out of nowhere.

I don't have any idea why I got them or who could have gotten them for me.

But I have a theory:

You should know that I am an armchair admirer of physics and particularly Quantum Mechanics. That's the study of super small things. I'm no expert by any stretch of the imagination. But I love following what these scientists are studying.

Without going into it too much, you should know that there is something called the The Double-Slit Experiment. It proves that observing particles will instantly change them. And this mere act of observation that causes the change happens faster than the speed of light. It happens almost instantly. In fact it might be instant. But our atomic clocks can't track to that level of accuracy yet. This would be the case if the two particles were in the same room or 13 billion light years away from each other.

It suggests that there is a DEEP connection between things that we probably don't yet understand.

Meaning: We all are likely deeply connected at the atomic level.

That Meaning: When we do something it is likely to make something else happen even though there is no observable connection.

So what does this have to do with these hats?

I'm not sure. Ha!

What little understanding I have of physics leads me to believe that maybe it is because I'm trying to be a small force of good in my community with helping the homeless in Akron.

I'm certainly not saying I deserve something as nice as 2 Stetson cowboy hats. But I will say that I

graciously accept them and am wildly thankful for them.
I will wear them always. And they will remind me that we are all connected. That we are in this together. All of us are together. No one can think that they are isolated from anyone else. And therefore, when we ignore those in suffering we are ignoring our own suffering.
When we help those in need we are helping our own need.
We aren't saving others. We are literally saving ourselves.
I will keep working.
Thank you. I love you.
Sage

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/harvest-dinner-for-local-families-experiencing-homelessness/>
og:title Content: Harvest Dinner for Local Families Experiencing Homelessness - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023
Blog Post Date: November 12, 2015

Blog Post Content:

Probably the most influential post I've ever written was discussing the 2200 homeless kids that are in Akron and the only group that is solely responsible for helping them: Project R.I.S.E. (Realizing Individual Strength through Education).

You, as I, were incredibly moved by these kids and Project RISE.

I wanted to let you know about an annual dinner they do at Akron's Salvation Army.

It's the 8th Annual Harvest Dinner for Local Families Experiencing Homelessness

The evening includes arts and literacy activities, parent-child activities, Thanksgiving dinner, giveaways, and entertainment. It's an amazing event.

All the tables are all decked out in Thanksgiving festivities. There will be a "living history" presentation and a lot more.

Here is the write-up from last year's event: Harvest Dinner 2014.

I don't need to tell you, I'm sure, that if someone doesn't deserve to be homeless it's thousands of kids.

The Salvation Army and Project RISE understand that better than most of us. They do a huge amount of work to make these kids' lives a little more pleasant.

I was excited in sharing this with you because I thought you might be interested in knowing about it.

I also am SUPER excited to let you know that I'll be giving away many of the shoes you paid for through Go Fund Me. You so far have donated \$1,185 to getting brand new shoes for homeless kids.

The shoes are pouring in. I've ordered 80 pairs for boys and 80 pairs for girls. I paid just over \$5/pair for the shoes. (I am a super fiscally responsible person and take your donations very seriously.)

I'll also update my accounting spreadsheet soon and share that with you. I want to be totally transparent with all of this. You should also know that all of the donations you do through me are ZERO overhead donations. Other than a small fee that Go Fund Me charges, every penny goes to the project that's being funded.

You can see some of the shoes in this video:

So I'll be giving those away to the kids during the dinner.

I checked with Project RISE to see if they needed anything for the event. It looks like they have all the food and all the volunteers.

But they are still in need of some money for the special projects that will be happening during the dinner.

They need to purchase instructional supplies and that sort of thing.

If you are interested in helping with that they would be incredibly grateful.

I've set up a GoFundMe specifically for this dinner.

Any amount of money means a lot. Seriously, a dollar means you are thinking of these kids.

If you don't have the money then please don't feel obligated.

But say you made coffee at home tomorrow morning instead of going to Starbucks. There's \$5.

Or you cooked at home instead of taking the family to McDonalds. There's \$20.

Any amount would be amazing. Together we are going to cure homelessness in Akron. (Did I tell you that? No? Hmm. I meant to. But yeah. That will be happening. More on that later.)

We lift the weakest among us up one inch, one person at a time.

Start by donating what you can here:

If you'd like more information, here are two awesome people at Project RISE:
Rachel Breece, Child & Family Development Specialist
(330) 761-2969 /
Debra Manteghi, Program Manager & APS District Homeless Education Liaison
(330) 761-2969 /

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/one-last-marijuana-plea-yes-on-issue-3/>
og:title Content: One Last Marijuana Plea - Yes on Issue 3 - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023
Blog Post Date: November 2, 2015

Blog Post Content:

I know why most of you say you don't like Issue 3.

"It's a monopoly. I mean it will say that on the ballot. So it must be one."

It is not a monopoly.

In 2009 you voted to allow only four casinos in Ohio.

By definition you were in support of a much greater monopoly then.

But for some reason now having 10 growers, and the ability for individuals grow their own pot and to have over a 1000 dispensaries is a greater affront to your capitalistic sensibilities.

No. You don't smoke pot. Your friends don't smoke pot. You are uncomfortable with pot.

So you rationalize voting no on issue 3 because it is a "monopoly."

Last week a very prominent artist visited me.

He talked to me about the cancer that continually comes back and fills up his abdomen with pain. Marijuana reduces his nausea, reduces his pain and makes him want to eat.

I personally know several people that rely on pot to help them with their pain and suffering.

And then there's the minorities.

Africa Americans and Hispanics are an easy target for law enforcement.

The war on pot smokers has become absurd and grotesque.

You might say, "Well let's wait till next year when we get a better bill."

I believe there won't be another pot bill in Ohio for at least 10 years.

The Republicans that run Ohio don't want this. They will claim that voting down Issue 3 was a mandate by the people that Ohio doesn't want that evil drug in our good state.

Remember, we voted to not allow gay marriage. Ohio is leaning very conservative right now.

This bill is fine.

But most importantly, voting Yes on Issue 3 is supporting our sick, our poor and our weak.

Please vote YES on Issue 3.

And vote no on Issue 2. That was just a sneaky tool put on the ballot by the Republicas to negate issue 3 in case you voted for it.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/ohio-aclu-supports-issue-3-and-so-do-i/>
og:title Content: Ohio ACLU Supports Issue 3 and So Do I - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023
Blog Post Date: October 19, 2015

Blog Post Content: You may wonder why I care about a marijuana bill when my focus is the homeless.

It's simple: the war on drugs is an easy way to hurt minorities of all kinds, including the homeless. Issue 3 will stop this.

Please vote YES on Issue 3 and stop letting the law hurt the weakest in our communities.

Here is the letter I just received from Christine Link, Executive Director of the Ohio ACLU.

Dear Sage:

Will this mean fewer black people will be sent to jail for trumped up crimes?

There has been a lot of response about our positions on ballot issues next month, and I'd like to address the elephant in the room: Issue 3. The board and staff of the ACLU spent a good deal of time debating Issue 3 and it came down to three important factors. I can't recount all of those discussions for you but will try to give you a fair representation of the salient points that brought us to our decisions.

1. The War on Drugs has been a total failure, militarized our country, and corrupted police, resulting in
 - a. Increased racial profiling
 - b. Abuses through stop and frisk tactics, and
 - c. Rendered many thousands of Americans unable to vote, hold a job, live in public housing or receive college scholarships.

2. It is already very difficult to get an issue on the ballot in Ohio. This chance won't come along again soon. Various groups have tried and failed for 18 years to get to this point. Partner Issue 2, will make it just about impossible for any citizens group to put forth an issue.

3. Finally, one of our board members said, Will this mean fewer black people will be sent to jail for trumped up crimes?

Yes. It. Will.

Don't be fooled. The monopoly issue was devised by legislators to split the pro-legalization vote. With ten grow sites and the ability to add additional sites, this is less a monopoly than your cable or internet, your grocery store, and your pharmaceutical company. Marijuana production and distribution will be a multi-million dollar business. This won't be executed by family farms selling product at roadside stands.

If politicians were at all concerned about the concentration of capital in the hands of a few and the sanctity of the Ohio Constitution, they would have never introduced Issue 2.

ACLU has long supported marijuana legalization, and a win here in Ohio will profoundly change the debate across the country.

I urge you to vote Yes, No, Yes. Yes on 1, No on 2, Yes on 3. Vote to preserve our democracy, vote to keep our children out of jail.

Sincerely,

Christine Link Executive Director

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/ep-1-why-i-like-abusing-myself-making-an-entrepreneur/>

og:title Content: Ep 1. Why I like abusing myself. Making an Entrepreneur - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023

Blog Post Date: February 5, 2016

Blog Post Content:

When we first started SageRock I told everybody how great owning your own company was.

"You should start your own company," I'd say like some kid who just discovered gummy worms.

I don't say that any more.

In fact, while I don't tell people not to start their own company, I rarely encourage them if they tell me they're thinking about it.

I'm pretty sure there have been multiple times I've been on the PTSD spectrum.

Wondering if we'll make payroll has happened so often I don't even get stressed about it any more.

I regularly don't pay myself.

Stuff gets stolen regularly. (a projector walked out the door this week. Like... I have the person on tape walking out the door with it.)

Huge parts of my income are tied to a few clients that could easily cancel at any moment.

I am quite sure I make less money than if I went to work for someone else.

There have been times when I didn't know where we were going to get the money to buy toilet paper.

I get so angry sometimes I can't sleep.

I get so scared sometimes I can't sleep.

I'm on anti-depressant medication.

I used to drink so much that I had to get help and cut myself off altogether.

I'm not even sure I'm really any good at running my own business.

I could go on and on with that list.
But I'll tell you this: For me... it's all worth it.
There is one reason I am an entrepreneur: FREEDOM.
I'm not talking the kind of freedom you may think. My work day is 10-12 hours. I often work at nights and on the weekends. I can't get it out of my mind most of the time.
I like to joke that the kind of freedom an entrepreneur has is the freedom to work all the time.
It's not freedom from work. It's freedom of work. (Like religion. See what I did there?)
I have the freedom to do the work I want to do, when I want to do it. (Basically all the time.)
I can make any choice I want to make. It might be right. It might be wrong. And when I make the wrong choice I get the full brunt of the consequences. But it was my choice, not someone else's choice.
That's the kind of freedom I'm talking about.
I would rather deal with that entire list of crap up there than to have to deal with someone telling me how to run my business. That is a cage I'm not sure I could survive in.
Basically, I'm a spoiled juvenile delinquent that doesn't like to be told what to do. And I just get more so the older I get.
Wanting to be an entrepreneur probably has more to do about my insecurities and shortcomings than anything particularly great about my personality.
But it's who I am and I'm cool with that.
I try to never hurt anyone. I try to be kind. I try to be a good community member. I try to be a good dad and husband. But after that I get real immature, real quick.
My immature internal teenager self is always just below the skin. In my head I'm in my own room listening to Nirvana playing Call of Duty on my Xbox. I do it how I want to do it, when I want to do it.
"You can't tell me what to do, dad!"
That's why I'm an entrepreneur.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/making-an-entrepreneur/>
og:title Content: Making an Entrepreneur - Intro - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023
Blog Post Date: February 5, 2016

Blog Post Content: Sure. I stole that title from "Making a Murderer." There's a reason for my plagiarism. But that's a story for another time.
This is my written documentary of (hopefully) making a successful company.
My plan is to outline how it's going, how much money I'm making, how much money I'm spending and what I come across as I go along.
In doing this, you might be able to get some ideas about how you could either start a company or grow your existing company.
I'm hoping you'll find this interesting to follow and also learn from.
So... that's the intro. Stay tuned for the first episode.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/heres-the-biggest-thing-you-can-do-for-homeless-kids-right-now/>
og:title Content: Here's the biggest thing you can do for homeless kids right now... - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023
Blog Post Date: February 2, 2016

Blog Post Content:
How much money do you think the national government spends on helping homeless kids?
Before you guess, let me give you some budgets the government does spend money on:

Printing Costs (\$930,000,000)
Maintaining Vacant Buildings (\$175,000,000)
118 Medical Clinics that never existed (\$35,000,000)
European Legislators (\$2,600,000)

I get it. America is a big place. It's easy for money to get lost.
You should also know that 1.6 million kids are homeless this year in the United States.
So, if you took the Vacant Building fund and gave it to each homeless kid, they would each get \$109 for the

year. That would be one item on the McDonald's Dollar menu every 3 days.
Now... back to my question. How much do you think the federal government spends on homeless kids?
There are only two federal programs dedicated specifically to homeless children and youth:

Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (RHYA) programs help prevent exploitation of youth on the streets and support reconnection to their families, schools, employment, and housing options.
McKinney-Vento Homeless Children and Youth Program (EHCY) helps to ensure that all children and youth have equal access to the same free and appropriate public education, including preschool education as non-homeless children and youth.

This year EHCY got \$65 million and RHYA got \$114 million.
Combined, that's just \$4 million more than we spend maintaining our vacant buildings. Vacant buildings are really important and need at least as much money as 1.6 million homeless kids living in the richest country in the world. We get it. Save the vacant buildings!!

But here's what we are asking:

We are asking for the government to fund EHCY at the maximum it is permitted: \$85 million. That's a 21% increase. That's just over what we spend in 2 days fighting ISIS. These are rounding errors for our government. Maybe if we just looked at some of the medical clinics that don't exist we could pull the money from those.

Back in 2008 Congress determined RHYA needed \$165 million when we had 795,000 homeless kids. We are asking that RHYA get funding at that level this year even though we have TWICE as many homeless kids this year.

This coming month, President Obama is expected to release his spending priorities for 2017. We need to inspire him to recommend funding these programs at these levels. It really isn't that much. We can do it. If this makes even one shred of sense... if you think homeless kids in America is something worth working on... PLEASE do one of the next things:

1. Please act today to urge your U.S. Senators and U.S. Representative to support \$85 million for the EHCY program and \$165 million for the RHYA program in the Fiscal Year 2017 funding legislation:

A sample letter in Microsoft Word may be downloaded [here](#).

Contact information for U.S. Senators may be found [here](#).

Contact information for U.S. Representatives may be found [here](#).

Please be sure to edit the sample letter on the page to explain why YOU support these funding increases, including any local, or state information especially examples of children and youth who benefit from these programs. If you are writing on behalf of an agency, please describe what your program or agency does. The more you personalize the letter, the better!

2. Please sign on your organization to this national letter urging the U.S. Congress to make these greater investments in the EHCY and RHYA programs. The deadline for sign-ons is February 19, 2016.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Please contact Barbara Duffield, Director of Policy and Programs, at[(#)] or (202) 364-7392.

I know doing these things is totally annoying.

But just turn on Making a Murderer on Netflix, open your iPhone and click on some of the links above. You'll be done before you know it.

Ask the power brokers to have a little compassion for kids that don't have a home in America.

Doing this kind of thing it really makes a big difference.

Thank you for everything you do!

Sage

Here are the places I got my information from:

Historic Opportunity to Increase Funding for Homeless Children and Youth Programs | The National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth

24 Stupidest Things the U.S. Government Spends Money On

Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) | U.S. Department of Education

Homeless Children and Youth | Child Trends

Funding Status -- Education for Homeless Children and Youths - Grants for State and Local Activities

National Alliance to End Homelessness: Homeless Youth Legislation

The U.S. Has Spent \$9 Million a Day to Fight ISIS

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/ep-2-the-other-side-making-an-entrepreneur/>
og:title Content: Ep. 2 The Other Side. Making an Entrepreneur - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023
Blog Post Date: February 6, 2016

Blog Post Content: I'm a little unsure about this post.
The world is filled with pie in the sky visions of what "taking control of your future" looks like as an entrepreneur.
Fancy trips. Working 4 hours a week. Fancy cars. Big houses.
That end result, if it happens, is the product of all the things I talked about in Episode 1.
Being an "overnight success" usually takes years. In fact, the wealthiest small business owners I know are the kids and grandkids of the original entrepreneur.
While I know not one single entrepreneur that only works 4 hours a week, I do know entrepreneurs that have some nice things... Including me.
The thing that seems to be trending with entrepreneurs is the Tesla.

I know an entrepreneur that bought one for himself and then bought one for his wife.
Another entrepreneur I know just recently put a picture up on Facebook of himself picking up his new Tesla.
I talked to an entrepreneur that bought a second vacation home right next to their current vacation home because they liked it better.
Another entrepreneur always takes his wife on a weekend shopping trip on her birthday weekend. They also go to Mexico 2 or 3 times a year.
And then there's me. I'm a traveler. Usually I prefer ocean trips.
A couple weeks ago we were in Daytona Beach. This is my kid getting some ice cream from the ice cream beach truck.

Earlier this year we spent 3 weeks at Yellowstone National Park.
A couple months before that we were in Washington DC.

Next week we're spending the weekend at an indoor water park.
A couple weeks after that I'll be in Houston for work. I do that every year. It's always during the Houston Rodeo. That's where I get my cowboy hats.
And those are just the big trips. Weekend camping trips are almost a constant thing for us between May and October.
It goes on and on like that.
I wouldn't say that money isn't an issue for travel. But it's rarely the first thing we think about. We also never think about how much vacation time we have. That's not a thing in our lives.
It's harder to work around school schedules than it is work schedules. (I just work on the road.)
We always pay cash for everything. We don't have credit card debt.
We also don't have student loans.
We live in a duplex where the tenant pays the entire mortgage.
While I certainly wouldn't call us rich, we are set up very nicely financially.
We owe that all to being entrepreneurs.
This is the other side of being an entrepreneur.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/unadopted-akron-family-needs-your-help-this-christmas/>
og:title Content: Unadopted Akron Family Needs Your Help This Christmas - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023
Blog Post Date: December 19, 2015

Blog Post Content:
I got an email last night from Debra Manteghi, the Program Manager for Project RISE: the only group in Akron that solely focuses on homeless kids in the Akron area.
They organize an "adoption" of families for Christmas. The idea is that a family "adopts" another family and gets them presents for Christmas.
Debra emailed me to let me know that one family was not able to get adopted this year That means they will

be left on their own for Christmas. Unless someone comes to help.
I thought maybe the Akron family could help this family. I thought maybe we all could help.
It's pretty simple, if you have something these folks need you can donate it.
Because we are getting close to Christmas I think going directly to Debra would be the best plan. Here's her contact information:
Debra Manteghi <>
330-761-2969 office
330-212-0844 cell
You can also email Rachel Breece:
Rachel Breece <>
I've been asked to not share their names. But what I can tell you about homeless kids is: they look just like all our own kids. They are sweet, kind, loving, happy. And most of all: they didn't ask to be homeless.
Here are the people that need help in this family:
Son 1: age 19
pants 32 waist 34 length
Shirt men large
Gift certificate
Son 2: age 18
Pants 34 waist 34 length
Shirt men large
Gift certificate
Son 3: age 12
Pants size boys 18/20
Shirt size boys 18/20
He loves to draw. Any type of drawing material
Son 4: age 8
Pants size boys 10/12
Shirt size boys 10/12
He loves legos
Mom:
any type of dishes, coffee cups, pots and pans.
The great thing about doing it this way is that together we don't have to spend a lot. If each of us could give a little then the outcome will be great.
If you want to feel extra great this Christmas season I encourage you to give to some people in need.
Feeling good about being helpful is totally fine. If you love feeling good about helping then, by all means, feel as good as you can possibly handle.
Here is Debra's full contact information:
Debra Manteghi
District Homeless Education Liaison & Program Manager
Project RISE (Realizing Individual Strength through Education)
70 North Broadway St. Room 300
Akron, Ohio 44308
330-761-2969 office
330-212-0844 cell
Thank you all and Merry Christmas!

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/accounting-update-for-no-feet-left-behind-socks-edition/>
og:title Content: Accounting Update for No Feet Left Behind - Socks Edition - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023
Blog Post Date: October 19, 2015

Blog Post Content:

I'm a big believer in transparency. So I wanted to upload my completed order from Sam's Club for socks and Ziploc Freezer Bags. It's for a total of \$269.62.
There have been \$325 in donations at our "No Feet Left Behind" campaign:
<https://www.gofundme.com/akronsocks> They deposited \$296.95 into my account. That puts us at positive

\$27.33.

I was shopping around and also trying to get Sam's Club to waive the shipping fee. (people love these socks but they are only available online). They wouldn't remove the shipping fee. But at least I tried.

I think I'm going to put a little card in the bags letting the people know these socks came from the donations of No Feet Left Behind.

Thank you all again so much for your support in this. I think these people are going to LOVE these socks.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/day-85-a-gift-of-vegetables-on-the-road-to-mayor/>

og:title Content: Day 85 - A Gift of Vegetables - On The Road To Mayor - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023

Blog Post Date: September 3, 2015

Blog Post Content: There is a man who has been a great help to me with my campaign so far. He spent over two decades in prison. Though thin, he has diabetes. His liver is failing. His feet hurt him immensely. He's been a heroin addict. And, like many homeless or near homeless people, he has a hard time working with people. It seems he's been kicked out of many places downtown. I sat in his one room apartment yesterday talking about his life. The rocking chair I sat in had a busted seat that he filled with cloths for me to sit on. There's a sink bolted to the wall in his room. The shared bathroom is down the hall. There is no air conditioning. It's hot on the third floor. Most people leave their doors open to circulate air. The building is old. Paint is peeling. But there's a man there that cleans the place. He keeps it nice. My friend occasionally gives me gifts. Today he gave me these vegetables. I asked if someone else in the building needed them. He said at best people just have microwaves. So they don't have much use for vegetables. My friend has nothing to cook with. He has no tv. Each drawer of his 5 drawer cabinet is missing half the nobs. When I feel down, being around him always lifts me up. His life is hard. Harder than anything I've ever come anywhere near experiencing. I wanted to give you a picture of him. But when I told him I was going to write this he was adamant that I not show his picture or mention his name. Most homeless people tell me this. It's like they want to be invisible. But this invisibility becomes a threat for them. The Mayflower Hotel occasionally gets mentioned in the mayoral debates. Many low income people live there. It's mentioned in a way that sounds like the goal is to get "those" people out of there. "Those" people are unsightly to the out of town workers that come downtown to work and then get in their cars and drive to their bedroom communities. But here is the thing: you can't just make poor people disappear. They go somewhere. And chances are they are shuffled somewhere where they don't know how to get around and none of their services are nearby. We can't just keep moving people that make us uncomfortable. These people are our neighbors. We have a responsibility to everyone of our neighbors. The answer is to be more involved with the homeless and the poor. You can't as easily ignore and disdain people you have a relationship with. Here's an idea: The next time you get asked for money give the person a gift certificate to McDonald's. If you have the time go with them. They would LOVE the company. Meet the weakest in your community. You'll probably get more out of the relationship than they will.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/day-85-stop-complaining-on-the-road-to-mayor/>

og:title Content: Day 85 - Stop Complaining! - On The Road To Mayor - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023

Blog Post Date: September 2, 2015

Blog Post Content:

As a middle aged, (used to be) blonde haired, blue eyed, 6'2" white male I know nothing of what it means to be dismissed, segregated or marginalized.

Truly, I am "the man."

But this mayoral campaign has given me the rare opportunity in my life to get a small taste of what it's like to be told to sit on the back of the bus.

As I've stated many times before, Independent voices are not equal to Republican and Democratic voices in Ohio politics.

This seems to finally have hit a nerve with a few people. They have asked me to:

"Stop your damn complaining." (direct quote)

Get on the ballot and then make your voice heard.

That's the way it is. Deal with it.

As I heard these things told to me I immediately thought of Martin Luther King Jr.'s "Letter from a Birmingham Jail"

Letter from Birmingham Jail - Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

The letter defends the strategy of nonviolent resistance to racism. It says that people have a moral responsibility to break unjust laws, and to take direct action rather than waiting potentially forever for justice to come through the courts.

MLK was repeatedly told that he should "wait." That now wasn't a good time.

It is possible that this doesn't seem like an important issue to you. "Just be a Democrat. Just get along."

But what I can tell you is: No civil rights movement has ever been comfortable or convenient. There is never a good time.

I stand up against the unjust laws as to how outside political parties are treated not for just me, but for everyone in Ohio that has ever wanted to run as something other than a Democrat or Republican.

Just as you shouldn't have to be a white man to get a fair shake in this country, you shouldn't have to be a Democrat or Republican either.

The laws to keep out outsider voices in Ohio politics are not fair and not just.

I have been told by very knowledgeable people in the field of politics that it is "foolish" to run as an Independent. No voice in America should ever be considered foolish.

I am sorry to say that transformation is painful. It's inconvenient. People's feelings will get hurt. But this is absolutely critical in our growth as a country.

In a land where we pledge "liberty and justice for all," we have been notoriously bad at doing just that.

Native Americans

African Americans

Women

Gays

Felons

Drug Addicts

The poor

We have made strides in some of those areas. In other areas we haven't even begun. We have a long, long way to go to get "justice for all."

So, today I "complain" about the inequalities of outsider parties in politics. It may annoy you because that's not your group. You don't care about Independent voices in politics.

But after this fight I will move on to other fights.

Injustice for the homeless.

Injustice for the youth.

Injustice for drug addicts.

Injustice of our rights to good roads.

Injustice of our communities from being plagued with abandoned buildings.

When I stand up for you and people tell me to "stop complaining" remember that I didn't stop for them and I won't stop for you.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/day-77-akron-hunger-games-on-the-road-to-mayor/>

og:title Content: Day 77: Akron Hunger Games - On The Road To Mayor - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023

Blog Post Date: August 25, 2015

Blog Post Content:

Granted, we aren't offering up our children to fight to the death to appease the Capitol.

But otherwise, there are a lot of similarities in how Panem, the nation in The Hunger Games, and Akron operate.

Our UPS driver at work will often talk about the streets of Akron. As you can imagine, he is quite familiar with the road conditions in Akron.

He frequently talks about how nice the streets are in the city center. And then how they degrade and crumble the further away from downtown you get.
For the last 3 decades we have focused on downtown Akron. And undeniably, it's great.
But Akron is made up of 10 Wards(pdf). They are all too often left out of the discussion.
The other mayoral candidates are primarily interested in two things: the sewer project and putting the city's books online. Those are great and I've talked about my ideas on those here:

Akron Sewer System Isn't A Problem. It's a HUGE Opportunity
Akron Will Post Its Checkbook Online

But, in my mind these are not the only issues in our city.
I talked with Ward 7 leader - Donnie Kammer. He said that he gets calls almost daily about the abandoned homes issue in his ward. This strikes me as a huge problem in our city.
I also recently talked with a single mom in Ward 10 that watches kids with nothing to do with their time and in turn run around her apartment complex causing trouble. Issues like this are a problem in our city that effect the every day lives of our citizens.
In The Hunger Games, the city Panem is named from the Latin: panem et circenses. It means "bread and circuses." The phrase describes how a city uses entertainment to distract public attention from more important matters.
That is what we've done with our downtown.
Our downtown is our "Capitol" and our 10 Wards are the deteriorating "Districts" of our city.
Lock 3 is nice. Fireworks are nice. Festivals are nice.
But it is all a distraction from:

Abandoned houses
Brain drain
Homelessness
The Heroin Epidemic
Crime
Aimless children
Declining population
Police and First Responder relations
That guy who poops on cars in Kenmore
... and tons more!

These are issues that matter to Akronites and these are issues that matter to me.
Let's work together, beyond party lines, to help each other with what matters most to Akron.
"There are much worse games to play." - Katniss

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/day-78-dan-horrigan-vaporware-on-the-road-to-mayor/>
og:title Content: Day 78 - Dan Horrigan Vaporware - On The Road To Mayor - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023
Blog Post Date: August 26, 2015

Blog Post Content:
His blog says: "Dan Horrigan has a very detailed, 15-part plan for the City of Akron, starting the day that he takes office as Akron's new Mayor."
I was excited to dig into that. Truly, I'm all for ideas on making our city as great as it can be.
But "very detailed" must mean something different to me than it does to him.
It's a list of 15 things that are important to him. But not one idea on how he's going to make them happen.
Take #1:

Job Growth. Every day, Akron competes with hundreds of other cities in the U.S. and around the world for businesses and jobs in every sector of the economy. Dans #1 priority will be to promote the growth of 21st Century jobs in Akron by attracting and retaining the talent that employers look for.

So how exactly does he plan on "attracting and retaining the talent?"
Anybody can say things.

I will get unicorns to come to Akron by attracting and retaining the unicorns that the city looks for.
I will give every child in Akron free ice cream Sundays by attracting and retaining the ice cream that Akron kids look for.
I will make Akron levitate into the clouds by attracting and retaining the levitation device that levitation experts look for.

"Attracting and retaining" are not actual things you do.
Let me show you the difference.
Here are four initiatives I want to accomplish from the Initiatives section of my site:

The 1000 Business Challenge
Legalized Squatting & Tent Cities
The Pothole Incubator
Loosen Restrictions On Food Trucks

That's what "very detailed" looks like.
Horrigan is just playing it ultra safe. He's not committing to anything. He's just saying words to make it look like he has a plan.
There is no plan.
And the reason there is no plan is because he's not a visionary. He's not a creator. He's not a big picture thinker. He's just the guy that the "Godfather" of Akron Democratic politics has chosen to be the next figure head for the dynasty politics that has gone on in this city for 3 decades.
You can take your city back, Akron. It's not going to be easy. But you have the options.
The first thing you need to do is to make sure I'm on the ballot. I am still collecting signatures until September 7.
If you haven't given me your signature I desperately need it. Click here to tell me where we can meet so I can get it.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/day-80-horrigan-public-enemy-1-on-the-road-to-mayor/>
og:title Content: Day 80: Horrigan - Public Enemy #1 - On The Road To Mayor - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023
Blog Post Date: August 29, 2015

Blog Post Content: You probably think that title is extreme.
"You're just jealous he's doing so well."
If I thought he was good for Akron I'd be pleased as punch he's totally dominating this race.
But I'm telling you this: no one is given this much absolute support without strings being pulled, promises being made, back office deals going down.
But even that isn't what concerns me the most.
Dan Horrigan is just the sequel to Plusquellic. He was chosen by Joel Bailey, the former Plusquellic chief of staff, and Ray Kapper the "Godfather" of the Akron Democratic Party.
That's dangerous because Horrigan is the puppet of the true power players that just want the status quo. He didn't decide to run. He was chosen to run.
Tom Sawyer was being a "good Democrat" by leaving the race early.
Summit County Councilwoman Sandra Kurt, who is temporarily chairing the Summit County Democratic Party, said Sawyer has always been a good Democrat.
Frank Comunale was harder. But he was finally pressured to get out of the way.
And why is all this happening? Because Dan Horrigan will be able to easily be manipulated by the real power people.
They don't want anything to change. The lucrative contracts need to stay the same. The big business authority needs to stay the same. We need to keep making our downtown "bigger better stronger."
This next sentence is the one I want you to slow down and read:
The status quo is death.

The status quo is death.

The reason it's so dangerous is because you can't just hold on to what you've got. It all leaves.

Cleveland Clinic just purchased all of Akron General Hospital. That changes the economic balance of things.

Cleveland Clinic could decide we don't have a large enough population to support two large hospitals.

If you aren't innovating and evolving you are dying.

Our declining population is the current status quo. We are in decline.

And it's very feasible that could effect what Cleveland Clinic decides to do with healthcare in Akron. Do you see the writing on the wall?

EJ Thomas gets closed.

Cleveland Clinic buys Akron General.

University of Akron is \$60 million in debt.

The status quo is death. And that's all Dan Horrigan has planned.

I'm not over expressing this. It's real and it's going to take real leadership to turn around.

Innovation. Empowering the youth. Embracing change.

I'm telling you. This. Is. For. Real.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/day-82-to-mike-williams-supporters-on-the-road-to-mayor/>

og:title Content: Day 82: To Mike Williams Supporters - On The Road To Mayor - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023

Blog Post Date: August 30, 2015

Blog Post Content: You probably don't know me. And therefore you have no reason to trust me. And honestly, I'm not overly enthusiastic about Mike. But he definitely has strengths:

He is incredibly knowledgeable about how the Akron government machine works.

He's smart.

He's polished and professional.

His weaknesses are not important for this conversation. And you could likely strengthen him as a leader if he were to become mayor. But here's the thing: Right now, based on what I see, I believe he has a very slim chance of winning. Horrigan is just part 2 to the 28 year long Plusquellic movie. Horrigan is just going to keep doing everything that has been done for the last 3 decades. He's a front man for super powerful and rich people that want to stay rich and powerful. That makes Horrigan very powerful and therefore hard to beat. I think the thing I like most about Mike is that he is strong and can think for himself. Horrigan does not exhibit those qualities. The other thing I really like about Mike is you! I spent all day yesterday at Porch Rokr. Not once did someone come up to me and say they were voting for Horrigan. From what I can see there is no excitement about Horrigan. You have to admit, he doesn't exude inspiration and excitement. But Mike is different. I had three people say they wouldn't sign my petition because "I like Mike!" That's great. We need leaders that inspire excitement. That's probably one of the most important things any leader can do. You should know that probably 20,000 people or less are going to come out and vote in the Democratic primary on Tuesday September 8. It might even be less because people are so uninspired. That means you only need 10,001 people to vote for Mike. And some people are still going to vote for Frank Comunale because he'll still be on the ballot even though he isn't running any more. So you might actually need less. According to this site there are almost 62,000 African Americans in Akron. African Americans could singlehandedly drastically change the political landscape of Akron over night. But this is my message to you: Don't wait for Mike or his people to get this done. Local politicians aren't very organized. Take this election into your own hands. Just do it yourself. Don't ask for permission. Just do it!

Call 10 people.

Have those 10 people call 10 people.

Make a flyer on a regular piece of paper. Write it by hand if your aren't good with a computer. Get black and white copies at Kinkos or Staples. Just write down why you are going to vote for Mike. Put them in newspaper boxes, on windshields. Hand them out at the Metro Station or CSS.

Tell people when the primary is: Tuesday September 8. Write that on your flyer.

If you or a friend don't know where to vote call the Board of Elections: (330) 643-5200. They will gladly help

you.

Drive 10 people to the voting locations on Election Day.

Call 10 people a day as many days as you can. Have them call 10 people a day.

Tell people on Facebook why you are voting for Mike. Ask them to vote for Mike.

Always ask if Mike can count on their vote.

Work the hardest on Election Day all the way up until the voting booths close.

You have about 9 days. You can make this happen. You are just going to have to work super hard for the next 9 days. But whatever you do don't wait for someone to tell you to do it. Just do it. Why am I doing this? I'm so glad you asked.

Abandoned homes

Homelessness

Drug use

Crime

Poverty

I don't believe that is what Dan Horrigan cares about. But Mike might. Get him through the primary. We are experiencing a new wave of the civil rights movement. And it's being led by the people. You can make this happen. Just do it!

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/fully-support-fight-for-15/>

og:title Content: Fully Support Fight for \$15 - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023

Blog Post Date: August 30, 2015

Blog Post Content: I am in complete support and will advocate for the Fight for \$15 cause.

We cannot live in a world where people work full time and can't live. \$15 minimum wage is realistic and fair.

If you believe the government spend too much money helping people with food and living expenses you

should support Fight for \$15.

If you believe people deserve a fair pay for a fair day's work you should support Fight for \$15.

America and Akron need this.

I will do everything in my power as mayor to help fast food workers unionize and get \$15/hour.

Seattle and San Francisco already passed laws raising wages to \$15 an hour.

As mayor of Akron, I will add us to that growing list.

Low-wage jobs are the fastest growing jobs in the nation, and they need to pay more so that workers like us can make ends meet, and rebuild the middle class and get the economy working again.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/day-83-mayoral-available-funds-on-the-road-to-mayor/>

og:title Content: Day 83 - Mayoral Available Funds - On The Road To Mayor - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023

Blog Post Date: August 31, 2015

Blog Post Content: The Akron mayoral candidates in the primary race needed to submit their financial information last week.

I'll be talking about this in greater detail over the next few days.

But today I just wanted to show you the top line numbers. How much money each candidate has been given so far in the race.

Dan Horrigan: \$219,551.68

Frank Comunale (who dropped out but will still be on the ballot): \$102,200.97

Mike Williams: \$36,632.02

Eddie Sipplen: \$3,880.00

Here's a nice graph to put it in perspective:

The guy who had the second biggest pot of money dropped out because he didn't think he had a shot. As much as I hate to admit this, Dan Horrigan will win this primary on September 8 in a landslide. And it's not because people are inspired by Dan's great leadership, his vision for a bright new 21st century Akron. He will win because he has a shit ton of money. In this country we sometimes forget the fact that it is 1 person 1 vote. It is not 1 dollar 1 vote. But that's what we have in Akron. Your vote doesn't count, just your money. I've linked to the full financial documents directly here:

Horrigan Campaign Finance Report
Comunale Campaign Finance Report
Williams Campaign Finance Report
Siplen Campaign Finance Report

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/day-85-stop-complaining-on-the-road-to-mayor/>
og:title Content: Day 85 - Stop Complaining! - On The Road To Mayor - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023
Blog Post Date: September 2, 2015

Blog Post Content:

As a middle aged, (used to be) blonde haired, blue eyed, 6'2" white male I know nothing of what it means to be dismissed, segregated or marginalized.

Truly, I am "the man."

But this mayoral campaign has given me the rare opportunity in my life to get a small taste of what it's like to be told to sit on the back of the bus.

As I've stated many times before, Independent voices are not equal to Republican and Democratic voices in Ohio politics.

This seems to finally have hit a nerve with a few people. They have asked me to:

"Stop your damn complaining." (direct quote)

Get on the ballot and then make your voice heard.

That's the way it is. Deal with it.

As I heard these things told to me I immediately thought of Martin Luther King Jr.'s "Letter from a Birmingham Jail"

Letter from Birmingham Jail - Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

The letter defends the strategy of nonviolent resistance to racism. It says that people have a moral responsibility to break unjust laws, and to take direct action rather than waiting potentially forever for justice to come through the courts.

MLK was repeatedly told that he should "wait." That now wasn't a good time.

It is possible that this doesn't seem like an important issue to you. "Just be a Democrat. Just get along."

But what I can tell you is: No civil rights movement has ever been comfortable or convenient. There is never a good time.

I stand up against the unjust laws as to how outside political parties are treated not for just me, but for everyone in Ohio that has ever wanted to run as something other than a Democrat or Republican.

Just as you shouldn't have to be a white man to get a fair shake in this country, you shouldn't have to be a Democrat or Republican either.

The laws to keep out outsider voices in Ohio politics are not fair and not just.

I have been told by very knowledgeable people in the field of politics that it is "foolish" to run as an Independent. No voice in America should ever be considered foolish.

I am sorry to say that transformation is painful. It's inconvenient. People's feelings will get hurt. But this is absolutely critical in our growth as a country.

In a land where we pledge "liberty and justice for all," we have been notoriously bad at doing just that.

Native Americans
African Americans
Women

Gays
Felons
Drug Addicts
The poor

We have made strides in some of those areas. In other areas we haven't even begun. We have a long, long way to go to get "justice for all."

So, today I "complain" about the inequalities of outsider parties in politics. It may annoy you because that's not your group. You don't care about Independent voices in politics. But after this fight I will move on to other fights.

Injustice for the homeless.

Injustice for the youth.

Injustice for drug addicts.

Injustice of our rights to good roads.

Injustice of our communities from being plagued with abandoned buildings.

When I stand up for you and people tell me to "stop complaining" remember that I didn't stop for them and I won't stop for you.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/day-85-a-gift-of-vegetables-on-the-road-to-mayor/>

og:title Content: Day 85 - A Gift of Vegetables - On The Road To Mayor - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023

Blog Post Date: September 3, 2015

Blog Post Content: There is a man who has been a great help to me with my campaign so far. He spent over two decades in prison. Though thin, he has diabetes. His liver is failing. His feet hurt him immensely. He's been a heroin addict. And, like many homeless or near homeless people, he has a hard time working with people. It seems he's been kicked out of many places downtown. I sat in his one room apartment yesterday talking about his life. The rocking chair I sat in had a busted seat that he filled with cloths for me to sit on. There's a sink bolted to the wall in his room. The shared bathroom is down the hall. There is no air conditioning. It's hot on the third floor. Most people leave their doors open to circulate air. The building is old. Paint is peeling. But there's a man there that cleans the place. He keeps it nice. My friend occasionally gives me gifts. Today he gave me these vegetables. I asked if someone else in the building needed them. He said at best people just have microwaves. So they don't have much use for vegetables. My friend has nothing to cook with. He has no tv. Each drawer of his 5 drawer cabinet is missing half the nobs. When I feel down, being around him always lifts me up. His life is hard. Harder than anything I've ever come anywhere near experiencing. I wanted to give you a picture of him. But when I told him I was going to write this he was adamant that I not show his picture or mention his name. Most homeless people tell me this. It's like they want to be invisible. But this invisibility becomes a threat for them. The Mayflower Hotel occasionally gets mentioned in the mayoral debates. Many low income people live there. It's mentioned in a way that sounds like the goal is to get "those" people out of there. "Those" people are unsightly to the out of town workers that come downtown to work and then get in their cars and drive to their bedroom communities. But here is the thing: you can't just make poor people disappear. They go somewhere. And chances are they are shuffled somewhere where they don't know how to get around and none of their services are nearby. We can't just keep moving people that make us uncomfortable. These people are our neighbors. We have a responsibility to everyone of our neighbors. The answer is to be more involved with the homeless and the poor. You can't as easily ignore and disdain people you have a relationship with. Here's an idea: The next time you get asked for money give the person a gift certificate to McDonald's. If you have the time go with them. They would LOVE the company. Meet the weakest in your community. You'll probably get more out of the relationship than they will.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/day-87-1086-signatures-on-the-road-to-mayor/>

og:title Content: Day 87 - 1086 Signatures! - On The Road To Mayor - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023

Blog Post Date: September 4, 2015

Blog Post Content:

I have a habit of becoming obsessed with things.

I can't just run a few miles a day. I have to run a marathon without ever running another race in my life.

I can't run just one marathon. I need to run 3 marathons to prove to myself that I actually can run marathons.

When I was in high school I decided I was going to be a life guard even though I had never taken a swimming lesson in my life. I had a hard time with the tests because I didn't know what the different strokes were called. But I became a life guard.

I didn't just play the cello. I had to be the first chair cellist in most orchestras I ever played in.

This may sound like gloating to you. But in my mind I quite literally see it as a mental problem.

I also couldn't drink a couple beers. I had to drink an entire case at a time.

2 to 3 pots of coffee a day.

2 to 3 packs of cigarettes a day.

I didn't just quit one thing on July 9, 2003. I quit all my vices: alcohol, smoking and coffee. All at once.

Life is often one obsession after another with me.

So when Josh S. at the board of elections said 1086 signatures was the most he had ever counted before, I was proud but also not overly surprised.

I have a hard time stopping. It has its pros and it has its cons.

I'm very relieved to have gotten that many signatures. I needed a minimum of 372.

This achievement was unique for me because it would have been entirely impossible without you.

I am so humbled and thankful for all the support and goodwill I've been given over this stage of the journey.

Many of you went out of your way to get me signatures. I'm just some guy off the street that asked for your support. And so many of you have given it to me.

I'm truly thankful for everything you have done to help me along this journey.

So what's next?

There should be a decision by the board of elections 10 days after the filing deadline, which is September 7.

So we'll see what they say.

Stephanie Warsmith, reporter at the Akron Beacon Journal, covering Akron and local politics, asked me how confident I was that I would get on the ballot.

I told her I felt about 40% confident.

I'm not going to discuss my feelings on this topic in this post. But you should know that there is much more involved as to whether I get on the ballot than if I have 372 valid signatures.

But this is what I want to leave you with: This is how life is.

We often times get all wrapped up in the outcome of things.

How much money am I going to make?

What position am I going to hold at work?

How well regarded will my art will be by the public?

Will a publisher pick up my book?

Will the Board of Election decide to let me on the ballot?

These things are all out of our hands. We have no control over what other people decide to do with our work.

The only thing we have control over is the work.

Just focus on the work and have faith that it will be received well by those that judge you.

When we focus just on the work and less on the outcome it lets our work get better. And then that increases our chances of being well received.

When we focus on the outcome the work suffers and so do our chances of getting our desired outcome.

Love what you do. Just focus on that. It will become its own reward.

Thank you once again for your unbelievably generous support and love. It means the world to me.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/day-90-a-zero-waste-city-on-the-road-to-mayor/>

og:title Content: Day 90 - A Zero Waste City - On the Road To Mayor - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023

Blog Post Date: September 7, 2015

Blog Post Content: I read with great interest the New York Times article on zero waste communities. I am a firm believer that in order for Akron to grow and become a place young people want to live we must move forward bravely and boldly. We must become a beacon of light and inspiration for what 21st century American cities can look like and become. We must lead. I read on Facebook this inspirational story: GAINS - Greater Akron Innovation Network for Sustainability, Let's Grow Akron and Keep Akron Beautiful did a great job of keeping Porch Rokr nearly waste free. The total unrecycleable or compostable bags of trash: 8.

That's so impressive. Thank you Greater Akron Innovation Network for Sustainability, Let's Grow Akron and Keep Akron Beautiful for working so hard to help lead us all for what we can all become. We all need to work towards minimizing waste. It will save us all money, it will help our environment and it will make us an extreme awesome place to live. Together, we can make Akron a Zero Waste city.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/day-91-primary-election-day-on-the-road-to-mayor/>

og:title Content: Day 91 - Primary Election Day! On The Road To Mayor - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023

Blog Post Date: September 8, 2015

Blog Post Content: Did you know that the word "democracy" is never mentioned in the Declaration of Independence or the Constitution? Democracy was feared by the founding fathers. James Madison expressed this attitude in Federalist #10: "...instability, injustice, and confusion ...have in truth been the mortal disease under which popular governments everywhere perished..." But they knew one thing: Democracy was way better than a monarchy. So we are actually a Republic. Smarter, wealthier people are elected to make decisions for the people. (That's actually who they believed should represent us.) A Republic is also easier to manage. A pure democracy is unwieldy. I believe technology is leading us to a point where a true democracy becomes feasible. If I become mayor we're going to experiment with that. We'll use a tool like Reddit where people can submit ideas and citizens can vote on them. But in the meantime, there is a primary election today in Akron. Voting is democracy in action. The problem is that we often are never given much of a choice to vote for. Rarely does anyone offer an exciting alternative for you to vote for. This causes our democracy to break down. If all the candidates are boring and uninspiring then it makes our vote seem pointless. So I see a lot of people that don't vote because of this very thing. The ideal answer is to have good candidates to choose from. But if that doesn't exist, a protest vote is always good. A good protest vote can be very powerful. It's always much more powerful than not voting. Most candidates would prefer that you not vote. Some ballots (not ours) have a 'none of the above.' I wish we had that. It would be a strong signal. You would think you could write in a candidate. But unless that write in has gone through the proper channels, your vote won't get counted. Sometimes, a person may use even more uncommon, often illegal, methods to protest vote. Examples include physical destruction of the ballot (for example, ripping the ballot apart or eating it), asking other people to vote for them, or selling their ballot (for example, putting their vote on auction sites). I get why you might just feel that it's all pointless. But in the primary election today you have a unique opportunity to send a message, if you don't like the candidates on the Democratic primary ballot. You could vote for Frank Comunale. He isn't running any more. But he's still on the ballot. That would send a cool message. You would rather vote for the person who isn't running than the people that are actually running. Plus, I think Frank is probably actually a pretty cool guy. Today is the Democratic primary election here in Akron. Anyone can vote in it. You'll just get labeled a Democrat. I, unfortunately, cannot vote. It would probably instantly negate my chances to get on the ballot as an Independent. But you can. And you should. Politicians have done a terrible job at reminding us how cool voting is. Voting is a protest. You are controlling everything with your vote. You might as well be marching down the middle of Main Street with 20,000 other people demanding that your voice be heard. And by tonight your voice will be heard. The people will have spoken. Go vote. If you don't know where to vote call the Board of Elections: 330-643-5200.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/day-92-forget-mayor-im-going-to-be-a-fortune-teller-on-the-road-to-mayor/>

og:title Content: Day 92 - Forget Mayor. I'm going to be a fortune teller - On The Road To Mayor - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023

Blog Post Date: September 9, 2015

Blog Post Content: On Day 8 of this journey, June 17, I told you Dan Horrigan was going to win: Day 8 -

Everybody knows this is Dan Horrigan's Town - The Road To Mayor - Sage Lewis for Mayor of Akron Talk to an insider and they will tell you one thing: Dan Horrigan is going to win. How did I know how you were going to vote? How did I know what you were thinking? I must be a magician. Nope. I'm a marketer. I told you in that article that he will have hundreds of thousands of dollars. He bought your brain. There was not one single thing that made Dan Horrigan a clear winner of this race other than his money. I heard people tell me they remembered he worked at Swenson's. I heard people tell me that they went to high school with him. I heard people tell me that they thought his family looked nice. He was just playing you. And he drilled it into your head over and over again. If you really want to break out of politics as usual you are going to have to stop letting those Jedi Mind Tricks lull you into a mindless behavior doing what the brochures and robo calls tell you what to do. You are better than that. The other problem is you didn't have much of an inspirational choice otherwise to snap you out of the Dan Horrigan trance. Vote on issues. Vote on good leadership. Vote on ideas. You might think this is all really not important. But I'm here to tell you: Akron is teetering on the edge. We can go the way of Detroit very quickly.

Akron General is not Akron owned. (my guess is that it will start to be downsized very soon.) University of Akron is \$60 million in debt and closing major aspects of their school. There is 27% poverty in our city.

What lays before us is no joke. "Moving Akron forward." "Bigger, better, stronger." These are not ideas. These are marketing catch phrases to get stuck in your mind. Fight the Horrigan mind games. Think before you vote.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/day-94-dan-horrigan-already-outsourcing-akron-jobs-on-the-road-to-mayor/>
og:title Content: Day 94 - Dan Horrigan Already Outsourcing Akron Jobs - On The Road To Mayor - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023
Blog Post Date: September 11, 2015

Blog Post Content: You can learn so much by looking at a candidate's campaign finance reports. And what's cool is they are all public record. As a candidate that gets or spends over a \$1000 you have to file a campaign finance report before an election and after an election. So there will be another update coming soon. But we have Dan Horrigan's campaign finance report that was filed August 27. You can see it in all its glory by clicking here. These reports show two main things: who gave him money and who he gave money to. Who gave him money is incredibly revealing. But that's for another time. Today I want to focus on who he gave money to. What we know is that, as of August 27, he had \$219,551.68. Of that he spent \$101,469.18. You can see every line item of those expenditures. What I found was that \$73,391.81 went to Triad Communications. Triad is a Cuyahoga Falls based agency. There is nothing wrong with Triad. They do good work. But why the hell did he have to give 3/4 of his money to Cuyahoga Falls!?!? There are many good agencies in Akron: WhiteSpace Creative and HFA are two amazing Akron agencies, as an example. We all know that the amount of money politicians spend on campaigns is absurd and gross. But couldn't Dan have at least given his money to an Akron agency? Money tells so many stories. They say, "follow the money." In this case, we can follow the money right out of Akron. Based on this, how much money do you think Dan is going to keep in Akron? Look at this graph:

That's the total Akron budget for 2015. It's from the 2015 Budget Plan book. It's actually pretty easy to understand and downright fascinating. I'd like to draw your attention to the top of that pie: Capital Projects: \$60,662,460. That's over \$60 million dollars that goes to making Akron better. That's the money all of Dan Horrigan's supporters want a piece of.

That's why he has all the money he has now. And that's why he has all the supporters of big business. They want a piece of the pie.

What worries me is that based on what he has done with outsourcing all of marketing and advertising work to Cuyahoga Falls he's probably going to have no problem outsourcing a ton of that capital work too. Demand from all candidates that we have an Akron first policy. We need to give as much money as we can to Akron businesses. We don't need to help Cuyahoga Falls businesses. We need to help Akron businesses.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/day-95-but-he-stole-your-imac-on-the-road-to-mayor/>

og:title Content: Day 95: But he stole your iMac! On the road to mayor. - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023

Blog Post Date: September 12, 2015

Blog Post Content: That picture pretty much says it all. That's my newest friend walking out the front door of my office in the middle of the night this past Thursday with the iMac in my office. We had met earlier in the day, in my office, talking about many things.

How the owner of the apartment building he's squatting in said he could stay as long as he didn't make a mess.

How we might try to arrange a meeting with a group of people to talk about what it's like after getting out of prison with no support system.

How to go about getting a new social security card, while homeless and hungry, because your girlfriend threw it out while you were in prison.

We talked about many things. I gave him \$10 as he left that day.

As the "victim" of that kind of crime the natural human tendency is to ask, "How could you do that to me?"

"I was trying to be your friend and you were just casing the joint."

That's the flinch reaction. That's the fight or flight aspect of your brain.

Get defensive. Get angry. Get sad.

And that, my friends, is where Jesus comes in.

Now, before half of you roll your eyes, hear me out. I'm not talking about the church. I'm not talking about all the rules authority has instilled in the name of Jesus.

I'm just talking about Jesus the prophet. He put out so many mind bending concepts and guidances.

The one that comes to mind in this case is the one all Christian kids learned in Church: "Turn the other cheek." Aka: Be a mark. Be a sucker. Take it laying down.

Turn the other cheek is pretty much everything America is against.

We are a fighting, often very angry country. This "turn the other cheek" message almost doesn't compute in the American psyche.

"Why would Jesus ask us to be weak and to be taken advantage of?"

That's what I love about so many messages Jesus put out.

You have to think and ask so many questions to try to understand why he wants us to do something that feels so unnatural and maybe even unwise.

That's the point.

He is asking us to stop the base instinct of fight or flight. He's asking us to do something that only humans are capable of doing: stopping and thinking.

Why did my new friend (and I still consider him my friend) steal my iMac? Here are some ideas off the top of my head:

He has no friends.

He has no family.

He has no ID so he can't go to the temp agency to get a job.

He has no money.

He has no running water in the apartment he's squatting in.

He has nothing.

What would you do if you were in his place?

I'd venture a guess we'd all maybe do the same thing.

That's the mind bending awesomeness of what Jesus was saying. Forget "eye for an eye." That's what animals do. Humans have the amazing ability to have empathy, to have compassion, to love, to forgive. Jesus asks us to be human. Which is being the children of God. We must, as a local community, let prophets like Jesus be our guide in finding love and compassion with the little people in our city. Will you get taken advantage of? It's quite possible. But Jesus had to die for his compassion. So suddenly an iMac doesn't really mean all that much in the scheme of things. We can't ignore and despise the weakest in our community. That only makes the problem worse. We can't just let the suffering continue to go on right outside our doors. That just makes us animals. We must be human. We must be the children of God that we are. To become truly strong we must, as Jesus told us, become weak, become last. To let the last be first. This is the only way we can move forward as a community. So... What am I going to do if I see him again? I'm going to give him the mouse and keyboard he left behind.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/day-96-why-there-are-so-few-great-people-on-the-road-to-mayor/>
og:title Content: Day 96: Why there are so few great people. On The Road To Mayor - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023
Blog Post Date: September 13, 2015

Blog Post Content:

Do you remember the post (day 32) where I listed a few people who I thought would be cool to run for mayor? As you can imagine, there was no resounding thrill from them to run. The best people in our communities rarely have interest in running for office. Why? I don't think it's the money. I know many awesome people that aren't driven by money. I think it's the constant public analysis. The criticism. Do you know the phrase: "run out of town on a rail?" That was an actual thing. They would take a public figure, put him on a fence rail and parade him out of town. A story attributed to Abraham Lincoln has him quoting a victim of being ridden out of town on a rail as having said, "If it weren't for the honor of the thing, I would just as soon walk. I think most people just don't need it. And of course then there's the death. Really effective leaders, inside politics and out, often find themselves dead.

Lincoln
Kennedy
MLK Jr.

That list goes on and on. Greatness is just not seen as worth it. And I can't say I blame them. While the outpouring of support and love during this journey has far surpassed any negativity, there has always been a constant low hum of anger towards me. The first message I saw today was someone telling me to "give it up." That's the funny thing about being an outsider to politics. I have plenty to go back to. Inside politicians only have their political careers. Without their elected office they have nothing. Every time someone tells me I'm wrong or stupid or just to quit, my natural instinct every time is: "I don't need this." I think that's probably an almost universal reflex to criticism. You don't get that nearly as much in your comfort zone. For me that's being a business owner. As a business owner you call all the shots. If you're successful you make a bunch of money. And no one talks back to you. That's a pretty appealing place to live. But it's also hollow for me. There is very little soul in business. The best business people are totally focused on the money. Not being that way is often at your own peril. Money is the blood of business. You can't live without it. And eventually the money gets boring. It gets empty. There is really nothing much there. Greatness is different. Greatness is filled with soul.

It is filled with love and belief and being true to yourself. Greatness gives you a level of fulfillment that money never will.

This is a story that needs to be told more.

We have endless people telling us how great money is. But how many times have you been told how amazing it is to be great?

Greatness has very few cheerleaders.

So here's my little contribution to why I think you should try to be great.

Standing up for what you believe touches a part of your being that rarely is experienced by many.

You could be remembered for generations.

You move large chunks of society forward. They become healthier or smarter or more compassionate.

You become an inspiration for others to stand up and be great.

Greatness comes in many forms:

Artist

Musician

Poet

Author

Scientist

Mathematician

Astronomers

Physicist

Entrepreneur

Government leader

Greatness comes from stepping outside of where you are supposed to be. You become a different kind of human being.

You take it to the next level. You always take it to the next level.

We all can do this. We can all take it to the next level.

Greatness is within each and everyone of us.

You might fail.

You might be told by many people (loved ones are the most painful but also most prevalent) to quit and go back from where you came.

But there is success even in failure. You become an inspiration for those that watched you.

Greatness begets more greatness. Listen to your heart. Listen to our passions. Follow that rabbit hole. It will likely take you someplace wonderful and new and inspiring.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/day-98-second-class-citizens-on-the-road-to-mayor/>

og:title Content: Day 98 - Second Class Citizens - On The Road To Mayor - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023

Blog Post Date: September 15, 2015

Blog Post Content:

I think one of the most difficult human abilities to develop is empathy.

Being able to put yourself in another person's shoes is incredibly difficult. Maybe impossible, really.

If you aren't experiencing something it's very common to feel like it doesn't exist.

Women are treated fairly in the workplace.

African Americans are treated equally by the police.

Native Americans (well, I mean who really cares about them any more) just didn't understand that the Black Hills gold rush meant we needed to take that land back from them after we promised it to them.

These are some of the more obvious examples. There might be many of you reading this that agree those examples are legitimate issues.

But it gets more subtle and less obvious.

Full time working women still have to take care of most of the house.

Kids continue to get violently bullied in school.
College educated African Americans have a harder time getting work than probably almost anyone else in America.

The list goes on and on and on.
The issue comes when people don't believe these things are actually happening.

African Americans don't get profiled by cops.
If women didn't have kids they'd make the same amount of money.
Native Americans are just drunks that can't get it together.

We have to stop assuming we understand other people's oppression. We can never truly understand what things are like for someone else.
It's like being in pain. If someone says they are in pain you have to believe they are in as much pain as they say they are. You can't possibly know otherwise.
When we say "that isn't happening," we take away a part of their humanity.
You would be better off saying, "I don't care." At least that would be honest.
The only way we are going to evolve to the next level of humanity is to truly take time to understand what our neighbors are experiencing.
We are getting better at this as a species.

Malaria - Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
LeBron James promises full scholarships to UA for kids who finish "I Promise" program | For The Win
Buffett Donates \$2.8 Billion, Breaks Personal Giving Record - Forbes

But we can't just let the wealthy and famous people do all the work.
We all must put a hand out some how, some way.
It doesn't have to be hard.
The first step might be to talk to someone you wouldn't normally talk to. Talking is always the first step. If you keep doing that the next steps will reveal themselves.
No one needs to be a second class citizen in America. But as of right now we have far too many of them.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/day-99-this-is-how-change-starts-on-the-road-to-mayor/>
og:title Content: Day 99: This is how change starts. - On the road to mayor - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023
Blog Post Date: September 16, 2015

Blog Post Content:
I missed a call and text last night about 10:15.
When I woke up this morning I was able to put the whole story together through text, Facebook and some Facebook messages.
A homeless guy I, and two other friends, Bill Wise and Jon Batten (who I met through Conservative News Authority), are friends with found himself in jail.
It's actually the guy who did the interview I posted on Day 71.
The three of them all went to high school together. Bill spent all night helping his friend get bailed out of jail.
He posted a detailed account on Facebook of his experience with the people at the City of Akron Clerk Of Courts office.
The long and short of it was: His experience was terrible.

He called ahead to get the correct amount for bail. They gave him the wrong amount.
They only accept cash so he had to run back to the bank machine in the middle of the night.
The workers were slow, unfriendly and inefficient.
He described them as "almost inhuman and robot like."

Questions went unanswered.

And this was all in the middle of the night. No one else was in the office. It wasn't like they were busy. He also makes a point of saying that he's never experienced dealing with the City of Akron Clerk of Courts. That's the thing.

Most people that get their voices heard don't experience things like:

Posting bail in the middle of the night.

Meeting with probation officers.

Trying to get disability payments.

All of these city services serve the weak and voiceless. So the way they treat people can largely go unnoticed.

But now Bill is mad.

He's not going to take this lying down.

He's going to start making calls and start talking to people.

And if I had to guess... he'll probably make a difference.

His experience is so important. This is what getting involved does. It gives the weak and voiceless a voice.

If you experienced what he experienced at Target or Chili's you'd never go back. Or you'd complain like hell. Probably both.

When we start to help the little people in our communities we can begin to see what they go through. It might piss you off. And maybe you'll do something about it.

Thank you for helping our friend last night, Bill! I know you are really tired today from being up all night dealing with that ridiculous process. But please don't let it go.

You can make a difference for many people in our community.

Thank you for getting involved.

This is truly how change starts.

Please support Conservative News Authority. They are just getting their political channel off the ground.

They are doing really cool interviews. They've got a powerful understand of politics.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/day-100-guess-whos-a-gigabit-city-its-not-akron-on-the-road-to-mayor/>
og:title Content: Day 100 - Guess who's a Gigabit city. It's not Akron. - On the road to mayor - Sage Lewis
For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023
Blog Post Date: September 17, 2015

Blog Post Content:

The awesome news that Hudson is now going to officially be a Gigabit city came over yesterday: Hudson starts up high-speed gigabit internet service - Your Business - Ohio

Hudson's city owned and operated Velocity Broadband as of Tuesday started offering internet connections up to a gigabit per second 1,000 megabits per second.

To give you an idea: I spend about \$100/month with Time Warner for my business and I get 10 megabits per second.

It makes it hard to have Internet phone. It makes it hard to do video conferencing. It pretty much sucks.

I am so happy for Hudson. It's super cool.

But where's the discussion about this for Akron? Is that on anyone's table? Is that being discussed with anyone?

If I was going to move my business to a new community don't you think the available speed of Internet might be a deciding factor in where I move?

We will become a gigabit city if I become mayor. This is my business. This is the area I eat, sleep and breath.

Ask Dan Horrigan what his plan is for getting us 1000 megabits per second Internet for our businesses.

Dan Horrigan as mayor will guarantee you that nothing changes. Innovation is not his thing. If you think that's cool then definitely vote for him.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/day-43-paari-on-the-road-to-mayor/>
og:title Content: Day 43 - PAARI - On The Road To Mayor - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023
Blog Post Date: July 22, 2015

Blog Post Content:

There are a lot of drugs being used in Akron.

People that don't use illegal drugs often have a disconnect with people that do use illegal drugs.

It's a pretty silly separation if you think about it.

Heroin is often met with shock and a touch of disgust in certain circles in our community. But in reality it's just an opioid that falls within the class including hydrocodone (e.g., Vicodin), oxycodone (e.g., OxyContin, Percocet), morphine (e.g., Kadian, Avinza) and codeine.

And the sad truth is that heroin is increasing in the middle class because a person can't afford or get legal opioids.

We are a society that loves our drugs:

Caffeine

Nicotine

Advil

Tylenol

And of course: Alcohol.

The most disruptive, dangerous drug in our society is alcohol.

The point of this is to simply realize that we are all on drugs. Some happen to be approved of in our laws and communities and some aren't. That's all.

Which brings me to PAARI:

About Us - PAARI

The Police Assisted Addiction and Recovery Initiative (P.A.A.R.I.) was started to support local police departments as they work with opioid addicts. Rather than arrest our way out of the problem of drug addiction, P.A.A.R.I. committed police departments: Encourage opioid drug users to seek recovery Help distribute life saving opioid blocking drugs to prevent and treat overdoses Connect addicts with treatment programs and facilities Provide resources to other police departments and communities that want to do more to fight the opioid addiction epidemic

Police are typically given one tool to deal with people using drugs: Arrest them.

They aren't in the business of making policy. They are simply implementing the process given to them.

The war on drugs has been going on since the Nixon administration in 1971. That was the year I was born.

Truly, since the day I was born we have been having a war on drugs.

War on Drugs - Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

In June 2011, a self-appointed Global Commission on Drug Policy released a critical report on the War on Drugs, declaring: "The global war on drugs has failed, with devastating consequences for individuals and societies around the world.

This is yet one more major change that is happening in our communities all across the world.

PAARI is putting forth some really interesting ideas as how to deal with drug users moving forward.

Under this plan drug addicts who ask the police department for help will be immediately taken to a hospital and placed in a recovery program. No arrest. No jail.

We also work to remove the stigma associated with drug addiction, turning the conversation toward the disease of addiction rather than the crime of addiction.

Akron is a perfect city to test implementing ideas like PAARI.

We clearly have a big drug problem. But we aren't so big that we can't make a meaningful dent on the situation.

We are on the cusp of an amazing time in history, Akron. I'll ask again, if you want to see Akron stop declining in population and doing very little in the way of utilizing our entrepreneurs and 27,000 students at the University of Akron, please seriously consider me as your next mayor.

I don't have big party money to just spend endlessly so you will remember my name on election day, September 8.

If my initiatives, which you can read here, interest you PLEASE tell your friends about my Web site:
SageLewis.com
Thank you!

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/day-44-mark-maron-with-obama/>
og:title Content: Day 44 - Mark Maron with Obama - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023
Blog Post Date: July 22, 2015

Blog Post Content:
I'm listening to a podcast with Barack Obama.
He did an interview with Mark Maron.
Mark is a comedian who does a podcast in his garage.
This is interesting on many levels:

Garage
Comedian
Sitting president
Podcast

Even 6 years ago, when Obama started his presidency, those 4 things coming together would have never been conceivable.
People were shocked when Obama went on a late night talk show.
"That's very unpresidential."
Presidents were not meant to be so "common."
I'm not sure how you feel about it. But today I feel like Of Course presidents should speak to common people.
It's a really interesting, non traditional interview. I highly recommend it:
http://www.wtfpod.com/podcast/episodes/episode_613_-_president_barack_obama
You can hear Obama's independent side in the interview.
He mentions that the one thing that has really been emphasized during his presidency is this:
His faith in the American people is stronger than ever.
It's the politics and the media that splinter us.
Mention any trigger word:

Obama
Clinton
Bush
Guns
Abortion
Democrats
Republicans

And BAM!
We all instantly line up on our appropriate sides of the isle. Let the games begin. Watch the sparks fly.
It's like we have been hypnotized and trained to bark like a dog whenever someone says the magic word.
But these aren't the issues of our every day lives:

House prices in our neighborhood
Local property taxes
The price of gas
The weather
Our kids

We have way more in common than not.
Mark sits right next to Orlando in our office.
Mark is a middle class white guy who is a devout fundamental Christian who has pretty strict conservative

values.

Orlando is an inner city African American liberal. I don't really have any idea what his religious views are. I'd say he probably doesn't think much of religion.

I can't really imagine two different people. They are literally black and white.

They get along great. They never argue about anything. They are both startup entrepreneurs. They both have kids. Money is tight for both of them.

They have much more in common than not.

This is what America truly is.

The media divides us for money. Politicians divide us for power.

They are divisive. They are the unnatural force of negativity in our society.

The amount of damage the media and politicians have inflicted among us is tragic.

Running for mayor of Akron has let me clearly see that the political parties are a matrix construct meant to control us and do their bidding.

I am through with political parties.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/day-45-death-panels-on-the-road-to-mayor/>

og:title Content: Day 45 - Death Panels - On The Road To Mayor - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023

Blog Post Date: July 24, 2015

Blog Post Content:

I finished up Mark Maron's interview of Barack Obama today.

Obama was talking about the importance of being succinct in politics.

He said that it's not that people can't understand the complexity of political situations. It's that they don't have time to analyze all the ins and outs of things.

He then referenced the anti-healthcare people's use of the term Death Panels.

He said that was so powerful because the law was complicated. But people knew one thing: they didn't want death panels.

I wrestle with idealism versus reality of running for mayor.

I don't want to:

Have yard signs

Do robocalls

Mass mail

Believe elections are mostly a name recognition game

Yesterday you very well might have gotten a direct mail piece from my opponent. And then you might have gotten followed up with a robocall.

He will easily have the most signs and billboards all over the city.

\$700,000 for the mayoral campaign is nothing for him. Why?

Because the Akron annual budget is well over \$400 million.

Donors investing a measly \$700k is the best investment they can make.

There are huge contracts at stake if they don't get their guy in office... Preferably for another 28 years.

It's this point that fires me up about this campaign.

It's this point that makes me fight as hard as I can to stop the corruption.

Akron is not a piggy bank that rich people get to shake millions of dollars out of.

I can't promise I won't do any of those things above.

Denying the critical importance of name recognition in an election is political suicide.

If you ever see any of those things from me I hope you don't hold them against me. I'm just a realist at what needs to happen if you actually want to win an election today.

But I will make you one promise: I will never bad mouth any of my opponents.

They all seem like decent people. I just absolutely believe I'm the mayor Akron needs today.

But the system is gross. It's rotten to the core with centuries of bloated greed, power and corruption. I will fight the parties every step of the way.

I also promise to offer as much depth and specifics on initiatives as anyone wants from me.

I regularly update my initiatives section here.

So here's my boiled down succinct message:

STOP THE CORRUPTION.
VOTE SAGE FOR MAYOR.

#teamakron

What do you think? Do you like it? Do you think it's a message that will resonate with people?
If not, do you have another message you think I should focus on?

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/day-46-the-voice-of-the-people-on-the-road-to-mayor/>
og:title Content: Day 46 - The Voice of the People - On The Road To Mayor - Sage Lewis For Akron City
Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023
Blog Post Date: July 25, 2015

Blog Post Content:

We had a really great talk on Facebook today about what the focus of the campaign should be.

A major focus for me is the ages old infrastructure of the 2 party system.

We live in the United States of the 2 Party System.

They hold all the keys. They make all the rules.

This made a lot more sense in a time when communicating was slow and minimal.

Now they just don't want to lose control.

That's where I come in.

My purpose here is to shine a light on the corruption, the total control, the massive amounts of money the parties wield in America. It rots our democracy from the inside.

The lucrative contracts that were gotten by paying huge sums of money to the parties.

The hidden power brokers that pull all the strings.

The puppet officials put in place to do the parties' bidding.

IT WILL ALL DISAPPEAR.

When elected, I will give all the control I am given as mayor to the people.

This was never really possible until recently.

But today the infrastructure exists so that we all can be in continual communication.

If you want to be part of the decision making process we make in the city you will be able to do so.

Budget planning

Initiatives

Pan handlers

Pot holes

Sewer

Homeless

Schools

Taxes

You, the people, and I will discuss these issues together and then vote on how we want to move forward.
There are many tools today that will allow you to submit ideas and then all the people of Akron will be able to vote on them.

We will develop minimums for ideas to be considered and then other minimums for the number of votes needed to move ahead with the change.

We'll start by voting on these minimums.

I will be your servant. I will do your bidding.

We will have the same government process hurdles that exist in our government today. There is a process for how things are done.

But I will do the people's work. I will serve the people in a true democracy.

Make me mayor in Akron and I will give you all the power.

I will be your voice.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/day-47-perspective-on-the-road-to-mayor/>

og:title Content: Day 47 - Perspective - On The Road To Mayor - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023

Blog Post Date: July 26, 2015

Blog Post Content: I'm writing this from Sparta Wisconsin. It's about 600 miles from Akron. Last summer Rocky and I put together a plan to do the biggest vacation of our adult lives. We started putting a plan together to go to Yellowstone National Park.

We should be in South Dakota tomorrow.

We'll be checking out the Badlands first.

I'll post pictures along the way.

I have gotten the chance to see many places in America. It helps me understand Akron more clearly.

People from Northern Ohio are incredibly hard working. I sometimes think too hard working.

I've heard it called the "Midwestern work ethic."

We are very proud of how dedicated we are.

We come to work sick.

We rarely take vacation.

You are a wuss if you don't drive to work in bad snow storms.

You are probably all saying, "Well of course!"

But you should know it's not like that everywhere.

Ultimately, it's an impressive trait.

"So what's the point, Sage?"

I'm so glad you asked.

The point is that it is very difficult to see things clearly when you are in them.

It's not until you step away that you start to see clearly what was always right in front of you.

Take race.

It's incredibly difficult to understand where another person is coming from. You can't get out of your own skin to understand their perspective.

Look at this:

That is crazy.

A white guy just goes about his business and lives his life completely unaware of the bonus points he gets simply for being white.

This is 100% obvious to every single African American in America.

It's impossible to change your skin color. But it's not impossible to make friends with someone of another race.

The more time you spend with people who do not look like you the more you will be able to see a bit better what their perspective is.

If you get the chance, please take the opportunity to hang out with some different people.

I pretty much guarantee you'll enjoy the experience. And you'll be helping move America another step closer to equality for all.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/day-48-great-responsibility-on-the-road-to-mayor/>

og:title Content: Day 48 - Great Responsibility - On The Road To Mayor - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023

Blog Post Date: July 27, 2015

Blog Post Content:

It is very easy to blame all the country's problems on our government officials.

And in fairness they never take responsibility for anything that goes wrong. And they never ask us to do anything.

The last thing I recall being asked to do was when George Bush told me to go shopping.

We can't accuse our leaders of being incompetent and ineffective while not being willing to be part of the solution ourselves.

Democracy is a government structure that requires an engaged people.

Spend time with people outside of your circle of comfort.
Volunteer at the Salvation Army.
Volunteer at your church.
Vote.

Everyone in Akron making small ripples will have much more effect than a few people making big waves.
Out of about 200,000 people some 20,000 will vote in the Democratic primary.
You could instantly take over your city if 50,000 voted.
I will ask things of you as mayor.
For me to be your voice you will have to think about the issues. You will have to go online and tell me what you want me to do.
You can't just complain to your friends about how terrible things are.
You need to be involved.
Together we can make Akron one of the great cities of America.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/day-50-working-together-on-the-road-to-mayor/>
og:title Content: Day 50 - Working Together - On The Road To Mayor - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council
Ward 8 - May 2, 2023
Blog Post Date: July 28, 2015

Blog Post Content:
Doesn't it seem odd to you that politicians can't work together?
Aren't they the "leaders"?
I'm pretty sure I'd get fired from any other job I worked at if I said, "Bob's idea is completely wrong. In fact. I think Bob is trying to intentionally ruin our company."
The boss would probably say, "Stop being a psycho whiner and go figure out how to fix that problem with Bob."
You're the boss. And I'm pretty sure that's what we are all trying to say.
It's either a big spectacle and show to keep us divided and blindly loyal to the party. Or they never grew up past the age of 6.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/day-51-akron-artillery-fire-on-the-road-to-mayor/>
og:title Content: Day 51 - Akron Artillery Fire - On The Road To Mayor - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council
Ward 8 - May 2, 2023
Blog Post Date: July 30, 2015

Blog Post Content:
For 15 years of my adult life I've worked in marketing.
A good marketer knows things like:

Your strengths
Your weaknesses (a lot about your weaknesses)
Your insecurities
Your fears
Where you shop
Where you went to school
Where you work
What TV shows you watch
What websites you visit
The food you eat
The beverages you drink
The car you drive

It goes on and on.
As much as you'd like to think you're a unique snow flake (and we'll tell you that you are) you are not.
You are a demographic.
Marketers take profiling as far as the information permits them to go.

As a person in this industry, I feel quite confident in saying: It's creepy.
There is one stat good political marketers live by: at least 70% of voters know little to nothing about the stances and initiatives of the person they vote for.
IT'S ALL ABOUT NAME RECOGNITION.
All you have to do is make sure the public knows your name.
And so you are under a type of artillery bombing.
But instead of using explosives, they are using yard signs.
Yard signs are starting to pop up like little bombs throughout the city.
They do it because they know 70% of you will just fill in the oval with the name you remember.
The Democratic favorite has only said 2 things:

He's a family man who has lived his entire life in Akron. (He tells you that because it plays well to 35-65 year old voters.)
He is going to work together with other politicians to move "Akron forward." (He says that because he knows that people didn't like how our past mayor fought with many people.)

That's it. That's all we know.

Sewer
Potholes
Taxes
His cabinet

You don't know anything about those things.
All you need to know is his name.
It's such a pessimistic outlook on the people of Akron.
Just bomb them with some pretty flyers and tons of yard signs.
If he wins it's not because you think he has a good plan for Akron. You'll never know that.
You'll just know his name.
Oh... And a mayor will directly effect your life, money, property taxes and where you live. It's a big choice.
Demand knowing the stances and specific initiatives of the person you are voting for.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/day-53-what-is-freedom-to-you-on-the-road-to-mayor/>
og:title Content: Day 53 - What Is Freedom To You? - On The Road To Mayor - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023
Blog Post Date: July 31, 2015

Blog Post Content:
I got the opportunity, for the first time in my life, to see Mount Rushmore.
Washington, Jefferson, Lincoln, Roosevelt.
It's definitely worth experiencing.
Actually, any national monuments are impressive.
We've recently been over to Washington DC. We took the Capital tour.
American monuments almost universally have one theme: Freedom.
It is the core ingredient of what it means to be an American.
At the Mount Rushmore lighting ceremony they talked about freedom. At the end they asked, "What does freedom mean to you?"
I loved that question because no one had ever asked that of me before.
I kind of always thought of it as something that mattered more to the early Americans:

No taxation without representation.
Freedom of religion.
Freedom of speech.

Those are totally cool. But they don't really speak to my everyday life.
I would be upset if they were taken away. But at the moment I'm not overly concerned about losing those.
The Constitution is meant to be a living document. It's meant to be relevant to the daily lives of all

Americans as long as there is America.
So what does freedom mean to me today?
How can I stretch my wings of freedom in a way that those four men on Mount Rushmore would be proud?
This run for Mayor of Akron is me expressing the freedom we all have been given in America (and not in most other countries).
By the people. For the people.
We are a country that was not supposed to succeed because of this one freedom.
The people were not thought to be smart enough and capable enough to govern themselves.
That pessimistic view is wrong.
Americans govern themselves quite well, thank you very much.
An Independent running for the office of mayor should never be mocked, laughed at or chastised for thinking he legitimately can run for and become mayor (or governor or president).
I'm sad to say all those things have happened to me by my fellow Americans.
This campaign is bigger than me.
This campaign is a fresh symbol to remind you that you are an American born or naturalized into the most amazing governmental experiment to ever grace this planet.
You are free to be whoever you want.
You are free to express yourself in any way you want.
You are free to live and move freely among every single state.
You are free to do ANYTHING you want to be, do or say as long as it doesn't hurt someone else.
That is freedom.
What does freedom mean to you?

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/day-56-privilege-on-the-road-to-mayor/>
og:title Content: Day 56 - Privilege - On The Road To Mayor - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023
Blog Post Date: August 3, 2015

Blog Post Content:
I think you would have to be pretty tone deaf to not feel how lucky you are to get to spend time in places like:

Yellowstone National Park
Disney World
The Outer Banks
Naples Florida
The Bahamas
Hawaii

Maybe you have had the opportunity to go to one or more of those places or some other amazing place I didn't think to list.
If so, this message is for you.
These are some of the most magical things you can do in your life.
Getting to experience these things is a gift whether you worked hard for it or inherited it.
The median income for a household in Akron is \$31,835.
As you can imagine, most people in Akron have probably never been to one of those places, much less all of them, as some of you can possibly claim.
That's OK in my book. Some things just can't be equal.
Do I wish everyone could experience these things? Sure.
But either by choice or circumstances, most Akronites will not see any of these things.
I was driving through Yellowstone this morning. I'm prodding my kid to look up from his iPad at the bison stopping traffic on both sides of the street.
Can Angry Birds 2 really be better than this massive beast casually strolling next to our truck?
This week these are my first world, white privilege problems.
I'm not embarrassed that these are my problems. But I am also aware that most people in Akron would gladly trade these problems with theirs any day of the week.
I am also aware that these experiences contribute to the continual divide that happens in society.

A child who gets to experience many different things in the world is going to have advantages over a child who doesn't get to experience as many things.
If I had to guess, not one of you reading this believes you are rich.
No matter the size of house, the kind of car or vacations you take, you probably feel you are just getting by. And really, student debt, mortgages, car loans and credit cards keep many of us barely making ends meet. I get that too.
Just the same, you have access to things like college, travel, family resources and just general acceptance by society that many people will never get.
My kid was randomly born into a world of travel, private school and loving, well-off parents.
That's how the world works.
I simply want you to occasionally remember how lucky you are. That's all.
And with that, if you sometimes have a little extra time or money may I suggest you consider giving some time or money to one of your local organizations in Akron.
Here are a few that come to mind. And if you'd like to add some more just put them in the comments below.
I truly believe we can make the biggest impact in the world by helping the people closest to us.

<http://oh.salvationarmy.org/Akron-Summit>
<http://www.redcross.org/local/northeast-ohio/about/locations/summit-portage-medina>
<http://www.orianahouse.org/>
<http://www.akroncantonfoodbank.org/>

And here is a little secret: giving back is one of the most great feeling things you'll ever do in your life. Giving of yourself becomes its own form of privilege.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/day-57-dont-vote-for-a-democrat-on-the-road-to-mayor/>
og:title Content: Day 57 - Don't Vote For A Democrat - On The Road To Mayor - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023
Blog Post Date: August 4, 2015

Blog Post Content:
I can't remember the last time I didn't vote for a Democrat.
There were many elections I just voted down the party line.
But for the Akron mayor election I'm telling you this: Don't vote for a Democrat!
About two weeks ago I made up my mind that I was going to endorse a Democrat for the Democratic primary that is happening Tuesday, September 8.
I had a guy I was leaning towards.
I've been watching all the contenders closely. That's become part of my job as the Independent in the race. None were overly exciting. But one seemed to be legitimate.
Then his site broke.
It wasn't totally down but he was having some issues with his secure server.
I wrote him and said two things:

My business is in the web industry. Please let me know if I can help in any way.
I'm thinking of endorsing you as the Democratic nominee.

His answer: Nothing.
He didn't tell me to go fly a kite. He didn't say thanks.
He said nothing.
I waited two weeks before writing this story just to make sure he had time to respond.
Then I realized what was happening.
He is part of the same old political system that has existed in this town for as long as any of us can remember.

Insular
Closed off
Private

Us against them
Non-communicative
Closed door
Same old same old
Isolated

I could go on and on.

There is not going to be a single different change of the way things are done in Akron politics if we vote another Democrat into office.

Even the best of the three is terrible.

REPUBLICAN LEANING PEOPLE, LISTEN UP!

This could be your chance.

You legitimately could get your guy into office.

Now, it's not going to be easy. The Democratic power base is incredibly organized and wealthy.

But you have really good people helping your guy: Eddie Sipplen.

Contact him!

Volunteer for him.

Work hard for him.

You truly could change the political machine of Akron by voting in the Republican.

What I like most about him is that he is open, welcoming of all people and he has a fresh perspective.

Personally, I think he's probably a little bit too "small government" for my tastes. I could be wrong about that. But that's my feeling.

But I'll tell you this: If you really want someone that will "work together" with city council, other government officials and the people of Akron, I truly believe Eddie will do it.

I don't believe at all that any of the Democrats will behave one bit differently than our previous mayor.

That's because you aren't voting in a person. You are voting in a machine that has been growing in power and corruption for 3 decades.

Because I'm a horse in the race, me saying I think liberal-leaning people should vote for me doesn't hold much water.

But for what it's worth, if you want a person who believes in:

Small business

Helping the homeless and hungry

Embracing innovation and technology

And solving the pothole problem!

Then you should seriously consider voting for me, Sage Lewis, in the general election on Tuesday November 3rd.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/day-58-global-village-festival-of-greater-akron-on-the-road-to-mayor/>

og:title Content: Day 58 - Global Village Festival of Greater Akron - On The Road To Mayor - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023

Blog Post Date: August 5, 2015

Blog Post Content:

As mayor I will definitely continue this daily storytelling of the journey as mayor.

I believe very strongly that elected office is a deep privilege that deserves a deep commitment to the whole community.

To that end I believe the mayor's office has a responsibility of shining a light on all the great things happening in the city.

One thing I'd really like you to check out is the Global Village Festival of Greater Akron.

It's happening: Sunday, September 13, 2015

Noon to 6 p.m., Lock 3 Park, Akron.

It is an international and ethnic diversity festival including performances, exhibitions, international cuisine, and much more.

Did I mention international cuisine??

Akron is becoming an amazing destination for a great variety of food from all over the world.

Going to festivals like this is a excellent way of supporting your entire community while having a good time at the same time.

And if you'd like to support them in more ways than just going to the festival they need monetary and volunteer help as well.

You can learn more about that in their Facebook page:

Click here for their Facebook page.

A big initiative of mine is turning the declining population around. A declining population indicates a declining city.

We are too awesome to be in decline!

So please put this festival on your calendar.

It will be fun and will be a great way of helping your city continue to grow in amazing and cool ways.

Here is a link to their website:

Global Village Festival of Greater Akron

And if you have an event happening in Akron that you'd like me to promote just send me an email at

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/day-59-its-not-a-personality-contest-on-the-road-to-mayor/>

og:title Content: Day 59 - It's Not A Personality Contest - On The Road To Mayor - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023

Blog Post Date: August 6, 2015

Blog Post Content:

I saw someone on Facebook say they were going to decide who to vote for Akron mayor by looking at things like:

Who he is married to.

How his kids behave and do in school.

Where he grew up.

Where he went to school.

Where he goes to church.

I get it.

These things can be an indicator of character.

But they have nothing to do with being a good or bad mayor.

Here's a list of 7 presidents that almost positively cheated on their wives at some time in their marriages: Is there a definitive list of presidents who have... | Dead Presidents

It certainly doesn't help their public persona. People love to hate adulterers. But it doesn't have an effect on the way they performed as president.

I will tell you right now, and you are welcome to dig as deep and hard as you want, I have never, ever cheated on my wife.

I haven't smoked a cigarette or had a sip of alcohol since 2003.

I don't drink coffee.

I've run 3 marathons.

I am starting a meditation practice.

I love camping with my wife and son.

I try to be in bed by 9:00 every night, 7 days a week.

I like getting up early - 6:30 at the latest, 7 days a week.

I would be a tough match to beat in a clean living contest.

But none of that matters for being mayor.

There is one main trait I'd look at if I were you: What vision does the person have to be mayor?

Where do they want to take the city? What do they want to accomplish?

You need to figure out who is going to be a great leader.

Great leaders inspire greatness in those they lead.

Great leaders have bold ideas on how to make their city (Akron) great.

Great leaders see the possibilities of the future. They don't stare at all the road blocks that are holding them back.

Look for an optimistic, hopeful visionary as your next mayor of Akron.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/day-61-greatness-is-in-you-on-the-road-to-mayor/>
og:title Content: Day 61 - Greatness Is In You - On the Road to Mayor - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council
Ward 8 - May 2, 2023
Blog Post Date: August 8, 2015

Blog Post Content:

I wish so much you could see what I've seen the last couple weeks.
Yellowstone, The Black Hills, The Badlands. These are places that defy explanation.
No words or pictures tell the story of actually being here.
We are just leaving the Little Bighorn Battlefield area.
This is where Custer's Last Stand occurred.
You might know that.
But the much more interesting story is of the Native Americans that won the battle.
The fight was an overwhelming victory for the Lakota, Northern Cheyenne, and Arapaho.
This was a unique time for Native Americans because they were taking part in the Sun Dance, a very important religious ceremony together.
The highly regarded leader, Sitting Bull, had a vision that there would be a battle and they would be victorious.
The Native Americans went into the battle believing they would win and they did. Decisively.
This continues to be a very important part of Native American history. They look to it as a form of inspiration.
Native Americans are incredibly proud and deeply connected to the land and their ancestors.
We have much to learn from them.
But the lesson I want to reference is this: This area and its original inhabitants are greatness incarnate.
I'm driving through the middle of greatness.
No matter what current struggles the Native Americans may be going through they have a very clear eye on who they are. I am very confident we will see them return to their great stature once again. It's just a matter of time.
And the same goes with you.
You are a direct descendant of greatness.
You are on this planet because of the brave and bold actions of your ancestors.
Maybe you can't see it in your parents or grandparents. Maybe you don't have records of your ancestors because you are a descendent of slaves.
But greatness dwells in you. I assure you.
The secret to living into your greatness is to stop trying to be something you're not.
Don't be afraid to be you.
You do you.
Greatness doesn't have to be a lot of money or a big house.
In fact those rarely represent greatness at all.

Practice more with your band.
Paint more.
Write more.
Run more.
Add on to your model trains.
Spend more time on your short wave radio.
Join a video game tournament.

Don't let anyone tell you those things are silly. Greatness can be had in all of them.
Become the ancestor people look to as their inspiration in the future.
Be the greatness you want to see.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/day-63-do-you-feel-free-and-happy-on-the-road-to-mayor/>
og:title Content: Day 63 - Do You Feel Free and Happy? On the road to mayor - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023
Blog Post Date: August 10, 2015

Blog Post Content:

Life. Liberty (freedom). And the pursuit of happiness.

It's very interesting that those three things are presented in that order.

You can't have one without the one before it.

With all my heart, I believe many of our freedoms have been taken from us by the wealthy and powerful.

A perfect example of this is with student loans.

I know many people that are strapped with insurmountable student loan debt.

And there is nothing you can do about it. That debt will follow you all the way into old age as your social security gets garnished.

This is less visible in your city taxes. But, I assure you, it's raging and sucking you dry.

You must understand that there are huge city government contracts in play during this election.

Rich people are terrified that if the ordained Democrat doesn't get elected then all these bloated government contracts will get reevaluated. Which they will.

You pay for these rich people to get richer through your taxes.

Elect a Democrat into office and I guarantee the rich will get richer off of your back.

You CAN stop this by electing the Republican or Independent into office.

It's the Democrats in Akron that are obsessed with keeping the power and money all to themselves.

The Democrat Dynasty in Akron has gotten too powerful and too corrupt.

The soil must be turned over.

Teddy Roosevelt called these people the "Criminal Rich".

They are manipulating the system to make tons of money from people that have very little money to begin with.

They steal your freedom by ever increasing taxes and unforgivable debt.

And with your freedom, they slowly erode the likelihood of ever really pursuing happiness.

Vote for me, Sage Lewis - Independent, Tuesday November 3rd for Mayor of Akron.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/day-64-theyre-failing-you-on-the-road-to-mayor/>

og:title Content: Day 64 - They're Failing You - On The Road To Mayor - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023

Blog Post Date: August 11, 2015

Blog Post Content:

Frank Comunale has officially left the race.

You now have 2 candidates for the Democratic primary.

Dan Horrigan - the puppet of the 30 year old Dynasty of greed and corruption that won't let go of Akron.

Mike Williams - the candidate that hasn't done anything significant in 20 years at city council.

And the guy that dropped out, Frank Comunale, he is quoted as saying he got too tired.

I won't make a habit of hitting these guys. I have much more to run for than against.

But this is appalling.

These people don't care about you at all.

They are all in this for ego, power and greed.

I am driving back from Yellowstone into Akron.

I used the time to clear my thoughts about the election and how it plays in my life.

The West is filled with stories of people who defied all odds to accomplish great things.

I come from my time away from Akron with a clear vision, rested and ready to fight against the massive powers that have a stranglehold on Akron.

I'm not tired at all. I'm ready to fight harder than I've ever fought for anything in my life.

Together, we will show the powerful elite whose city it truly is.

We are the 99%.

We are the real power.

This November they will hear us.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/day-67-i-am-changed-on-the-road-to-mayor/>

og:title Content: Day 67 - I Am Changed - On The Road To Mayor - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023

Blog Post Date: August 14, 2015

Blog Post Content:

This trip to the West has shaped me more than anything I can think of recently in my life. I've been trying to find the words to describe what I'm feeling. The word I keep coming back to is: Greatness. The land. The monuments. The battles. Even the missile silos. The visions and sheer size and beauty are all awesome. This contrasts very sharply to my day to day life at home. Sure. I work hard. But so much of it is spinning my wheels. I don't want to live a life of spinning on a wheel just to make the wheel spin. This all comes at a perfect time for this mayoral election. You will start seeing my truck once again moving through Akron. But I likely am going to run a very different campaign from this point forward. Signs. Robocalls. Debates with other candidates. It's all so self serving. And really, that's all politics is for most politicians. A job with power. There is no talk of the people of Akron. There is no talk of the homeless and hungry. There's no talk of abandon houses. There's no talk of potholes. As a candidate for mayor I'm not going to just talk about these issues. I'm going to do something about them. I might as well be useful to the community while I run for mayor. Stay tuned.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/day-71-homeless-interview-on-the-road-to-mayor/>

og:title Content: Day 71 - Homeless Interview - On The Road To Mayor - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023

Blog Post Date: August 18, 2015

Blog Post Content: You can't stand on a street in Akron without meeting a homeless person. As I've been doing my signatures I've gotten to talk to a lot of homeless people. These conversations are the best part of running for mayor! I wanted to start sharing them with you so you could experience them too. These people typically won't let me take their picture and they definitely won't let me do a video. But the guy I talked to today suggested I do a voice recording on my phone. The homeless are probably more tech savvy than you'd think. Email accounts, Tracfone, Facebook accounts. They have it all. So it's not surprising this guy thought of doing a voice recording before I did. He was very adamant that I not use his name and not take his picture. But his words are incredibly powerful. The homeless are part of your community. I think you'll find it interesting to hear what they have to say. Check it out:

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/day-72-kicked-out-of-another-discussion-on-the-road-to-mayor/>

og:title Content: Day 72 - Kicked Out of Another Discussion - On The Road To Mayor - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023

Blog Post Date: August 19, 2015

Blog Post Content:

I was asked a few weeks ago to participate on a panel about the arts in Akron. I was really excited about that because I have a close relationship with the arts in Akron. I spent all my high school years in the Akron Youth Symphony. I played countless concerts on the E.J. Thomas Hall stage. That's interesting because the Hall has been closed for all outside events. Akron mayor responds to University of Akron layoffs, EJ Thomas Hall closure | cleveland.com the University of Akron, which have closed the university's press and the city's biggest performance space, EJ Thomas Hall. I also donate space in my building to a variety of artists.

I just was excited. That's all.
But I found out today I'm not invited to participate in that discussion.
Yesterday I was asked by a group helping Millennials to vote to spread the word about their events. When I asked if I could come to the events they told me no.
It's frustrating and exhausting.
My initial response is: "I don't need this shit."
I can just go back to running my business. I've got plenty I can do to keep me busy.
In fact, if I'd stop now I could schedule another camping trip for this weekend, and the next, and the next.
Frank Comunale quit. He quit so hard and fast his web site says he's still ready to move Akron forward. He makes it look pretty good.
But here's the thing.
These mayoral debates piss me off.
I've sat through 3 hours of debate now.
I'm pretty sure I know who prays more. I'm pretty sure I know who's going to "work together" more. I'm pretty sure I know who thinks the sewer matters more to. (not really. They all just tried to one up each other on all those issue so much I lost track.)
But here's what I don't know:
Who gives one single solitary shit about:

The homeless
The hungry
Abandon homes.

In 3 hours of mind numbing debate I never heard the word homeless or hungry come up once. Not. One. Time.
Who thought of putting the finances online first is a thrilling debate. I wrote about doing this on June 17: Akron Will Post Its Checkbook Online. Since they don't write anything meaningful on their sites I can't see when they first "thought of it." Total bullshit.
You aren't getting a choice for mayor. Williams and Horrigan are 2 peas in a pod.
Comunale was the guy I was going to actually endorse as the Democratic candidate. He had some legitimately interesting ideas. Now I see he probably was pushed out because he thought too much for himself.
There is a guy I see almost every day as I drive to work. He will see my truck, stop dead in his tracks and raise his hand all the way in the air to wave at me as I go by. It makes me smile every time he does it. He told me yesterday he just got diagnosed with colon cancer. How would you like to deal with treating colon cancer with no food, no housing, no money, no relatives? He has nothing.
I'm staying in this race for him.
I'm staying in the race for all the countless other homeless and hungry I meet on the street.
And if they read this let it be known: On day one: I will start the "A sock on every feet" initiative.
If you are homeless, whenever you need socks, you will get them.
I've been told many times that because they are on their feet so much new socks make a huge difference.
You got it. I'll get 'em for you.
But if I'm going to stay in the race, I REALLY NEED MORE SIGNATURES.
If you are an Akron Registered voter and would be willing to give me a signature to get on the ballot so the homeless and hungry can at least be heard a little in this debate please use this form below to tell me where and when I can meet you to get your signature.
[wufoo username="sagerock" formhash="mdwiv4i0gaafra" autoresize="true" height="942" header="show" ssl="true"]

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/the-socks-on-every-feet-program/>
og:title Content: The Socks On Every Feet Program - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023
Blog Post Date: August 19, 2015

Blog Post Content: I have gotten to talk to a lot of homeless on this path to being mayor. These people, often forgotten or looked over, are intensely passionate about the City of Akron and it's representatives. You might suspect that they are entirely self-indulgent or only caring about their own personal issues.

You would be wrong.

The majority of the homeless in Akron are wonderful people whom care as much about their fellow persons as they do themselves.

The one thing they need more of: Socks.

They are on their feet so much they need new, fresh socks all the time.

As mayor I will make sure that if you are homeless you will get socks.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/day-31-getting-to-me-on-the-road-to-mayor/>

og:title Content: Day 31 - Getting To Me - On The Road to Akron Mayor - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023

Blog Post Date: July 9, 2015

Blog Post Content: If you've been following along you probably know I've been spending an increasing amount of time in front of Angel Falls Coffee Shop here in Akron.

I spend a couple hours nearly every day standing in front of my truck talking to people. Sometimes I go 2 or 3 times a day.

I've got a mobile office setup that lets me work pretty much anywhere so I can keep working in quiet times.

I'm starting to crave it. I'm always thinking about when I can get out there next.

The people I get to meet are so amazing.

I met a guy last night who was waiting to meet up with his girlfriend who was just getting back from Asia. At the age of 20 he had traveled many places, including a trip to Vietnam with the Travel Channel and Bert Kreisher.

Then there's the guy who lives in the apartments next to Angel Falls who works remotely for a startup outside of the city. He could live anywhere but chooses to live in Akron.

An old friend who is transitioning from 20 years as a music teacher to going to Divinity School and has some of the most cutting edge religious thoughts you'll ever hear.

A friend from elementary school who brought me a book he thinks will help me in this pursuit.

I could probably write about these meetings for hours.

But it's the homeless people.

The homeless and the hungry. The people in pain - physical and mental.

They touch me to my core.

This experience floods back memories of the Hermann Hesse book, "Siddhartha". He was incredibly influenced by his exposure to the suffering of people around him. I would imagine as a social worker you know, with great detail, the feelings I'm just barely beginning to see.

This whole experience has quieted the emotional anxiety of the business world. The critical importance of increasing profits 10% from last year to this year doesn't hold the kind of panicked frenzy in my mind like it normally does.

There are bigger problems:

Tent cities being destroyed and thrown away by the City of Akron.

Visible panic of how to get a few dollars to eat something.

A woman carrying her life in a cart through the library trying to get money for food.

It's always the food. "Can I just get \$2 to get something to eat."

Finding someplace to sleep becomes a luxury. It only comes up in longer conversations.

You can't feed them all. You don't have enough money. And besides, they'll be hungry again in a few hours.

Food becomes oxygen. Will I get my next gasp of it so I can have enough energy to get more?

This experience will remain with me the rest of my life. I'm so grateful for it.

I don't know what the answer is. So I'm not going to give you some bull crap statement, "As mayor I will eliminate hunger in Akron."

No I won't.

But I will tell you this: I'm significantly influenced by it and will work very hard to understand what we can do together to make things better for these people.

See you soon on the street.

P.S. Today (July 9) is my quit day. I quit drinking, smoking and coffee 12 years ago.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/day-32-who-i-wish-was-running-for-mayor-on-the-road-to-mayor/>
og:title Content: Day 32 - Who I WISH Was Running For Mayor - On The Road To Mayor - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023
Blog Post Date: July 10, 2015

Blog Post Content: I'm not sure what I thought other candidates would be like when I got into this race. But I'm pretty sure it's not what I'm finding.
From what I can see, there are 2 types of people that run for mayor:

Ego-maniacal, self-righteous narcissists.
Lifers. People that made a career out of politics.

I guess I'm in the first group.

The conversations I've had with other candidates have been unlike the vast majority of conversations I've had in my life.

Shake their hand and good luck ever getting a word in edgewise. You will feel like you are in a battle of words if you want to say anything. My recommendation is to just not saying anything because they probably won't be listening anyway.

It's pretty depressing actually.

But then I got to think who I wish I was running against. You may have people you know that you'd like to see run and they are probably great. But these are just some people I think would be good.

Tony Troppe - He's a nice guy with a lot of experience working on revitalizing Akron. He's strong-willed and probably would not be easily pushed around.

Brian Deagan - He's a really interesting guy with a strong entrepreneurial background. He has a ton of energy and would probably get a lot of really innovative things done in the city.

Jasen Sokol - He hosts a talk radio show at WAKR. He discusses and thinks about a lot of issues in Akron. He is probably one of the more knowledgeable people about Akron.

Kurt A. Minson - He is really knowledgeable about Akron and politics in general. He has a lot of experience in business and crosses over many traditional social boundaries.

I wish Kristie VanAuken, the Chief Marketing Officer of Akron Canton Airport, would move to Akron so she could run for mayor. She has boundless energy, is a serious executive but also highly approachable. She would be amazing.

But that's not the kind of line up you have.

People seemingly looking for a cushy retirement gig.

Rich people with nothing to do with their time.

Loyal party men who will do what the party tells them to do.

Maybe we can get some of those people above to run next time. Although, I'm pretty sure each one of them would probably tell you there is no chance in hell they'd get into politics. They're too busy getting stuff done.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/day-33-how-can-you-be-mayor-if-you-dont-know-that-on-the-road-to-mayor/>
og:title Content: Day 33 - How Can You Be Mayor If You Don't Know That? - On The Road To Mayor - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023
Blog Post Date: July 11, 2015

Blog Post Content:

That was my niece's response when I asked her if they still made juice boxes.

"How can you be mayor if you don't know if they still make juice boxes?"

I get that question every so often about various things.

It's usually in a statement that feels like I'm not smart enough to be mayor.

"You should let the pros handle running things."

This is interesting to me because these are often the exact same people you'll see saying on Facebook, "Vote them all out!"

It just feels like a perpetual anger and frustration of the entire political scene.

Damned if you do. Damned if you don't.
I get it. The system is broken and there isn't a clear way to fix it.
That's the foundation of everything I believe in for this campaign.
Yes. The current system is broken. But I have an idea for how we can fix it.
I believe our political leaders are faithful to their party, not the people.
They are committed to the party because they owe the party. The party is responsible for them getting to where they are. So when the party says jump they ask how high.
We can fix the system by politicians only being committed to you, the people.
The only thing I'm committed to is you. I owe you. You are responsible for me getting to where I am.
And I have to say: I'm much further ahead because of you than I ever thought I'd get.
I will always owe you and be true to you. And only you.
Are there going to be things I won't know the answers to? Sure. But I guarantee everyone in this race has no idea how to be mayor.
The pros will just push that message out through their surrogates that I don't have experience.
News flash: either do they.
A council person isn't a mayor. A lawyer isn't a mayor. A Clerk of Courts isn't a mayor.
Just because a flight attendant works on a plane doesn't mean they know how to fly the plane.
Our government is built on the idea that we aren't supposed to be career politicians. We do our service and we go back to private lives.
Do you want that or not?
The City of Akron is made up of departments. The departments consist of:

Finance
Law
Neighborhood Assistance
Personnel
Planning and Urban Development
Public Safety
Public Service

These are the actual professionals. These people are hired because they have actual experience in how to make their part of the city run great. They make sure the machine of the city keeps running smoothly. Not the mayor.
This is how government works in America.
The President of the United States is the commander-in-chief of the most powerful military ever. They are the person that exercises supreme operational command and control of our nation's military forces.
This might surprise you: most of our presidents don't know the first thing of running a military. That doesn't make them bad or good at the job. Their character determines their success.
Being governor or mayor is exactly the same thing. Just on a much smaller scale.
If you believe in the European philosophy that politicians should spend their entire life in politics then please vote for one of the 3 lifelong politicians of the Democratic Party that are running for mayor.
If you believe in the optimistic American political philosophy that the people are able to govern themselves then vote for someone other than those 3. (Maybe me.)
But here's the thing. If you want a politician that is true to you and not the party then it is you that has to make it happen.
I can only win if you make it happen.
If you want to take control of your government, take control!
Make me mayor and I will give all the control back to you, the people of Akron.
How can you help?
I'm so glad you asked.
The best thing you can do is share any of these stories on your favorite social media site. This is the donation I really need you to make.
Just ask people to check out what I'm writing about.
If you really want to go above and beyond, print something from this site and give it to some friends or leave it in a library or coffee shop or pin it to a bulletin board.
This is how we will win.
Your voice is more powerful than all the money in the world. It is more powerful than any political party.

We live in the greatest time in history for empowering the people.
You are united now. There is no longer any party, company or organization that has the power you have today. You just have to see it and take it.
Together you can completely change the world.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/day-34-getting-my-voice-on-the-road-to-mayor/>
og:title Content: Day 34 - Getting My Voice - On The Road To Mayor - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023
Blog Post Date: July 12, 2015

Blog Post Content:

When I started this journey my position was to give the people of Akron an alternative to the status quo. To the good-old-boy club of Akron Democrats.
But saying, "If you don't like this then we have something else," isn't great. Just because it's different doesn't make it better.
But today I feel much more clear on what I have to offer you.
I think this was there all along. But I couldn't clearly state it.
But today I know what I'm offering you.
Today my position is clear: We are the 99%. They are the 1%.
We are taking our city back. The people are the strength. Democracy will be reborn.

We must end the corrupting influence of money in politics.
We must protect the weak and poor of our community.
We must be heard.

The difference between me and them couldn't be more clear.
They want:

Powerful government factions.
Big business first.
The voice of the rich.

I want:

Protection of the homeless and hungry.
Empowering the people to start businesses and be heard in the community.
Listen to the 99% first.

No one else is offering anything similar to that.
Make me mayor and I will bring true Democracy to Akron. You will be heard.
**Please share this and anything else on this site with your friends through social media. The only way this will work is through your voice.
Thank you.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/day-35-auctions-on-the-road-to-mayor/>
og:title Content: Day 35 - Auctions - On The Road To Mayor - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023
Blog Post Date: July 13, 2015

Blog Post Content:

Based on this blog, you might be surprised to know that I actually run several businesses.
SageRock is my bread and butter. It's a digital marketing agency that my wife, Rocky, and I founded in 1999. We moved SageRock from Medina to Akron about 11 years ago. We ran it out of our house, then we rented space in the Ice and Coal warehouse from Mike Owen. And our last move was about 6 years ago when we bought 15 Broad St.
SageRock has given us a lot. We get to travel. We get to work with great companies. And we get to be really good at something.

It also has given us the opportunity to start some other businesses.
We started a roofing company last summer. And I'm also working to become an auctioneer.
Auctioning is really interesting to me because I feel like it's an industry that could use some innovation and updating.
I'm an apprentice auctioneer under Chuck Kreiner.
I went to the Kentucky School of Auctioneering. I took a test in Columbus. And then I need to call 12 auctions for a year. Finally I then take one more test and I become a full fledged auctioneer under the eyes of the state of Ohio.
Yesterday, Sunday, I got to help call an estate auction in Alliance. Auctions tend to be a little more popular down south.
I went to a lot of auctions as a kid. I spent the first 7 years growing up in the country of Medina County.
Then today Chuck and I did our regular online auction at AkronAuctioneers.com. You can either come in person or online and participate in our auction.
We have basically created a live auction show where you can bid online.
I love innovating and trying to contribute to an industry in a meaningful way.
I rarely just start a business merely to make money. I love creating.
So, today was mostly a work day. I did get to write this post. And Greg and I got to do our regular strategy meetings.
I'm very fortunate in that I prefer to be in a situation with many different things going on.
When things feel chaotic to others that's when I really start to feel alive.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/day-36-doubt-on-the-road-to-mayor/>
og:title Content: Day 36 - Doubt - On The Road To Mayor - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023
Blog Post Date: July 14, 2015

Blog Post Content:
In the drug world there is something called Suicide Tuesday.
It typically happens after a wild Saturday night of partying.
Tuesday is the day when it all comes crashing down around you.
The strongest drug I've taken since 2003 is Diet Coke and hot tea (not at the same time, that's crazy). The drug culture is a huge part of our society and understanding it is important to understand the entire community.
But I digress.
I often feel similarly about Tuesday.
Tuesday is one of those days that is deep in the middle of a work week with no light at the end of the tunnel.
It's probably my least favorite day of the week.
It's not uncommon for me to feel a good amount of self doubt on Tuesdays.
(Can you tell today is Tuesday?)
I rarely see leaders today discuss their weaknesses. That's a shame.
People in charge often say things like:

Pull yourself up by your bootstraps.
Fake it till you make it.
Work harder.

Sometimes none of that is possible.
Churchill talked of the black dog that often plagued him during hard times.
Eisenhower's doubts about success in the face of a highly-defended and well-prepared enemy led him to consider what would happen if the invasion of Normandy failed.
"Why have you forsaken me," asked Jesus.
The greatest among us are touched by doubt.
But doubt can be useful.
It lets you see things that blind optimism can miss entirely.
It lets you be humble.
It reminds you that life comes with no guarantees.

It's ok if you doubt yourself. It probably just means you are thoughtful.

I'll leave you with this:

Mother Teresa: " Do It Anyway"

(This was found written on the wall in Mother Teresa's home for children in Calcutta.)

People are often unreasonable, irrational, and self-centered. Forgive them anyway.

If you are kind, people may accuse you of selfish, ulterior motives. Be kind anyway.

If you are successful, you will win some unfaithful friends and some genuine enemies. Succeed anyway.

If you are honest and sincere people may deceive you. Be honest and sincere anyway.

What you spend years creating, others could destroy overnight. Create anyway.

If you find serenity and happiness, some may be jealous. Be happy anyway.

The good you do today, will often be forgotten. Do good anyway.

Give the best you have, and it will never be enough. Give your best anyway.

In the final analysis, it is between you and God. It was never between you and them anyway.

- credited to Mother Teresa

The picture is from here:

<http://brucemctague.com/tag/intelligent-people-are-full-of-doubts>

That's a great post on doubt in leadership, by the way.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/plastic-roads/>

og:title Content: Plastic Roads - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023

Blog Post Date: July 15, 2015

Blog Post Content:

Dutch company, VolkerWessels, has recently come out with a new concept: PlasticRoad.

As the Rubber Capital of the World and the Polymer Capital of the World we should be leading this initiative.

Akron should be the first city in the world with polymer roads.

Here are some features of this road:

Can handle -40 degrees

Can easily handle 170 degrees

Unaffected by corrosion and weather

Virtually maintenance free

Triple the lifespan of regular roads

Has a hollow structure for cables, pipes and water

Can be installed on a surface of sand

We just need to open our minds to the possibilities of the future.

A career politician is not going to give you a city of the future.

Vote Sage for Mayor of Akron!

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/day-37-competition-on-the-road-to-mayor/>

og:title Content: Day 37 - Competition - On The Road To Mayor - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023

Blog Post Date: July 16, 2015

Blog Post Content:

I just got back from Eddie Sipplen's fundraiser event.

(For the record, those trying to keep me off the ballot, I didn't donate to him. So you can't try to corner me as a Republican in Independent's clothing. I'm definitely not a Republican.)

I've gotten to spend a bit of time with Eddie. I like him.

We have different values on probably many things. But that's what America is. We are the melting pot. We are all Americans first. And that's what matters most.

Please slow down and read this next sentence carefully and slowly:

If you want to actually be listened to and engaged with your city's government, consider Eddie and my campaigns carefully.

I'm 37 days into my entire political career and you wouldn't even believe if I told you how you are being

sidelined and manipulated for power and money by those in charge.
If you vote for one of the Democrats for mayor have a VERY good reason to do so.
If you vote for them just because they look like a happy family and they are handsome you are handing all your control and power to the 1%.
Eddie and I are giving you options that the Democrats never wanted you to have. You were just supposed to vote for one of them, preferably Dan Horrigan, and that was that.
In Akron the Democrats believe the only election that matters is the Democratic primary on September 8. The general election on November 3, when you will see my name and Eddie's name on a ballot the first and only time, is supposed to just be a formality.
That's what the Democrats are hoping.
They are hoping you are just the mindless masses that will vote solely on name recognition. (They believe the stats that say at least 70% of voters vote just because they heard the name.)
The Democrats will say as little as possible about their stances on any issues.
Watch Eddie's site. He will definitely be laying out exactly what he wants to do.
He, and I, can only stand a chance of winning this thing by giving you real ideas and solid reasons why we should be mayor.
Please don't let the Democrats' pessimism win this mayoral race. Demand specific initiatives that they will accomplish and then hold them to them.
It's your city. Not theirs.
And finally:
Click here for my ideas for initiatives I want to accomplish as mayor.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/legalized-squatting-tent-cities/>
og:title Content: Legalized Squatting & Tent Cities - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023
Blog Post Date: July 16, 2015

Blog Post Content:
The International Squatters Symbol

Homelessness is a very real problem in Akron.
If you have a better way of solving it I'm all ears.
But I have an idea:
What if prequalified homeless were given the opportunity to move into an abandon house or building?

They would agree to stay off drugs.
They would paint and clean the house.
They would keep the yard mowed.
They would agree to never condone or take part in any illegal activities.

This has been done before in America.
From this page on Wikipedia:
Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now (or ACORN) was one of the first organizations in the U.S. to launch a national squatting campaign to challenge and transform federal and local housing policies to provide for more affordable housing.
In 1988, Operation Homestead in Seattle began occupying buildings and negotiating their sale to nonprofit low-income housing organizations. By 1993, it had successfully reclaimed 300 units.
Take Back the Land is a Miami-based, self-proclaimed "housing liberation" group that formed in 2006. They break into vacant, unused bank-owned foreclosed homes and move homeless people inside.
Homes Not Jails advocates squatting houses to end the problem of homelessness. It has opened "about 500 houses
Akron can become one of the most forward thinking cities in America if we want it.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/day-38-all-hail-wealthy-donors-power-mongers-on-the-road-to-mayor/>
og:title Content: Day 38 - All Hail Wealthy Donors & Power Mongers! - On The Road To Mayor - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023
Blog Post Date: July 17, 2015

Blog Post Content: Money and politics.

This is the great corruption of America.

Money buys political favors: You scratch my back, I'll scratch yours.

Find great political power and I guarantee you will find money hovering around it like bees to honey.

Politicians need the money so they can flood the market with endless advertisements so they can get into power. Most lifelong politicians don't have their own money. So they have to beg for money from rich people and rich people don't get rich by just giving their money away.

If they're going to give away their hard earned dividends they want something in return. They want more money.

Most career politicians want power first and foremost. They will say pretty much anything to get it. That means that politicians will take the money so they can fill their insatiable desire for power. And rich people will give them the money because it all but guarantees to get them more money.

And so it goes.

If you didn't notice, I never once mentioned anything about you, the people.

There is almost no way of knowing if a politician really has any desire to accomplish anything other than what he/she was paid to accomplish. That being said there are some tech Websites and projects that aim to inform people, but it's still a difficult task. I'm talking about sites like Open Secrets, which aims to inform voters on contributions to candidates and Politifact, which looks through politicians records to validate that statements made publicly are actually true. However those run into huge hurdles when dealing with National or State politics. For them, it's almost impossible to track local politics.

I would like to make that easier. I would like for Akron and it's Representatives to be as transparent as is humanly possible. I'd like to work with sites like Open Secrets and Politifact and figure out what they need and how they need it delivered to take Akron to the next level. This is not impossible. This is technology. This is where I thrive. This is one way of pushing our fine city to be more open, honest, and accountable to you & I, the people who live here.

Currently: Anything our career politicians do manage to accomplish is used for their next campaign.

Do you really think they care about abortion, guns or religion? These are merely talking points and tools used divide and manipulate the masses.

You can only pull their political power scepter out of their cold dead hands.

This is so far away from what the founding fathers wanted.

America has been proud of being the great symbol of freedom and liberty to all the world.

We are now the great symbol of power and greed to all the world.

This does NOT represent the people I know. This does NOT represent the fair City of Akron. Instead this is caused by the warped, grotesque deformed beast created by the power mongers. This is what is brought about by your career politicians. Those who cared more about their own views and policies than the people they were supposed to represent.

And sadly there was very little that could be done about this for a very long time.

After all, the only way your voice could be heard was if the media gatekeepers let your voice be heard. You were powerless.

We live in a time unlike any other time in history.

Today the gates have been breached. The power hierarchy is crumbling.

You are about to take back your country. City by city, the people's voice in America is no longer inconsequential. It should have been and was intended to be this way.

The people matter. The people are waking up.

It is time to take our government back.

By the people. For people.

We have a message for the lying politicians and greedy barons:

YOUR ERA IS OVER!

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/day-39-nextdoor-on-the-road-to-mayor/>

og:title Content: Day 39 - Nextdoor - On The Road To Mayor - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023

Blog Post Date: July 18, 2015

Blog Post Content: I had a great conversation today with a resident of Cuyahoga Falls.

She said that their mayor suggested everyone in Cuyahoga Falls go meet their neighbor.

What a great idea!

She told two stories where by doing that she and her neighbors were able to counteract two potential criminal scenarios.

Working together with your neighbors can become a very powerful thing.

But I also know we are all very busy. And meeting new people isn't always easy.

I'd like to introduce you to the site Nextdoor.

This site allows you connect with all your neighbors.

I have over 60 people in my neighborhood on the site.

People discuss local crime. They offer to give away items they no longer need. They talk about activities happening in the neighborhood.

It's an easy way to make friends with people living right around you.

I'd love for you to give it a try.

The more we can work together in Akron the stronger we all become.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/day-40-ohio-prison-facts-on-the-road-to-mayor/>

og:title Content: Day 40 - Ohio Prison Facts - On The Road To Mayor - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023

Blog Post Date: July 18, 2015

Blog Post Content:

I just got back from the Ohio State Reformatory in Mansfield.

We're spending the weekend camping at the Shelby / Mansfield KOA.

The movie Shawshank Redemption was filmed there.

Look at this graph from CNN on how much money we spend per inmate versus per student.

From here:

For FY 2012, the average cost to incarcerate an inmate in an Ohio prison was \$24,870 per year, or \$68.14 per day.

As of July 1, 2012, Ohio's adult prison system consisted of 28 correctional institutions, approximately 12,000 employees, and 49,710 inmates.

And from here:

Percent of adult males incarcerated by race and ethnicity:

We incarcerate longer than other countries. And the War on Drugs has increased our rates.

We, as a nation, need to have a discussion about this.

But I truly believe all politics is local.

Akron needs to ask:

Is there a better way to handle drug offenders?

Are minorities truly committing more crimes in our city than whites?

How can we help felons get back on their feet once they are out?

This begins and ends at the city level.

I believe we can do better.

I highly recommend taking a trip to the Ohio State Reformatory in Mansfield. Prisons are a bigger part of our country than any country in the world. You should probably understand what you're paying for.

Plus, they've even got ghost tours.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/day-41-change-is-upon-us-on-the-road-to-mayor/>

og:title Content: Day 41 - Change Is Upon Us - On The Road To Mayor - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023

Blog Post Date: July 19, 2015

Blog Post Content:

I know people don't like change.

It disrupts our lives. It's uncomfortable. You never know what will happen on the other side.

There's no reason to change for change sake.

But I'm here to tell you: We live in a world full of change.

One thing is primarily responsible for this: the Internet.

Today we live in something that is more like a global village than separate, disconnected countries. We outsource jobs around the world. Any business can go online and hire a designer, accountant or web developer from around the world. This all pushes American wages lower. A web designer in Akron is in competition with a web designer in Bangladesh. You don't need me to tell you that the rich get richer and the poor get poorer. We all know that's the case. What isn't talked about as much is the middle class. Income data indicate that the middle class, including the upper middle class, have seen far slower income growth than the top 1% since 1980. As inflation continues this means the middle class gets poorer. I'm sorry to say but there isn't too terribly much the government can do to help you with that reality. Can we cut taxes? Sure. And if that's something you want me to do I'll do it. But the bigger problem is the globe. Basically, we aren't just talking about American middle class. We're talking about the global middle class. The middle class in India and China is rising while the American middle class is sinking. Where we all meet is anyone's guess. But here is where things get interesting. The system is changing. I have a friend who loves time banks. The concept is: you do something for someone and you bank time. Then that time can be used to purchase someone else's time. Brilliant! Here's a link to the Akron Time Bank. While the Internet has probably been a significant force in declining wages in America, it also gives us amazing innovation. Wikipedia has likely taken over \$3 billion away from advertising because it is a free service to the world. YouTube will teach you how to change your brakes or build a website totally for free. There is a sharing revolution happening. The prosumer, a person who does a job for free that a paid person would normally do, are everywhere.

Your parents watch your kids for free.
Your friend photographs and videos your wedding for free.
You sleep on people's couches for free touring Europe using couchsurfing.com
Your wife cuts your hair for free.

As we all make less money we need to be open-minded to new, creative ways to live. Now. I'm not saying my political competition is not smart. But how likely do you think it is those guys are going to help us all adjust to this new, changing way of living? You will need to be innovative in spite of them. Not with them. In fact, it's quite likely they will fight you on it as they cater to big business and "that's the way we do things." If the way we shun food trucks in this city is any indication, how supportive of time banks do you think they'll be? Who you vote for in this coming Akron mayoral election will drastically shape how our city handles the vast changes that we all are facing. I'm not asking you to vote for me because I think it would be "neat" to be mayor. I'm asking you to vote for me because I'm legitimately worried these other guys are stuck in old thinking and will watch our city just wither away and slowly die because they don't have a clue how the world is changing. (That's happening to other cities, you know.) Please seriously consider me for your next mayor of Akron.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/day-42-connecthome-on-the-road-to-mayor/>
og:title Content: Day 42 - ConnectHome - On The Road To Mayor - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023
Blog Post Date: July 20, 2015

Blog Post Content: One out of every four people living in the U.S. don't have Internet at home.

One in four.

The White House wants to change this through its new ConnectHome initiative.

Its mission:

Every child should be given the same opportunity to build a brighter future and to achieve their dreams.

This was the very first initiative I wrote about on this site for being mayor of Akron: Internet is not a luxury. It's a fundamental right. - Sage Lewis for Mayor of Akron.

Barack Obama said it this way:

I believe this can work through a government and private sector partnership.

Google has gotten involved in the ConnectHome project by offering \$0 monthly home Internet service to residents in select public housing authority properties through its Google Fiber project.

Google Fiber Blog

As many as 26% of households earning less than \$30,000 per year don't access the Internet, compared to just 3% of adults with annual incomes over \$75,000.

I see no reason why we can't work with our local cable operators in Akron to either offer basic Internet access to homes below a certain earning threshold.

If that doesn't work possibly we can get companies to sponsor blocks to pay for basic Internet access. Maybe there could be a mix. Time Warner could offer a discount and another company could pick up the rest of the expense.

There are currently 28 communities in Obama's ConnectHome initiative (Cleveland is one of them). We need to be number 29.

Here are the national stats of Internet adoption by race:

The Internet today is what books have been for hundreds of years. Those that had books were the elite and had all the advantages.

All kids in Akron need to have access to the Internet in their homes.

(I'm sorry. But this sort of thing just starts to make me angry. Is the Internet adoption rate of families in Akron even on the radar of my opponents? Will they bother to even look into how they can partner with the White House and Google to bring technology to all of Akron?)

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/the-urban-garden-initiative/>

og:title Content: The Urban Garden Initiative - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023

Blog Post Date: July 9, 2015

Blog Post Content: Akron already has some really cool urban gardens.

We need to look at all the places we can put more urban gardens.

Green space is critical to slowing water runoff during storms.

We can let the community vote on the most beautiful gardens.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/state-federal-mass-transit-funding/>

og:title Content: State & Federal Mass Transit Funding - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023

Blog Post Date: July 9, 2015

Blog Post Content: We need to look very intensely at what grants and funds are available for mass transit and bike routes.

We likely don't have a lot of extra money in the budget for these things. But there is very likely money available that we could use.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/the-1000-business-challenge/>

og:title Content: The 1000 Business Challenge - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023

Blog Post Date: July 9, 2015

Blog Post Content: As soon as I'm mayor we will begin a challenge to get 1000 new startup businesses in Akron in the first 2 years I am mayor.

People will be able to submit their business ideas and then these people will be assigned to business advocates that will help make these into real, fully functioning businesses. Through the help of places like Jumpstart, SBA, SCORE, The Knight Foundation and independent consultants and companies we can make this a reality and then do it again in the following 2 years.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/clayde-lewis-obituary/>

og:title Content: Clayde Lewis Obituary - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023

Blog Post Date: October 11, 2016

Blog Post Content: Clayde Lewis passed away at age 79, in her home in Akron, Ohio, the morning of October 5, 2016. Clayde was born and raised in Bedford, Ohio, and was the daughter of Mildred and Louis Kuster, sister to Eileen and Verna.

Clayde was an intelligent, fiercely independent woman with a sharp wit. She was also incredibly generous and will be greatly missed by her son Sage, grandson Indiana, daughter-in-law Rocky and her many family and friends near and far.

Clayde graduated from Bedford High School in 1955 where she was involved in theater, band, choir and many other activities. Clayde went to Ohio State University for her teaching degree, but one of her fondest jobs was at The May Company in downtown Cleveland. She also loved the kids she met as suspension students at Medina High School and enjoyed collecting data for the United States Census Bureau at the turn of the century.

She spent over 25 years living and working in Medina, OH, both at Medina High School and The Medina Country Club. She moved to Akron in 2005 and loved her time near the Art Museum, Stan Hywet, free park concerts and all the places where she regularly took her young grandson as his daytime caregiver. She ran her dog sitting business from Akron too and never met a dog she didnt like or who didnt love her!

Clayde was a voracious reader, and she read so much, so often, she began to catalog her finished books on index cards to avoid re-reading them. Her love of story was reflected in her love of telling stories too, and she was great at relating a tale to the conversation at hand.

She was a single mother who made many sacrifices to raise her son, Sage, and she was tremendously proud of the man he had become. She was also grateful for her family, friends and her rich life and she shared her gratitude often.

Clayde passed from Heart Failure, COPD and a short fight with dementia, which took from her the ability to read and speak with friends on the phone. She never minded the first two diagnoses, having smoked a pack a day for over 50 years, she accepted those medical fates gracefully. But, of dementia, she said often to nurses and family, Make sure you dont get this. Its just awful. Thankfully, she was able to go be in peace within 6 months of her diagnosis.

The family would like to thank the care team from Summa Home Hospice for making Claydes transition from life to what lies beyond so much more calm and comfortable.

There will be a brief memorial service, immediately followed by a reception, on Tuesday, October 18, 2016 at 15 Broad Street, Akron, OH, 44305 between the hours of 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. People are welcome to attend the service at 4:00 or simply drop in for the reception anytime after 4:30.

Clayde asked that memorials be made to:

Spring Garden Waldorf School, 1791 South Jacoby Rd., Copley, OH 44321 or online at <http://sgws.org/sgws-parents/support/>

Summa Health Foundation-51140 (Hospice of Summa), P.O. Box 2090, Akron, OH 44398-6153

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/from-sagerock-blog-online-marketing-a-declining-industry/>

og:title Content: From SageRock Blog: Online Marketing: A Declining Industry - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023

Blog Post Date: January 2, 2017

Blog Post Content: Being in this industry since 1999 has let me see it in a unique way. Basically, I think it has jumped the shark.

Online Marketing: A Declining Industry

This fact is easy to defend in the SEO industry. Everybody and their brother says they do SEO. This has over-saturated the market. And over-saturated it with charlatans.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/journal-entry-1-8-2017/>

og:title Content: Journal Entry - Sunday, January 8 2017 7:43am - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023

Blog Post Date: January 8, 2017

Blog Post Content: I'm not a great journal keeper. I have sometimes written thoughts in Evernote. But it's very erratic.

That said, I really believe in its usefulness. Your mind is a terrible place to sort out thoughts.

My constant, ongoing thought is on business. It's a game that I'm always looking to win.

I question the longevity of SageRock as it has always been known. Not because of the quality of work, but because a changing market. My feeling is that people are either giving up or taking it in house. That's certainly not the case across the board. But it does seem to be a trend.

I do, however, believe Web site development is a needed service. People rarely want to hire a full time person or team to build a Web site. I also believe that the service providers are weak. Big agencies have Web as a bolted on service with junior level people running it. And small companies have poor business management skills that make them unstable. This area interest me a great deal.

I believe SageRock should probably become a WordPress Development shop with online marketing as a secondary offering. But the fundamentals of Google optimization would be baked into all our sites. Very few agencies have any understanding of building for mobile, AMP or know how to optimize a site for speed.

Telling the story of our Web development work will be key to our future. Greg is an amazing WordPress developer. And I'm not bad. This should be fairly easy to maintain. But I don't have a desire to build a large Web development shop. The quality of work will degrade and I'll lose control of the end product.

I don't want my primary income to be reliant on high end consulting work. It is incredibly hard to grow.

This leads me to turning my focus on to auctions and the charity. These could very likely be the future. I can use my marketing skill there.

I'm getting my real estate license this coming month. I'd like to experiment with some DIY real estate services and, of course, try to do some real estate auctions. I'm also wondering about doing more regular auctions. But Rocky says that will come naturally. Although, it wouldn't hurt to inject some auctions in until the schedule gets filled.

I'm also thinking about trying to panhandle for money for my charity. I could hand out information about the charity and live stream it while I do it.

So, what do I want to do this week:

Live stream a panhandling experiment where I try to raise money for our shower for the charity.

You need a tripod holder for your phone.

Charge the external battery pack.

On Tuesday I need to get the new merchandise for our upcoming auction.

Start marketing the end of the month auction. Saturday, January 28.

Start putting together the idea we had for a entrepreneurship school we had for the homeless.

Blog about the Homeless Startup School

Once that idea is fairly flushed out then start thinking about grants we can get for it.

As a side note: I liked putting this journal entry out into public. It forced me to think ideas through more fully. My private journaling rarely had this much thought and consideration. That's simply because I never felt like I had any obligation to think things through fully.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/from-the-homeless-charity-i-love-the-tiny-home-idea/>

og:title Content: From The Homeless Charity: I LOVE the tiny home idea! - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023

Blog Post Date: January 9, 2017

Blog Post Content: I just wrote this piece on The Homeless Charity Website. Check it out:
I LOVE the tiny home idea!

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/from-rubber-city-auctions-check-this-out-rubber-city-auctions-akron/>
og:title Content: From Rubber City Auctions: Check This Out: Rubber City Auctions - Akron - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023
Blog Post Date: January 9, 2017

Blog Post Content: I just wrote this article on the Rubber City Auctions Website. Check it out:
Check This Out: Rubber City Auctions - Akron

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/from-the-sagerock-blog-my-content-marketing-strategy-for-2017/>
og:title Content: From The SageRock Blog: My Content Marketing Strategy For 2017 - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023
Blog Post Date: January 9, 2017

Blog Post Content: I just wrote this piece on SageRock Blog. Check it out:
My Content Marketing Strategy For 2017

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/from-sagerock-vr-get-ready-for-viveport-arcade-a-location-based-entertainment-platform-for-virtual-reality/>
og:title Content: From SageRock VR: Get Ready for Viveportâ„¢ Arcade, a location-based entertainment platform for virtual reality - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023
Blog Post Date: January 9, 2017

Blog Post Content: I just wrote this piece on the SageRock VR Website. Check it out:
Get Ready for Viveportâ„¢ Arcade, a location-based entertainment platform for virtual reality

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/from-sagerock-startups-what-its-really-like-being-an-entrepreneur/>
og:title Content: From SageRock Startups: What It's Really Like Being An Entrepreneur - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023
Blog Post Date: January 9, 2017

Blog Post Content: I just wrote this piece on the SageRoc Startups Website. Check it out:
What It's Really Like Being An Entrepreneur

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/from-sage-and-friends-podcast-23-how-to-be-successful/>
og:title Content: From Sage and Friends Podcast: #23 - How To Be Successful - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023
Blog Post Date: January 9, 2017

Blog Post Content: I just put up this podcast. Check it out:
#23 - How To Be Successful

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/my-tweets-from-yesterday-7/>
og:title Content: My Tweets From Yesterday: - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023
Blog Post Date: January 9, 2017

Blog Post Content: These are all the tweets I made yesterday

These are all the tweets I made yesterday:
Nothing to do in Akron? University of Akron senior creates video showing 7 fave activities
<https://t.co/GZ5BuwQwrx>

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/this-is-a-video-from-the-trash-pandas-epic-snow-vlog-gone-wrong/>
og:title Content: This Is A Video From The Trash Pandas: Epic snow vlog gone wrong! - Sage Lewis For

Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023
Blog Post Date: January 9, 2017

Blog Post Content: This is a video channel Indy and I do together. Here is the latest video:

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/a-new-tools-show-video-the-tools-show-whats-your-new-years-resolution/>
og:title Content: A New Tools Show Video: The Tools Show - What's Your New Year's Resolution - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023
Blog Post Date: January 9, 2017

Blog Post Content: We, The Tools, just put up a new video. Check it out:

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/from-the-homeless-charity-the-homeless-charity-is-a-recipient-of-a-google-ad-grants-award/>
og:title Content: From The Homeless Charity: The Homeless Charity is a recipient of a Google Ad Grants award - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023
Blog Post Date: January 9, 2017

Blog Post Content: I just wrote this piece on The Homeless Charity Website. Check it out:
The Homeless Charity is a recipient of a Google Ad Grants award

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/my-tweets-from-yesterday-6/>
og:title Content: My Tweets From Yesterday: - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023
Blog Post Date: January 9, 2017

Blog Post Content: These are all the tweets I made yesterday

These are all the tweets I made yesterday:
Nothing to do in Akron? University of Akron senior creates video showing 7 fave activities
<https://t.co/GZ5BuwQwrx>
These are all the tweets I made yesterday:
We're looking for Greater Cleveland's Cutest Cat (enter your cat by email or attend free photo shoot Jan. 14)
<https://t.co/HLOdnJz2Dt>
These are all the tweets I made yesterday:
I just spent most of today doing behind the scenes digital marketing for myself. Most wouldn't pay for it because they can't see it.
These are all the tweets I made yesterday:
The Homeless Charity is a recipient of a Google Ad Grants award - <https://t.co/37TQ4LGwQy> Thank you SO much @google.
These are all the tweets I made yesterday:
Your new place looks SUPER cool! <https://t.co/HNAuiQpBZ2>
These are all the tweets I made yesterday:
I can't wait! <https://t.co/jmxU0u3Tm1>

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/from-sage-and-friends-podcast-24-about-my-depression/>
og:title Content: From Sage and Friends Podcast: #24 - About My Depression - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023
Blog Post Date: January 9, 2017

Blog Post Content: I just put up this podcast. Check it out:
#24 - About My Depression

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/from-the-sagerock-blog-help-a-new-entrepreneur-let-him-build-your-site-for-free/>
og:title Content: From The SageRock Blog: Help A New Entrepreneur: Let Him Build Your Site For Free -

Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023
Blog Post Date: January 9, 2017

Blog Post Content: I just wrote this piece on SageRock Blog. Check it out:
Help A New Entrepreneur: Let Him Build Your Site For Free

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/my-tweets-from-yesterday-5/>
og:title Content: My Tweets From Yesterday: - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023
Blog Post Date: January 9, 2017

Blog Post Content: These are all the tweets I made yesterday

These are all the tweets I made yesterday:
I just put out a Sage and Friends Podcast. About My Depression:
<https://t.co/pFq6ulavu8>

These are all the tweets I made yesterday:
Summit County saw at least 225 deaths by drug overdose in 2016, meaning more ODs than ever before
<https://t.co/OBotlOPv9M>

These are all the tweets I made yesterday:
As doxing becomes more of a fun hobby for assholes, sites like Facebook will find requiring real information for users a deadly liability.

These are all the tweets I made yesterday:
I have a homeless friend who has a computer. He is changing the world because of it. The Internet needs to be a human right not a privilege

These are all the tweets I made yesterday:
Thanks honey! That means a ton to me. <https://t.co/uucGPZRagr>

These are all the tweets I made yesterday:
See the modern new Akron Battered Women's Shelter
<https://t.co/AKeiMYhMam>

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/from-the-sagerock-blog-my-recommendations-for-the-posche-paws-social-media-crisis/>
og:title Content: From The SageRock Blog: My Recommendations For The Posche Paws Social Media Crisis - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023
Blog Post Date: January 9, 2017

Blog Post Content: I just wrote this piece on SageRock Blog. Check it out:
My Recommendations For The Posche Paws Social Media Crisis

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/a-new-tools-show-video-the-tools-show-our-recommendations-for-the-posche-paws-social-media-crisis/>
og:title Content: A New Tools Show Video: The Tools Show - OUR RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE POSCHE PAWS SOCIAL MEDIA CRISIS - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023
Blog Post Date: January 9, 2017

Blog Post Content: We, The Tools, just put up a new video. Check it out:

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/my-tweets-from-yesterday-4/>
og:title Content: My Tweets From Yesterday: - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023
Blog Post Date: January 9, 2017

Blog Post Content: These are all the tweets I made yesterday

These are all the tweets I made yesterday:
Life is a journey. Nothing more. Nothing less. It is not, however, a race. That knowledge will ironically get you "there" the fastest.
These are all the tweets I made yesterday:

New York City Big Flea Moving Venue, Dates
@NYCBigFlea #antiques #art #nyc #vintage
<https://t.co/erk2oq0mDi> <https://t.co/QfTScMQdw6>

These are all the tweets I made yesterday:

The Tools Show: The Posche Paws Social Media Nightmare - <https://t.co/NG3zbDuOdz>

These are all the tweets I made yesterday:

The Tools Show - OUR RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE POSCHE PAWS SOCIAL MEDIA CRISIS:

<https://t.co/IF6XWGFN8N> via @YouTube

These are all the tweets I made yesterday:

The business world is so obviously a terrible place. Something different to replace it is inevitable.

These are all the tweets I made yesterday:

Ohio Becomes 1st State to Ban Plywood on Vacant Properties - ABC News - <https://t.co/TO3NImFg4T> via @ABC

These are all the tweets I made yesterday:

@ClumCreative Give me one example where this isn't true.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/from-sage-and-friends-podcast-24-why-i-believe-capitalism-is-dying/>
og:title Content: From Sage and Friends Podcast: #24 - Why I Believe Capitalism is Dying - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023
Blog Post Date: January 9, 2017

Blog Post Content: I just put up this podcast. Check it out:
#24 - Why I Believe Capitalism is Dying

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/my-tweets-from-yesterday-3/>
og:title Content: My Tweets From Yesterday: - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023
Blog Post Date: January 9, 2017

Blog Post Content: These are all the tweets I made yesterday

These are all the tweets I made yesterday:

I just put up a new Sage and Friends Podcast: Why I Believe Capitalism is Dying. Check it out:

<https://t.co/KonuxtbiNt>

These are all the tweets I made yesterday:

Interested in being an urban planner for our great city? We're hiring. You should apply.

Akron, OH City Planner I <https://t.co/1EauQboAXN>

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/my-tweets-from-yesterday-2/>

og:title Content: My Tweets From Yesterday: - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023

Blog Post Date: January 9, 2017

Blog Post Content: These are all the tweets I made yesterday

These are all the tweets I made yesterday:

Sr Trump, the intelligence report is devastating. Losing election by more than 3M votes and in addition this. Are you a legitimate president?

These are all the tweets I made yesterday:

Yes. This is THAT Vicente Fox. <https://t.co/XlqP7ZrhH6>

These are all the tweets I made yesterday:

I've never met a hater that ever actually did something useful. They are cancer. <https://t.co/2hOrwtQc1f>

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/my-tweets-from-yesterday/>
og:title Content: My Tweets From Yesterday: - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023
Blog Post Date: January 9, 2017

Blog Post Content: These are all the tweets I made yesterday

These are all the tweets I made yesterday:

Journal Entry Sunday, January 8 2017 7:43am <https://t.co/oOS0uKVzIr> via @sagerock

These are all the tweets I made yesterday:

A steak knife is actually better at cutting butter than a butter knife. But the marketing has convinced us otherwise.

These are all the tweets I made yesterday:

 please don't try to be @Marvel. You are the hero we need in the @realDonaldTrump era.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/my-tweets-from-yesterday-8/>

og:title Content: My Tweets From Yesterday: - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023

Blog Post Date: January 10, 2017

Blog Post Content: These are all the tweets I made yesterday

These are all the tweets I made yesterday:

From Batman Rebirth 1. <https://t.co/yNbl8anbDm>

These are all the tweets I made yesterday:

If you're off work on Martin Luther King Jr. Day, take the family for a visit at the @AkronArtMuseum.

Admission isâ€¦ <https://t.co/9AmWJCMJTE>

These are all the tweets I made yesterday:

Our donation campaign is really picking up steam. Please consider donating. Help Build A Shower For The Homeless <https://t.co/EUAJVMHxh8>

These are all the tweets I made yesterday:

Anybody that thinks we don't need illegal Mexican workers has never tried to hire a reliable, non-drug-addicted roofing workforce.

These are all the tweets I made yesterday:

Roofing is an incredibly hard business to run because you simply can't find reliable workers. This is from first hand experience.

These are all the tweets I made yesterday:

@Henchmen That's true. The Amish are reliable and amazing workers.

These are all the tweets I made yesterday:

If businesses saw what "marketing" people did in their spare time for something they loved they'd see how weak their game really is.

These are all the tweets I made yesterday:

I once saw @ThisIsSethsBlog give a brilliant marketing strategy to a lady who said "that will never work." That's pervasive insanity.

These are all the tweets I made yesterday:

I have spent most of my career trying to convince people to do my marketing ideas. That era has come to an end. I'll offer the idea once.

These are all the tweets I made yesterday:

(I'm doing the most mindless work right now. That's why all the tweets.)

These are all the tweets I made yesterday:

 is, by far, the most advanced group messaging tool on the planet. Bots, endless permissions, light weight. On and on.

These are all the tweets I made yesterday:

@discordapp Thanks! No issues. Like ever. Like ever ever.

These are all the tweets I made yesterday:

The only reason you would use @SlackHQ over @discordapp is because you've never tried @discordapp

These are all the tweets I made yesterday:

@Henchmen I'm a consummate entrepreneur. I'm game for just about anything.

These are all the tweets I made yesterday:

Can the Akron Rubber Bowl be transformed from crumbling landmark to entertainment venue?

<https://t.co/wOwCuoZ4oZ>

These are all the tweets I made yesterday:

"Our biggest economic problem is economic inequality" I agree. This article is probably exactly right.

<https://t.co/69ziMnZ6hv>

These are all the tweets I made yesterday:

I've just used Samsung Pay at two different stores. Walgreens and Taco Bell. You just hold it up to the

swipey thing and it works. Cool.

These are all the tweets I made yesterday:

15 Broad Street Akron Ohio 44305. Then and now. I LOVE owning this building. <https://t.co/dnkjXdrrec>

These are all the tweets I made yesterday:

@deborahmonaco @rockylewis @smoMashup

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/my-tweets-from-yesterday-9/>

og:title Content: My Tweets From Yesterday: - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023

Blog Post Date: January 11, 2017

Blog Post Content: These are all the tweets I made yesterday

These are all the tweets I made yesterday:

In war, you are only as fast as your slowest troop. The weakest in our community weigh us down too. To help ourselves we must help them.

These are all the tweets I made yesterday:

There are people that don't want to work. Which is fine. But don't deceive yourself in thinking entrepreneurship is your salvation.

These are all the tweets I made yesterday:

(I'm still doing that mind numbing job. So I'm taking my idle mind out on you with excessive tweets.)

These are all the tweets I made yesterday:

@deborahmonaco That's a good point.

These are all the tweets I made yesterday:

I see people constantly making enemies of people simply because they disagree or don't like them. You burn bridges you might need later.

These are all the tweets I made yesterday:

I rarely do work that lets my mind wonder. It's not always pleasant in here.

These are all the tweets I made yesterday:

Seriously CEOs. What the hell you doing NOT being on social media? You really don't get what's going on, do you.

These are all the tweets I made yesterday:

I'm copying and pasting biographies of hundreds of people into a web site. Each one I judge by their picture. How you're portrayed matters.

These are all the tweets I made yesterday:

A 13 year old gaming streamer is eating, sleeping and breathing online marketing. So much so they don't call it marketing. They call it fun.

These are all the tweets I made yesterday:

"Marketing" is the act of pretending to give a shit about what someone thinks of you. You aren't "marketing" with your friends.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/my-tweets-from-yesterday-10/>

og:title Content: My Tweets From Yesterday: - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023

Blog Post Date: January 12, 2017

Blog Post Content: These are all the tweets I made yesterday

These are all the tweets I made yesterday:

When a business posts something on social media it has this artificial baggage of "what is appropriate to say." It's fake and obvious.

These are all the tweets I made yesterday:

@rockylewis Good point.

These are all the tweets I made yesterday:

If I finish my data entry job today I'm treating myself w/ some panhandling for our Homeless Shower Building drive: <https://t.co/EUAJVMHxh8>

These are all the tweets I made yesterday:

I mean 'T' is such an important letter. It shouldn't be cast off with low level players like V, X and Z.

These are all the tweets I made yesterday:

Did you realize 'U' is like RIGHT next to 'T'. and 'U' is next to 'V'. I always thought 'T' was way closer to the middle. #dataentryfacts
These are all the tweets I made yesterday:
@deborahmonaco no time. NO TIME! MUST. ENTER. DATA!!!!
These are all the tweets I made yesterday:
@deborahmonaco Thanks
These are all the tweets I made yesterday:
I think @smoMashup has a hidden tragic Time Tracking accident in his past that makes doing it emotionally impossible.
These are all the tweets I made yesterday:
Check out this @rockylewis Introduction to Proposal Writing Webinar | Self-Paced eLearning | Training | GrantSpace <https://t.co/IdOlPt1NJ8>
These are all the tweets I made yesterday:
The whole @FirstMerit to @Huntington_Bank transition is a MAJOR pain in the ass for businesses. But as long as they're happy...
These are all the tweets I made yesterday:
Sure. Would you like to change all the routing numbers and account numbers we have strewn all over the globe? Cuz tâ€¦ <https://t.co/0dxH5booaa>
These are all the tweets I made yesterday:
Or this: What did Stephen D. Steinour Chairman & CEO of Huntington do with his \$7.8 million he made last year? Didâ€¦ <https://t.co/6lC8YfpXkC>
These are all the tweets I made yesterday:
How about this question: Who did Stephen D. Steinour Chairman, President and CEO, Huntington vote for president? <https://t.co/Z96Dh04us7>
These are all the tweets I made yesterday:
This is so fun. It turns out I have a LOT of questions for @AskHuntington <https://t.co/IFOIOKrht0>
These are all the tweets I made yesterday:
Or this: What did Stephen D. Steinour Chairman & CEO of Huntington do with his \$7.8 million he made last year? Didâ€¦ <https://t.co/Vtnit1hLru>
These are all the tweets I made yesterday:
How about this question: Who did Stephen D. Steinour Chairman, President and CEO, Huntington vote for president? <https://t.co/IFOIOKrht0>
These are all the tweets I made yesterday:
What about the FirstMerit building? Do we need to start thinking about how rezone that too for light industrial spaâ€¦ <https://t.co/7Nx Dzfi2le>
These are all the tweets I made yesterday:
My question there was: Can you make a Web site where we can check out these investments? I'm sure a lot of people wâ€¦ <https://t.co/60CK0cA2zE>
These are all the tweets I made yesterday:
I'm grateful that you are going to invest \$2 million/year into Akron. That's big of you considering you only have \$â€¦ <https://t.co/7fjcgIAhxf>

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/from-the-homeless-charity-we-just-uploaded-a-youtube-video-can-you-help-us-build-our-shower-for-the-homeless/>
og:title Content: From The Homeless Charity: We Just Uploaded A YouTube Video: Can you help us build our shower for the homeless? - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023
Blog Post Date: January 12, 2017

Blog Post Content: I just wrote this piece on The Homeless Charity Website. Check it out:
We Just Uploaded A YouTube Video: Can you help us build our shower for the homeless?

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/my-tweets-from-yesterday-11/>
og:title Content: My Tweets From Yesterday: - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023
Blog Post Date: January 13, 2017

Blog Post Content: These are all the tweets I made yesterday

These are all the tweets I made yesterday:
Ummm... Business people: It is not acceptable how inept some of you are in technology. It's not cute. It's not acceptable.
These are all the tweets I made yesterday:
The Tools Show: How To Make People Actually Care About Your Marketing - <https://t.co/IOsE2wBOdy>
These are all the tweets I made yesterday:
@deborahmonaco Fun!

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/my-tweets-from-yesterday-12/>
og:title Content: My Tweets From Yesterday: - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023
Blog Post Date: January 14, 2017

Blog Post Content: These are all the tweets I made yesterday

These are all the tweets I made yesterday:
Forgiveness is not an American value. Your resentment and lingering anger hurts you the most. Forgive easily and quickly.
These are all the tweets I made yesterday:
In business everything gets boiled down to money. Relationships. Art. Music. People. There are greater values than money not taught.
These are all the tweets I made yesterday:
@thestyle1972 @amazonbooks Cool. I'm looking for something to read.
These are all the tweets I made yesterday:
"Your kids video game addiction may be perfectly normal" <https://t.co/0ZxXAcmlDM>

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/my-tweets-from-yesterday-13/>
og:title Content: My Tweets From Yesterday: - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023
Blog Post Date: January 15, 2017

Blog Post Content: These are all the tweets I made yesterday

These are all the tweets I made yesterday:
"But if I can't judge a person by where they work, the car they drive, the clothes they wear, how do I know if we can be friends?"
These are all the tweets I made yesterday:
More highly educated people from good families will be working at low paying service jobs their entire lives. That's natural in capitalism.
These are all the tweets I made yesterday:
"9 of history's greatest philosophers reveal the secret to happiness" <https://t.co/oVriSlgOnI>

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/my-tweets-from-last-week/>
og:title Content: My Tweets From Last Week: - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023
Blog Post Date: January 15, 2017

Blog Post Content: These are all the tweets I made last week:
Nothing to do in Akron? University of Akron senior creates video showing 7 fave activities
<https://t.co/GZ5BuwQwrX>

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/journal-entry-sunday-january-15-2017/>
og:title Content: Journal Entry Sunday January 15 2017 - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023
Blog Post Date: January 15, 2017

Blog Post Content: I continually question my lack of focus.

SageRock
Rubber City Auctions

The Homeless Charity
Sage and Friends Podcast
The Tools Show

My defense is that I'm transitioning and want to test the viability of these items.
The truth is that I bore easily. Doing a lot of things keeps my attention.
Either way: the homeless charity is the most attractive to the community. It is definitely something people gravitate towards. It is also the thing that interests me the most.
That's followed by the auctions. Again, my interest is equal to the community's.
Then Sage and Friends.
Then The Tools
Then SageRock.
I think that's fine. Just remember the order of importance to you.
And get people to help you with each project.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/my-tweets-from-last-week-2/>
og:title Content: My Tweets From Last Week: - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023
Blog Post Date: January 16, 2017

Blog Post Content: These are all the tweets I made yesterday:
Sunday morning is as calm and clear as my mind gets in the week.
These are all the tweets I made yesterday:
National politics is a triggering third rail of our collective psyche for which we have almost no control. Try not to let your mind go there
These are all the tweets I made yesterday:
"Advertising has us chasing cars and clothes, working jobs we hate so we can buy shit we dont need." Tyler Durden <https://t.co/kY9ss2LP74>
These are all the tweets I made yesterday:
"Value" and "Price" are not synonyms. Water is more valuable than diamonds. Dalai Lama is more valuable than Warren Buffett.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/a-new-tools-show-video-the-tools-show-amazon-echo-dot-review-and-samsung-galaxy-s7-edge-review/>
og:title Content: A New Tools Show Video: The Tools Show - Amazon Echo Dot Review and Samsung Galaxy S7 Edge Review - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023
Blog Post Date: January 19, 2017

Blog Post Content: We, The Tools, just put up a new video. Check it out:

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/my-tweets-from-last-week-3/>
og:title Content: My Tweets From Last Week: - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023
Blog Post Date: January 22, 2017

Blog Post Content: These are all the tweets I made last week:
Nothing to do in Akron? University of Akron senior creates video showing 7 fave activities
<https://t.co/GZ5BuwQwrX>
These are all the tweets I made last week:
As capitalism saturates all markets, driving all prices down ultimately lowering all wages, innovation accelerates. Maybe making money moot.
These are all the tweets I made last week:
What I'm saying is: the natural evolution of capitalism may be to eat itself into extinction leading to a dawn of higher being.
These are all the tweets I made last week:
There is \$10.8 trillion in cash sitting in the U.S. Money is everywhere. We simply need to intrigue cash holders to give it to the needy.
These are all the tweets I made last week:

It's not as hard to get people to give you money as you think. Just intrigue them. They love innovation. Be clever how you help people.

These are all the tweets I made last week:

Journal Entry Sunday January 15 2017 <https://t.co/fm6qnrw5b9Q> via @sagerock

These are all the tweets I made last week:

@rockylewis Do any of them look like this? Cuz I'm super bummed out I'll probably never be half robot too. <https://t.co/UWd5Hst2WD>

These are all the tweets I made last week:

Mercy. Will you have mercy on those that need it? The world bleeds mentally, emotionally, physically. If not you then who?

These are all the tweets I made last week:

Humans only use facts to confirm their beliefs. That's why we are all so infuriating. Always start teaching from the heart.

These are all the tweets I made last week:

@rockylewis It's true. It's quite likely you will never be a young Asian man. So sad.

These are all the tweets I made last week:

Talent manager. I just wrote a blog post about how I'm already too unfocused. But it would be SO fun to be a talent manager 4 online talent.

These are all the tweets I made last week:

@rockylewis Actually. Is he on display? Is he behind glass? Is that so you won't feed them? FREE MIT!!

These are all the tweets I made last week:

@smoMashup Awesome news!

These are all the tweets I made last week:

Very cool. <https://t.co/iFBYXhFLL9>

These are all the tweets I made last week:

Akron Art Museum is also free today: <https://t.co/3yZmfOqObW>

These are all the tweets I made last week:

Akron Zoo is free today: <https://t.co/j4uxM65hYX>

These are all the tweets I made last week:

I guess links to full articles is the same as taking a picture of longer text. 140 characters forces us to lead with the facts.

These are all the tweets I made last week:

I see more people screen capturing long form text and pasting it as a picture here in Twitter. I'm torn about the 140 character limit.

These are all the tweets I made last week:

This is a great article. A very innovative, inspiring concept. <https://t.co/nN66bBlxcO>

These are all the tweets I made last week:

We are SO close to reaching our goal to build our shower for the homeless. Would you consider donating a little? <https://t.co/EUAJVMHxh8>

These are all the tweets I made last week:

Fine china is a perfect symbol of stuff in our lives. We protect it. It's so special. But I can't give it away at auction when you're dead.

These are all the tweets I made last week:

\$5000 in debt put this woman into homelessness. It's not as far away as you think. <https://t.co/3zDUPXkYhn>

These are all the tweets I made last week:

This kind of program will probably be part of the homeless solution. <https://t.co/aTU3o8s8eR>

These are all the tweets I made last week:

The Nature Realm Visitors Center is OPEN today, 10-5, for #MLKDAY. #akron #summitmetroparks <https://t.co/0wsYsPnEXF> <https://t.co/qD0yZwwDIV>

These are all the tweets I made last week:

Follow our Facebook page this week for a chance to win tickets to our performance of Beethoven's 9th! <https://t.co/IP4FF2MTnD>

These are all the tweets I made last week:

A company is a tree and you are a leaf. It's only natural that eventually it will be trimmed or cut down. You are nothing to the arborist.

These are all the tweets I made last week:

That's it. It's the connection. It's all about the connection. The connection to anything. To everything. That's

what we're all chasing.

These are all the tweets I made last week:

Just posted II: Akron plans audit of Oriana. <https://t.co/W95kkTwbEQ>

These are all the tweets I made last week:

I'll link to your company on this page of our donors - The Homeless Charity - <https://t.co/f8IajZYox3> It's a cheap form of advertising.

These are all the tweets I made last week:

These are our donors at The Homeless Charity - <https://t.co/f8IajZYox3> (You too could be on this list.)

These are all the tweets I made last week:

Whoah! Cherry Dudley just pushed us a \$1 over our goal with her \$30 donation. - The Homeless Charity - <https://t.co/f8IajZYox3> THANK YOU!!!

These are all the tweets I made last week:

Middlebury Butter available 3/2017|Aged 6 months|Smooth, Buttery, Smokey & Sweet #akronhoney #naturalskincareâ€¦ <https://t.co/gEPawbw662>

These are all the tweets I made last week:

 Please consider boycotting the inauguration and #StandWithJohnLewis

These are all the tweets I made last week:

Do you think I can ask my doctor if I can up my anti depressant meds due to endless chance of rain? <https://t.co/UsOGScp6v7>

These are all the tweets I made last week:

@deborahmonaco Good tip.

These are all the tweets I made last week:

#NewProfilePic <https://t.co/s30sjYlLvz>

These are all the tweets I made last week:

Cool. Any chance you have an archive of all the Akron submissions? <https://t.co/cJJ2yTPdiX>

These are all the tweets I made last week:

I get that want to keep your rich people happy in your city. But ignoring the poor people has much greater consequences.

These are all the tweets I made last week:

I suspect you think Jesus was just some altruistic idealist. No. His messages are key to lifting up all of society. Focus on the weak.

These are all the tweets I made last week:

Get your Akron news weekdays at 5:30 a.m. Sign up for the Rubber City Daily e-newsletter! <https://t.co/6UsMg9SkC9>

These are all the tweets I made last week:

The rich kids will get a fully funded tree house. The poor kids get old doors, tires & pallets. Only rich people thâ€¦ <https://t.co/lemmVHfEKC>

These are all the tweets I made last week:

Hmm. But those doors and platform look like a really sturdy tent. Maybe it wasn't a playground after all. <https://t.co/JIF1KwJgTi>

These are all the tweets I made last week:

I'm going to go see a man that is dying of cancer and needs his stuff sent to auction. I am so grateful for being useful to the world.

These are all the tweets I made last week:

"ALFABATIZE" people. I shit you not and that's all I will say about it.

These are all the tweets I made last week:

Today Mayor Horrigan presented the 2017 Operating Budget focused on efficiency & public safety:â€¦ <https://t.co/hsVCW4PRKY>

These are all the tweets I made last week:

Let it be said here in earnest, with good heart: Thanks, Obama. <https://t.co/IeumTasRNN>

These are all the tweets I made last week:

BREAKING!!!!!!!!!!!!CHELSEA TO BE FREED ON MAY 17.

These are all the tweets I made last week:

Never worry about people stealing your idea. The wanna be's lack bravery. The legit players are too busy.

These are all the tweets I made last week:

Listening to distinctly suburban white men talk to an inner city black man is painful.

These are all the tweets I made last week:

Time it takes to get subsidized housing in #Akron if you qualify:

Vets: 5 months

Seniors & Disabled: 9 months

All others: 2-3 years.

These are all the tweets I made last week:

The word of the day, kids: 2 Factor Authentication. Learn it! Then do it! Getting hacked hurts.

<https://t.co/OO0RCiSnm6>

These are all the tweets I made last week:

Here is how to setup 2 factor authentication on Twitter. I got hacked this week and my passwords are no joke. <https://t.co/ZeWWJ3M3Te>

These are all the tweets I made last week:

I'm also using LastPass for password management. EVERY SITE you log into should have a different password. <https://t.co/80IGcGvsBe>

These are all the tweets I made last week:

Here's how to setup 2 factor authentication on Twitch: <https://t.co/myhJrIUyhu>

These are all the tweets I made last week:

Here is how to do 2 factor authentication on Instagram: <https://t.co/oov5jmRmbE>

These are all the tweets I made last week:

Here is 2 factor authentication for Gmail: <https://t.co/3oOdrjftxx>

These are all the tweets I made last week:

Here is how to setup 2 factor authentication in Facebook: <https://t.co/YGR5ecSXE3>

These are all the tweets I made last week:

Trust me. Hackers and Doxers are coming for you. It's a fun game for people hanging out on 4chan. They love scaring people.

These are all the tweets I made last week:

It looks like I'm putting together a 2 day tag sale followed by an auction at 1:00 on Sunday the weekend of January 27. Should be fun!!

These are all the tweets I made last week:

Fear is a disease and should be viewed as such. Unless you are being run down by a cheetah your fear is fake and eating your soul.

These are all the tweets I made last week:

Socioeconomic comparison of Eastern Great Lakes cities <https://t.co/GHRmOWOsig>

These are all the tweets I made last week:

Look at Fort Wayne crushing it. They're like the best kept secret of the eastern Great Lakes cities. From <https://t.co/TtJww8l2gH>

These are all the tweets I made last week:

@CityofFortWayne has been named a top 10 city where millennials are buying homes.

<https://t.co/3x2vCSghiU> <https://t.co/xhGAzUHtnV>

These are all the tweets I made last week:

Wanna see how a mayor of a successful Great Lakes city uses Twitter effectively? Study @MayorTomHenry

These are all the tweets I made last week:

Look how compelling the Twitter account of Pittsburgh mayor @billpeduto is. It's no coincidence the mayors of great cities are great at PR.

These are all the tweets I made last week:

Facts are always subjective. There is no one truth. Change how people feel and they will see the truth you want them to see.

These are all the tweets I made last week:

I have studied online PR my entire career. You always enter through the heart and leave through the mind. Most people never touch the heart.

These are all the tweets I made last week:

Only for celebrities & national politicians will the future of social media be massive reaching. Micro groups of friends is the future.

These are all the tweets I made last week:

A look at the crowd heading towards Mike Pence's house for a #LGBT dance party <https://t.co/cx9ODlbfjZ>

These are all the tweets I made last week:

Any time I feel emotionally good in late January it is little short of a miracle. I'm in one of those times at the moment.

These are all the tweets I made last week:
Don't explain how to make sausage. Just show the damn sausage.
These are all the tweets I made last week:
If you want to talk about marketing the first thing to do is not talk about marketing.
These are all the tweets I made last week:
That Poppy - Lowlife <https://t.co/ZR3STdF4aq> via @YouTube Poppy is the next truly great artist. An equal to Warhol, Marina AbramoviÄ±, BjÄ¶rk.
These are all the tweets I made last week:
It's illegal to intentionally cause harm to government websites. But if you were just SUPER interested in the site:
<https://t.co/s3t6HSnD3U>
These are all the tweets I made last week:
The Tools Show - Amazon Echo Dot Review and Samsung Galaxy S7 Edge Review - <https://t.co/pMkU80qEpg>
These are all the tweets I made last week:
 is a performance artist that portays the ideal consumer who becomes the product. I'm SO into what she's selling.
These are all the tweets I made last week:
@CouplaDays "2" does not exist.
These are all the tweets I made last week:
With Warhol / AbramoviÄ± the artist is always present. @thatPoppy is ONLY the art. The artist is nowhere to be seen. It's next level art.
These are all the tweets I made last week:
Yesterday was darkness. Today is the light. Tomorrow is in our hands. We are America. We hold the power to actuallyâ€¦ <https://t.co/QRmOEwa0OV>
These are all the tweets I made last week:
@MarkDice When do you finally feel like you have enough that you can stop being an ass and start having a shred of compassion?
These are all the tweets I made last week:
@sweetatertot2 Is there anything a conservative could be given to make them finally not be so angry & finally try tâ€¦ <https://t.co/aqGm1MqU9v>

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/from-rubber-city-auctions-tag-sale-and-auction/>
og:title Content: From Rubber City Auctions: Tag Sale and Auction - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023
Blog Post Date: January 23, 2017

Blog Post Content: I just wrote this article on the Rubber City Auctions Website. Check it out:
Tag Sale and Auction

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/this-is-a-video-from-the-trash-pandas-fun-and-more/>
og:title Content: This Is A Video From The Trash Pandas: Fun and more!!! - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023
Blog Post Date: January 29, 2017

Blog Post Content: This is a video channel Indy and I do together. Here is the latest video:

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/this-is-a-video-from-the-trash-pandas-room-setup-tour/>
og:title Content: This Is A Video From The Trash Pandas: Room setup tour!!! - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023
Blog Post Date: January 29, 2017

Blog Post Content: This is a video channel Indy and I do together. Here is the latest video:

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/my-tweets-from-last-week-4/>
og:title Content: My Tweets From Last Week: - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023

Blog Post Date: January 29, 2017

Blog Post Content: These are all the tweets I made last week:

Homeless populations in 2015. #homelessness #Homeless <https://t.co/APmYxuFjU2>

These are all the tweets I made last week:

Hey @thestyle1972 - by any chance do you have a list of the land Akron has for sale in this program?

<https://t.co/OuuABFIys8>

These are all the tweets I made last week:

Facebook is a real shit show over there these days. Everybody is angry and yelling at each other. It's like a third

<https://t.co/lxEogZv6SJ>

These are all the tweets I made last week:

Step 1 of first day of real estate class: Hack into wifi. Check.

These are all the tweets I made last week:

Do people really say, "We walked around that big Dick's store up there?"

These are all the tweets I made last week:

Finance teacher did two tours in Nam. Pretty interesting guy.

These are all the tweets I made last week:

I haven't been in a class in years. But still students don't use computers to take notes. They should try it.

<https://t.co/9MJEuINc5z>

These are all the tweets I made last week:

I think all the times I screwed around teaching a class are coming back to me in full Karma force. I SWEAR I'll never do it again.

These are all the tweets I made last week:

A friendly reminder: @AkronCouncil dives into \$375 million capital budget at 4 pm today at city hall. 60% for utilities (CSO driving this)

These are all the tweets I made last week:

We've got a really exciting weekend in store for you. We're going to mix it up with a tag sale

<https://t.co/AnqCw32zNe>

These are all the tweets I made last week:

For me, winter is months of feeling like I'm getting sick only interrupted by actually getting sick.

These are all the tweets I made last week:

The housing first model inspired Lloyd Pendleton to tackle homelessness in Utah. Today he's reduced it by 91%. <https://t.co/jHw5q1tpZV>

These are all the tweets I made last week:

Check out this success story on solving #homelessness <https://t.co/Ub3Xr6ZOEo>

These are all the tweets I made last week:

Akron plans to offer residential tax abatements for new houses

<https://t.co/bRZNmsnlKm>

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/from-rubber-city-auctions-should-i-have-a-tag-sale-or-auction/>

og:title Content: From Rubber City Auctions: Should I have a Tag Sale or Auction? - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023

Blog Post Date: January 30, 2017

Blog Post Content: I just wrote this article on the Rubber City Auctions Website. Check it out:

Should I have a Tag Sale or Auction?

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/from-the-homeless-charity-what-you-should-know-about-community-support-services-css-akron/>

og:title Content: From The Homeless Charity: What You Should Know About Community Support Services (CSS) Akron - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023

Blog Post Date: February 1, 2017

Blog Post Content: I just wrote this piece on The Homeless Charity Website. Check it out:

What You Should Know About Community Support Services (CSS) Akron

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/a-new-tools-show-video-the-tools-show-samsung-galaxy-s7-edge-review/>

og:title Content: A New Tools Show Video: The Tools Show - Samsung Galaxy S7 Edge Review - Sage Lewis

For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023
Blog Post Date: February 2, 2017

Blog Post Content: We, The Tools, just put up a new video. Check it out:

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/this-is-a-video-from-the-trash-pandas-doggy-bath-time/>
og:title Content: This Is A Video From The Trash Pandas: Doggy bath time! - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023
Blog Post Date: February 4, 2017

Blog Post Content: This is a video channel Indy and I do together. Here is the latest video:

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/my-tweets-from-last-week-5/>
og:title Content: My Tweets From Last Week: - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023
Blog Post Date: February 5, 2017

Blog Post Content: These are all the tweets I made last week:
Scene outside Cleveland Hopkins right now: <https://t.co/f33HoxbV0G>
These are all the tweets I made last week:
I just wrote this: Should I have a Tag Sale or Auction? - <https://t.co/lemjLd7Qsb>
These are all the tweets I made last week:
Tools like Marketo and Pardot are crazy expensive, a pain in the ass and most people don't use them correctly. But you'll buy them anyway.
These are all the tweets I made last week:
Lots of cheap Thailand fares from around the US â€” all less than \$600 RT, including one option on ANA: <https://t.co/REJmfx5otR>
These are all the tweets I made last week:
I'm telling you MLM people right now: Your trickery, vagueness and deceit you use to get people into meetings is rotting your image.
These are all the tweets I made last week:
This is a conversation with a guy who is completely unable to read other people. MLM people do this a lot. Your selâ€™ <https://t.co/VPVRKB9Sf0>
These are all the tweets I made last week:
AWESOME. THANK YOU! <https://t.co/PbwQzcEE9I>
These are all the tweets I made last week:
@JadedTLC It was just my home button / power button on my Samsung S7.
These are all the tweets I made last week:
Ok last one, @realDonaldTrump. I just thought this was funny.
- Founder, @TheOfficialPORP <https://t.co/Zxo1MM6LSJ>
URL: <https://sagelewis.com/can-liberals-now-trump-president/>
og:title Content: What Can Liberals Do Now That Trump Is President? - By Sage Lewis
Blog Post Date: February 5, 2017

Blog Post Content: I was talking with a homeless friend of mine this past week.
He said, "I know you don't like Trump. But Trump is the best thing to ever happen to you."
Look at this gun sales chart:

The best thing that can happen to the gun industry is a Democratic president.
These trends are very reliable.
Newton's Third Law applies very well in politics in America:
For every action, there is an equal and opposite reaction. The statement means that in every interaction, there is a pair of forces acting on the two interacting objects. The size of the forces on the first object equals the size of the force on the second object.
This is where all that "American Freedom" comes in that we hear people talking about.
We are free to protest, speak out and act.

There are many people who understand this and are already leveraging it. Michael Moore was waiting in the wings on election night:

In December he was protesting outside Trump Tower:

He was at the Women's March:

You will see all your old liberal friends continue to come out. And, more importantly, you are going to get new liberal friends coming on the scene.

A big guy on the scene right now is Brandon Chrostowski, founder and CEO of Edwins. Edwins is the French restaurant in Cleveland that trains felons in his fine dining facility.

The mission of Edwins is "to instill leadership skills in formerly incarcerated men and women through an education in culinary arts; providing our community with tomorrow's leaders."

The official name of Edwins is: EDWINS Leadership and Restaurant Institute. It's a 501(c)(3) that has recently gained massive national attention. He's been running since 2013. But it's no surprise that it's exploding nationally right now.

Here is some recent media:

Steve Harvey Show (ABC): <http://www.steveharveytv.com/harveys-hero-brandon/>

Huffington Post: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/brandon-chrostowski-edwins-leadership-restaurant-institute_us_576c53b3e4b017b379f564d9

2016 CNN Heroes: <http://www.cnn.com/2016/03/17/us/cnnheroes-brandon-chrostowski-edwins-cleveland/>

Reddit Front Page Conversation:

https://www.reddit.com/r/UpliftingNews/comments/5n5exz/cleveland_finedining_restaurant_that_hires_excons/

Support EDWINS: <http://edwinsrestaurant.org/press/>

Undoubtedly, his restaurant is getting crushed right now with reservations. But he knows not to stop. He has to go with the momentum.

On top of all the attention he is getting now Edwins restaurant CEO Brandon Chrostowski announces Cleveland mayoral bid. He's going to run for mayor of Cleveland.

"I'm not looking at approaching this like a politician. I'm approaching it like a businessman and someone who cares."

It doesn't matter if he wins or loses. This will continue to create a platform for his cause. He plans on expanding his felon rehabilitation program. However, I believe his chances are really good for winning. We are in a really interesting outsider, populist era of politics that will benefit newcomers like Brandon.

My point is simply this: If you have a "liberal" idea or if you want to get more involved in helping "liberal" causes NOW IS THE TIME.

All you have to do is look at who is being attacked and get involved in those areas:

Immigration

Environment

Native Americans

Poor people

Public Schools

Health Care for the poor and old

There will be more areas that come up as we go along.

Consumer protection will probably become an issue

Food and drug safety

Anything with Muslims

Anything that is harmed by lack of regulations

We're at war with Mexico and Australia

Democratic politicians

You will find a sympathetic audience for any of these causes.

The number one thing people tell me is: "I want to help but I don't know what to do."

I'm going to list a few things that might inspire you:

Find something in your house that you aren't using and give it away.

Clothes that don't fit.

Your Xbox 360

Your PS3

All that stuff in your garage, basement and storage unit

People need your stuff you aren't using.

Go to the Red Cross and ask to volunteer. They need people to help with house fires.

Go to the Salvation Army and ask to volunteer. They need people to serve meals.

Give money to panhandlers. Trust me. Most of them truly need the money.

FYI: There are many homeless people that have, after years on a list, finally gotten assisted housing. But they are required to pay a minimum amount of money each month to stay in the housing. It's very common that these people rely on panhandling to raise this money. If they can't pay up they are kicked out of the housing and put at the back of the list.

Start a non-profit. Here's a pretty good article on the process.

Donate to the ACLU | American Civil Liberties Union

Start a blog to raise awareness about your issue.

Start a Twitter or YouTube or Instagram or Pinterest account dedicated to your topic.

Go to any of the endless Trump protests. This seems to be a weekly occurrence.

Start your own protest march

Start a Meetup group for your cause.

Find a Meetup in your area that focuses on your cause.

Post on Facebook about your cause. (STOP posting about how much you hate Trump and how stupid he is.

It isn't helping you. Ignore Trump. Focus on your cause.)

Join a Facebook group about your cause.

Start a Facebook group about your cause.

Make signs for protesters or panhandlers.

Make a Website, Twitter, Facebook, Instagram or Pinterest for the group you support.

Learn about the organizations in your area that are helping causes. They aren't usually great at marketing.

Offer to be the marketer for these groups.

Run for office.

Go to your Board of Elections and ask them what positions are opening up. It is their job to help you get that information.

There are a couple school board positions, for example, opening up at the Akron Schools this coming election.

Get scarves and hang them on a bridge fence where homeless are nearby. Leave a note to let them know they can take them.

Ask your favorite restaurant what they are doing with their leftover food. See if you can figure out how to give it to the homeless and low income people in your city.

Socks. Collect socks and give them to your local shelter. Homeless ALWAYS need socks.

Shoes. Collect shoes for homeless kids. They ALWAYS need shoes.

Buy a rental home, fix it up and rent it to low income people.

Let someone stay in your garage or your basement.

Let a person pitch a tent on your land.

Find a "Street Card" for your city and learn about all the local organizations helping the homeless.

A street card is what is given out to homeless people so they know where services are located.

Buy bus passes and give them to homeless people that want them.

Here is the controversial part of the article: Only do what is fun and what you enjoy. You will find that you get A LOT out of helping people. It's OK to be selfish about your giving. If you don't enjoy it, don't do it. Look for something else you enjoy.

For example, I enjoy working with the homeless. I am fascinated by why they are homeless, how they live, what they do with their time. I'm just really into it. I also happen to really like homeless people. They remind me of me. I love their independence and freedom.

This "enjoyment" keeps me coming back. I want to do it because I enjoy it. It just happens that they are people that need help. So my interest and their needs line up. It's almost just a coincidence.

I think some people believe they should be only thinking altruistic, Godly thoughts as they help people. If you are capable of thinking that way then great. Think that way. But altruism is a very high level of thinking and living. Most people simply aren't at the altruistic level of thinking.

And Business People: There is A LOT of money in non-profits. Sure. They run different than a for-profit organization. But if you are into entrepreneurship and growing organizations you will likely not find a more well received organization than a non-profit. Brandon Chrostowski raised \$1 million to rehab several buildings to house the people he is training.

Be selfish in your giving. Let yourself feel proud and full of joy as you give. The outcome will be the same and is all that matters.

Any emotion you have is totally natural and totally fine.

In fact, once you get into giving you will likely find that it is much more rewarding and fulfilling than any pursuit of money and things you have previously been driven towards.

Let yourself give. I truly believe it's what all of our humanity, technology and evolution has been geared towards.

(Here's my spiritual, "crazy" thought: Giving and love and kindness is our natural path. It's where we are headed. I also happen to believe it is necessary for a greater universal cause that we don't yet know about. We are being groomed for a great need. But please don't judge me on my spiritual thoughts.)

Now is your time. If you have ever thought about wanting to be part of something bigger than you there may never be a better time in your life than right now to do it. It likely will never be easier and more well received.

Have fun!

And thank you.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/my-tweets-from-last-week-6/>

og:title Content: My Tweets From Last Week: - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023

Blog Post Date: February 12, 2017

Blog Post Content: These are all the tweets I made last week:

Bravery is mostly just staying true to your personal values. It's an incredibly difficult act.

These are all the tweets I made last week:

But in business you just adjust to the new rules of the game. That's how it's played. Don't quit. Just adjust.

These are all the tweets I made last week:

We should all be aware that we have a national government that fundamentally believes they are not here to help the poor. Expect big cuts.

These are all the tweets I made last week:

The FCC is stopping 9 companies from providing federally subsidized Internet to the poor

<https://t.co/pU4f6PKWnI>

These are all the tweets I made last week:

"Each one of them is Jesus in disguise." Mother Teresa

These are all the tweets I made last week:

"Be selfish in your giving. Let yourself feel proud and full of joy as you give. The outcome will be the same and is all that matters." - me

These are all the tweets I made last week:

Are you are a liberal who feels helpless in America today? I wrote this article for you:

<https://t.co/JWOG3vnS1P> <https://t.co/pG65B6QpnT>

These are all the tweets I made last week:

It took 57 years since 1960 to lose this population, said the wonkish @thestyle1972 (wonkish!? how dare they!).

These are all the tweets I made last week:

This is great, man! Go get 'em!!! <https://t.co/v0IkhrW6am>

These are all the tweets I made last week:

Brad Harris, a resident of Melbourne, raised \$4 million to build over 60 portable homes! See how he achieved results.<https://t.co/jhDgSTgkee>

These are all the tweets I made last week:

Listen to Jason Segedy / Akron Innerbelt and Tax Abatement

<https://t.co/xPDs91g3fz>

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/a-new-tools-show-video-the-tools-show-learn-how-to-search-google/>

og:title Content: A New Tools Show Video: The Tools Show - Learn How to Search Google - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023

Blog Post Date: February 16, 2017

Blog Post Content: We, The Tools, just put up a new video. Check it out:

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/my-tweets-from-last-week-7/>

og:title Content: My Tweets From Last Week: - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023

Blog Post Date: February 19, 2017

Blog Post Content: These are all the tweets I made last week:

I'm thankful for all the help some Christians do for the poor. I just wish they'd stop asking these same people to pray & go to Bible study.

These are all the tweets I made last week:

"This public service offering is brought to you by MY Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Do you have soul insurance?"

These are all the tweets I made last week:

Christians: The real marketing play is to not ask those you're helping for anything. Pray by yourself. WAY more powerful message.

These are all the tweets I made last week:

I'm actually fine with The Wall. My grandfather built a wall for the government in the Metro Parks during the Great Depression. Good job.

These are all the tweets I made last week:

Did you know Akron has 4,596 vacant structures and 17,450 vacant lots? <https://t.co/9PrAk4FTvN>

These are all the tweets I made last week:

@deborahmonaco @AkronOhioMayor I totally agree.

These are all the tweets I made last week:

The Rock failed as a pro football player. But succeeded in the other risks he took. Fortune favors the bold. <https://t.co/ZzSmWPd3dv>

These are all the tweets I made last week:

My teacher looks jacked up today. Likes he's broken or something. "Turn to chapter 7" and starts reading in a quiet voice. This till 5:35.

These are all the tweets I made last week:

Some people are naturals in social media. Some aren't. I don't actually know if they can ever learn how to sound natural.

These are all the tweets I made last week:

A restaurant might do well on Facebook. But a laser hair treatment clinic might not. You have to understand Facebook users.

These are all the tweets I made last week:

One hour free parking restored at Main Library, starting today. <https://t.co/SguM076PxD> #Akron #Library <https://t.co/cGtOi9HQyC>

These are all the tweets I made last week:

Just for the record. He's still fucking reading the book. It's like a blanket of excruciating boredom. Nothing counteracts it.

These are all the tweets I made last week:

@VioletViva That's right.

These are all the tweets I made last week:

This is our magic bullet. We just need a leader to spin this out to the rest of the world.

<https://t.co/1tmO3Bvi0S>

These are all the tweets I made last week:

@ohiomurph Good point. My theory is that you get these jobs by becoming an entrepreneur center.

These are all the tweets I made last week:

These gals have raised \$265,000 for Akron nonprofits. Akron's Halloween Charity Ball announces 2017 recipients <https://t.co/VikYtbPFxq>

These are all the tweets I made last week:

Oh jeez. So basically you're saying we're one strong wind away from getting blown over again.

<https://t.co/Aft6RhGAVh>

These are all the tweets I made last week:

I am no longer fit for sitting in a classroom. This is excruciating.

These are all the tweets I made last week:

I have 3 WordPress sites I'm working on. I'm not giving any to a WP dev I'm working with on another project cuz he's a dick. Don't be a dick

These are all the tweets I made last week:

Cuyahoga Falls offers safe exchange location for craigslist, Facebook purchases <https://t.co/DuBUwVv2js>

These are all the tweets I made last week:

@jasonbrueckner thanks.

These are all the tweets I made last week:

@jasonbrueckner weird. You must be a magician. Or a Jedi!

These are all the tweets I made last week:

2017 and print designers still can't understand that a 3 column layout doesn't work on a phone.

These are all the tweets I made last week:

The private sector can lead to innovation or apathy. Mostly businesses get lazy. Occasionally new players want to change the world.

These are all the tweets I made last week:

We have now had 2 REALLY major donations for this cause of getting homeless people into...

<https://t.co/8IF2V8dCuD>

These are all the tweets I made last week:

I'm raising money for Homeless Man Needs Downpayment Now!. Click to Donate: <https://t.co/X3S3mvTrDI> via @gofundme

These are all the tweets I made last week:

Most salads are a lie. But the branding is so good that we are trained to think: Salads = Healthy.

These are all the tweets I made last week:

Interested in figuring out how to crowdfund a great project to revitalize Akron? @ioby can help:

<https://t.co/yxTevvV0tY>

These are all the tweets I made last week:

I've never felt more confident in anything I've marketed as I do with homelessness. That confidence and belief makes me incredibly strong.

These are all the tweets I made last week:

Unlike @pewdiepie, Walt @Disney was an actual racist and anti-Semite. Don't cave to haters and exploiters. Take back @pewdiepie @YouTube

These are all the tweets I made last week:

You no longer need to fear Walmart. And since you haven't been told to fear Amazon you don't.

<https://t.co/zwx9xeOcbn>

These are all the tweets I made last week:

@w00t what makes you think they are any different than Amazon?

These are all the tweets I made last week:

I actually heard a guy just say, with no irony, "Kids today!" History repeats itself because we have poor memories.

These are all the tweets I made last week:

"You're drinking Dunkin Donuts coffee. What kind of coffee is that?" A middle class white woman can ruin a brand in one snarky comment.

These are all the tweets I made last week:

Actually, the Civil Rights Act of 1866 is the only blanket law that applies to ALL property. That only protects race and color.

These are all the tweets I made last week:

The Civil Rights Act of 1968 only applies to residential property. So apparently it's still legal to not sell commercial property to woman.

These are all the tweets I made last week:

It's also totally cool to not sell your commercial building to a person because he is Muslim or Baptist. America is still fucked.

These are all the tweets I made last week:

Basically: if you don't say things about race or color & you aren't talking about residential property you can hate ALL you want.

These are all the tweets I made last week:

Here are 250 Ivy League courses you can take online right now for free @dhawalhshah

<https://t.co/UkaEnNZhWu>

These are all the tweets I made last week:

Factory Model School: "designed to create docile subjects and factory workers. <https://t.co/mxalCOXUD6>

Welcome to school in 2017.

These are all the tweets I made last week:

Traditional education uses extrinsic motivation, such as grades and prizes. Progressive education is based on the interests of the child.

These are all the tweets I made last week:

When you can change someone's life for \$75 that's a pretty powerful drug to get hooked on.

These are all the tweets I made last week:

EARLIER: Actor Ashton Kutcher gives emotional testimony discussing child trafficking at Senate hearing

<https://t.co/oDyw6MjK3E>

These are all the tweets I made last week:

America is filled with people that only can math if they have the "formula". That's not learning math. That's blind memorization.

These are all the tweets I made last week:

Power lines down at intersection of Perkins & N Union w/ NO east bound access to Rt. 8. To be closed several hours-avoid route if possible.

These are all the tweets I made last week:

A leading psychiatrist wrote a letter to the @nytimes saying President Trump "may be a world-class narcissist" but <https://t.co/yrrfmkjfXj>

These are all the tweets I made last week:

#PlaytoBeWild @babolat <https://t.co/8TosgtegY0>

These are all the tweets I made last week:

I was young once. I was very grateful and lucky that people took a chance on me and put up with my youngness.

These are all the tweets I made last week:

The Tools Show - You're Going to Learn How to Search Google - <https://t.co/KxQVKnZyNk>

These are all the tweets I made last week:

I'm telling you: helping others will do way more for you than it does for the person you're helping.

These are all the tweets I made last week:

School has so little to do with studying. You are there to grow as a person. I.e. Have as much fun as you can. You'll never learn more.

These are all the tweets I made last week:

The Tools Show - Learn How to Search Google: <https://t.co/MryP4YDZ9I> via @YouTube

These are all the tweets I made last week:

Most new Realtors are conservative, stay at home housewives. Marketing to them is probably the better business move than trying to be them.

These are all the tweets I made last week:

Consistency. The #1 mortal mistake small businesses make is not being consistent.

These are all the tweets I made last week:

Jesus would be more powerful for you if stopped trying to make him real.

These are all the tweets I made last week:

I'm really close to removing "Marketer" from my bio. Using those skills for my own projects might be more effective.

These are all the tweets I made last week:

People have a deep desire to be useful. You see it in the homeless ALL the time.

These are all the tweets I made last week:

Would you all please add your debit card to Facebook Payments? It's an incredibly easy way to give and receive money.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/from-the-homeless-charity-we-just-uploaded-a-youtube-video-erics-new-apartment-homeless-no-more/>

og:title Content: From The Homeless Charity: We Just Uploaded A YouTube Video: Eric's New Apartment. Homeless No More - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023

Blog Post Date: February 20, 2017

Blog Post Content: I just wrote this piece on The Homeless Charity Website. Check it out:
We Just Uploaded A YouTube Video: Eric's New Apartment. Homeless No More

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/from-the-homeless-charity-heres-how-you-helped-a-chronically-homeless-person-get-into-a-house/>

og:title Content: From The Homeless Charity: Here's How You Helped A Chronically Homeless Person Get Into A House - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023

Blog Post Date: February 20, 2017

Blog Post Content: I just wrote this piece on The Homeless Charity Website. Check it out:
Here's How You Helped A Chronically Homeless Person Get Into A House

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/from-sage-and-friends-podcast-26-why-im-leaving-marketing/>

og:title Content: From Sage and Friends Podcast: #26 - Why Im Leaving Marketing - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023

Blog Post Date: February 21, 2017

Blog Post Content: I just put up this podcast. Check it out:
#26 - Why Im Leaving Marketing

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/my-tweets-from-last-week-8/>

og:title Content: My Tweets From Last Week: - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023

Blog Post Date: February 26, 2017

Blog Post Content: These are all the tweets I made last week:

Is murder (of yourself or others) due to tax preparation a thing? A 26 page organizer form. Really? REALLY!? Fuck me.

These are all the tweets I made last week:

@rockylewis He's SO happy.

These are all the tweets I made last week:

Black women unbothered by the police: A Photo Series #BlackHistoryMonth <https://t.co/n3XldzCUZ5>

These are all the tweets I made last week:

There are way more Christians than atheists in the "helping people" business. Just sayin'.

These are all the tweets I made last week:

Are you a person that can make "trash disappear"? That's a very useful service. You could definitely make that a business.

These are all the tweets I made last week:

I could do an entire lifetime's worth of photography just at this one scrap yard. <https://t.co/PYJ626NJpG>

These are all the tweets I made last week:

@deborahmonaco I spend a surprising amount of time at the scrap yard these days.

These are all the tweets I made last week:

I made a Sage and Friends Podcast: <https://t.co/bao1FxnZov>

These are all the tweets I made last week:

Enjoy a unicorn made out of music notes <https://t.co/f4oMZDa50b>

These are all the tweets I made last week:

My father's name is John Lewis. I almost fell out of my chair when I thought for a second he might not support Donald Trump. <https://t.co/sqRK0vhten>

These are all the tweets I made last week:

Thank you SO much for your support here. Again, you blow me away with your generosity....
<https://t.co/8IF2V8dCuD>

These are all the tweets I made last week:

We all need to print this off and read it every day. <https://t.co/TAtGkIO70e>

These are all the tweets I made last week:

#HeyAkron, did you know that you can find all of our zoning maps online, as PDFs?

<https://t.co/YAtblxGCfd>

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/from-the-homeless-charity-what-our-building-costs-to-operate/>

og:title Content: From The Homeless Charity: What Our Building Costs To Operate - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023

Blog Post Date: February 27, 2017

Blog Post Content: I just wrote this piece on The Homeless Charity Website. Check it out:
What Our Building Costs To Operate

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/from-the-homeless-charity-sagerock-digital-marketing-agency-platinum-sponsor/>

og:title Content: From The Homeless Charity: SageRock Digital Marketing Agency - Platinum Sponsor - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023

Blog Post Date: February 27, 2017

Blog Post Content: I just wrote this piece on The Homeless Charity Website. Check it out:
SageRock Digital Marketing Agency - Platinum Sponsor

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/from-the-homeless-charity-spring-garden-waldorf-school-a-silver-sponsor/>

og:title Content: From The Homeless Charity: Spring Garden Waldorf School - A Silver Sponsor - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023

Blog Post Date: February 27, 2017

Blog Post Content: I just wrote this piece on The Homeless Charity Website. Check it out:
Spring Garden Waldorf School - A Silver Sponsor

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/my-tweets-from-last-week-9/>

og:title Content: My Tweets From Last Week: - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023

Blog Post Date: March 5, 2017

Blog Post Content: These are all the tweets I made last week:

Also: people are largely afraid. They could use leadership that is encouraging and hopeful that they can do it.

<https://t.co/UbC4TpKXfS>

These are all the tweets I made last week:

I will say: people lack vision. Great leadership would be painting a picture of what that "something" could look like. <https://t.co/InycyKLhj4>

These are all the tweets I made last week:

There is social capital and economic capital in helping the poorest in our communities.

<https://t.co/0Rh39bCoeu>

These are all the tweets I made last week:

If I was a city planner I too might focus on catering to rich people. BUT did you know there is \$366 billion annually. <https://t.co/HyJ9DvZW0i>

These are all the tweets I made last week:

But you do you and I'll do me and maybe together we'll find the path for our future.

<https://t.co/0Rh39bCoeu>

These are all the tweets I made last week:

My theory that I'm personally banking my entire midlife career on is: helping the poor is right and viable.

<https://t.co/0Rh39bCoeu>

These are all the tweets I made last week:

True! I haven't seen any real evidence that spill over or trickle down is a statistically significant factor in eco

! <https://t.co/oJKGxIrdX>

These are all the tweets I made last week:

It is not @realDonaldTrump that will grind is into the ground. It is our own deep hate. Our viciousness is the real mortal threat.

These are all the tweets I made last week:

When the internet was young they had things called flame wars. Now we just have Facebook.

These are all the tweets I made last week:

This is my big, hairy, audacious goal: Second Chance Training Center <https://t.co/zuKrrt57YD>

These are all the tweets I made last week:

We just got our 1st donation for the Second Chance Training Center 2017. Click to Donate:

<https://t.co/44PvUwv3vX> via @gofundme

These are all the tweets I made last week:

 and @WarrenBuffett say the #1 key to success is: FOCUS. But being at the right place and time is also critical.

These are all the tweets I made last week:

Every entrepreneur should be so lucky as to have a @rockylewis in their life.

These are all the tweets I made last week:

So my first ever grant is due tomorrow. I just found out about it. That's my kind of deadline.

These are all the tweets I made last week:

@rockylewis I dropped it off. The lady went over it all. SUPER helpful. But she says they don't usually do startups.

These are all the tweets I made last week:

Being brave feels terrible. You're sick to your stomach. You want to go cry in the corner. But you do it anyway. That's what brave is.

These are all the tweets I made last week:

There is a tremendous amount of downward pressure on the graphic design and web development market. The industry has been Walmarted.

These are all the tweets I made last week:

@rockylewis Thanks honey. Having you in my life makes it a lot easier.

These are all the tweets I made last week:

The sad truth is: Americans are not usually as good Web developers as Eastern Europeans or Indians. So we're more expensive and not as good.

These are all the tweets I made last week:

@ChrisSchmittEsq That's right. That's because you are working on a global market. So it's shocking when you actually get less for your \$10k.

These are all the tweets I made last week:

The Tools Talk Twitch - <https://t.co/9bVokqAic3>

These are all the tweets I made last week:

If you are a creator some people will always hate you. Like wish you were dead hate you. Just ask Jesus, Gandhi & MLK & every YouTuber ever.

These are all the tweets I made last week:

Dayton Ohio! Ohioans care. - The moment a quick thinking bus driver saves a woman about to commit suicide

<https://t.co/tzxIhiqueZ7>

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/my-tweets-from-last-week-10/>

og:title Content: My Tweets From Last Week: - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023

Blog Post Date: March 12, 2017

Blog Post Content: These are all the tweets I made last week:

The only heros we have in America are rich people and warriors. Capitalism won't work if we believe anything else.

These are all the tweets I made last week:

Drats! Clef Two Factor Authentication is Shutting Down <https://t.co/gERa6orWnJ> via @wordfence

These are all the tweets I made last week:

I'm a Level 3 Local Guide on Google Maps. My 28 pics have been seen over 2.5 million times. I feel bad if I ever give less than a 5â€¦ review.

These are all the tweets I made last week:

OK!! Ben Carson....I can't! Immigrants ? In the bottom of SLAVE SHIPS??!! MUTHAFUKKA PLEASE!!! #dickheadedom

These are all the tweets I made last week:

@rockylewis yup

These are all the tweets I made last week:

I agree. I'm not up for being molested right now. <https://t.co/bVFqHhmJSI>

These are all the tweets I made last week:

Why we don't make a bigger deal of #Akron awesomeness is beyond me. @GOJOindustries at @SpaceCenterHou <https://t.co/W7Hes9Z7cQ>

These are all the tweets I made last week:

You got it it @NASAValkyrie You are awesome. <https://t.co/yeWxHorvRW>

These are all the tweets I made last week:

 of @EdwinsCLE fame is running for #cleveland mayor. You have my 100% support. (I've got some experience doing this, btw.)

These are all the tweets I made last week:

"See, it's not called ACA any more. It's now called AHCA. American Health Care Act. Totally different." Why even pretend we have 2 parties.

These are all the tweets I made last week:

The message of economic developers in Texas is: lower taxes, less regulation. What is your state's message to pull in businesses?

These are all the tweets I made last week:

I just hope I'm never in need of anything cuz America doesn't give a fuck anymore.

These are all the tweets I made last week:

Oh. And I'm super glad I'm a white man. That lottery ticket is really paying off. You REALLY should have been born a white man.

These are all the tweets I made last week:

This Hispanic family keeps looking over at me like I'm the fucking Gestapo. This immigrant situation is twisted.

These are all the tweets I made last week:

I can't wait to read "The Diary of MarÃa Guadalupe". The story of a young Mexican girl hiding from ICE in 21st century America.

These are all the tweets I made last week:

@rockylewis I know. I've got to talk to someone about this icky feeling I'm having. White men should never have to experience it.

These are all the tweets I made last week:

@rockylewis @YouTube Awesome!

These are all the tweets I made last week:

There was something weird about Texas I couldn't quite put my finger on until now. I think people smile more here than Northeast Ohio.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/this-is-a-video-from-the-trash-pandas-sunday-at-dunkin-donuts/>
og:title Content: This Is A Video From The Trash Pandas: Sunday at Dunkin Donuts. - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023
Blog Post Date: March 12, 2017

Blog Post Content: This is a video channel Indy and I do together. Here is the latest video:

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/this-is-a-video-from-the-trash-pandas-grocery-store/>
og:title Content: This Is A Video From The Trash Pandas: Grocery store - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023
Blog Post Date: March 12, 2017

Blog Post Content: This is a video channel Indy and I do together. Here is the latest video:

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/this-is-a-video-from-the-trash-pandas-trash-panda-boy-makes-noodles/>
og:title Content: This Is A Video From The Trash Pandas: Trash Panda Boy makes noodles. - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023
Blog Post Date: March 12, 2017

Blog Post Content: This is a video channel Indy and I do together. Here is the latest video:

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/from-the-homeless-charity-who-homeless-people-really-are/>
og:title Content: From The Homeless Charity: Who Homeless People Really Are - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023
Blog Post Date: March 14, 2017

Blog Post Content: I just wrote this piece on The Homeless Charity Website. Check it out:
Who Homeless People Really Are

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/my-tweets-from-last-week-11/>
og:title Content: My Tweets From Last Week: - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023
Blog Post Date: March 19, 2017

Blog Post Content: These are all the tweets I made last week:
Marketing is like magic. If you believe it will work it will. If you don't believe then you shouldn't do it. You'll always be a skeptic.

These are all the tweets I made last week:

I just got a request from Dayton Ohio to help raise money for their homeless. So cool! I can help raise money for YOUR homeless too.

These are all the tweets I made last week:

btw, if you want to donate to the homeless of Dayton you can do that here: <https://t.co/CNcQeJ5IZ1>

These are all the tweets I made last week:

I just wrote this. "Who Homeless People Really Are" - <https://t.co/tzLkXUtF8x>

These are all the tweets I made last week:

@rockylewis Thanks.

These are all the tweets I made last week:

Wanna help #Akron Homeless? You could print off this flyer and hang it up somewhere:

<https://t.co/ZepY3PDqrP> #homelessness

These are all the tweets I made last week:

"Can a man still be brave if he's afraid?" Bran Stark

"That is the only time a man can be brave." Eddard Stark

These are all the tweets I made last week:

Here's a good article on Charitable Contributions & what you can write off. <https://t.co/1aVds1qKfW>

These are all the tweets I made last week:

hey @thestyle1972, do you think I could put a couple of these in my secluded yard in Middlebury?â€

<https://t.co/lmsT8vZ0ni>

These are all the tweets I made last week:

Just met a homeless guy who was a Marine for 7 years. Did 2 tours. But got a dishonorable discharge and now gets zero support.

These are all the tweets I made last week:

When I become the hope to navigate a sea of paperwork and bureaucracy to get tiny homes for the homeless I feel like we're all doomed.

These are all the tweets I made last week:

@rockylewis That's also a good point

These are all the tweets I made last week:

@rockylewis Good one!

These are all the tweets I made last week:

The Tools Talk About How To Raise Money Online - <https://t.co/mVz1uAY4tu>

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/from-rubber-city-auctions-full-house-of-personal-property-auction-saturday-march-25-2017-at-100pm/>
og:title Content: From Rubber City Auctions: Full House of Personal Property Auction - Saturday March 25, 2017 at 1:00pm - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023
Blog Post Date: March 20, 2017

Blog Post Content: I just wrote this article on the Rubber City Auctions Website. Check it out:
Full House of Personal Property Auction - Saturday March 25, 2017 at 1:00pm

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/we-are-emma-gonzalez/>
og:title Content: We Are Emma Gonzalez - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023
Blog Post Date: February 19, 2018

Blog Post Content: I hope you've had the chance to watch the speech Emma Gonzalez gave as a survivor of the recent school shooting in Parkland, Florida.

Speeches like this transcend human constraints like age. Don't we wonder how such a young person to be so articulate, clear and inspirational?

They also transcend politics and dividing ideologies.

Politicians and the powerful will quickly try to divide us on which side of the debate we stand. Do we stand for or against Emma Gonzalez?

"It's not about guns. It's about mental health."

That simple two sentence response to Emma Gonzalez is a propaganda grenade that explodes in the minds of all Americans.

Now we've instantly forgotten every word Emma Gonzalez has said. We retreat to Facebook and have endless, irrational debates about whether or not guns kill.

This is how THEY all play us.

Look at this Gallup Poll of the percentage of people that primarily lean one party or another:

It is absolutely critical in understanding how America works by understanding those numbers.

Every election year between 85% to 92% of votes are already accounted for.

It's the 8% to 15% politicians fight like hell for.

Ask any Texan or Californian how many times a presidential candidate makes a stop in their state. It's almost none. They already know how those states are going to vote.

That fact should infuriate you.

You are just a reliable statistic to these people. I mean, doesn't it seem odd to you that presidential candidates don't spend much of any time in two of the most populous states in the country? That only means one thing. They don't actually care about you. They only care about your vote.

So we get these brilliant, catchy, dividing propaganda statements like: "It's not about guns. It's about mental health."

And let me be clear: that statement is just as helpful for Democrats as it is for Republicans.

Democrats LOVE the NRA just like Republicans LOVE abortion.

These wedge issues make their lives so much easier.

An issue they both hate is: How do we make kids safer?

That's not catchy at all.

That's messy. That's complicated.

Sure. Democrats rally around those kinds of phrases. But they don't truly want to fix the problem. They are just using that position to excite their base.

Bernie Sanders is the knight in shining armor for "Progressives" in America. Here is his stance on guns:

That is the PROGRESSIVE stance on guns in America.

If our politicians really, truly cared about kids getting killed in mass shootings they would be figuring out how to get guns out of the hands of Americans.

Australia bought and destroyed more than 600,000 automatic and semiautomatic weapons and pump-action shotguns.

Over the next few years, gun-death totals were cut nearly in half. Firearm suicides dropped to 0.8 per 100,000 people in 2006 from 2.2 in 1995, while firearm homicides dropped to 0.15 per 100,000 people in

2006 from 0.37 in 1995.

Why don't we do that?

It's a rhetorical question. You know why, right? BECAUSE IT WON'T GET THEM ELECTED!

They only care about getting into power and holding onto power.

They will tell you this is because they can then get inside and make important change. But the important change never comes. They just get more and more addicted to their power.

Republicans increase deficits. Democrats give healthcare to private companies.

But ultimately, I believe this is our fault. We the people are making this happen.

As long as the polls show that we are all correctly aligning to hot button issues then there is no reason to change.

There is a passive, look-the-other-way and blame-others mentality in America. And politicians love it. They can count on it.

But people like Emma Gonzalez muddy the waters. They make things complicated.

The FBI and mafia killed Martin Luther King Jr. for this very reason.

Change agents don't make the powerful happy.

When change happens very often the first people to go are the existing powerful elites.

Could Emma Gonzalez take down the NRA? Hell yeah she could. Or, quite frankly, she could end up dead.

The NRA will not go quietly.

But change like this must happen.

Kids shouldn't get shot down at school.

People shouldn't be slaves.

People shouldn't live in frozen ditches across America.

Kids shouldn't die because they can't afford healthcare.

People shouldn't have to go days without eating.

The list goes on and on. There is still much to do in the world and in America.

But know this: It is NEVER EVER the people in power that will make these changes.

It is people like Emma Gonzalez that make these changes.

It is people like YOU that make these changes.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/talk-god/>

og:title Content: Let's Talk About God - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023

Blog Post Date: August 26, 2018

Blog Post Content: I have debated broaching this topic for quite some time.

God is a sensitive topic. Many people advise never talking about politics or religion.

It's true. That's the safe bet.

But it is also the fearful bet. Not discussing the most important and fundamental drivers of our lives is a bit of a shame. Strategically hiding our deepest beliefs makes it so no one ever truly gets to know us.

On the other hand, talking politics never seems to go well on Facebook. This person is a snowflake. That person is butt hurt. I'm fairly certain these are grown adults throwing around these middle school insults.

We like to think with a few decades of life under our belts, along with being a parent, and able to hold down a job that we are now officially adults and therefore are making rational and mature observations of the world and those who live in it.

I've seen teenagers engage others more maturely than some grown "adults" do on Facebook.

So, it is likely a foolish idea to share my knowledge of God with you.

This is particularly true because what I'm about to tell you is not mainstream religion. And it is not atheism.

So, I likely will be offending most people I know.

On top of that, I've become pretty "out there" in my beliefs in God. So there is a good chance that rational humans are going to think I've gone over the deep end.

Those rational people are probably going to roll there eyes at this very next statement.

God told me to start sharing these connections I've made with God.

So there's that. Now I'm talking to God.

This is the trouble with having these conversations. I'm using human, American English words to describe the connection I'm having with the entire infinite multiverse.

Imagine trying to explain Facebook to someone living in Salem Massachusetts in 1692. Good luck not getting quickly added to the hundreds of people accused of being a witch.

We all have heard the stories of how Eskimos have 50 different words for snow.

How can we truly understand something like snow when we only have one word for it and Eskimos have 50?

God has infinite words to explain infinite concepts.

The Second Edition of the 20-volume Oxford English Dictionary contains full entries for 171,476 words in current use.

How are we possibly supposed to even scrape the surface of talking about God with 171, 476 words?

So, yes, "talking with God" sounds kooky. But it's about the best I can do at the moment.

When I say God told me to start talking about God it's more like listening to the way a river wants to take a boat. It's a feeling. It's a compulsion. And the closer I get to it the more right it feels.

That's what talking with God is like. At least for me.

God wanted me to talk to you about this topic because I'm in a unique position.

I am surrounded by the most extremely poor people in the city in which I live, Akron Ohio.

That also is a magnetism. Working with the homeless and the near homeless is the most incredible, fulfilling, "right" work I've ever done.

This work has allowed me to find a connection with the world, the universe and, yes, God, unlike any other time in my life.

Living your life for others is widely reported by many theologians to be the path to God. I now see what they are talking about and am a firm believer that it is very much the truth.

I feel like I have gotten closer to God than I ever have in my life. To the point where I'm now "talking" to God.

I plan on writing more about this topic. So I won't dwell too long on this post.

The reason I'm writing on this topic is for a specific group of people. I'm interested in the people that are still searching. I want to talk to the people that haven't found what they are looking for.

What I'm about to tell you is actually just one small side of God. But it might be the side that you would find attractive.

I've had a long and contentious relationship with God. I'm currently in a place in my life, however, where I believe not trying to connect with God is causing you to miss a large chunk of what it means to be a human.

Connecting with God is very fulfilling. It can bring you a peace and understanding of your place in the universe unlike anything else.

You see, unlike what others will tell you, God is not "this or that." God is most certainly not "my way or the highway."

That's what the big religions and then, amusingly, the sects within these religions want you to believe.

It's just not true.

God is everything. You can't escape God no matter how hard you try.

You can ignore God or not ignore God. It makes not the slightest difference to God. But it can make a big difference to you.

There is one thing I want you to know most of all in this post:

God is so flipping happy with you. Imagine you are a Corgi puppy (that's the cutest dog I can imagine).

That's how God feels about you. God is fascinated with you. God is in love with you. God could watch you all day every day and never get bored or even the slightest bit upset with you.

I mean how are you ever going to be upset with a Corgi puppy?

No matter what you have done or what you are doing or what you are thinking about doing... you will always be a Corgi puppy to God.

And here's the thing about this. There is something a billion times cuter and sweeter than a Corgi puppy.

THAT's how God thinks of you. It's a cuteness that would make your heart explode with cute overload if you saw it. You couldn't possibly take the multiverse cuteness that God compares you to.

So relax. That's the first thing God wants you to know. Don't worry so much. Try to let the worry and the anxiety and the fear fade away, if you can. You have nothing to worry about.

You are loved in a way that is so deep and so unconditional that you can't possibly begin to even imagine it.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/words/>

og:title Content: Words - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023

Blog Post Date: September 9, 2018

Blog Post Content: I have a hard time with the Bible, sometimes.

I realize that's heresy in the Protestant world.

The key idea of the Protestant Reformation of 1517 was the belief that the Bible, not tradition, should be the sole source of spiritual authority. (This, in big part, had to do with Gutenberg and his movable type printing press. Bible's were now able to get in the hands of many people quickly.)

In fact, over time the Bible became considered as inerrant, that is: "without error or fault in all its teaching."

Today a large group of people now believe the Bible is completely literal. Fundamentalists and evangelicals sometimes refer to themselves as literalists or biblical literalists.

A 2011 Gallup survey reports, "Three in 10 Americans interpret the Bible literally, saying it is the actual word of God."

It is important to remember that Fundamentalists do not speak for all of Christianity. There are 1.285 billion Catholics who would respectfully disagree that the Bible is the "sole source of spiritual authority." They have a much more nuanced approach to how they incorporate the Bible into their spiritual practice.

It is not that I don't find certain parts of the Bible inspiring and lovely to read.

My problem is that trying to put the infinite totality of the concept of "God" in human, English words is just asking for trouble.

Do you know that there are likely an infinite number of dimensions? You probably know that we live in a 3 dimensional world. Things in our world have height, width and depth.

But did you know that we actually only see in 2 dimensions? That's why a photograph or painting can look 3 dimensional even though it is only 2 dimensional. Our eyes see everything in 2 dimensions.

For example, if an object became bigger as it moved away from us we would have no idea it was moving away from us as long as the lighting stayed consistent.

Now. Take one more dimension. The fourth dimension. It is literally impossible for us to truly imagine the fourth dimension. But scientists try with a Tesseract:

The tesseract is to the cube as the cube is to the square.

In the fourth dimension you would be able to see through all 3 dimensional things.

But here's the thing, there isn't just a 4th or 5th or 6th dimension.

There is 600th dimension. There is a 6 millionth dimension.

How are we ever to possibly use human words to describe the 6 millionth dimension?

It's completely impossible.

So, even if God Himself penned every word in the Bible it would be such a tiny, tiny sliver that is what God is that it would be like you being represented by a single bacteria that is currently living in your mouth.

The Bible simply cannot be God. It is too limiting.

On top of that, the Bible, by its very essence of inadequacy, causes rifts. There is an ever growing number of people that find the Bible off-putting.

"Bible thumpers" aren't helping bring more people to a spiritual life. They are pushing people away.

Imagine a drawing you made when you were 2 years old being the single, solitary piece of work that you are always being judged by your entire life. "We would love to hire you. But that thing you call "Mom" in this drawing doesn't look the slightest bit like your actual mom."

And it gets worse.

Me even talking about this topic is off-putting.

If a Fundamentalist even made it this far in reading this post they likely are moving away from me. They are saying, "Sage and I don't have enough in common to work together. Sage is insulting the very core of my existence."

Words, by their nature, are "this or that."

If you say the word "apple" you aren't talking about an "orange" even though they are both delicious fruits.

We now have to start talking about which is better: an apple or an orange.

Words are 1 dimensional. They are a rudimentary symbol of everything that is greater than them.

Dog. Rainbow. Pizza.

Those are simple words that do no justice to the incredible magnificence of what they represent.

I don't care for fancy spiritual words and talk.

I have a hard time listening to many Buddhist advisers, for example, because I find the way they talk uncomfortable. They often talk slow, and quiet and use weird woo-woo words that kind of just sound fake to me. But for some people I'm sure it is very comforting.

At the same time, I have a deep interest in my connection to all that is out there. Maybe I'm just deluding myself and trying to make myself more comfortable as my impending death slowly but surely closes in. But working with the homeless truly makes me believe there is something greater out there. Even physics itself has never-ending mysteries that it can't yet explain. At the very least, I find it fun and enjoyable to explore these mysteries of existence. As I write these posts it's a little like telling you about a show I just watched on Netflix that I want to share with you. But my words make me a bad story-teller. It would be better if you just experienced the show for yourself. Some people bristle at the very word "God." It is such a loaded word. It comes with emotion, personal baggage and churches who continually try to declare they know the "truth" of God. I have no idea what I'm talking about when I talk about God. How can I know? Physicists can't yet tell us what is dark matter and dark energy. That is 95% of the entire universe they don't yet know about. These are incredibly smart, dedicated people that make full time livings out of trying to understand our single universe. How can I possibly even begin to scrape a single speck of paint off the hidden reality of God on a random Sunday morning? We can't know God. We'll never know God. So, we can't describe God. And even talking about God makes God simple and untrue. I prefer to experience God. I prefer to live God. I prefer to help the homeless because that feels like a path God would want me to pursue (whatever that even means). God is not a church. God is not a person. God is not a book. God is an experience.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/the-power-of-not-knowing/>
og:title Content: The Power Of Not Knowing - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023
Blog Post Date: September 15, 2018

Blog Post Content: I've gotten real comfortable with my weaknesses. I can't plan things. I am overwhelmed at the grocery store. I don't appreciate nice things. I'm not getting any smarter. In the great words of Popeye: "I am who I am." But we live in a country where we are supposed to all be "moving up." A better job. More money. A healthier diet. A thinner waistline. A bigger house. A nicer car. Up. Up. Up. I've come to distrust this constant bettering. I don't believe in it. I also believe it is actually coming to an end as the American normal state. I believe it comes from the outside. Government, Church and Business. They are inciting this constant obsession with bettering ourselves. It doesn't benefit us nearly as much as it benefits them. They stir us into a frantic state of constant anxiety that we never have any time to actually ask ourselves what we truly want. What will truly bring us satisfaction? Because when we make more money, government, business and church make more money. It all comes down to money. Just follow the money. I was once walking down the street in a very wealthy Connecticut town just outside of New York City. A very handsome man got out of a very fancy car and looked at my wife like he was going to devour her. This was years ago. But his look burned into me. I've never seen a human look so hungry and predatorial in my life. He looked like a wolf in human form. I wasn't angry at him. In fact, I was impressed by him. He looked like a guy that truly found his calling. He loved money. He loved the conquest. I'm quite sure he was a finance guy of some sort. He just looked perfectly in his element. This is who everyone wants us to be. They all want us to be hungry and striving and on the hunt. But the truth is, most people I have ever met are not nearly as money motivated and desirous of upward mobility as society has convinced us that we are. Most people are overwhelmed by the pursuit.

They live paycheck to paycheck at the very end of their financial capabilities. We are all told, "Don't worry. Buy now. You'll make more money later."

We buy houses we can't afford. We lease cars we can't afford.

Why?

I believe it is an external force pushing us beyond our limits.

All studies show that Americans are not happy and are not living longer.

We've been tricked.

It all starts with the seemingly simple question: "What do you want to be when you grow up?"

That's one of those questions that really has no answer. It's more of a feeling than a description.

"Um... I want to be a... _____"

More often than not that answer isn't true.

We have a very limited understanding of all the things we can "be."

So we take the 50 possible options that we've heard of and then take all of our loves and passions and desires and plug them into one of those 50 things.

There is a guy I know who hires felons at his company. He is very successful. His business is putting liquids into bottles that spray. Another company sends him their liquid, like cologne, and he puts it into a spray bottle for them. I think over time he also expanded into putting labels on those bottles. This is a multi-generational business.

I saw on TV where a zoo has a full time artist who makes habitats for animals. They are phenomenal.

There are so many jobs in the world. We do ourselves no favors by saying I want to be "X".

I believe we would find much more happiness and satisfaction by not succumbing to being so confident about what we want to do for a living.

I believe we need to use less words and do more living.

We must experience things to find our true path.

Like a ball in a pinball machine. Go here. Go there. Go fast. Go slow. Go up. Go down. But just go.

The experience will guide you. Listen to your surroundings. Listen to the feelings within you.

Listen less to other people. They are often a distraction. As soon as someone tells you, "You should do this" you are probably being pulled in an unnatural direction.

I realize this is ironic advice. I'm telling you listen to me while also telling you to not listen to me.

But I'm not telling you to be a banker or an engineer or an accountant or an artist or a musician. I'm telling you to let all of that go.

Sit in a chair and wait for an inspiration to move you. Then quietly get up and move in that direction.

It will likely be a very faint and subtle feeling. It probably won't feel like much of anything. But that's how it will start. A weak, little flicker. Follow it!

When you say "I don't know" you will be taking the first step to truly knowing.

That is God talking to you. God is not outside of you. God is not even inside of you. God is you.

God is the thing that isn't your mom, your dad, me, your boss, your spouse. God is that barely perceptible light you can hardly see within you.

God almost never yells at you initially. There is too much outside noise for God to get through.

I know, for some of you, I probably ruined this whole "follow your dreams" post at the end by throwing in the word "God."

If I had a better word for it I would use it.

Just try to think of "God" as a connector of all things. I see God as this strange, unfathomable thing that ties us together with a galaxy, a star, a bird, an electron. We are all in this together. We are all moving in the same direction. We all need each other. We all are each other.

That is not even mystical. We are all born of star dust. That's physics.

Connectedness. That's a fundamental idea I'm trying to share. Connectedness instead of disconnectedness is how we solve all the world's problems.

The universe is not "this or that." The universe is: "This, that and the other thing."

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/you-dont-need-to-study-christianity-to-know-it/>

og:title Content: You Don't Need To Study Christianity To Know It - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023

Blog Post Date: September 16, 2018

Blog Post Content: There are these universal experiences people have in certain spiritual moments. People talk about a white light in near death experiences. Users of a drug called "DMT" have reported encounters with "machine elves": entities referenced throughout the world in shamanic cultures. There are no atheists in foxholes. Many prisoners report "finding" God in prison. I'm not here to debate whether these are just chemical coincidences that these people experience within moments of extreme change. My point is that we find repeatable feelings and compelling spiritual drives that many people often experience. As I have moved down the path of helping the homeless people have told me things like I am the manifestation of Jesus. That I am the hand of God. This is not because of some deep, philosophical understanding of the Bible and Jesus and God. This is me walking blindly through the woods of life listening to nature telling me where to go next. This is like moving towards singing birds. The aroma of flowers getting closer. The sound of a flowing river calling out to me. This is how you find God. God is not in a book. God is not found through a person. God is not in a building. (God is actually found in those things as well. But we need to move away from all these things before we can move back to them.) If you listen for God you will hear God. You might have to walk around a little. You might have to talk to people a little. But God is out there. Here are some tips to get started:

Paint more of what you want to paint if you are a painter.
Build more of what you want to build if you are a builder.
Exercise more the way you want to exercise if you exercise.
Love your family more if you want to love your family.
Cook more if you like cooking.

Do more of what you want to do the way you want to do it. That is where you are going to find God. Close your eyes. Listen for something to come to you. Read a book you've been meaning to read. Watch a movie you've been meaning to watch. And then listen to where you are supposed to go next. I assure you, the draw will become more and more clear and compelling the more you do this. Keep an eye out for compulsive behavior. Doing something because the pain of not doing something is not the direction you want to go. You are looking for things you want to do. Things you've been meaning to do. That is the path of God.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/the-lesson-of-desert/>
og:title Content: The Lesson of Desert - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023
Blog Post Date: September 22, 2018

Blog Post Content: Have you ever been to the desert? You'll know what I'm talking about, if you have. The desert is a place that makes no sense. The desert is random and chaotic. The desert is a place where you ask questions like:

"What have I done to deserve this?"
"God, why have you forsaken me?"
"What is the lesson I'm supposed to be learning here?"

The desert is a barren wasteland. No one comes for you. God doesn't come to save you. Satan doesn't come to tempt you. You are just being beaten by winds and sands alone and seemingly forgotten. This is suffering.

The Buddhists think about this a lot. They have the 4 Noble Truths to deal with this very issue. The First Truth is that all life is suffering, pain, and misery. They go on to say: This is especially true for poor people. The desert is well known in all spiritual teachings. The desert is the place where you ask things like:

Why did my child die?
Why did they kill my brother because of the way he looked?
Why did they take our land and murder our people?

These are the "impossible" questions that get glossed over with phrases like: "God has a plan." When I think about people being taken to the desert it feels like a personal weather system to me. Some people get blasted with wind and sand most of their lives. And some people barely ever feel anything. Sadly, there is a shield that can help some times. That shield is money. Money will keep you from starving. Money will keep you from being pushed around by governments that aren't interested in you. Money will buy you a trip to the Bahamas. Money will buy you therapy. But money isn't always a guarantee. Rich people suffer too. Their children die from disease and cancer and random accidents. They succumb to drug overdoses trying to cover up a sadness and depression that no amount of money in the world can wash away.

The question is: WHY?

Why is this happening to us?

Do we deserve it? Are we being punished?

I believe that it is not a punishment and we don't deserve it.

We aren't thrown into the world of suffering because of something we have done. God isn't punishing us. I don't even think God is actively doing this. It is just part of life.

The desert exists and that's the way it is.

But I do believe the desert has a purpose. I believe the desert, while not fair and brutally painful, gives us something.

Or rather, the desert takes something from us.

The Four Noble Truths of Buddhism are stated in simple terms as:

Suffering exists

Suffering arises from attachment to desires

Suffering ceases when attachment to desire ceases

Freedom from suffering is possible by practicing the Eightfold Path

Buddhists believe that we suffer because we expect something different.

Desire is suffering.

I'm not a Buddhist. In fact, the Dalai Lama often tells us Westerners to look to our own Western faiths for salvation. They were made for us in our particular struggles.

But I like thinking about the Four Noble Truths because they help me in times of suffering better than a lot of words that come from Christianity.

In the West we are so fortunate and wealthy that I don't think it is necessary to get rid of all desire. We are incredibly lucky.

Desire is a wish. I wish for a better life. I wish for a cure for cancer. I wish for a house in the Hamptons.

In the West, sometimes these wishes can come true.

The Dalai Lama is often speaking with people where no wishes come true. Desire leads to nothing other than more pain.

Often times, especially in the West, our trips to the desert are momentary and fleeting. We come back to lush, green lives soon enough. In fact, I think sometimes people can go their whole lives and never truly see the desert.

I feel both happy for these people and, truthfully, a little sad for them as well.

The desert is a classroom. ...if we choose to hear the lesson.

The desert strips us away. It is a sandblasting.

It blows your ego right off.

You realize that the dry winds of existence are bigger than you. The dry winds of pain and suffering are massive and you are tiny. You are no match for the winds of pain and suffering. You can do nothing other than just take it.

You are blown this way and that way. Your pain creates more pain. Your suffering envelops you like a wind storm with no end and no beginning. There is no satellite view of when the storm will end. Maybe the storm will end. Maybe it will never end.
Your life could be storm after storm after storm.
And yet you still stand.
You still walk.
You still smile when you see a friend.
You enjoy a \$0.79 Polar Pop.
You relax with a cigarette and a cup of coffee. ...all while storms blast you with endless pain and suffering.
"You" are being stripped away so that the immortal "You" is the only thing that is left.
The desert blasts away the false you. The you that is the car you drive, the education you have, the crimes you've committed, the money in your wallet.
The desert strips that away so there is nothing left other than raw metal. There is nothing left other than you and God.
The lesson is to let go. Don't hold on. Accept the winds. Let them take you.
Holding on just make it worse. Holding on is like refusing to take off your Halloween costume as your mom insists that you must take it off.
The things you are holding onto are temporary and not real.
When you let go you are connecting with permanence and truth.
You can find peace in the desert. And that is the lesson of the desert. Let go and the suffering will stop. You will find peace and salvation amidst incredible suffering.
When people come to us from the woods asking for shelter in our tent community they often come to us completely stripped down to the bare metal.
They don't care about the fact that they lost all their worldly possessions. They don't care about the way they look. In fact, they don't even care if we are full and we have to turn them away. They just move on. There is no resentment. There is no sense of indignation and lack of justice. They have been completely washed in the sands of the desert.
A homeless person like that is the closest person to God you will ever meet. They are the modern day ascetics. They have been stripped of food, clothing and all worldly possessions. They have been returned to God right here on earth.
I think sometimes God likes to watch how we treat these people to see if we're "ready." I don't know exactly "ready" for what. But that's the feeling I get. Have we learned ANY of the messages God has sent to us from countless spiritual guides?
If you are in the desert right now: may you let go, may you find peace. Peace be with you. I love you.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/im-not-worried-any-more/>
og:title Content: I'm not worried any more. - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023
Blog Post Date: September 30, 2018

Blog Post Content: A couple days ago I asked Rocky about a business idea to help pay for some family expenses.
She asked concerned, "Are you worried about money?"
For the first time in my life I responded, "I'm not worried about money any more."
I've moved into a mental space that is hard to explain.
It's like a free fall.
I feel like I'm falling through space and time like a leaf falling off a tree. Or maybe it's more like being a sledder on a luge track going faster and faster toward the way I am meant to go.
I become stronger the more I stop fighting and let go.
Fighting and pushing and pulling was how I lived my youth.
I was outraged. I was angry. I was a force of resistance.
Today I am free. Today I am resonating with my surroundings in a way that I never knew was possible.
I feel like a Tibetan singing bowl.
I feel like I am resonating with the harmonic overtones of the universe.
I have fallen into a worn path that is where I'm supposed to be. It's a feeling of rightness. It's a feeling of

resonance.

It reminds me of the quote from the movie The Matrix:

Neo: What are you trying to tell me? That I can dodge bullets?

Morpheus: No, Neo. I'm trying to tell you that when you're ready, you won't have to.

This is exactly how I feel.

I feel like I'm moving outside of everyday worries and fears and illusions.

I don't have to dodge bullets any more. Where I am today there are no bullets. The bullets were never there to begin with. There are no bullets.

And as I continue to move outside of this world I get to see others more clearly. I'm here to tell you: I see fear everywhere.

I see city officials afraid of appearances. I see homeless service providers afraid of losing money. I see apartment managers afraid of losing their contracts.

Fear is so all consuming in our world that it becomes invisible. It becomes the constant hum of existence.

For many people all of life is just dodging one bullet after another.

Who would we be if we weren't properly afraid?

Fear is considered an important part of life.

"It's fine if you want to be an artist. But you really should get an engineering degree just to be safe."

"Wanting to become a video game programmer is super competitive. You really should learn database programming just to be safe."

"You can't make money as a musician. You really should go into a field that has career potential just to be safe."

We are running for cover our entire lives.

From my experience, I've seen no evidence that defensive posture of existence does any good.

Your spouse dies.

You get laid off.

You lose your house.

You get cancer.

Inflation happens and you lose your money.

A recession happens and you lose your money.

You end up hating the job you thought was the safe route.

You can't escape the winds of misfortune no matter how hard you try.

But on the other side of existence I see the fearless.

I see photographers that don't shoot weddings "just to be safe"; they only shoot subjects that are meaningful to them.

I see musicians who give up tenure track "just to be safe" professor jobs to continue playing music in the field.

I see scholars with PhDs abandoning professor roles so they can work with dying hospital patients.

The most successful people I know are people that let go of "just to be safe" and free fall into the resonance of their true selves.

The secret to the game of life is to get back to God.

In our late teen years and early twenties the world mixes us up. It's like when they put a blindfold on the kid at a birthday party. They spin him around and then watch him try to find a pinata that is being pulled up and down on a rope. He waves his stick this way and that way rarely ever finding the pinata.

I sometimes imagine God being the kids at the party laughing as we all wander around blindfolded and dizzy trying to hit at a pinata that is nowhere to be found.

The blindfold is our fear. It clouds our view of truth. Fear adds layers of imaginary anxiety and worry on us keeping us farther and farther away from the path we were meant to be traveling.

I think God likes to see if we'll ever take off the blindfold. I sometimes imagine God seeing us like we see a reality TV show.

"No!!!! That person was so close and then they just went Looney Tunes crazy and got completely off track."

We get off track because of fear.

I listened to an interview of Barack Obama after he was president.

The interviewer asked him what was different now versus when he was president. He said, "Now, I'm not afraid anymore."

Losing fear is something that often happens after you've been so afraid you just get tired of being afraid

anymore. The fear just gets wrung out of you.

Fear is an addiction. Eventually you get sick and tired of being sick and tired. You'll quit it if you finally get tired of how it makes you feel.

And quite honestly, I am sure I'll get sucked back down into the world of fear again. I'll probably slip up and fall off the wagon. Fear is that bottle of booze in your cupboard. It's just waiting for you to think you can't take it anymore. "I deserve to be afraid."

But I am here to tell you, the fear is the illusion. The lack of fear and the ability to let go is the truth.

You can only find your destiny when you let go, when you let the fear fade away. You can't see God when you're afraid.

And if you can't see God you can't see the path you are meant to be traveling.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/losing-everything-and-finding-god/>

og:title Content: Losing Everything and Finding God - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023

Blog Post Date: October 7, 2018

Blog Post Content: Early on, in our homeless tent community, we had very little.

We didn't have laundry. We didn't have a shower. We didn't have computers or a food pantry or a clothes room.

We had nothing other than ourselves.

There was just some land in the back of a building where a few people put a few tents in the winter.

Even though we had little, or maybe because we had little, the magic was powerful.

There was a deep sacred feeling that is nearly indescribable.

This was the time and space where I came back to God.

God was right there with us. You could nearly reach out and touch God.

The truth is, God is always right there with us. But we are so covered up with costumes and masks and busyness that God becomes totally invisible.

Just as we can't see the stars in the city because of light pollution, we can't see God because of life pollution.

You see, all the things we think define us are actually erasing us.

Your car is not you. Your address is not you. Your job is not you. Your clothes are not you. Your food is not you. Your phone is not you. Your Netflix account is not you.

We think we are creating a life. But truly all we are creating is one giant distraction.

I know that now because of the time I've had the privilege of spending with the homeless.

Losing everything makes everything clear.

This isn't some voodoo I'm making up. This has been a significant part of some religious journeys for thousands of years.

From here: Asceticism - Wikipedia:

"Contemporary mainstream Islam practices asceticism in the form of fasting during Ramadan by abstaining from all sensual pleasures, food & water from sunrise until sunset. The observation of fasting during Ramadan is purely done for God and to increase one's spiritual connection with God; it is compulsory on all Muslims to fast as it is one of the Five Pillars of Islam."

And some Christians observe Lent which is meant to replicate the sacrifice of Jesus Christ's journey into the Judean Desert for 40 days where he fasted.

When you strip away the things of the world you are just left with God. It's undeniable.

People will often tell me that they sit in their tent just talking to God. Just them and God.

God isn't a person. God isn't a place. God isn't a thing.

God is all beings, all places, all things.

This is what you come to see when you give up all things of the world. The path you are meant to travel illuminates like a spotlight shining on it.

One of the most jarring interactions I experienced early on in our village was these people telling me how blessed they were.

I would come into the building in the middle of winter. I had spent all night sleeping in my bed in my warm house. These people had spent all night sleeping in a tent in the bitter cold.

They would ask me how I was. I'd say "fine". I'd ask them how they were and they'd respond, "I'm blessed!"

This wasn't some sort of platitude. It was clear they meant it.
Living in a tent in a community is worlds better than living in a cardboard box alone in the woods. It's undeniable. And they understood that reality crystal clear.
People often say that the best thing we've provided for people at our village is "community."
That's not the full, true story.
The community came because God became visible.
You can't understand the value of your community if you can't understand why your community is valuable.
Most of us today avoid community by pushing it out with all our things and activities in hopes those things will fill that space in our lives.
But of course they never do.
Community is hard and makes us vulnerable. That's why we avoid it.
Middle class America does not like the thought that we are not self-sufficient islands of autonomous free will.
Low income America knows the fallacy of that theory. They are all community all the time.
Homeless America knows that community is life. Community is food, shelter, dignity and self-worth.
And that's the message of God.
We are meant to learn the lesson of community.
Christianity calls it "love." I sometimes feel that message has been misunderstood at this point in time.
God is connection. God is letting go. God is a free fall into the arms of the universe. That's what "love" means.
We are so attached to the things of the world that letting go so extremely is nearly impossible.
But that's what the homeless did. They were thrown off the cliff of life into the universe of nothingness. And when someone caught them they were filled with love and joy and immense feelings of blessedness.
They became nothing but pure love and gratitude.
They became God.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/dear-akron-beacon-journal-editorial-board/>
og:title Content: Dear Akron Beacon Journal Editorial Board - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023
Blog Post Date: October 21, 2018

Blog Post Content: This is the editorial I am commenting on here:
Beacon Journal/Ohio.com editorial board: Sage Lewis goes to court
It's likely that link will break soon. Their content management system typically pulls these offline at some point.

I once had a neighbor who hated me. I mean.... wouldn't look at me, wouldn't talk to me. His hatred for me seethed from his very existence.
We had a pretty good relationship until one day.
He came over and knocked on my door. He wanted to take me to a repair man that he knew to look at my roof. (He was convinced I needed a new roof.)
It was a Saturday. I had a young child. I was doing a dozen other things. And mostly: I didn't want a new roof and couldn't afford one.
I told him i couldn't meet with his person.
That was it. He left and we never spoke again.
He was a man in his 80s. He was smart and had seen many things in the world. His role in the world was that of "the father."
I've always had a hard time with father figures. It's a complicated relationship, actually.
My dad, like many dads of that era, left when I was 7. That's why my generation had movies like "Fight Club" and rappers like Marshall Mathers.
We were left on our own but owned it in an angry, rebellious sort of way.
We lashed out at the world in various ways. We became strong and independent and angry. But, for the first half of our lives, it was always to seek the approval of our estranged dads.
It never worked.
I would encounter surrogate dads here and there. But when I did I would be told I was wrong and needed to listen to their "wisdom" more.
They made people like me into these isolated, strong capsules of independence. But then the fathers still wanted the right to control our actions.

The relationship just wasn't meant to be.

At age 47 I know that now.

I'm not angry at my dad; I haven't been for many years. And I'm mostly done being angry at these father-figures that scold me for not following the rules.

You've never understood us. I am Jack's broken heart.

And that brings us to our latest passive aggressive disagreement that you posted here:

"Sage Lewis Goes To Court".

I'm going to copy it in its entirety below because your content management system seems to erase these editorials after a time.

See. Here we go again... That's just one of many things we disagree on. I have known for the last 20 years your medium needed a radical transformation.

Literally, as a digital marketer, my job has been to transition companies from your medium of print to the medium of the future: digital. Everyone has seen it coming. Everyone except probably you the steward of the old way.

Now you just keep selling and selling and selling. Akron Beacon Journal sold to GateHouse Media, owner of Canton and Columbus papers | wkyc.com)

In 2006 you sold for \$165 million. Nice job!

In 2018 you sold for \$16 million. Um... that's not going in the right direction.

"Circulation has dipped to 68,000, a fraction of the nearly 190,000 daily subscribers in the late 1990s."

I recently saw your sales people deep in the hood selling newspaper subscriptions to poor African American men in a gas station parking lot. I'm pretty sure they were just signing up for the swag you were offering them in return. It was a bizarre scene.

I'm not trying to shame you. I'm just trying to make a point.

If you, as the symbolic father-figure, had been open to the lessons your estranged Generation X children had learned growing up without you, we would have LOVED to work with you as father and child to take on the radical new world in which we live.

But now it's more likely that The Devil Strip will be the fourth estate of Akron Journalism in the next 20 years.

I'm sorry to say, and I truly mean this, I'm sorry to say that I will likely see your complete demise in my lifetime.

You've always looked down on us, the children you abandoned. You've always Monday-morning quarterbacked us telling us we were doing things totally wrong as you yourself had been making your own mortal missteps and failed in the ways of fatherhood.

You are probably thinking I should just get to the point. You didn't come here for some existential speech by a know-nothing cowboy-hat-wearing rebel that never moved on from his teenage rebellious stage.

Let me start with your title:

"Sage Lewis goes to court"

That's just plain wrong. While I am the Executive Director of our charity, I am a non-voting member of our board. The board voted to do this lawsuit. While I certainly support it, it would have happened whether I was in the scene or not.

Institute for Justice is representing "The Homeless Charity"

Our law firm did a better job of articulating the truth of the matter with their headline:

Akron Charity Sues for Right to Shelter the Homeless - Institute for Justice

But let's split the difference with this sentence from Institute for Justice:

"Sage and The Homeless Charity are suing the city of Akron in the Summit County Court of Common Pleas."

I see what you were doing there.

You are professional writers and your ability to craft subtle nuance with your words is impressive.

"Sage Lewis goes to court" is like the talking bear series, Paddington:

Paddington goes to:

school
the movies
town
jail

It makes it seem like I'm a pouty child that didn't get his way. And so now, with a puffed out lip, I'm going to bring my constitutional lawyers to town and we're all going to just say over and over again: "This isn't fair."

To which you can respond, as you've always done: "Life isn't fair."
And this is the crux of it all and why I wanted to talk with you...
By demeaning our work you are in effect demeaning the work of any activist that said the government is upholding unjust laws that protect the powerful and damage the weak.
I feel quite confident you would have written a very similar editorial if you were the invisible "editorial board" writing of the 1955 Montgomery Bus Boycott.
Father-figures have a long track record of taking a stand on the wrong side of history.
I'm not going to critique your entire editorial. But I do want to address one statement:
The continuum noted at the start that 10 or so would pose much greater challenges with, say, criminal records or other factors making prospective landlords skittish. In any case, this is hard and complex work, requiring steady support systems and services that encourage people to take small steps in building better lives.
I'm going to talk about this on The Homeless Charity site next week.
That statement troubles me on several points.
First, the Continuum of Care most certainly did not note "at the start" that 10 or so would be challenging. Everyone said this was going to be easy. A "Slam dunk" as one powerful leader once said in another "easy" situation.
Take this April 28, 2018 Akron Beacon Journal article for example:
Volunteers build small, single shelters for Akrons homeless
No Akron resident should be living in a tent or a shack period; and they dont need to, Lander Nischt [City spokeswoman] said in an email. Unlike some other urban communities across the nation, we are very fortunate here in Akron and Summit County to have healthy, stable, clean and safe housing available for any homeless person or family who needs it.
(That link no longer works. Again, you really should talk to someone about your digital delivery system.)
And here:
Akron City Council votes to end homeless camp, find housing for dozens | fox8.com
Heckman said there are enough available beds in the county to accommodate those affected, many of whom have mental health or substance abuse issues. The action plan calls on Continuum of Care to meet with each person and develop housing options for each.
It wasn't until your article, Group fights eviction of tent residents, on October 15, 2018 where Terri Heckman states
...10 to 12 of the remaining people will be difficult to house because of felonies on their records that may make them unattractive to landlords.
We are looking to all the supporters of Sage to come forward and help find the final people housing in the coming months, Heckman wrote in the email. This is a community effort and without landlords or others willing to open their doors, this will be more difficult.
That's the brave statement we have needed since day one.
Housing the homeless is hard.
You saying: "In any case, this is hard and complex work" is one of those dismissive statements authority figures have made probably since the beginning of time when they brush aside the cries of the disenfranchised and victimized.
"In any case, this is hard and complex work" is a way for people that don't want to deal with the homeless problem can brush it aside and move on to something else they care about... usually punching down at another powerless minority.
I've never understood people that stand up for authority. They hold all the chips. They have all the power. Why anyone feels the need to stand up for the rights of the powerful while scorning the rights of the weak is beyond me. But that's what you do every time you critique our work:
If anything, city officials have been patient, looking to avoid such a confrontation, seeking a collective response.
What the city has done is avoid this entire situation. Homelessness is like a pothole filled with muck and water they have been driving around trying to avoid since the beginning.
The mayor has never visited us. In fact, no one from the administration has visited us.
If we hadn't appealed this decision the city could have let this all go away like a bad dream.
What is happening with homelessness in America while companies are making record profits is a real issue. It's a legitimate problem. It's a problem we can't turn our backs on.
A legal fight to support the rights of the homeless is happening right now in Cincinnati:
ACLU sues Hamilton County judge over homeless camp ban

We are experiencing a real issue of homelessness that you choose not to look at, but exists just the same. Respectfully, you dismissing our work and dismissing the needs of the homeless is wrong. It is the view of a wealthy west side intellectual elitist that has no time to consider the needs of the brutally poor of your city. The homeless don't buy newspapers. The homeless don't pay taxes. The homeless don't vote. So they become nothing more than an annoying mosquito bite on the leg of the rich and powerful. There is seemingly no benefit to taking the side of the homeless. Except that's your ultimate mistake. Your readers do care. People that pay taxes do care. Voters do care. You see things on a one to one perspective. You can't imagine that the way you feel isn't the way those that you actually need the support of feel. You are fading. You are not the voice of the people. You are the voice of the powerful. And no one cares about the voice of the powerful anymore. The powerful have betrayed us all. And so you continue to fade in importance. I'm just going to say it: I am now the father. You are now the grandfather. Your ideas are outdated and from a bygone era. It is time for you to listen to what those younger than you have to say. We are on the ground living the day to day reality that you have become isolated from. We are more than happy to be with you and work with you. We aren't the isolated egotists that you grew up as. We don't believe in "the self made man" the way you do. We know that we are at our best when we remove more and more of the "I" and focus more on the "We." We will come together. We will work together. We will fix the world. We don't care about supposed leaders we are told to revere. They repeatedly betray us. That's going to be the hardest pill for you to swallow. Because you've always been the leaders. But you just aren't anymore. We are the leaders now. We care about minorities, immigrants and poor people. That's just what we do. We don't care about paying homage to the rich and powerful. Take it or leave it. While I'm making recommendations I'll give you one more: Don't hide behind this ghost-like invisible "editorial board." You live in a world of transparency now. Show your face. You obviously don't speak for the entire paper. You are just a couple men and women that get to share your opinion. It's cool that you get to do that. But you present yourself as some sort of anonymous apparition. It's just weird. See how I'm doing this: I'm writing an opinion piece on my personal blog... not our charity blog. It helps people see that this is my personal opinion and not the voice of an entire organization. But if you don't want to let that anonymous power go why don't you let someone younger than you write if for a while. It's very evident the view comes from someone not living in the prime of life on the streets of America. My name is Sage. I and I alone approve this message. Oh... I still shoveled my neighbor's sidewalk and steps after we had our falling out. I totally get that losing control is hard. I never had any bad feelings over the situation. I don't have hatred or anger for any of the fathers. You all just got caught in your own trap with your own demons. We all do. It's the circle of life.

Beacon Journal/Ohio.com editorial board: Sage Lewis goes to court

Here is the full editorial board piece:

Posted Oct 19, 2018 at 7:30 PM

Updated Oct 19, 2018 at 8:11 PM

An attorney at the Institute for Justice says he soon will seek a court injunction. He wants to prevent Akron officials from forcibly evicting the homeless living in tents at 15 Broad St. The move may make sense as part of the lawsuit the Alexandria, Va., organization announced this week against the city on behalf of Sage Lewis, who has made his property available to the homeless since early last year.

The step also suggests a certain villainy by the city that just isn't accurate. At one point, the attorney added he wants a trial about the city's decision to cast people back into the streets and woods.

If anything, city officials have been patient, looking to avoid such a confrontation, seeking a collective response. They recognize what Lewis has achieved through the Homeless Charity, the homeless in their way addressing the homeless problem. What the city doesn't condone, and rightly so, is such an encampment as a permanent presence.

Living outdoors in tents, without adequate access to such things as running water, sanitary facilities and permanent shelter from the weather, is not an acceptable result. The homeless deserve better, and that is where Lewis and the city appeared to land in September when they reached agreement on a way forward.

In the wake of the City Council rejecting Lewis conditional zoning use request, they would work together to find housing for the 46 residents of the camp. For its part, the city, through the Continuum of Care, a collaboration of professionals in the field, has been making progress. The continuum reported last week that 14 residents either have moved or found better options on their own. Another 21 are in the process of gaining permanent housing.

The continuum noted at the start that 10 or so would pose much greater challenges with, say, criminal records or other factors making prospective landlords skittish. In any case, this is hard and complex work, requiring steady support systems and services that encourage people to take small steps in building better lives.

Put another way, the continuum has been rising to the test presented by Lewis, seeking to deliver a true pathway for the homeless. The city and its partners have set an ambitious deadline of Thanksgiving Day for gaining the necessary housing. This is the context in which the lawsuit arrives, Lewis now asserting a right to perform good deeds on his private property.

That rings true as long as others are not affected. Which is why cities have zoning codes, among other regulations. With his lawsuit, Lewis isn't just adding conflict to the equation. He appears to see the tents as something that would endure on his property.

There even is concern he has been violating the agreement with the city by allowing new people to set up in tents.

Again, Sage Lewis already has won. The city has responded in a substantial way with respect for what he has achieved. What it seeks in return is real cooperation in housing those at 15 Broad St. and that tent encampments are not a continuing presence. The city and partners do not deserve to get sued.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/s-a-d/>

og:title Content: S.A.D. - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023

Blog Post Date: November 3, 2018

Blog Post Content: This is a picture of Donnie. Her husband died. His pension ran out. She lost her house. She is now homeless.

This rain.

40 degree rain is the worst. And it just felt unrelenting this week.

I think it was Wednesday where every minute of the day was this deep gray drizzling cold rain.

A supporter of the charity donated one of those S.A.D. lamps. Have you seen these? They supposedly help counteract the symptoms of something called Seasonal Affect Disorder - S.A.D.

This one is nice.

It's the size of a breadbox. It emits this powerful wall of white light.

We keep it in our main day room.

I've never seen the villagers use it or even any of the homeless that come in to our facility from the woods and abandoned houses. But I use it.

Several times this week I just sat in front of it.

I must have looked ridiculous.

I wasn't working. I wasn't relaxing with a cup of tea. I just sat there.

One of the most beautiful parts of being with the homeless is that they don't judge.

I've spent this whole week trying to make sense of the world.

I thought I had it straightened out in my mind to write this blog post. But I'm still struggling.

It's not that I'm surprised people are cruel. It's not that I'm surprised people are completely self absorbed.

It's not even that it turns out that these are the traits that seem to be the prevailing traits of American leaders today.

I've known all that. I'm not naive to the righteous power leaders seem to derive from their positions of authority.

I get it.

But this week it just filled me with sadness.

Our mayor did himself no favors with his op-ed. But I get it.

I write things like that sometimes. I'm butt hurt. I'm raging. I'm pissed.

But I don't publish them. Especially now.

I know people are watching. I know people are looking to see what a leader is going to do. How a leader is going to behave.

I guess in government today that's what our supreme American leader is teaching. Throw tantrums online. So maybe it feels like that's a green light for all government leaders to do the same.

I have handlers now.

I have people that regularly remind me of the tone and message and vision we are all working towards.

Stay positive.

My wife, who is my greatest handler, gave me one of those rubber bracelets that have catchy sayings. The one she gave me says: "Stay positive."

I'm always looking for the common ground. I'm always looking for the solution. I'm always looking to find ways to inspire people to find compassion and love in their hearts for those in need in our country.

We have SO much of everything in our country. We can afford to share a little with the homeless. Especially if we are doing it with private money on private land.

I get it. Akron is in debt. To the tune of \$1 billion.

I don't want to even ask the city for so much as a dumpster to help clean up remote campsites. They have no money.

But fighting us every step of the way to help people that are living on the streets of our city. It's just sad.

That's all I keep coming back to. It's sad.

I'm not sad for me.

In more totalitarian countries, guys like me would just disappear. In other places and times guys like me are not tolerated.

Many much smarter and more giving people than me have lost their lives at the hands of governments that would have none of it.

My eyes were wide open going into this. I'm not upset that leaders are angry at me. If anything, I spend most of my time being thankful that I live in a country where the most leaders can do to me is write pouty letters to the local newspaper.

I'm sad for you. I'm sad for the homeless. And I'm sad for them.

Let's paint this for what it is.

I have a small piece of land hidden from all streets where some homeless people chose to build something beautiful for themselves.

Doug Livingston of the Akron Beacon Journal, our great storyteller of this journey, just completed his Origin Story of our village.

I didn't create this village. A couple homeless guys created this village.

Yes. I'm highly involved now. But at the time it all started I was busy doing other things.

They came up with the concept. They came up with the rules. They came up with what they wanted to build for themselves.

Doesn't that seem beautiful to you?

People coming out of the woods, coming together and building their own bridge back into society.

You don't have to be some bleeding heart liberal to appreciate how beautiful that is.

But all it does is make leaders mad. Our mayor. Some council members. Some homeless service provider leaders.

I guess I'm just astounded at the lack of emotional maturity that is still lacking in 2018 in the most powerful country in the world.

These people are mad because we didn't ask their permission to work on helping the homeless. I think that's all this is about.

If they had created a focus group and decided they were going to work on getting people out of the woods I guarantee they would have not come up with anything significantly different than what the homeless created for themselves. I know that because what we have is what other cities are beginning to create all across America.

They like to tell me that tents are inhumane. But have you seen where these people came from? And our president is setting up tents even as we speak for illegal immigrants. And our military has always lived in tents.

No. This isn't about tents. This is about respecting authority. We didn't ask permission. And we didn't ask permission because there is no will in authority to help these people living on the street.

There isn't a magic pot of money where they can create some state of the art homeless facility to take people in who are living in tents and abandoned buildings.

But that focus group was nowhere on the horizon. They believe, and will tell you quite publicly, that they believe "the street is motivating." Living on the street is so painful that it will inspire people to come into the system to get in line for a house.

I disagree with that premise and that lack of compassion. That's all. There are many people who are so emotionally wrecked and even cognitively limited that the process of getting into housing is far too overwhelming. They can't even imagine a path of getting into a house. So they live in squalor and danger on the street.

I'm sad because not once have they acknowledged the suffering of the homeless on the streets.

I'm sad because they are now starting to blame you for not rising to the occasion and getting these people into houses.

And I'm sad for them because they are missing out on being part of something wonderful and helpful.

Not one time has anyone said, "hey, we don't like this idea. But here is this idea."

The idea they have is to shut down the village the homeless created for themselves on private land and go back to the way things were. Literally, they want us to create public, documented celebrations around tearing down tents.

It's just sad.

Right now I feel like in America we aren't getting the leaders we need or the leaders we deserve.

People in power, from top to bottom, just play their little power-trip games with no regard to the ramifications of how it effects the people.

But as there always is: there is hope.

The hope is you.

I've seen high school kids stand before city council with tears in their eyes saying how much helping these people means to them.

I've seen countless meals, clothes and supplies pour into our facility by people like you.

And I've seen the homeless. They are a forgotten people. They don't vote and they have no money. So they matter to no one in authority. Their suffering becomes irrelevant.

You are the leaders we need and deserve. You are the heart of America. You are what makes America so amazing.

I'm sorry that I'm not smarter or stronger or even richer for you.

But I will do my best to keep working on this issue.

People should not have to live on the streets and in the woods of Akron. It's that simple. And we've shown that we can immediately solve that problem with our village while we work on the future which probably is renovating some of the abandoned houses in our city.

It's not complicated. And I'm not going to stop.

I feel incredibly honored and blessed to be able to help the homeless. It is the greatest thing I've ever done in my life.

I'm not going to stop just because I'm hurting some people's feelings. They will get over it.

The homeless have real problems that matter.

We need to inspire our leaders to come join all of us, the people, to come together to fix this highly fixable problem in Akron Ohio.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/why-im-not-running-for-political-office-this-coming-year/>

og:title Content: Why I'm Not Running For Political Office This Coming Year - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023

Blog Post Date: November 8, 2018

Blog Post Content: I love politics.

Dementia runs in my family. I tell my wife that if that ever happens to me just put me in any room of your choosing with C-SPAN running 24/7. I'll be fine.

I've had a couple people come to me and ask if I was thinking about running for mayor or city council.

There is a strategic logic to that idea. Name recognition is really important in campaigning. The homeless have gotten a lot of much needed attention here in Akron. Oftentimes my name gets included in that.

Plus it is just flattering that anyone would think I should run for office.

But that's not why a person should run for office.

A person should run for office because they feel that it is the highest and best use of their time on Earth. I live in Ward 8. The biggest issues in Ward 8 are potholes, people driving too fast in residential areas and people occasionally opening unlocked car doors and stealing loose change. Ward 8 constituents are people too. In fact, they are the highest engaged voting ward in the city. More people vote in Ward 8 per capita than any other Ward. And they also contribute A LOT of tax dollars to the city.

So they deserve attention.

And honestly, I would find it fun to get people to slow down driving really fast through residential neighborhoods. I have actually been brainstorming fun ideas to get it done.

But that's not where my heart is.

My heart is with the homeless and the poor.

I just sleep in Ward 8. I LIVE in Ward 10. And that Ward needs to stay with Zack Milkovich. He cares about the people of this ward more than you would ever know. He just quietly works endlessly for these people. And then there's the mayor thing.

I would love to get the opportunity to get to talk about the 26% of the population of Akron that lives below the poverty line instead of talking about all the wealthy people that don't even live in Akron that we want to attract to Akron.

I mean there won't be much talk even about our OWN wealthy people.

All we're going to talk about is magically increasing the population.

That bothers me.

But mostly I am not finished working on the homeless mess we have here in Akron.

No human should have to live on the streets of Akron. There are too many abandoned properties and vacant land just sitting around.

The homeless problem of Akron is a stupid problem. It shouldn't be happening.

There are too few homeless and too many solutions.

A friend of mine once pointed out that I'm cashing in my white male middle-class privilege to help the homeless.

I'm not done taking those withdrawals.

I feel like we are making headway with the homeless. In fact, I truly believe we are going to win the basic human rights these people should have in America.

Akron will be known as the city where America learned how to properly take care of the homeless.

I think I will have more impact doing my homeless work from the outside of the system instead of the inside at this point.

It's a real luxury for me to just be able to focus on homelessness. I wouldn't be able to do that in any political position.

Ultimately, I just try to listen to what God is telling me. Running for office doesn't feel like the right path now.

I feel like God is telling me to keep fighting for the homeless. That's what feels like the right move at this point in my life.

For all of you that suggested that I think about running for office: THANK YOU! That's an incredible vote of confidence and I'm incredibly honored that you would think of me that way.

I'm going to keep focused on the homeless.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/compassion-kindness-forgiveness/>

og:title Content: Compassion. Kindness. Forgiveness. - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023

Blog Post Date: November 11, 2018

Blog Post Content: Someone once gave our family tickets to a Cavs game.

They've got these REALLY cool Jumbotrons above the floor. These massive, beautiful video displays cover the action on the floor. It's super cool to watch the floor and then watch the Jumbotron.

I was watching the game not noticing anything out of the ordinary.
I heard someone behind me say: "There's a pixel out in the top left corner of the Jumbotron."
I hadn't seen it... until he pointed it out.
Sure enough. There it was. A super tiny spec of white light.
It just sat there. Unchanging.
As millions of colors swirled around it. It just sat there tiny and unassuming and white.
Once I saw it, I couldn't unsee it.
I started to obsess about it.
"Why was it there?"
"What caused it?"
"How long had it been there?"
"Would someone ever get up there and make it go away?"
Eventually, nearly all I could see was the white, tiny pixel.
That's God.
Just as we can't see the stars at night in the city because of light pollution, we can't see God in everyday life because of ego pollution.
We are so obsessed with our own lives. Our jobs. Our houses. Our cars. Our Netflix shows.
God gets easily covered up by all that. Millions of colors swirl around entertaining us and taking all our attention and time.
But God is there. In fact, I see God constantly now even though I know others can't see God at all.

A person picks up a piece of trash.
A clerk at the grocery store smiles at you.
The person standing at the crosswalk with you says hi.

It's these tiny little pixels that most people have no idea even happened. They are each a flicker of God.
I'm obsessed by it.
I see it constantly.
It's to the point where all I can see is compassion, kindness and forgiveness.
In our homeless center these instances aren't pixels of tiny light. They are 1000 lumen LED lanterns beaming in front of the homeless people and me.
The light of God in our homeless center is so bright it takes your breath away. It's so bright sometimes you have to look down in humility and embarrassment.
This week a 4th grade girl came to our facility with nearly \$200 dollars in money she wanted to donate. She raised the money by making bracelets, necklaces and key chains. She came into our facility full of strength, and purity and love. It was so powerful it was almost too much to look at.
And then later in the week a woman came in with nearly \$600 in cash and a TRAILER full of household items to give to people that are moving into new homes. She raised another \$900 online.
And these are just the big donations.
Clothes. Food. Supplies. Money. It just all comes to the homeless like a flowing river.
That's you. That's God. You are the tiny pixel of white light of God. Or sometimes you are a blinding spotlight of white light that is so good and so bright you can hardly stand to look at it.
Thank you. You aren't just helping the homeless. You are changing the energy of the entire planet.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/why-we-must-come-back-to-spirituality-and-magic/>
og:title Content: Why we must come back to spirituality and magic. - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council
Ward 8 - May 2, 2023
Blog Post Date: November 25, 2018

Blog Post Content: I get so frustrated with God language.
I know the instant I use the word "God" I am isolating people. I am turning people off and, therefore, not helping the world spiritually in the way I would like to.
For me, God is everything. It's like the giant aquarium of everything. It is the multiverse. It is the multiverse of all multiverses. It is a black hole and a grain of sand. And even those 2 things are both too small and too big to even scrape the surface of a tiny sampling of God.
I simply can't find a better word to describe everything. It has a great power of describing the knowable and, more importantly, the unknowable.

But it has also been politicized and stolen by many faiths and even sects within faiths. In a way, the word God has gotten small and spiteful and angry and petty. Very rarely do I feel the feeling of hate. But I've grown to hate the word God. I hate what we've done to it. I hate that it is used to murder, judge and isolate. I hate how we've made God a clique. I'm in. You're out. I especially hate that we refer to God as "He." Considering how powerful women are today and have always been in the church it feels like a slap in the face. Women will never be as close to God as men will be because as we all know, God is a man and women must obey their men. At best, women are two steps away from God. God>Man>Woman. I just hate it. But what other word is there? What other word so perfectly embodies The Everything in the mind of so many so elegantly? In a way, this conundrum is beautiful. Not being able to describe God in any useful way is the way it should be. At any rate, in my mind, it's a mess. How am I ever going to contribute to the spiritual conversation if I can't even adequately say the word of the thing I'm trying to get at? But I also believe it's important to try to do so. I believe in the trilogy of humanity: Mind. Body. Spirit. We, especially in America, are doing a pretty good job working on our mind and body. We are all being educated to eat right. And the Millennials are on track to be the most educated generation of all time. But our spirit. It just seems like a rag doll we threw in the closet and forgot about. It makes sense. The scientists and educators are trying to help us understand the importance of systematically creating testable explanations and predictions about the universe. Considering we are having a significant difficulty believing in science (liberals and conservatives alike) they really should not spend a minute talking about the spiritual universe. And government. All they care about is winning the next election. I think this is where we often turn when we are looking for moral direction. But never has there been a more misguided group of people. If you had to bet, the odds would be that a politician would lie, cheat and steal before lifting a finger to help another person, if they thought it would win them another vote. They are some of the most self-absorbed people on earth. But because they are so loud and frightening and blustery we have a compulsion to follow them. This is because there is a vacuum in the third facet of humanity: spirit. Politicians have out marketed the spiritual leaders. So politicians are the ones on TV and the Internet guiding us on paths of right and wrong even though all they are really doing is casting a spell on us to anger us and frighten us so we'll vote for them in the next election cycle. They are bad magic. I just flipped through the channels of the TV. There was this really dramatic scene going on. It was like a scene from Brave Heart. In a deep voice the narrator said: "Come with us as we explore the powerful world of the GOSPEL." Next! It's so uninteresting to me. And if I'm uninterested I can only imagine how other people feel. This thing I'm doing with the homeless is a spiritual pursuit for me. I am having so much fun listening to the signs, I believe, God is giving me. I feel like I've broken through the Matrix of the everyday world and am uncovering a magical world. Like walking through the closet into Narnia. It's all so cool and fulfilling and interesting. That's why I write these posts about "God." I am trying to share with you the mystical experience I am having as I work with homeless people. In hopes that something I say might resonate with you. I'm trying to put into words what I'm experiencing. Ultimately, the words fail me. But if anything my hope is that the words are like a waving flag. As if I'm saying, "Hey! Look over here. Look at this work we're doing. I'm finding it really exciting and rewarding and spiritually fulfilling. Maybe you would find doing something similar to be equally as rewarding." If ever you have felt the feeling of pointlessness in your life, I believe that's the universe talking to you. It's telling you that there is something more out there for you. Keep searching. Keep trying new things. You will find a resonance in this world.

Feeling the suffering of existence is often the first step to moving towards the fulfillment and peace and joy of existence.

Listen to your feelings. And then think about your feelings. I believe they might be trying to tell you something. Your feelings are these mystical senses that science can't quantify. But they are real. And they often can be guides for your life.

Move away from suffering. Move towards joy.

It's a lifetime journey. And it changes as you go along. But it's a wonderful way to experience what I believe is a resonance with God.

The photo is Ganesha or (Ganesh). He is the elephant-headed god in Hinduism. He is the son of Shiva and Parvati. Ganesha is a very popular god in Hinduism, and is one of the most worshipped. Hindu tradition states that Ganesha is a god of wisdom, success and good luck.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/thinking-more-on-the-word-god/>

og:title Content: Thinking more on the word 'God' - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023

Blog Post Date: December 1, 2018

Blog Post Content: Occasionally, people come up to me to talk about these posts.

It's really wonderful. I love talking about these topics.

I had a person come up to me this week and talk with me briefly about my last post thinking about God.

Basically, she said that she understood where I was coming from. But she disagreed with me.

That encapsulates God so perfectly. "I understand. But I disagree."

One of the coolest parts of God is contradiction and dichotomy. Being able to hold two opposite things simultaneously.

The easiest, most tragic example of this is a child's death:

Children die. God is good.

If ever there were seemingly opposite realities it would be both of those things.

So, we say things like: "We can't understand God's will."

People who believe in reincarnation and karma will say things like: "You get what you give (but sometimes you have to wait until another life)."

I would love to bring the words to this page to make sense of dichotomy for you. But I'll never do it justice.

And, that's actually the point.

God is weak. God is strong.

God is nothing. God is everything.

God is dark. God is light.

These are truths that are actually the reason I came back to thinking about God.

There are people who suffer greatly and caring for them is pure beauty.

I care for homeless out of a foundation of selfishness. It feels good. If it didn't feel good I probably wouldn't do it.

Dichotomy and contradiction.

Good out of bad. Bad out of good.

And then that brings me back to the word "God" itself.

In my last article I struggled with how humans have maligned the word God. Have made it small and divisive.

You can't deny the truth of that. When someone stands up and says "God hates fags," that's a raping of the truth of God. Yet it draws a line in the sand that makes some people say, "Well, if God hates fags I hate God." And I agree. I would hate that God too. Any decent, rational person should hate that God.

So, is God small and divisive AND huge and encompassing?

Probably.

God is Hitler and Gandhi.

Other religions do this nicely.

Hinduism is the 4th largest religion on planet earth with about 1.15 billion followers.

That's double the size of Buddhism, for example and far older. Hinduism can be traced back 4000 years.
How OLD Are the Religions? - Religion 101
Hinduism is a stew of organically grown ancient theology.
This is a nice summary of Hinduism if you are interested: The Diversity and Contradictions Of Hinduism
The sections of that article I just linked to are mind boggling:

One God and No God.
One God and many gods
Nondualism, dualism and qualified nondualism
Worldly life and ascetic life
Wealth and renunciation of wealth
Celibacy and sexual pleasure

Quite frankly, they do a better job of attempting to encompass God than the Christians do.
We like to say there is one AND ONLY ONE way to God.
Hindus will say there are many ways to God.
The truth is: there is only one way to God which are countless ways to God.
I'm not trying to play word games here. I'm trying to do the best I can to expand and bend the tiny human mind and language to somehow get a glimpse of the everything that is God.
The God Particle

I love the title of this book: "The God Particle: If the Universe Is the Answer, What Is the Question?"
It's written by Leon Lederman, Ph.D., a 1988 Nobel laureate in physics.
And check out the title of this article from Space.com: Did Gravity Save the Universe from 'God Particle' Higgs Boson?
In that article they write: "The recently discovered Higgs boson, which helps give particles their mass, could have destroyed the cosmos shortly after it was born, causing the universe to collapse just after the Big Bang. But gravity, the force that keeps planets and stars together, might have kept this from happening, scientists say."
The Higgs boson particle helps give mass to all elementary particles that have mass, such as electrons and protons.
It appears God nearly destroyed our universe before it even began. I'm quite sure the God particle has destroyed countless universes in the multiverse... just as gravity has destroyed countless universes in the multiverse.
There is little more mind blowing for me these days than pondering theoretical physics. The scientific truth of the universe is insane.
In known scientific reality:

Things exist and don't exist.
Connection with particles exist across the entire universe.
Things change simply by observing them.
Things are in two states simultaneously.

The truth of the universe is the truth of God. (Please don't jump to the Bible being right all along. It is not right. And of course it's right.)
Neil deGrasse Tyson is one of my scientific heroes. He describes the universe so magnificently.
He has an interview where he says this:
Every description of God that I've heard holds God to be all-powerful and all-good, and then I look around and I see a tsunami that killed a quarter million people in Indonesia, an earthquake that killed a quarter million people in Haiti, and I see earthquakes and tornadoes and disease, childhood leukaemia. I see all of this and I say 'I do not see evidence of both of those being true simultaneously. If there is a God, the God is either not all-powerful or not all-good. He can't be both.
He is SO close. "not all-powerful or not all-good." That's right. But his scientific mind doesn't let him hold both of those simultaneously. So he concludes: "He can't be both."
YES GOD CAN, NEIL!
And of course he's right, if we limit God and then say "this is what God is, take it or leave it" then of course you become an atheist. It's nearly a forgone conclusion.

But that is not God. That is a HUMAN telling YOU what God supposedly is.

That's just silly.

I hate the word 'God' and the word 'God' is Good.

The word 'God' is a contradiction. It is used to start wars, murder innocent people and send other people to hell. It is also used to so elegantly to represent the everything and the nothing. To represent the most beautiful love, kindness and compassion possible. It is all of this and much more. It is things that don't even happen on Earth yet most certainly exist.

It is a terrible and beautiful and beautiful and terrible word.

And that's why it is a perfect word. 'God' says it all.

In a way, by using the word 'God' as a wedge humans have added to the complexity of God.

Another topic on my mind now is: If God is everything then why do we focus on love?

But that's for another time.

The word 'God' is fine and may be near perfect.

A person says 'God' and instantly ideas and emotions flash in your mind. And they are right. And they are wrong. And that is the point.

If I can make one suggestion: Fight with the word God. Struggle with it. But please don't ignore it. Once you ignore God you ignore, what I think, is the most magical, amazing part of being human. I don't know if any other living being gets to ponder this incredible, mystical struggle.

Don't miss out on it. It's REALLY cool.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/god-is-not-a-crutch/>

og:title Content: God is not a crutch - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023

Blog Post Date: December 9, 2018

Blog Post Content: I like to try to imagine the power of a black hole.

A black hole is a region in space that has such strong gravitational pull that NOTHING can escape.

Not particles. Not electromagnetic radiation. Not light.

Around a black hole there is a place of no return. it is called the event horizon. It's just this ominous place I like to think about from time to time.

World War I killed almost 7 million civilians and 10 million military personnel. It was a meat grinder of a war. The general consensus is that Genghis Khan killed about 40 million people... with swords and bows and arrows!

God is either everything or God is not everything.

For me, the whole purpose of thinking about God is to try to imagine a unifying force that connects everything. Black holes, Genghis Khan and Jesus. If they all don't have a connection to God then I don't know what the point of thinking about God is. There is just random chaos otherwise. God is a bit player in a much larger production.

I think that's the point of most atheists. And Christians set their own trap in this way. How can God be all good and then allow children to die painful deaths?

This is the inconvenient truth of an all powerful God. Both Darth Vader AND Luke Skywalker are of God.

I watched a video recently about the "Cognitive Tradeoff Hypothesis." You can see it here:

Basically the premise is that there was once "CHLCA" - chimpanzee-human last common ancestor.

We all lived in trees. The strong CHLCA pushed the weaker CHLCA out of the trees. Humans are from these weaker CHLCA.

We faced all the predators on the ground. To survive we had to learn how to communicate, and more importantly, we had to learn how to work together and to share.

This is the great human contribution to the universe. We share.

This is so beautiful.

Out of weakness and betrayal from our family we were banished from the safety of the trees and we learned that the lesson of that was love.

Isn't that amazing!?

We became the strongest force on planet earth because we had to work together and share resources.

Obviously, we often abuse that power of community and organization. Often, powerful forces can be used for both good and bad.

I think the point most religions are trying to make is that, yes, God is all things. But community, sharing and love are these special aspects of God that are so wonderful and so beautiful and are so human.

Humans are the manifestation of love. We have this amazing ability to empathize and reach towards an almost altruistic form of sharing.
We give to people, places and things that we have never seen and never will see any benefit from. That's what is special about us.
And when people say God loves us I think that's what they mean.
Imagine this: You come downstairs to your basement to check on your ant farm. You look in the glass and low and behold your ants built a stretcher to carry injured ants back to their home.
Tell me you aren't suddenly MUCH more interested in your ants. My guess is you are going to spend a lot more time watching them and studying them.
That's how I imagine a conscious God would be towards us. We're just cool.
And I'm quite sure God winces when we do stupid crap like dropping nuclear bombs on Nagasaki and Hiroshima. It doesn't mean God is going to stop watching the human tv channel. But God is most certainly going to hope we take that nuclear energy and use it for good.
I just imagine God was creating all this multiverse stuff. It was fun and all. But then humans come along and cure polio. That's just bad ass.
That's how I like to see it anyway.
Believe it or not, I have a point to all of this.
I sometimes hear people tell me that our journey helping the homeless is in God's hands. God will show us the way. God will make everything ok.
I just don't believe that.
There is no evidence that God works that way.
God made an ecosystem. It is not God's way to reach in out of the heavens and be all like: "No. No. No. You are doing it all wrong. Do it this way." That's the way of a overbearing, micromanaging dad. God would be so disappointing if God was just a middle manager sending us memos all the time telling us how disappointing we are.
It is for us to align with what God wants. Which is to do more cool stuff. To do more sharing and communicating and building things that are for good.
You become better not by being told to be better. You become better by WANTING to be better.
You can feel it.
When you are doing good you can feel the resonance.
Just like how the chords: 1 - 4 - 5 want to resolve back to 1. It feels right.
That's how you know you are resonating with this thing God is REALLY into.
Yeah. Black holes are neat. But taking care of a stranger who is broken, poor and guilty of all kinds of "sins." That's just next level stuff. That blows the mind of God.
And you feel that God mind blowing in your spirit. When you do it God is shouting: DO MORE OF THAT!!!
We cannot just sit back and say, "God will make it right."
That is defeatist and just not the way things are.
We make things right by standing up for what is right.
We take the heat that invariably comes for being on the right side of morality and justice.
While we are fortunate that we don't live in a time where they are crucifying governmental subversives, that doesn't mean they won't try to symbolically crucify you.
That's the lesson of Jesus. It is going to suck to do the right thing. But do it anyways. That's the fundamental difference between humans and the beasts that threw us out of the trees.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/we-are-meant-to-come-together/>
og:title Content: We Are Meant To Come Together - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023
Blog Post Date: December 15, 2018

Blog Post Content:

I have this uneasy feeling the universe is in trouble. Like serious trouble.
There is this thing called the "Great Attractor." It is a mass thousands of times more massive than the Milky Way, our tiny little galaxy, which itself is about 100 light years across.
We are HURDLING towards this Great Attractor at a mind-blowing rate of 1.3 million miles per hour.
The Great Attractor is pulling millions of galaxies in a small region of the universe towards it. We should be there in about 250 million light years.
I mean if you don't ask "why" then you, at the very least, aren't having enough fun with your time on Earth.

I like to believe us millions of galaxies are all converging at the Great Attractor for an important meeting. We are being summoned to a meeting of the minds.

The only reason I can imagine that we are having a meeting of such importance is because something is broken. Something, of major consequence, is happening that needs our help.

Because of this I also believe that Earth is actually a training ground. Like boot camp for soldiers that are being prepared to go to war.

We are being trained with real life or death situations where we must ultimately come together to fix our spaceship, aka Earth.

It's 6:30 am. I didn't wake up with the plan of writing this post. Although, I have been thinking about it.

My plan was to read a little out of Thomas Merton's wonderful book, "New Seeds of Contemplation."

I opened it up to page 76 and read this:

"If you want to now what is meant by "God's will" in man's life, this is one way to get a good idea of it.

"God's will" is certainly found in anything that is required of us in order that we may be united with one another in love. You can call this, if you like, the basic tenet of the Natural Law... In other words, the natural law is simply that we should recognize in every other human being the same nature, the same needs, the same rights, the same destiny as in ourselves." Thomas Merton

I simply no longer believe in coincidences. Freud said, "there are no mistakes." I live that existence. Like the Great Attractor, I am now being pulled in a way that I am meant to be pulled.

As I stand on Earth today I now know: Everything has meaning. Everything is sacred. Everything matters.

I am not going to call this person out unless there was recording that I can confirm what I heard. I was so shocked by what I am pretty sure I heard that I can't even believe it. But I am fairly certain a person in an important public position publicly chastised me by saying it wasn't fair for my neighbors that homeless people were walking around my property. (Even if he didn't say it, it hardly matters. Our new anti-panhandling laws in Summit County are saying the exact same thing.)

When a person says that it is unfair for another person to "walk around" we are clearly not ready.

We haven't learned a word Jesus, for example, taught us 2000 years ago.

You may think that 250 million light years will surely be enough time for us to get our act together, I'm not so sure.

I feel like we have made almost no progress on the Golden Rule. According to Greg M. Epstein, the current Humanist Chaplain at Harvard University, "â€œdo unto others' â€ is a concept that essentially no religion misses entirely,"

A Late Period (c. 664323 BC) papyrus contains an early negative affirmation of the Golden Rule: "That which you hate to be done to you, do not do to another."

Every religion says it over and over and over again. And we just ignore it as a society. Government, I'm sure, feels they have too much "important work" to consider such niceties.

But I am here to tell you, THE ONLY WAY we will ever fix things like children dying of things like malaria and global poverty is by working together.

We somehow must make working together sexy. We must create marketing messaging around helping your fellow human as attractive as getting the next iPhone. I simply believe this is the only way we will ever get to the next level of our capability as a species.

"I got mine" is an incredibly powerful force. This animalistic desire is rooted deep in the DNA of our monkey brains. It's quite possible we'll never evolve out of it. However, I don't believe that for a second. Our spiritual guides throughout history have put these higher planes of existence in front of us because they know we can do it. They know we can be better. They know our destiny is an enlightened existence where we become a powerful galactic force that will start by fixing our world and then will be ready to fix the universe.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/mercy-versus-the-law/>

og:title Content: Mercy Versus The Law - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023

Blog Post Date: December 24, 2018

Blog Post Content:

What is Christmas?

The birth of Jesus? A melding of pagan winter holidays? Gift giving? A holiday of lights and good cheer? Santa Claus?

One thing is certain: billions of people celebrate it every year. I try to imagine that sometimes. No matter what it means to them personally, it usually involves getting together with some people and eating a meal. The meal. I love thinking about people coming together to eat. It is so beautifully human. We stop working

or fighting or being alone and have a meal together. It's lovely.
I feel like where some holidays are about being thankful, Christmas is about having hope.
The Christ child is born. The darkness is turning the corner. Everything is going to be OK. Maybe not today.
But someday. That's what hope (and faith) is. Things are hard now. But fear not. It is all going to be ok. In 6 months we will be in the warm sun again.
Hope is merciful. Hope says, "Don't worry. Everything is going to be ok."
However, in their Christmas sermon, I imagine some ministers will find it hard to resist saying something like: "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten son."
They can't resist. They can't just allow the hope to just be. No. "Just so you know, it's cool we have the birth of Christ and all. But, spoiler alert, he's going to die a painful, terrible death at the hands of humans."
This is the law.
This is what the law does. It keeps people in line. It punishes bad behavior. It fears mercy.
"If we just tell people they are good and everything is ok they are going to run amok."
"After all, we know these people are just this side of wild beasts. All their fornicating and drugging and drinking and over eating. They're animals. We must keep them in line."
We have done this since the beginning of society. And I'm here to tell you: IT NEVER WORKS. Yet the leaders never learn.
They will say, the problem isn't mercy and compassion. The problem is that we have been TOO merciful and TOO compassionate and TOO lenient. We need more laws. More punishment.
What's amusing to me is how it's not merely the leaders doling out chastisement and shame. Ordinary people love to do it in some of the most harsh and cruel ways.
You only need to read some of the comment threads on my posts on Facebook to see it first hand. It's like they are looking for a fight and to cast judgement. I think about cleaning them up. I am trying to be an island of kindness and compassion and people invariably come to the party to let us all know that there are terrible, unforgivable people.
What amuses me is that I haven't even gotten to the truly difficult people. I haven't even begun talking about the truly difficult people that will test our ability to find compassion and forgiveness. So far I've just discussed homeless people and those plagued with addiction. They should be the easy ones for whom to find compassion and empathy.
The thought seems to be we must carefully meter out our compassion. Like it's a pie or something. "If I give love and compassion and understanding to this person then I'll be fresh out of love and compassion and understanding for someone who truly deserves my love."
Let me be clear. The people I'm talking about are a very small percentage of people I encounter. (Although, they are probably the majority of society.) The VAST majority of you are so wonderful and kind and beautiful. You are enlightened and on a path that transcends common societal morality.
Because, you see, the people who judge and cast aspersions are getting it right from the top. The people in charge are standing right behind them with every hateful, angry judgement.
Society hates the homeless and the drug addicted.
Incarceration, Substance Abuse, and Addiction | The Center for Prisoner Health and Human Rights
In 1980 there were 40,900 people incarcerated for drug offenses; by 2013, this number increased to 489,000.
Some Summit County townships have made it illegal to hand anything out of your car window, in a cruel effort to make panhandlers disappear. Cincinnati made it illegal to sleep outside. And of course Akron is threatening me with fines and criminal charges if I don't completely destroy the tent village we created for the homeless.
It's no wonder where these angry, hateful people come from. We live in an angry, hateful country.
If you can't afford your water bill, the city will shut it off and then they will condemn your house because it doesn't have water. You will then be homeless if you have no family to take you in. And then they will chase you around town telling you that you can't sleep where ever you were trying to sleep.
"You should get a house!" they'll shout at you.
Hatred is often right below the surface of most humans. Laws that benefit the rich and powerful play into that hatred. So we lock up people that are suffering from addiction issues and we ignore and isolate our most poor citizens. It's just so the rich can have a lovely playground where they don't have to look at nasty and unsightly poor people.
I've never found that hatred does anything other than eat me from the inside out. Hatred is a rot. It is a disease. And worst of all, it is highly contagious. It spreads like wild fire. At very least it wells up hatred for the people casting out the original hatred. It just goes round and round. Getting bigger and bigger.

Conversely, love is delicate and fragile. It quickly fades away. We must constantly send out endless love for it to stay in the air. It's like a wisp in the wind.

My message is this: at least for one day, Christmas Day, see if you can let go of the judgement. Resist the urge to tell people they are living wrong or thinking wrong or praying wrong. For one day, try to let peace and hope fill your mind, body and spirit. After all, this is how we will solve all the world's problems.

Judgmental laws will never get to the heart of the problem like love will.

Merry Christmas. I love you.Sage

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/benedict-joseph-labre-the-patron-saint-of-the-homeless/>

og:title Content: Benedict Joseph Labre - The Patron Saint Of The Homeless - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023

Blog Post Date: December 29, 2018

Blog Post Content: It seems taboo to think about, much less discuss, any religion that is not our own. Protestants don't read Thomas Merton.

Catholics don't read Rick Warren.

Atheists refuse to explore any God-based religion at all.

I can almost guarantee this post will be met with comments on Facebook that I am not accurately understanding God, Jesus or Christianity as a whole.

If we are ever to evolve as a species we simply must get good at holding two (or more) contradicting thoughts in our mind at the same time.

We have to hold John 3:16 in our heart and mind (For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.) while simultaneously finding salvation through participating in the Church while simultaneously not having to think about God or the Church at all to find salvation.

In our universe there is a real thing called superposition. Superposition is the ability of a quantum system to be in multiple states at the same time until it is measured.

If our actual universe can be multiple things at once then we as humans must learn to be multiple things at once.

There are many gods. There is one god. There is no god. All states are true.

We can't possibly get any closer to God until we plow head first into this mind-bending reality.

I mean God created superposition. How are you ever going to get closer to God unless you struggle with the the fundamental principle of how God created the universe? It simply doesn't make rational sense that God can't be multiple things at once but the universe can.

I set this stage to try to help you expand your mind to be open to a Catholic Saint: Benedict Joseph Labre, if you don't happen to be a Catholic. We will never grow as humans if we close off learnings taught by people that are not us. That's a recipe for permanent ignorance.

This guy tried to become a Carthusian and a Trappist. Both orders turned him away for being unsuitable.

So he decided to lead a life of poverty and pilgrimage. He visited most major shrines in Europe several times each. During these trips he would always travel on foot, sleeping in the open or in a corner of a room, with his clothes muddy and ragged. He was abused along the way.

He died of malnutrition on some random street in Rome at the age of 35.

A cult following grew up quickly after his death. He was declared Blessed by Blessed Pius IX in 1860, and later canonized by Pope Leo XIII in 1881.

What are we to make of this?

Basically, all this guy did was travel around and beg.

Doesn't that sound like your run of the mill homeless person?

I suppose the difference is that he came from a prosperous shopkeeper family. I guess we might say he chose to be homeless. But did he?

He tried twice to become a monk. Both times he was denied. He quit studying. He has all the signs of a societal failure.

He is more similar to an average homeless person than we might like to admit.

If you ask me, the difference between him and many of the people at our homeless village seems to be that he had a better publicist.

Labre's confessor, Marconi, wrote his biography and attributed 136 separate cures to his intercession within three months of his death.

Do you know how many homeless people greet me after a cold night sleeping in a tent by replying "I am

blessed," when asked the question "How are you today?" More than I can count. How would we treat Labre if he were to come to Akron today, which incidentally is run by a Catholic mayor? My guess is that the mayor would force me to stop sheltering him in my backyard. He would be forced into exile in the woods, residents would report him for his dirty appearance and the police would continually find him and make him pack up his camp and move on over and over and over again. Would we recognize Labre if we saw him in the street? Would we recognize Jesus? What if God is coming to us through the homeless? What if God is panhandling on that corner you drove by yesterday? What if God was just waiting for you to come show love and compassion? "It couldn't be!" you'd exclaim. Those people are no good, lazy drug addicts that are gaming the system. How do you know that? Have you ever stopped to talk to any of these people? Have you ever thought that maybe these people might actually be suffering? That these people might actually just want to be shown a small amount of compassion? "It couldn't be," you continue to insist. These are garbage people. I'm here to tell you: if you believe the panhandler on the corner, the couple living in my backyard are garbage people, then Joseph Labre is a garbage person. Jesus is a garbage person. There is absolutely no difference between any of them.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/loss/>
og:title Content: Loss - January 5, 2019 - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023
Blog Post Date: January 5, 2019

Blog Post Content: I have a great deal on my mind today. Transition is like that. What we knew and could count on is gone. What is in front of us is uncertain. This space of transition is very uncomfortable for most people. But for me it seems to be my natural habitat. I think we are often called "war time leaders." We are called upon to get from point A to point B. We aren't particularly good at maintaining and growing a solid thing. We just setup the thing and get it ready for someone else to manage it for the long haul. In business we are the startup guys. It is very rare for someone to be good at both starting a business and also growing a business. We see them and glorify them. Steve Jobs. Mark Zuckerberg. Bill Gates. But they aren't the norm. Very few people can do both things. I have a characteristic that allows me to recover from adversity very quickly. I think I have the same feelings most people have. "I just want to quit." "This isn't fair." "How dare they!" But I think the difference with me is that those feelings last a very short period of time. Like I'm talking 20 minutes in most cases. This isn't something I've cultivated. It's just my natural tendency. There is one feeling, however, that lasts with me for some time... maybe never really goes away. It's "loss." I felt it when my mother died. And I feel it today. It's very difficult for me to explain how this feeling effects me. It's like someone cut off a spiritual limb. It isn't painful for me. It's just like something is gone. I had a thing yesterday. And now that thing is gone. But it was a special thing. It was something that made me who I am. I am a person who shelters homeless people. In the tradition of people who sheltered slaves in the underground railroad and people who sheltered Jews in Nazi Germany. It was the thing that defined me at this point in my life. I was proud to be a person that stood up for a fundamental belief that American citizens, no matter how much money they had, no matter what demons plagued them, I was the person who would take them in off the street. I had never felt the fulfillment I felt by doing this work. It was easy knowing I was doing the right thing. All I had to do was ask the people I was helping. They treat me better than a person has the right to be treated. I think more than anything they were mostly thankful someone actually cared about them. Yes. I was embarrassed all I could give them was tents. But it was the thing I could do. Financially and logistically it was the only thing I could do. Akron may hate tents. But they certainly would not entertain the idea of tiny houses that don't meet every single criteria of a "dwelling" in their law books. They must have running water, electric, plumbing and who knows what else. I was able to fit in-between the cracks of the law by putting up tents that have no laws against them. The only reason we got to do our work for 2 years is because they didn't know what to do with us. So they cornered us by making us declare we were a campground and then they voted we couldn't be a campground. I'm sure they feel smug and proud of their clever maneuvering. It was illegal to shelter runaway slaves. It was illegal to shelter Jews. And they had finally figured out a way

to make it illegal for me to shelter homeless people on my private land with private money. They won. But as a "war time leader" no matter how much loss I may feel I will continue on. I will shelter people in the woods. I will buy houses as I am able. I will do the work.

Today, January 5, 2019 I will mourn the loss of something beautiful. You likely will see reports today on the news of the final day of our homeless tent village. Today was the day the government gave us as a deadline to have all tents off our land.

Through herculean efforts of volunteers, supporters and the homeless themselves every single tent and tarp has been removed. It feels like a battlefield where the victor, as a last punch in the gut, says, "Now that we won, clean this shit up. We'll expect this battlefield spotless when we return."

It's spotless. A beautiful village that the homeless created for themselves, managed themselves and governed themselves. It's all gone.

I will not be there today. I'll let the story speak for itself. It's loss. It's a sad loss.

Whoever wants to inspect it go inspect it. It, in all it's desolation and destruction and leveling is there for the government to inspect, critique and judge.

I'll be back on Monday to start building something new. It's what I do.

Today I will also be mourning the death of my sister. She too was something beautiful taken away from us. She died earlier this week from a heart valve failure. Today is her funeral. That's where I'll be today.

She was developmentally disabled. But she was filled with constant joy, happiness and love. I always admired the way she lived. She traveled regularly with her mom. She had been to Hawaii twice. She had a boyfriend. She loved her jobs cleaning McDonald's and doing work such as doing simple packaging jobs through organizations that aligned people like her with jobs that fit her abilities.

She was a Special Olympics athlete who won gold and silver medals for race walking at the World Games in Raleigh-Durham, N.C. in 1999.

I love you Becky. I will try to love as unconditionally as you and find happiness and joy in every moment just as you always were able to do.

Her complete obituary can be found by clicking here.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/why-have-you-forsaken-me-god/>
og:title Content: God, why have you forsaken me? - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023
Blog Post Date: January 10, 2019

Blog Post Content: I feel like I'm moving through sludge.
I plod through my task list like a dead robot.

Call this person.
Empty the trash
Go to this meeting
Empty more trash

I keep hitting refresh on Reddit just hoping for a new story to avoid doing anything. This week can't end fast enough. But it grinds on for a seeming eternity.

This is the desert.

I think you end up here more often than you actually go here.

It's a place of nothing.

All the resonance of the world and universe are gone. They have left you. You can't hear anything. The world and God are telling you nothing. It's just you and the vast expanse of nothing.

There were some verses found written on the wall in Mother Teresa's home for children in Calcutta. You can click here and read them all. But a couple jump at me in this time in my life:

What you spend years creating, others could destroy overnight. Create anyway.
Give the best you have, and it will never be enough. Give your best anyway.

This is Mother Teresa we're talking about here. This isn't some schlub like me. She was an actual woman of God. I'm quite sure she spent much time in this barren wasteland of spiritual nothingness.

When you get to this point I am telling you: it feels like God has left you. You listen. You ask. And all you get

is radio silence.

But the truth is actually different.

The problem is, God's radio signal is really weak. God is calling from a trillion miles away and a dimension you can't even possibly imagine.

When you are in a place like the place I am today there is simply too much static. Too much ego. Too much fatigue. Too much anxiety. You are surrounded by too much noise.

God hasn't left me. I left God.

Don't get me wrong. I don't blame myself. I'm just in a trash compactor of bullshit at the moment. I'm finding it hard to even appreciate the dollar menu at Taco Bell right now. I can't find resonance anywhere. But even more crazy, God is talking to me right now. I know it. God hasn't gone anywhere. I just can't hear it.

I didn't come here to give you a "whoa is me" post. You are all so wonderful. You have so much love and kindness and compassion. I know you love me.

I wrote this to those of you who find yourselves in this place from time to time. Maybe you're right here with me now.

Sometimes you just have to sit in the muck. There's no chance in hell you are going to get out of it today, no matter how much you might wish otherwise.

Just sit here. Struggling just makes it worse.

Sleep, if you can. Eat, if you can. Drink water, if you can. But most of all, have faith that God has indeed not forsaken you. Even if you don't believe in God, that's cool. You can't leave the universe and the universe can't leave you. We are all one. We are all loved.

Just believe it. That's a fact you can take to the bank.

(Oh. And January sucks.)

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/stop-praying-start-walking/>

og:title Content: Stop Praying. Start Walking. - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023

Blog Post Date: January 19, 2019

Blog Post Content: I'm a BIG Taylor Swift fan. So Rocky got the family tickets to her sold out show in Cleveland this last summer at our football stadium. It was amazing!

At the end of the show the crowd poured out onto these large ramps zigzagging down to the street. As we were walking there was this loud hum of people talking. Thousands and thousands of people talking above us and below us. In front of us and behind us.

If aliens appeared and heard this I wondered what they would think. Was it a mating call? Was it a defense mechanism? Nope. We just talk to talk.

We talk nearly constantly.

Put a group of us together and you can be assured there will be constant talking.

Sometimes we get in situations where we aren't allowed to talk. But it's only so someone more important than us can constantly talk.

Other than sleeping, the only gathering I can think of where someone is not constantly talking is a Quaker meeting.

Traditional Quaker Worship | Quaker Information Center

"Unprogrammed" Friends meetings follow the tradition of gathering in silence, without the services of a designated pastor or minister.

If you can think of another time and place where humans congregate and there is no talking please let me know.

I'm starting to get invited to speak at local events now on our work with houselessness. And I've been going to a fair amount of city council meetings.

It seems everyone prays these days before meetings. Kiwanis, Rotary, government meetings, lunches, breakfasts, dinners. Praying. Praying. Praying.

It feels more like a Rite of Passage. Like a "are you in our club" kind of mindless ritual. You are always invited to not stand to say the prayer. I've never seen anyone dare not stand. It would be an act of great revolt to not stand. Plus, most of these meetings are filled with people that come to them in hopes of getting business, or have some other ulterior motive, out of the people there. So you'd have to be an idiot to not stand for the prayer no matter what you think of the Christian God we always pray to. I've yet to pray a Muslim prayer or Jewish prayer at one of these meetings.

"Lord, hear our prayer," is said in unison at Catholic services.
So not only are we constantly talking at each other. We're constantly talking at God.
This amuses me because it suggests that God is in need of a telegraph to understand our needs.
Like God is sitting at the end of a telephone writing down needs and wishes like Santa Claus.
I assure you, God knows your needs better than even you know your needs.
I'm beginning to think that if you feel God isn't listening to you it might be because God can't get a word in edgewise.
There is a place where I've seen this script get flipped. It's with the houseless.
They don't ask God for what they want. They feel blessed.
They ask what God wants of them.
In a place where you are stripped of everything. All your friends are gone. All your possessions are gone. All you have (or in my case, had) was a tent in a some guy's backyard. You don't ask God for things. God has given you all you need.
You ask God where to go next.
Finally, you stop talking and you start listening.
I assure you, God is telling you things.
I was talking to a young supporter yesterday about where she wants to go to college.
She wants to go to Moody Bible Institute in Chicago because they have a very strong advocacy and outreach program. Her dad wants her to stay in Northeast Ohio.
One message is from God. One message is from society.
One message is a message of faith. One message is a message of fear.
The path is obvious. God always tells us to have faith. Fear is the opposite of faith.
God shows us these paths all the time.
If you don't like God language, that's fine. Call it instinct. Call it intuition. I just happen to be into this whole God thing right now so that's the word I'm using.
Sometimes there is no message. (The message is there. You just can't hear it.)
That's when you just need to start walking. Just walk. Just do.
Do something that comes from a place of love.
Learn an instrument. Read a book. Go to church. Go to school. Have coffee with a friend. Spend time with your kids.
But stop talking. Let them talk. Listen to them. Process them. Understand them.
When you stop talking and start listening you will begin to hear God talking to you. Then move in that direction.
Stop praying. Start walking.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/on-being-a-good-person/>

og:title Content: On being a good person - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023

Blog Post Date: January 26, 2019

Blog Post Content: I saw this really interesting video on how Facebook and Twitter trigger us emotionally:

It reminded me of how we are all paid off by drugs. We are all addicted to dopamine and opioids.

Social Media Triggers a Dopamine High

According to a study of Australian consumers by San Francisco-based media-buying firm RadiumOne, social media usage is a dopamine gold mine. Every time we post, share, "like, comment or send an invitation online, we are creating an expectation, according to the study. We feel a sense of belonging and advance our concept of self through sharing.

We have two systems within us: the dopamine system and the opioid system.

Why We're All Addicted to Texts, Twitter and Google | Psychology Today

Wanting vs. liking " According to researcher Kent Berridge, these two systems, the "wanting" (dopamine) and the "liking" (opioid) are complementary. The wanting system propels you to action and the liking system makes you feel satisfied and therefore pause your seeking.

The dopamine system is stronger than the opioid system. Wanting things is more of a benefit in our evolution than just sitting around liking things.

We get dopamine hits for all kinds of things: hugs, Chipotle, Amazon, cookies, coffee.

Have you ever noticed how exciting it is to open a box from Amazon? That's dopamine zinging through your brain.

As we find ourselves judging drug addicts, we would do well to remind ourselves occasionally that we are all drug addicts. Caffeine, potato chips, cake, cigarettes, exercise, sex... and anything that hits our dopamine and opioid receptors.

I'm setting up this article this way for two reasons.

The first is to continue to try to soften our exoskeleton of judgment we have for people we don't understand yet are more like ourselves than we might imagine.

The second is to tell you why I do good things.

Yesterday I was helping a woman with some bail bond stuff. In order for her to not go to jail she had to go to this office all the way across town. She didn't have a bus pass and she didn't want to walk the 4 miles to the appointment in the cold. So I drove her there. Truth be told, I wanted to get some decompression time from the center (it gets pretty intense there at times) and I enjoy her company. So, "helping" her with this task was a no brainer.

She told me 3 times: "I want you to know you are a truly good person."

She wanted me to really hear it. That's why she told it to me over and over again.

"You know I get more out of this than you're getting out of it," I told her in return.

"I only do good things because it feels good," I said.

I went on, "in fact, some people might feel like they did their good deed for the day by picking up a piece of trash. I need to do more and more just to get the same feeling."

"It's like heroin for me," I said.

"I need more and more of it."

This is why I'm now going into the woods, abandoned houses and drug houses now. I need to do my work in these riskier locations. I'm finding people that don't leave their self-created shelter. They are starving and dehydrated and freezing out there because they won't come out. The only way you can help them is to go to them.

But these people are REALLY untrustworthy of strangers. You have be careful going into these spaces. Not only are the buildings they are living in dangerous, you don't really know who is going to be in there.

But I need it. I want it.

I'm calling it God, these days. "God is telling me to do this work."

It could just as easily be dopamine and opioids surging through my body as I do this work.

Or maybe that's actually how God talks to us: through surges in chemicals in our brains.

I'm telling you this for one specific reason: I am just a guy.

I'm not a god. I'm not a saint. I'm not some life-long do gooder.

I'm a person with an addictive personality that needs paid off.

I remember watching a Dr. Phil show when I was quitting drinking. He said that we need to replace less socially acceptable behaviors with more socially acceptable behaviors.

That's why I ran 3 marathons. That's why I bought the building that currently has our day center for the houseless. That's why I travel. That's why I ran for mayor.

And now that's why I work with houseless people.

I never lost my desire for addiction. I just am putting other more socially acceptable behaviors in the place of drinking 3 pots of coffee, binge drinking a case of beer and smoking 2 packs a cigarettes every day.

I'm a guy that goes hard. It's just who I am.

It's important for me to tell you these things because I sometimes think that we give up doing good things because only anointed people do good things.

"Sure Jesus was awesome and all. But he's an actual God. I'm just a lowly person."

I am here to tell you that the reason you do good things is irrelevant. All that matters is that you do good things. Your motivation does not matter. It's the outcome that counts.

On top of all this addictive personality stuff I carry around with me, you should also know that I am driven to do this work not out of some sort of altruistic idealism. I want to matter.

It's hard for me to admit the selfishness of that statement. I would actually rather tell you I was a raging alcoholic than admit that I'm just some self-centered, arrogant egotist.

But it's the truth. When I'm kicked off of Earth, like we all one day will be, I want my life to have mattered. I would like someone to say, "ya know, we should put a plaque on one of those benches in the park with Sage's name on it."

It's embarrassing for me to admit this. But I think it's important for you to know.

I'm here to tell you: Helping is addictive. Helping feels good. Helping helps you more than it helps the

person, place or thing you are helping.

We absolutely cannot rely on our governments, businesses or churches to fix the problems of the world. It's individual people that change the world. Not organizations.

I see it every day. Kids, families, parents, women, men... all coming to help the houseless on their own. I know how hard it is to walk into a place that is unfamiliar that is filled with people who have been given a bad rap by society, such as the houseless have been stigmatized.

It's YOU that changes the world. Stop looking around for someone else to do it. YOU do it.

But my recommendation is this: don't do anything because you feel like you "should" do it. Only do what you want to do. That's how you know you are on the right path. Help who or what ever you want to help. I guarantee you are going to love it.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/on-being-inadequate/>

og:title Content: On being inadequate - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023

Blog Post Date: February 2, 2019

Blog Post Content: My kid is currently learning about Harriet Tubman.

This paragraph describes her succinctly but well:

Harriet Tubman

She was five feet two inches (157 centimeters) tall, born a slave, had a debilitating illness, and was unable to read or write. Yet here was this tough woman who could take charge and lead men. Put all that together and you get Harriet Tubman. I got to like her pretty quickly because of her strength and her spirit, Off hand, I can't think of a more "inadequate" person in American lore than Harriet Tubman.

What made her think she could be so amazing? There was no social measurement that would indicate she should be capable of being so important. Yet she was.

She escaped from slavery, rescued about 70 people through the Underground Railroad on 13 separate missions. But that was just the beginning:

Harriet Tubman - Wikipedia

During the American Civil War, she served as an armed scout and spy for the United States Army. In her later years, Tubman was an activist in the struggle for women's suffrage.

Frederick Douglass, who I now believe to be the greatest American to ever live, and was by any measurement FAR from inadequate, wrote this about Harriet Tubman:

Excepting John Brownâ€”of sacred memoryâ€”I know of no one who has willingly encountered more perils and hardships to serve our enslaved people than you have.

And about John Brown...

That man was bat-shit crazy.

Both Harriet Tubman and Frederick Douglass were "busy" on the days he planned to raid Harper's Ferry, even though they helped him prepare for it. They knew full well the inadequacy of preparation and planning for what he was about to do.

We have the John Brown House in my home town:

John Brown | The Summit County Historical Society of Akron Ohio

There is some evidence that after Brown's bloody raid at Ossawatimie Creek in Kansas, citizens of Akron raised cash and contributed weapons to Brown when he returned to describe his passionate fight against slavery in the summer of 1856. Akron historian Karl Grismer believed that cases of arms stored in the Summit County Jail made their way into Brown's hands.

If ever there was a bad plan it was the raid on Harper's Ferry. Talk about being "inadequate."

Yet many believe it was John Brown that caused America to wake up to the ignorant, stupid cruelty of slavery and finally do something about it.

My own inadequacies crest above the water like a whale taking a breath time and time again. Like the whale, they are always there. They just are sometimes more visible than at other times.

This week I failed over and over.

This happened on Wednesday:

Akron's â€”tent city wont reopen but work with the homeless continues | cleveland.com

AKRON, Ohio - The Akron Board of Zoning Appeals on Wednesday denied a variance that would have enabled activist Sage Lewis to re-open a tent encampment for the homeless on property he owns in the

Middlebury neighborhood.

No matter how hard I try. No matter what words I say. No matter how much I show the value of what we are doing: The only answer I get from the City of Akron is: NO!

This week I begged for anything.

Could I let you talk to an expert?

Could I get you a person who actually runs sanctioned tent camps in other cities?

Could I just have a few tents completely hidden by any neighbor with trees or walls or fences?

NO!

The amount of failure I have encountered doing this work is endless.

I often say to myself, "I wish these people had someone better than me leading this work."

"Why do all they have is me?"

And I suspect you will soon see an article come out in a local paper talking about how I do nothing, while all the houseless people do all the work at the center and yet I take all the credit.

I agree.

No one knows better than me what a useless piece of shit I am.

A big reason I'm doing this work is to somehow try to absolve myself from all the sins of my life.

While the work is fulfilling, I don't know if there is any amount of good I can do to make myself believe I will somehow end my life on earth with a net positive.

As I was leaving the center Friday night, a houseless guy was yelling at me: "I'm going to get this place shut down, Sage!"

"You let people steal, sell drugs and do what ever they want! I'm NEVER coming back here again, after tonight," he said.

"And when you drop that heater and propane tank off at my camp put it in the green tent, NOT THE BLUE ONE! And when I come back to my camp and find it stolen, IT IS YOUR FAULT, SAGE!"

I told him I understood. I think I put it in the right tent.

And supporters. I'm constantly failing supporters. They ask me to spend time with them on nights and weekends at the center. I am quite protective of those times so that I can be with my family. Yet I know I should be doing better by them.

We are all simultaneously failures and successes.

It's like Schrödinger's cat.

"the cat is simultaneously alive and dead. Yet, when one looks in the box, one sees the cat either alive or dead not both alive and dead."

When you open the box and look at a human at any given moment you will see them either being a success or a failure at that point in time.

But the truth is they are both. They are spinning as both simultaneously.

At the end of a human's life you can count up how many successes and how many failures a person has had. But it ultimately becomes a subjective list. To objectively and accurately weigh the value a single person brought to Earth would be a massive undertaking.

I'm quite sure many people still think John Brown was a bad man. He certainly was regarded that way by the government and his jury when they hung him.

Look at the greatest people you could imagine: Jesus, George Washington, Abraham Lincoln, Frederick Douglass, Harriet Tubman, Oskar Schindler, Gandhi.

Sure. They were amazing.

But couldn't they have been more amazing?

I bet every single one of those people were disappointed in their performance.

They had more in them. They could have worked harder. They could have been smarter. They could have been better.

I wouldn't be surprised if each of those people gave themselves a "C" grade at best.

I once was at a church service, Lutheran I believe, where the minister said to the congregation, "I absolve you of all your sins."

I didn't know anyone was able to do that for me. But it felt nice. To be washed clean of all the wrongs in my life.

We, as conscious beings, have a terrible weight to bare.

We know what we are doing. We know we could go right or left at any time in our life.

And the fact of the matter is, going one way or another will have unintended consequences that will play out

in ways we can't possibly imagine.

The only hope we have is to decide whether we come from a place of light or dark, of good or evil, of faith or fear.

And then we move forward.

We will fail. We will go in wrong directions. And most of all: we will be met with opposition at every turn.

"No good deed goes unpunished" appears to be a real thing.

The number of people I have angered and who straight up hate me are uncountable. Both housed and unhoused.

But it doesn't matter. None of it matters. All I can do is try.

I am trying to do the best I can do as a flawed, inadequate human being.

It will never be enough. I will die being unsatisfied with how little I accomplished. But I will do the work anyway.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/the-great-risk-of-becoming-yourself/>

og:title Content: The Great Risk Of Becoming Yourself - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023

Blog Post Date: February 9, 2019

Blog Post Content: I know a man who is unhappy.

He feels, almost simultaneously, under utilized and inadequate.

His job defines him. Yet his job is menial and pointless.

He feels a great need to be the provider to his family yet he feels empty and can't provide for himself.

There are several people who might be reading this that will think I am talking about them or their husband.

They are both right and wrong.

It's easy to write these words as I think about many men I know.

But mostly I write these words about myself.

This is the tragic condition of the American man in the early 21st century. It's the great stuckness of our generation.

I don't actually think it has always been this way.

Most men, I think, for most of time just did what they had to do. He had a job he did for his entire life. He stopped working when he was physically not able to do the job any more. He died soon after. The end.

I believe the movie "Clerks" pretty much encapsulates the pointless existence we all can sometimes feel in today's modern society.

It's about a guy, Dante, who gets called into work on his day off.

Dante's day is spent in the hell of serving a succession of customers while repeating the fact that he is "not even supposed to be here today".

"I'm not even supposed to be here," sums it up pretty perfectly.

This is not my beautiful life, as the Talking Heads remind us.

At the same time, we have given up following any gods at all.

Viking gods, Roman gods, Greek gods, single gods, multiple gods.

Most people now brush them all aside as children's stories. Even people who pray to these gods rarely actually mean it.

So our map is wiped clean. We look around where to go next and we don't have a clue.

We end up doing pointless things, serving inadequate bosses, getting stuck in broken, inefficient systems that somehow make a shit ton of money for the guy at the top.

It's madness.

I can speak from experience in telling you that no one wants you to buck the system.

It literally does not matter if you are saving people's lives, if you aren't doing it in the way the system wants you to do it you will be fought every step of the way.

The fire department came this week and told me I'm not allowed to have a warming center in the lower level of my building because I don't have the right permit. But I do have the right permit upstairs. So, as long as people aren't sleeping in the building, people can stay upstairs to stay warm over night.

Systems are built almost instantly.

The houseless people that run our center said it was too much of a security risk to have people upstairs over night. (We have paying tenants upstairs and they don't want those people's offices to be at risk.)

Yesterday I agreed that we couldn't make that work.

But I woke up this morning realizing I had been duped by the system that I was a part of creating.

I am going to call them today and tell them to open a room upstairs to let people stay warm over night. I know they are going to complain. I know at least one tenant is going to complain.

Every time a person changes a system people are going to complain. And that complaining is going to blow back on you. Maybe the tenant will leave. Maybe the houseless will accuse me of overstepping my bounds on a houseless-run facility. "Fuck Sage" is nearly a motto spoken quietly by some who think I don't hear them. But you know what: You have a choice in your life. You can decide to either be true to the mission or be true to the system.

I am a man on a mission. My mission is to shelter houseless people. "Fuck the system" is my motto.

Most people are true to the system. The system pays the bills. The system runs almost on autopilot. The system makes everyone's life (who is inside the system) cushy and satiated. Just feed the system, trust the system and the system will provide.

Very few people stay true to the mission. Staying true to the mission means chaos. Staying true to the mission means looking at the system with distrust and contempt. Staying true to the mission means constantly coming at the system with a sledge hammer. It's a state of constant flux and uncertainty. Because the truth is: the system is broken. Every system is broken. That's what the free market is: It is the destroyer of systems. Malls are now being torn down for Amazon distribution centers.

Governments and bureaucracies desperately try to do everything in their power to stay out of the raging river of natural selection. They are the system incarnate. They want to keep their power more than they want anything else. They will gladly watch people suffer and die as long as nothing changes and they get to keep their precious system and stay in power. "The system works" is literally their mantra.

Founders of companies who created something on an idea and vision will quickly lose sight of that vision and then become slaves to the system they created.

"This is just the way we do it."

I am a change agent. I am the destroyer of systems. I am the destructor of broken systems. It's who I am. My purpose in life is to change the system. In fact, I am terrible at maintaining the system.

When things are hard and urgent and chaotic everything is clear and makes sense to me. It's so easy for me to see the path forward. In chaos there are actually very few ways forward. They are painful ways forward and that's why people avoid them. But if you want to get from point A to point B I'm the guy you call. I do the dirty work. I'll take you there.

But once we get to point B I get confused. The paths forward are too vague and unclear in my mind. I start to feel useless. I lose my energy.

I'm the startup guy. After something gets started you really should call someone else.

I feel bad for my wife.

She will readily tell you every one of these words is true. This isn't hyperbole. I am a bull in a china shop. I am a sledgehammer and everything needs broken and rebuilt in my mind.

But she is my Black Widow.

She keeps me grounded. If she tells me not to smash, I might get grumpy. But I won't smash. I'll go in a different direction.

But the reason we get along so well is she will often say: "Don't smash this. Go smash that." And then I'll go away happy with a better mission than the one I started with.

And this, my friend, gets me back to you. I told you everything above for a couple reasons. But mostly in this case, I set this stage to tell you I know a thing or two about change. I know the value of going in a different direction.

Life is a dance. And not a ballet. It's one of those strange, almost unfathomable, weird and, at times, ugly modern dances.

Life goes in fits and starts.

Life is stupid and pointless one minute. But life is also grand and cosmically critically important the next minute. And ultimately it will end in failure with almost nothing being accomplished at all.

But the way I see it, we get deeply lost when all we have is the system. The truth is: the system is cold, churning and grinding. The other truth is: the system only ever TRULY serves a few people at the top. The system spits out as little as it possibly can so the masses won't revolt against the system. The system is our

great addiction. It is the opiate of the masses. It gives us less and less payoff. But yet we can see no other way. So we just work harder in the system hoping against all hope that the system will reward us in the way we need to be rewarded. We double down over and over again.

We then just become rats in a cage with a food dispenser that slowly, but surely, gives us less and less food until we finally won't take it any more. At our demand the system will then bend and give us a little more food and start the entire ratcheting down process all over again.

I'm not asking you to be a revolutionary of a broken governmental system. That's my journey.

I'm asking you to be a revolutionary of your own personal system. Smash your own system.

I'm not saying quit your job. I'm not saying get a divorce. I'm saying the revolution will happen inside of you first. I am now being YOUR Black Widow. Maybe the journey will end in divorce or quitting your job or getting a smaller house or selling all your things or moving to Alaska. But it shouldn't start there. You need to start smashing your own internal systems first.

The pain of pointlessness and uselessness is good.

It is the first step in a journey of a calling you have just begun to hear.

If you are unhappy go in any direction EXCEPT the direction you have been going.

If you always do chores on the weekend, go for a walk instead.

If all you do is play video games and watch TV and drink all weekend, do chores instead.

The smallest change in your pattern will be much harder than you think it will. You will say things like, "I could do that. But I just don't want to."

Do the different thing.

And while you are doing it, listen.

Listen to how you feel then. Do you hate the new thing? Do you like the new thing?

If you hate the new thing then do the new new thing. If you like the new thing do more of the new thing.

It's simple but so hard.

My point of all this is this: the pain and suffering are messages. They are the beginning messages of a much longer dialogue you could be having. I like to call it God. But I give not a single shit what you want to call it. Just listen to it. And don't be bull headed. Don't wait for the pain to get so terrible that you end up doing something stupid like: getting a divorce or quitting your job or running away from it all. You will just be attacking something that isn't really the problem. The problem is always something much more internal and personal than the outside force you think is causing you trouble.

There is no new marriage or new job or new location on Earth that will ever solve the problem of a broken internal system.

May you have a wonderful, terrible, beautiful, ugly, exciting journey. That's all it was ever meant to be in the first place.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/is-doing-good-things-insane/>
og:title Content: Is Doing Good Things Insane? - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023
Blog Post Date: February 24, 2019

Blog Post Content: The thing about it is: I don't feel like a "good" human at all.

I also don't feel like a bad human. I'm just a human.

But I do like to learn about other humans doing good things. It kind of helps me keep my game up. Like, "Don't get cocky Sage. You really are not doing much."

Here's a guy who pounded through ice, swimming shirtless, in a lake to save a dog:

This Ice Smashing 21 year old Russian : HumansBeingBros

Now there is commitment to the cause.

And look at this woman... she legit battled a freaking bull to save another person's life:

I had a friend in the Web marketing world, a guy from my home town, Akron-area Ohio, who died saving a teenage girl who was drowning in Lake Erie. His name is Peter Radke. Medina man drowns trying to save teenage girl in Lake Erie.

And check this out: Carnegie Hero Fund Commission.

The two-fold mission of the Carnegie Hero Fund Commission: To recognize persons who perform acts of heroism in civilian life in the United States and Canada, and to provide financial assistance for those disabled and the dependents of those killed helping others.

Apparently, they get SO many applications that they have to continually up the requirements to even be considered. They write: "Due to the volume of nominations the organization receives each year â€” about 800 â€” only those who ultimately receive the Carnegie Medal â€” about 11 percent â€” receive notification." These people are no joke. Check out this intro paragraph of the most recent winners: PITTSBURGH, December 18, 2018â€”Eighteen people 16 Americans and two Canadians were recently named Carnegie heroes for risking their lives for others in life-threatening situations, including seven children trapped in burning homes, burning cars, or in danger of drowning; two police officers assaulted while struggling to take men into custody; and a barista who was being threatened with a hunting knife. People are constantly doing amazing things. I don't think I'm actually risking a single damn thing right at the moment. No one is suing me. My neighbors aren't yelling at me. Shoot. The mayor is even giving me the two-handed handshake these days.

It's not hard for me to feel like a wanker when it comes right down to it. Doing good things for me has become like an adrenaline rush for me. I want more. I want to go harder. I'm really into these wingsuit people:

I am also really attracted to mountain climbing. But I'm a little tied up with family life right now. So those pursuits have to take a backseat. But social advocacy fits into my life rather decently. Plus, I like that helping people has a social benefit. Where as just risking my life jumping off cliffs doesn't have a ton of value for the greater good. And this gets me to my point: I feel like society has greater acceptance for adventure seekers than do-gooders. People will just shake their heads, raise their eyebrows and say things like "That guy is nuts," when talking about adventure seekers. But someone who does something good for someone else is a whole other thing. I have heard things like:

Why would you spend time helping other people?
Isn't your family more important to you?
Shouldn't you be making money, saving for retirement and saving for your kid's college?

And of course, then I get the hushed, almost sacred comments:

Thank you SO much for what you are doing.
You are a true blessing.
You will be rewarded in heaven.

Literally, I am just having fun. That's all this is to me. I'm solving a problem and having fun. It's nothing different than anything I've ever done as an entrepreneur. The only difference is that I finally feel like I'm doing something that actually matters. So it just comes down to fun and fulfillment for me. I'm telling you: it's the most selfish thing I've ever done in my life. I'm doing this for me, not for anyone else. I mean my picture has been in the New York Times over this stuff:

So what's the disconnect?
Do you know how many upvotes on Reddit a guy gets for cutting a fishing net off a sea turtle? They go on and on and on about how amazing this guy is for taking 3 minutes to cut a fishing net off a sea turtle. "But that turtle could have bit him," they like to say. Are you telling me there are actually people who wouldn't cut the fishing net off a sea turtle if given the slightest chance? That doesn't even compute to me.

Would I break through ice to save a dog?
Would I swim out into Lake Erie to save any person?
Would I fight a bull to save a person?

FUCK YEAH I WOULD! Do you know how great it would feel to do those things and survive? Do you know what a life-altering rush it would be? Sure, nearly crashing headfirst into a rock wearing a wingsuit is cool. But nearly dying fighting a bull to save

a human? I got you beat every time!
And that is what makes me crazy, I think, in the eyes of standard society.
I actually wonder if the DSM-5 has a categorization of mental illness for people like me.
Not only would I do those things I would love to do those things.
It just makes me wonder.
Why aren't people doing risky things to help society?
It's fun. It's fulfilling. It's exciting. And it makes society better.
Is it because we don't celebrate it? Is it because it doesn't occur to people? Do people not know how good it feels to help other people? Or do people not feel good when they help other people?
It's a mystery to me.
500,000 people jump out of airplanes a total of 3 million times each year in the U.S.
How many people save another human being from a burning car or house each year?
I can literally hear people saying to me: "Sage, you aren't SERIOUSLY advocating that people actually try and save other people's lives at the risk of their own are you?"
Um yes. Yes I am.
That makes me crazy I guess. Maybe even radical and dangerous.
But I feel like I stumbled onto something that seems special to the rest of the world. I find that curiously amusing. But whatever. That curiosity helps the cause.
I mean do you know how much harder I'd have to market if there were as many non-profit startups in Akron as there are cell phone stores? This is the easiest marketing project I've ever done in my life.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/god-showed-up-at-starbucks-on-friday/>
og:title Content: God Showed Up At Starbucks On Friday - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023
Blog Post Date: March 3, 2019

Blog Post Content: I had a whole post forming in my head about how God had abandoned me. It was what I was going to write about this weekend.
I was bitter. I had this belief that God left me the day my sister died and our village came down.
I felt I hadn't heard from God since that cliff of a day.
Then this past Friday a giant of a man, a tree man, came to talk to me while I was sitting at a meeting at Starbucks.
It struck me as odd because it's not every day you see a man as big and strong and outdoorsy as this guy at Starbucks.
Starbucks has a stereotypical clientele and this guy wasn't it. It reminded me of this guy:

That's a screenshot of a video of a stag in a church cathedral.
This man was just beautifully out of place in my mind.
He spent time telling me about his journey of God.
He brings firewood to houseless people. That's a major need in the winter.
This amused me because I could tell this was God coming at me telling me that we were still in this together.
But there is no doubt that God and I haven't had a really close relationship the last couple months. I wrote about this feeling in early January. God, why have you forsaken me?
This feeling hasn't gone away. In fact, there is such a vacuum of resonance with God recently that I truly believed God had lost interest in me.
"You lost your village. I've got bigger fish to fry. Call me when you do something interesting again," was my feeling of God.
And as I think about it right now, why did God need to make a big production of bringing a message to me with this tree man at Starbucks?
That's not really helping me know how to move forward. It just felt like a postcard from God. "Thinking of you from Florida, Love God."
That's nice and all. But I was hoping for a little more direction or something.
Maybe it's like that song from Johnny Cash: A boy named Sue.
And he said, "Son, this world is rough
And if a man's gonna make it, he's gotta be tough
And I know I wouldn't be there to help ya along

So I give ya that name and I said goodbye
I knew you'd have to get tough or die
And it's the name that helped to make you strong"
Maybe God is toughening me up. Maybe God is teaching me how to move on my own. Maybe God isn't great at dealing with the myopic, fear of man and doesn't really know what to tell me to do.
I've lived most of my life without a father-figure. I don't feel resentment over it. It's just the way it is. Like I imagine losing an arm or leg might be. What are you going to do? Be bitter and resentful the rest of your life? Just move on and you do you.
I guess that's it. You do you.
I am telling you for a fact: God and I were walking step by step together as we built our village. And when the village was taken from us God receded out of the picture.
You can analyze the psychologically of that all you want. But the resonance was gone. I was left standing alone in the dirt. Just like before our village.
I can't wrap this up in a tidy little bow for you.
God said hi on Friday. I'm still out here alone.
There is, however, one feeling I have: There is a magic to human beings. Our consciousness allows us to make observations of the world. And boy do I have some observations: Namely, our government gives no fucks about the poor. It fills me with rage.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/how-addiction-has-shaped-my-life/>

og:title Content: How Addiction Has Shaped My Life - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023

Blog Post Date: March 9, 2019

Blog Post Content: Simply put: If you judge addicts you either A) don't understand the first thing about addiction or B) you're lying to yourself.
Have you ever found yourself binge eating an entire family size bag of Doritos because you're stressed? That's addiction. You lost control of yourself.
Have you ever spent an entire sunny Saturday binge watching a Netflix series? That's addiction. You lost control of yourself.
Have you ever found yourself hitting refresh on Facebook or Reddit over and over again waiting for something new to popup? That's addiction. You lost control of yourself.
Last week I missed a meeting. It was a meeting I was looking forward to and the person drove from Cleveland to Akron to come see me. It was a cold day and I was working on getting propane tanks for heaters to people sleeping outside that night. I lost track of time.
I was mortified. I have very little understanding and compassion for myself when I make mistakes. Every nerve in my body was electrified in shame. My head was screaming at how stupid I was for letting this get away from me. I have had to become highly disciplined in order to function in society. I don't forgive myself easily for slipping up.
I haven't had a sip of alcohol in 15 years. But all I could think about was how much I wanted to get totally blottoed after this screw up.
I loved to drink to oblivion. It was like a temporary suicide. I could leave everything behind for about 12 hours. Nothing mattered. I never wanted to be comfortably numb. I wanted to be in a coma.
I do everything in excess.
When I took up running I ran marathons. When I got into movies I built a theater. When I got into homelessness we built a village.
I've learned that my addictive personality is never going away. I just have to always redirect it to something more socially acceptable.
That day I missed that meeting all I could do was sit in my pain and self hatred. Drinking could make it go away in an instant. I don't care how well you learn how to manage your emotions nothing is as erasing as a drug. You just have to sit in your shit.
This is addiction.
It's an escape. It's an escape that negatively effects your life.
When you start avoiding your friends and family, when you start calling in sick to work, when you stay up too late, when you know you are seriously damaging your health your habit is turning into an addiction.

If you don't want to face your own addictions maybe some of you are putting up psychological walls right now as I describe addictive actions that are hitting a little too close to home.

Do you know how many times I've heard someone say (myself included), "I don't give myself much. This is just the one thing I do."

A habit becomes an addiction when it starts hurting things you previously believed were important. Addictions have short term benefits that create long-term consequences.

Now. Let's talk about Fentanyl.

Fentanyl is 50 times stronger than heroin and 100 times stronger than morphine. And carfentanil is 100 times stronger than fentanyl.

This power makes these drugs EXTREMELY addictive (if you live through taking them).

Take these unimaginably powerful drugs that will kill anyone with no tolerance and add to it: Systemic Hopelessness.

Take how I felt about missing that meeting and make it your entire life.

There is no way out. There is no job to look forward to. There is no hope of a "better life." There is just nothing.

In the 1960s Akron was in all its glory. People still tell me about it in all its wonderful rubber goodness. Factory jobs were everywhere. If you would just get your high school diploma or GED you were in the club. You could get a good job doing something meaningful. You were making things that contributed to society. On top of that you were taking care of your family. You were truly a "provider."

If you live on the west side of Akron today you may not realize that once you go east or south of downtown you are entering the land of systemic hopelessness.

There's no jobs that pay the bills. There's just \$8.15/hour service jobs. What's the point? You are treated like shit, you will be fired for being 5 minutes late and you aren't making ends meet. And that's your life. That's all you have. Oh... and you can only get those jobs if you have identification AND a high school diploma or GED. People who have lost all their identification or didn't graduate need not even bother trying.

"Fuck that," becomes your life's mantra.

You don't need a GED or an ID to make \$20 giving a blow job to a guy as either a man or a woman. And \$20 will get you high. And then you get to drop out. You get to forget that existential pointlessness and total hopelessness that is your life.

You also have to add to that the fact that you are now possessed by an evil spirit. Alcohol, opiates and speed talk to you.

They tell you that you deserve a break today. They tell you that there is no hope. They tell you that you are a worthless piece of shit. They tell you that you can't function without them.

Between actual systemic hopelessness and drugged systemic hopelessness all you see is a desert of nothingness.

And don't forget to add a heaping scoop of depression on top of this shit salad.

That's where I enter back into the game.

I have everything. I have THE BEST wife. I have THE BEST kid. I am doing the most meaningful work you probably could ever hope to do. I have money. I go on vacations.

Sitting around thinking about what a waste of space I am on earth is one of my most popular hobbies.

I can't get a fucking space to shelter 50 people. My inadequacy stares me in the face 24/7.

Read a few Existential authors and see if you don't spend the rest of your life constantly weighing the pros and cons of throwing yourself off a bridge. Good luck leading a blissful ignorant life when Camus drops this bomb on you: "there is only one truly serious philosophical problem, and that is suicide."

And that's the point. My absurd, meaningless existence is mostly theoretical. If it gets too bad I just hop a flight to Miami and lick my wounds on South Beach.

For these people there is no flight to Miami. There is nothing but an endless sea of ACTUAL meaningless absurdity.

In their lives there is either "Slow" or "Go." You decide how you are going to cope with your life.

"Slow" is fentanyl and heroin. "Go" is meth and speed.

Some people like to mix and match depending on the day. Some people are true to one lifestyle.

"Slow" users just want to nod out. If I was into the drug scene that would be my choice.

But "Go" users want to get shit done. They dumpster dive all day. They scrap metal all night. They work constantly.

Believe it or not, I know WAY more "Go" users than "Slow" users. They are constantly working on their camps. They are constantly trying to sell items they've found (or sometimes stolen).

Despite an existence that looks nearly totally bleak they push forward. They work. They strive. They are

productive, in their own way.

The human spirit will not go quietly into the night. Humans will fight and claw and push for something better.

These people just use a drug to keep them motivated. (If you are feeling a little judgy about meth users please keep in mind that the chemical differences between meth and Adderall are very small. My friends call Adderall "middle class meth." College kids take it for a study aid and we give it to our kids to treat ADHD.) That's why we are working on our makerspaces in our houseless day center. Our houseless-run store is soft launching this Monday. We are going to open a bike shop very soon. Kenny Bolt has made 100 screen printed t-shirts to sell.

Entrepreneurship is the path. I'm not interested in getting these people "jobs." They rarely work out. There are too many rules with too little reward.

But teaching them a skill they can sell on their own time and in their own way... that's got potential.

That's how I personally manage to make my way through life. In order to not completely sign off I have to do it my way.

We make our own meaning. In a world where meaninglessness, absurdity and pointlessness is staring you in the face every single day of your life you have no choice but to create your own meaning and usefulness. It's basic human nature.

And that's the story of addiction. There simply has to be something worth not being addicted for. We will never see even a small decline in drug use in Akron until we get rid of the systemic hopelessness that plagues at least 26% of our population that lives below the poverty line.

(The picture for this post is of me and Rocky bartending at Joustler's Pub in Medina in 1999. She never had a problem drinking like I did. I'm quite sure I was drinking on the job in this picture.)

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/its-time-we-start-talking-about-politics/>

og:title Content: It's time we start talking about politics - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023

Blog Post Date: April 7, 2019

Blog Post Content: I've very consciously been disciplined in the topics I talk about.

Like all of us, I have a lot thoughts and beliefs on many topics. But I try to stay focused mostly on homelessness (and my spiritual journey working with the homeless).

I do that simply because many topics have become electrified with division and anger.

Abortion

Christianity

Guns

Racism

The environment

Global warming

Donald Trump

Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez

I almost guarantee you had a sharp feeling (probably of anger) as you read through that list. Some, or maybe all, of those phrases are triggers for many Americans.

They are attack words that our politicians have indoctrinated into us. We've become trained attack dogs by our masters when someone utters those words. Just watch how we go at each other on Facebook when someone dares mention any of those words.

The word 'homeless' is one of those rare words that hasn't been turned into an attack word. Some people like to say that homelessness is the fault of Democrats because most homeless people live in Democratically-run cities. It's an absurd theory. Like Republicans would welcome homeless villages in their wealthy bedroom communities.

No. Both parties play hot potato with the homeless. The homeless are a problem that no one wants to deal with. Even Bernie Sanders mostly just talks about "working Americans."

When I talk about politics with you I don't have any interest in talking about any of the issues above. While I certainly have theories about all those topics, I make a point to not talk about them here or in social media. While important, these issues divide us and make us hate our neighbors. I'll let someone else talk about these issues.

When I talk about politics the area I want to talk about is: Local Politics.

I am now WAY more into Akron city politics than I am into national politics.

National politics has a huge following. People love talking about it.

Part of that has to do with how well national politics is covered in the media. It's constantly in the national news. Stories are being told that spread to the entire nation, and sometimes world, instantly.

For example, if you care at all about national politics you probably know what budget Donald Trump is proposing.

Here's a bunch of reporters taking a picture of its cover:

If you live in Akron, do you know that the administration proposed an operating budget, (it was prepared by Dan Horrigan's Department of Finance) gave it to city council on March 11, 2019, gave them 2 weeks to look it over and told them they had to vote on it by the last day of March.

This budget has been presented, voted on and approved in 2 weeks and honest to God, I don't know if ANYONE reported on it. I can't find it anywhere. The Akron Beacon Journal is now mostly behind a paywall so the only people that can read those stories are wealthy people that have an extra \$10 month to put on their credit card.

And it CERTAINLY isn't posted anywhere online by the city.

Let me give you some tidbits of the budget. (It was given to me by a city council member. Otherwise I would have never been able to get a copy.)

They propose that we are going to have this much revenue in 2019: \$167,929,640.

They are spending \$167,764,290

That leaves \$165,350.

That gives them less than 1/10 of a percent room for error.

This is a problem because there is still a negotiation for raises for a bunch of people in the city. It could be a 2-3% raise for a bunch of people. There is no way we are going to stay in budget with this budget.

So, we'll have to do things like we did in 2017: sell leases to cell towers.

City officials said that about \$5 million of the \$11 million payment would be put into the city's cash reserve, doubling the amount available for unforeseen events like natural disasters. The remaining \$6 million would be included as miscellaneous revenue in the city's 2017 budget.

This is when stuff gets really squirrely.

Did they really put that extra \$6 million in the bank? I don't know. City council members I talk to don't know. I wouldn't be at all surprised if they were forced to sell these cell tower leases because they screwed up the budget and needed that \$6 million to get out of the hole they got themselves into in 2017.

If we give those raises this year, which I guarantee will pass, then we're going to be in the same boat this year. We'll end up selling something else to pay for the overrun.

Let's talk about the airport. I mean, you know we own an airport, right? Well we do.

We pay a company named Summit Air to "run" our airport for us. We will pay them \$436,449 to operate our airport.

We also pay an even \$200,000 to the airport for "Interfund Service Charges." I have no earthly idea what that \$200,000 goes to or who gets it. But money doesn't just get buried in a hole. I guarantee it's going into someone's pocket.

Don't forget: We only have \$165,350 of room to move in our budget.

Oh wait! I forgot to turn the page. We have some airport upgrades we want to do this year. Those will cost us: \$351,669.

I'll be excited to use those upgrades all the many times I use our city airport. (Oh wait. I've never used that airport. WHO THE HELL USES OUR AIRPORT? I just hope they enjoy all the nice upgrades we paid for.)

(Rocky just told me to tell you that we aren't talking about Akron-Canton Regional Airport where families fly to Florida and stuff. We are talking about Akron Fulton Airport. Their web site says they "offer first class F.B.O. services including fuel, passenger and pilot lobbies, car rental, catering, aircraft repair and avionics service, flight training, aircraft rental and charter, and pilot supplies. This airport is for rich people. It isn't for the people of Akron.)

Now let's talk about the golf courses. We own 2: Good Park and Mud Run Golf Course. There are 3 budget pages for the golf courses. One is for labor, fringe benefits and rental and leases. That will cost us: \$1,032,810. Then Mud Run has a budget of \$287,206. And then there is a "General Fund subsidy" of \$311,000. What the hell!?

That is a total of \$1,631,016 that goes to our golf courses. Why the HELL do we need to pay \$1.6 million to 2 golf courses? But here's the thing: In that first million dollars there is labor and fringe benefits that total \$616,471. Do you know how many full time employees they report?

3!

According to the budget there are 3 people dividing up \$616,471. Who are these people? Who is making what?

The Akron City Operating budget is packed with this kind of bullshit. And this is just the operating budget. Wait till we get to the capital improvement budget (that they hope you will never see). That's where the real money gets funneled off into the pockets of all the rich people in the city.

Do you know why you don't know any of this? Because no one wants you to know this. And everyone is in on the scam. The Chamber of Commerce, the Beacon Journal, the Democratic Party. They all are hiding this stuff from you so they can get rich. They are all getting sweet jobs and funding for their pet projects. You are being played. They see you as a sucker and they want to keep you in the dark. And what's worse, because there is little to no hope anyone with anything other than a "D" next to their name is going to win any position of authority in Akron, our May 7 primary is the absolute most important election in Akron. It is also the least attended election in Akron.

September 2015 was the last time we voted in a primary for Mayor of Akron. This was an incredibly important vote because we hadn't had an open election for mayor in 2 decades. We have this many registered voters in Summit County: 213,783

Daniel Horrigan got 10,647 votes
Michael D. Williams got 8,088 votes.

Here are the results of that election if you want to check them out. I will talk about demographics in voting in Akron. But primary voters are significantly older than the median age. They read the newspaper and the newspaper told us to vote for Horrigan. And of course, the newspaper makes a lot of money from the party in charge. The city posts notices all the time in the paper. And the well funded politicians buy ads in the paper constantly. Everyone is getting paid off to be in on the great Akron scam.

The entire point of this post is: we MUST get younger people and poor people and minorities to the voting box. As long as old white people make all our election choices the people that actually need paid attention to by the government will forever be ignored. This is a topic that is near and dear to my heart. We must must MUST energize young people, poor people and minorities. I truly believe our city depends on it. There is a real possibility that the rich people will just keep skimming off of our city until we go bankrupt and become a ward of the state. This is a real possibility. PLEASE! If you read this, Vote on May 7, 2019. Local politics affects you more directly than national politics ever will.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/the-most-dangerous-political-ticket-in-akron/>
og:title Content: The Most Dangerous Political Ticket In Akron - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023
Blog Post Date: April 13, 2019

Blog Post Content: In Akron, this saying is very important to remember: "Power corrupts, absolute power corrupts absolutely."
Don Plusquellic created a machine in Akron.
He was Mayor of Akron between 1987-2015. He was our mayor for 28 years.
A lot can happen in nearly 3 decades.

What mostly happened was that power was centralized and monopolized. After he completely locked down controlling his administration he then turned his sights on the City Council. Akron City Council is made up of 10 Ward Leaders (people that represent different areas of the city) and 3 "At Large" Members.

City council members make \$34,694. The council president makes \$44,616 (Margo Sommerville). They all get free health insurance and free phones. These are part time jobs. Pretty much the only thing you are required to do is show up on Monday nights at 7pm to vote on things and maybe show up to a committee meeting if you happen to be on one.

As an aside, you should know that Bob Keith is not an elected official. He is appointed, makes over \$80,000 a year and gets a free car. According to this article, he has been the Clerk of Courts since 2009 and started with a salary of \$75,358. I don't know what his health insurance is. But in the city business they seem to throw around free health insurance like Oprah throws around new cars. I'm quite sure he doesn't pay a dime for health insurance.

The median income in Akron is \$35,240 (just barely more than the part time salary of a city council member). Health insurance, cars and mobile phone bills are extra.

There is so much to be angry about. I digress... Back to the most dangerous people you can vote for. Let me show you this picture again:

The guy on the right is our mayor, Dan Horrigan.

The 3 people on the left want to be the 3 At-large city council members.

Jeff Fusco already has the spot currently and has been a career politician since 1986.

Marilyn Keith was the Ward 8 leader and now is trying to be an at-large council member. And Ginger Baylor is new to the game.

There is one purpose for these 3 at-large spots: VOTES.

They get 3 out of 13 votes in city council.

It's also a sweet gig because no one calls them. They live in fairly general obscurity making money, getting free health insurance and building up retirement accounts. (Oh yeah, all these people are eligible for juicy retirement accounts.)

This voting power is INCREDIBLY important and why I wanted to write this post.

If you haven't seen those Baylor, Fusco, Keith signs in Akron you haven't been outdoors in the last couple weeks. They are everywhere.

Those signs are full color and BIG and EVERYWHERE.

Signs like that don't grow on trees. They are created with money. Lots and lots of money.

Dan Horrigan and his machine (it's just the machine Don Plusquellic built) is funneling all the money into those 3 people.

It's really difficult to raise money as a council person because most people don't know who you are. So, if you aren't in with the guy that has all the money you usually have to use your own money.

Dan Horrigan is running those 3 people.

But he's not doing it out of the kindness of his heart. He's doing it because he wants something in return. He wants votes for his projects.

When the time comes he won't even have to make a phone call to those people. They will know what to do. And what do you think will happen if they don't make the right votes? Next time someone else's name is going to be on that big, pretty, full color sign.

The Tuesday May 7, 2019 primary election is going to have incredibly low turnout, and the voters are going to be MUCH older than the average Akron voter.

The people that will vote will be institutional voters. They will be all the people that have jobs in the government. These people want to keep their jobs and don't want to risk rocking the boat. They'll vote for who they are supposed to vote for.

This is SO IMPORTANT because those 3 people aren't beholden to you, the voter. They are beholden to Dan Horrigan. They aren't going to vote for things that are good for the people. They are going to vote for things that are good for Dan Horrigan and his legacy.

If you want to fight against a machine that doesn't care about poverty, minority rights, gun violence, crime and homelessness and even smooth roads and speeding drivers down residential streets then:

VOTE NO on Baylor.

VOTE NO on Fusco.

VOTE NO on Keith.

They aren't bad people they are just not going to look out for your interests. They are only going to look out for Dan Horrigan's interests.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/dan-horrigan-is-bought-and-paid-for-by-partners-advancing-our-future/>
og:title Content: Dan Horrigan is bought and paid for by Partners Advancing our Future - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023
Blog Post Date: April 14, 2019

Blog Post Content: I would like to draw your attention to Exhibit A: An October 22, 2015 article from Ohio.com: Akron could see first million-dollar mayors race; more than \$800,000 spent heading into final weeks before Nov. 3 election

Did you know that we now have SuperPACs in Akron politics? Well we do. (from the article linked above): Just as in the primary, Horrigan is far outpacing his opponents, especially with the influx of funds from Partners Advancing Our Future, an independent expenditure group led by prominent Akron business and community leaders that is supporting him. Horrigan and the Partners group together have spent more than \$685,445 -- about 83 percent of all spending -- as of the latest reports.

This is SO important because of what the other opponents were able to raise:

Mike Williams (the democratic challenger in the primary): spent about \$48,000 and another \$80,000 by a group called: Akrons New Era.

Eddie Sipplen (the Republican candidate) spent over \$18,000. He didn't have a SuperPAC.

Let me show it to you this way:

Why do you think so many rich people poured money on the Horrigan campaign?

Was it just because they LOVED Dan Horrigan so much that they wanted to give away hundreds of thousands of dollars to see him take control of Akron?

Was it because they got rich by throwing money away left and right?

Was it because Dan Horrigan is the most amazing leader they've ever met in their lives and wanted to see him take Akron into the 21st century like no other leader could?

Of course not. They want something for their money.

Rich people make investments. That's what they are born and bred to do.

Dan Horrigan was picked for two reasons: He had some name recognition and, most importantly, they knew they could control him. It's his "good guy" persona. You see it every time he needs to make a decision. He pays a panel to research a problem and make the decision for him. He is EASILY influenced.

You can smell it a mile away.

Let's do a little research on Partners Advancing our Future

Nearly \$540,000 already spent in Akron mayoral primary - News - Akron Beacon Journal - Akron, OH

On top of this, Partners Advancing Our Future, an independent expenditure group, has sunk nearly \$372,000 into television ads, billboards, mailers and other expenditures to back Horrigan. This is the same group, whose supporters are primarily prominent businesses and CEOs in the Akron area, that backed retired Mayor Don Plusquellic in his last campaign in 2011.

Summit County voters to decide on sales tax increase - cleveland.com

The largest contributor to the fund was Partners Advancing our Future, an Akron-based political nonprofit that names local business executives as board members, including State and Federal Communications CEO Elizabeth Bartz, FirstEnergy Vice President Joel Bailey, Akron Legacy Real Estate Development Principal William Ginter and Greater Akron Chamber Executive Dan Colantone.

Here is a link that shows what Partners Advancing our Future stands for:

Partners Advancing Our Future Reviews and Ratings | Akron, OH | Donate, Volunteer, and Review | GreatNonprofits

Causes: Community & Neighborhood Development, Economic Development

Mission: To positively promote the city of Akron, Ohio, its progress, its strengths, and its future.

Programs: Promoted the city of Akron's standard of living and business climate by promoting the positive qualities of Akron.

Do you see why Dan Horrigan doesn't like talking about issues like poverty, racial inequality, gun violence,

addiction and homelessness?

His controllers are focused on "promoting the positive qualities of Akron."

Dan Horrigan is controlled by the group Partners Advancing our Future. They, BY FAR, flooded his campaign with money and if he wants to stay mayor he will do their bidding.

They want Akron to be a place that only looks at "the positive qualities of Akron."

On top this, this is the EXACT SAME GROUP that backed retired Mayor Don Plusquellic's campaign in 2011. This is the machine that controls Akron.

The people don't control Akron.

Partners Advancing our Future control Akron.

We must fight back against the money.

We must come together as ALL the people of Akron. It is only us that will fix the real problems of Akron because Partners Advancing our Future just wants to talk about the pretty parts of Akron. That will only make things worse.

Please join our group: Save Akron Movement

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/hate-and-fear/>

og:title Content: Hate and Fear - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023

Blog Post Date: April 21, 2019

Blog Post Content: I'm like a mini planet.

I don't want to overstate my importance. I am just a guy who stood up. That's the only thing I ever did.

But I have a small gravitational effect. People and energies come towards me.

BY FAR, the people and energy that comes towards me are filled with love and hope.

Every single day I get to experience and witness the incredible goodness of humanity. I would recommend this work for that benefit alone. Doing this work has proven to me, beyond a shadow of a doubt, that people are mostly good and want to do good things.

But that's not the only energy that comes towards me. Anger and hate also come towards me.

I'm quite certain that if you effectively stood up for the rights of puppies you would get death threats by someone.

I was driving down Broad Street towards our community center the other day and a middle aged woman got out of her car and gave me the finger. I don't think I've ever met her. But she knows me and she is definitely not happy with me.

I was in our yard where our village once was and a neighbor was at the bottom of the hill cleaning some trash that blew down the hill. He started swearing at me and eventually told me to come down the hill to fight him. He was seething. And our village has been long gone.

I run a Dan Horrigan watch group where people can review our mayor, good or bad. But one person (it's probably just one person) couldn't resist to let loose on how they felt about me and the homeless:

And the homeless. Oh boy. They probably hate each other more than anyone.

On Good Friday I gave what I thought was an uplifting, hopeful message about second chances and the beautiful redemptive qualities of Easter at our weekly group meeting. Ya know what their response was to that message?

"Jim is stealing the toilet paper!!!"

But we all do it.

The neighbor behind us hates her next door neighbor because her house is well kept and her neighbor's house is run down.

Multiple neighbors hate the neighbor next to us because he heats his house with wood and has a very large stock pile of wood.

Our neighbor hates us because we put up a pool in the summer.

It goes on and on and on.

I'm to the point now where I think Jesus was several thousand years ahead of his time. I see absolutely no sign that large quantities of people are striving to achieve the "love thy neighbor" philosophy.

I think "at least try to understand where thy neighbor is coming from" might be a more realistic hope for humanity for the next thousand years.

Neighbors are too close, I think.

But we are fed these feeling of hate and fear. Fox News, CNN, MSNBC, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram,

Reddit.
These are cesspools of steaming hot garbage thoughts.
And make no mistake. We are addicted to them.
We can't stop watching. There is a mass hysteria of hate and fear being fed to us 24/7 and we can't stop looking at it. (I'm just as guilty as the rest.)
Our political parties are trying to convince us that it is minorities and liberals and white trash and gun owners that are our enemy. When they are the ones feeding us this message of hate and fear.
And our corporations are buying up ad space around school shootings and church shootings and bombings and wars. They are selling their products off the addiction we crave of believing all the hate and fear.
Hate and fear. Hate and fear.
It is driving us down some dark roads that keep us isolated and at each other's throats so that we never really turn our attention on the people that are actually creating this illusion of hate and fear.
Politicians and corporations thrive off of filling us with hate and fear. And we just lap it up like kittens drinking out of saucers of milk.
The fear drives the hate.
It's hard to hate an entire group of people without fear.
You can hate Bob because he doesn't mow his lawn.
But you can hate all minorities and all poor white people because you are afraid of them.
This is what I'm going to tell you about fear: Fear is the true danger. The person that is afraid becomes much more dangerous than the thing they fear.
I have people that are worried about my safety around homeless people. I have NO FEAR about being around homeless people. But the people that are afraid of homeless people... they are the real risk to me. No homeless person has ever threatened to kill me or do me harm in any way.
But haters of the homeless: Some of them would definitely like to see me dead. I definitely have had death threats.
I have been told that I now need to be afraid of the administration of Akron. They are not at all pleased that I'm standing up to them.
Activists get killed all the time. It's not usually the people they are standing up for that kill them. It's the people that are against them that are the threat.
They are afraid of change.
Martin Luther King Jr. didn't get shot in the face by the people he was supporting. He was killed by people that feared him.
The people that are afraid become much worse than the people they are actually afraid of.
Fear first kills your soul. Then it kills your love. Then it kills your community. Fear is the enemy.
You might wonder why I'm writing this message of hate and fear on Easter Sunday. (I'm SO glad you asked.)
Easter Sunday is the answer to hate and fear.
Easter Sunday is resurrection, rebirth, faith, hope, love.
It reminds you that you never had to be afraid of winter (death) in the first place.
The leaves on the trees will come again. The grass will be green. The warmth will come. You would be a fool to bet on any other outcome. Spring is as inevitable as the nose on your face.
I can hear some terrified people saying right now: "someday Spring won't come." That's not true. Spring will always come. You are just allowing a black curtain to cover up the truth. The beginning of our universe, the Big Bang, was the original Spring. It's the way it once was and it's the way it always will be. Always. Spring will ALWAYS come.
Practice letting be what will be.
You don't need to worry. You don't need to fear. Everything is going to be ok.
At least on this Easter Sunday, try letting go. Try to just let be will be. Try to have faith.
Everything is going to be ok.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/the-truth-about-zack-milkovich/>

og:title Content: The Truth About Zack Milkovich - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023

Blog Post Date: April 27, 2019

Blog Post Content: Zack Milkovich is the Ward 10 City Council person in Akron Ohio.

I have developed a close relationship with Zack over the last year or so. Getting to spend a lot of time with him has given me the opportunity to really get to know him and understand his thoughts and motivations. The stories written about Zack, mostly in the Akron Beacon Journal, are reactionary and largely defined by his adversaries.

I need to write a different post specifically about the Beacon's coverage of the Akron political scene. But I'll say this here: you will see excellent reporting on many issues... until it comes to politics. The reporting becomes shallow, sensationalist and blatantly one-sided. When you put the coverage together about how our Akron paper covers Akron politics it is so obviously pro-administration it becomes embarrassing. We currently have no real coverage of Akron politics in Akron. If you want to know the truth about Akron politics you need to get it from Cleveland media outlets. And they don't cover it very much.

This fact about how the Beacon covers Zack Milkovich and most other politicians outside of the administration's control is important in understanding what people think about Zack (and other independent thinking politicians). The Beacon political coverage is owned by the big companies of Akron and the Super PAC Partners Advancing our Future. You don't bite the hand that feeds you. But I don't want to spend more time on that topic here. You just need to know that ABJ is not unbiased in its political coverage.

When I first started talking to Zack I had no idea really what his politics was. I didn't know his background. I didn't know what he stood for. Over time I have come to learn a great deal about his beliefs and values.

What I can tell you is that if you ask him why he's a politician it is for one reason: To Help People.

He is absolutely committed to that pursuit. It is such a drive for him that it makes politics take a back seat.

He will readily tell you that he will work with anyone that wants to work to help the people. He will work with both Republicans and Democrats if they want to help people.

This often times makes him an enemy of both parties. He's not loyal to the party. He is too independent. So, they come after him.

And MAN! Do they come after him.

I've been to many different Ward meetings in Akron. Poor areas and rich areas. But when I go to the Ward 10 meeting I feel like I'm entering the ring of a pro wrestling tournament.

I've seen people drug out by the police. I've seen people rush the front of the room and start yelling things that make no sense. I've seen people groan and roll their eyes just with the mention of homelessness and poverty. It is a bizarre, toxic scene.

What those meetings have become are perpetual political attack battlegrounds. The meetings are terrible.

And it's all because political hopefuls and surrogates for the administration are coming to beat up on Zack.

That seat was held by Gary Moneypenny, who I also know and like. But he was a committed loyalist to the ruling party and was even mayor for a hot second. They want that seat back.

Zack's family immigrated from Yugoslavia when he was very young. Like his father, he worked in Akrons tire mold industry for 20 years. At the age of 42 Zack was laid off permanently when his company was purchased by the Koreans.

At this point in his life he believed that government wasn't listening to average, regular Americans. So he decided to do something about it. He decided to make a difference in politics.

What's particularly interesting about Zack is that he was a tire mold guy for 20 years. But he also understands world history incredibly well. He knows how authoritarian rulers grab power for no other reason than personal gain but at the cost of all the people they rule.

Akron is a microcosm of national and global politics. When too much power is given to one party bad things start to happen. He sees it and is trying incredibly hard to change it.

He's not alone. He has many friends in politics. But they aren't the party loyalist insiders. His friends are other independent thinkers that are staying more true to the people than the people in power.

As Zack started coming around more and more to our homeless community center I decided to start documenting his work with us. He never has asked me to take a picture of him. He has never asked a reporter to come and cover him working with people. He just comes and helps.

Here are some observations I took pictures of. And honestly, I wish I had covered some other things he has done. Documenting him just didn't occur to me for a while.

This is Zack shoveling the snow at one of our homeless transitional houses. We had a dumpster coming and they needed to get in the driveway.

This is Zack at a remote homeless camp where we went to take donated heaters. He has eagerly and willingly gone to some very remote and isolated camps to help the homeless residents living there. This is the first time Zack took 2 homeless people to Stark State to help them get into a college program. This is Zack helping unload our truck that brought back food from the Food Bank. This is Zack talking with a reverend that comes to our center regularly. Zack sat with the homeless during this year's state of the city address. Council people normally sit in places of "importance" and not with the people. This is Zack leading by example and getting his Hepatitis A shot at our community center. This is Zack spending time talking with Kenny, a homeless man that comes to our center regularly. This is Zack standing with Robin, a homeless man that got married at our center. Zack read the prayer at the ceremony. This is Zack taking another homeless man, Gary, to Stark State. He really believes Stark State is a good path to help people out of homelessness and poverty. This is Zack hanging out with Gary. He genuinely enjoys spending time with the homeless and the poor people of Akron. I want to reiterate that Zack never asked me to take these pictures and I didn't ask him if I could take these pictures. I wanted to start taking these pictures because I feel so strongly that we are not being given the truth about Zack Milkovich. Zack, without a doubt, cares about the people of Akron. He wants to help the people that are struggling the most. He has legitimate, solid ideas on how to do it. He is truly smart and knowledgeable on how to be a legislator. We need more people in Akron politics like Zack. Zack Milkovich is a good man.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/we-are-all-addicts/>
og:title Content: We are all addicts - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023
Blog Post Date: April 29, 2019

Blog Post Content: A friend of mine came to our homeless village recently. She said she was literally shaking after reading some of the things people said about the homeless and me. Humans that feel sheltered by the anonymity of social media say some pretty shocking things. "They are all drug addicts." That's the number 1 thing people say that have no interest in trying to actually solve problems of homelessness. They very clearly will tell you, on social media, that they should all just die. In a way, I respect that honesty. It's an actual solution instead of what our government does by just taking down homeless camps and offering no alternatives. Hitler had the "Final Solution of the Jewish Question." It referred to the mass murder of Europe's Jews. These people are very clearly proposing the Final Solution of the Homeless Question. I am quite sure Hitler would have approved. Thankfully, we currently live in a society that does not permit mass genocide. So, killing all the homeless people isn't going to happen. We also can't just throw them in jail. Because, you see, they have done nothing illegal. Being poor isn't currently a criminal offense. Plus, our jails are already full of drug addicts. So we'd have to start building a lot more jails which are really expensive to build and run. So, we can't kill them and we can't round them all up and put them in concentration camps. I'm sorry to say, we are only left with one move: We have to deal with them. Homelessness is not a housing issue. It is a community issue. Many chronically homeless people are homeless not because they simply can't get into a house. They are homeless because they have been pushed to the periphery of society. They have been cast out like lepers of times long gone by. They are judged and hated. Because of this judgement and hatred we can't see our way clearly to actually contemplate a solution. The ONLY way we will solve homelessness is to start by erasing the judgement and hatred. The easiest way to remove judgement and hatred is to see these people in ourselves. People like to hate the homeless for two main reasons: They think they are all lazy and they think they are all drug addicts.

I could talk till I'm blue in the face about how those stereotypes are 100% false. But that rarely changes anyone's mind.

If you think a homeless person is lazy you are completely uneducated on what exactly homelessness is. Today, however, I'd like to talk for a minute about addiction.

Addiction comes in many forms. Over eating. Social media. Gambling. Sex. Not exercising. Exercising too much. Obsession with our looks. Anger. And of course: drugs and alcohol.

But these are all just symptoms of the real addiction we all are plagued with. We are all addicted to our rigid way of thinking.

It is yes or no thinking. It is my way or the highway thinking. It is in-group / out-group thinking. Richard Rohr calls this Dualistic thinking. Either / or.

It is based solely on our ego. "We know best."

This dualistic thinking is what keeps us from transforming and moving closer to enlightenment. It keeps us separate from our planet, our fellow humans. It keeps us separate from God.

For example, I am quite certain someone will write a response to this article in a Facebook comment that I don't understand the Truth of God. That I am not following Jesus the "right" way. This kind of belief is its own kind of addiction. "My way is the right way."

This literal form of Christianity, I'm sorry to say, is just the first rung of a spiritual journey.

But it is an excellent example of dualistic thinking about a topic as expansive and endless as God.

I believe we will only solve brutally complicated problems such as homelessness and addiction by starting at a place of thinking greater than ourselves. You can call it whatever you want: community, mysticism, spirituality, (whatever form of religion you like as long as it is a loving religion), God. The word does not matter.

What matters is breaking down egocentric thinking.

If I am right and you are wrong then we will never find a way forward together.

But if I forget about myself and contemplate on you then we are on to something. We are beginning a path of recovery and transformation and true salvation.

Then and only then can we "Repent" as Christians like to shout in our faces these days.

But I would like to add to that conversation by reminding our Christian brothers and sisters that the word repent comes from the Greek word "Metanoia"

Repentance or Metanoia truly means making a decision to turn around, to face a new direction.

We all need to start facing a new direction. Or if we have begun that transformation we then must continue moving further and further down that path.

Let go of our addiction to judgement and ego and duality.

You see "facing a new direction" means stop looking at others through a filter of our own judgments and egos. Turn around and look at others with no judgement with no lens. Just observe. Just contemplate.

Then and only then will we begin to have any hope of moving forward solving the complicated problems of society such as homelessness.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/dont-let-money-win-the-akron-primary-election-an-may-7-2019/>
og:title Content: Don't Let Money Win The Akron Primary Election an May 7, 2019 - Sage Lewis For Akron
City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023
Blog Post Date: April 30, 2019

Blog Post Content: Come join me for a Meet the Akron Candidates Event this Friday at 6pm.

I LOVE local politics.

All politics is local. If you can change things on the local level then you can change politics at the state and national level.

I am here to tell you: Money controls ALL Akron politics right now. The Republicans have given up on us. They just funnel money to the powerful Democrats. Akron Democrats are the furthest thing away from a real Democrat you could possibly imagine. They just care about business. Poverty, crime, gun violence, addiction, overdoses: they have no plan for these things because they don't care about those things.

There is so little media coverage of Akron politics that most people just vote based on mailers and signs - IF THEY VOTE AT ALL!

In the last Mayoral and Ward primary these are the vote totals for the two primary mayoral candidates:

Daniel Horrigan	10,647
Michael D. Williams	8,088

That's a total of 18,735 votes.
We had 124,639 registered voters in that primary.
That's a 15% voter turnout. And, in Akron, the person who wins the Democratic primary wins the general election.
My guess is that we'll have a 12% voter turnout this time.
And then the rich people can go back to doing whatever the hell they want with our city.
I have been tabulating the money candidates are spending in this Akron primary election. 5 of the top 7 candidates with the most money are Dan Horrigan surrogates. These are the candidates he supports. All they have to do in return is vote for his pet projects.
This is a graph of the Akron candidates and how much money they have reported as of April 25, 2019:

This is the data in a spreadsheet form:
<!--td {border: 1px solid #ccc;}br {mso-data-placement:same-cell;}-->

Candidate
Office Sought
4. Total Funds Available
Endorsement
Party

Shammas Malik
Ward 8
\$51,326
Horrigan
D

Jeff Fusco
At Large
\$34,288
Horrigan
D

Linda Omobien
At Large
\$32,735

D

Veronica Sims
At Large
\$24,671

D

Marilyn Keith
At Large
\$19,924
Horrigan
D

Philipo Lombardo
Ward 2
\$19,429
Horrigan
D

Ginger Baylor
At Large
\$9,507
Horrigan
D

Jack L. Hefner
Ward 10
\$9,310

D

Curtis Walker
Ward 8
\$8,255

D

Michael Madonio
Ward 6
\$8,245

D

Donnie Kammer
Ward 7
\$7,977

D

Tara Samples
Ward 5
\$7,627

D

Sharon L. Connor

Ward 10
\$6,347
Horrigan
D

Zack Milkovich
Ward 10
\$5,366
D

Tammy Cummings
Ward 7
\$3,166
D

Johnnie Hannah
Ward 5
\$2,936
D

Joshua Sines
Mayor
\$2,530
R

Rich Swirsky
Ward 1
\$2,269
D

Bradley McKittrick
Ward 6
\$2,250
D

Michael Freeman
Ward 9
\$2,105
D

Russ Neal
Ward 4

\$1,770

D

Janice Davis
Ward 4
\$1,423

D

Margo Sommerville
Ward 3
\$1,400

D

Gregory Dunham
Ward 8
\$1,095

R

Robert E. Hoch
Ward 6
\$823

D

Lamont Robert Porter
At Large
\$100

D

Gregory Harrison
Mayor
\$0

D

Henry Todd
At Large
\$0

R

Monica Renee McNatt
At Large
\$0

R

Osita Obierika
At Large
\$0

R

Linda Omobien (#3 money getter) mostly funds her own campaign and Veronica Simms (#4 money getter) just has a lot of support of the people.
We have to stop the madness of rich people running our city and not giving a damn about the people and the real issues of our city.
We will be the masters of our own demise if we don't vote.
I am hosting a Meet the Candidates night this Friday from 6pm to 8pm at 15 Broad Street in Akron.
Come join me for a Meet the Akron Candidates Event this Friday at 6pm.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/summit-county-democrats-are-insane-with-power/>
og:title Content: Summit County Democrats Are Insane With Power - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023
Blog Post Date: May 1, 2019

Blog Post Content: In Akron you must always remember the saying: Power corrupts. Absolute power corrupts absolutely.
Summit County Democrats have so much power and so little counter balance they are now turning on themselves.
There are currently sending out vindictive letters about 3 Democrats that the party has determined are not Democrats at all.
What they mean is: These 3 people are not bowing down enough. They are not kissing the ring enough. They are not doing exactly as they are told.
Therefore, by the absolute power vested in them they have determined these 3 candidates are now shunned from the Democratic party.
The party is currently sending out letters to the Wards of those 3 candidates telling those voters that these candidates are not Democrats and they should not vote for them.
The definition of being a Democrat is this: "Someone who believes in equality for all people and ruling by the majority."
When a few people get together and then use their power to coerce voters to do their bidding it is THEY that are no longer upholding Democratic values.
The Summit County Democrats are dangerous, megalomaniacal and must be disavowed by any true Democrat. And I say this as a life long voter of Democrats.
I know for a fact that Bruce Kilby and Zack Milkovich represent Democratic principles. I see them both standing up for the people every day.
I don't personally know Bob Hoch. But based on the power drunk Summit County Democrats I can guess that he is probably staying more true to his constituents than the party.
This is what this is all about: the Summit County Democrats, who already have too much power, are butt hurt because these 3 people haven't sucked up to them enough. That's all this is.
VOTE FOR THESE THREE PEOPLE (if you actually care about Democratic values and Democracy itself):
Councilmen Bruce Kilby in Ward 2 (North Hill and Chapel Hill), Bob Hoch in Ward 6 (Ellet) and Zack Milkovich in Ward 10 (Goodyear Heights and Middlebury)

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/it-is-critical-we-elect-pastor-gregory-harrison-for-mayor-of-akron-on-may-7/>
og:title Content: It is CRITICAL We Elect Pastor Gregory Harrison For Mayor of Akron on May 7 - Sage Lewis

For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023
Blog Post Date: May 4, 2019

Blog Post Content: We held a meet the candidates event last night.
The entire conversation can be seen here:

The people on the stage were Tara Samples running for re-election of Ward 5. Tammy Cummings running for Ward 7 and then Pastor Gregory Harrison who is running for mayor of Akron.
All 3 people are truly impressive and deserve our vote. I would like to write a post about each of them. I'm not sure if I'll have time or not.
But the post that I feel most passionate about and feel truly needs to be urgently told is that Pastor Gregory Harrison NEEDS to be our next mayor in Akron Ohio.
You can listen to what he has to say starting about about 30 minutes in the video above.
At about 33:42 in the video he says it: "There is a Plantation Mentality in Akron."
"We are held hostage in bonds."
We are slaves to the rich and powerful.
I've never thought about it that way. But he is so right. It gets right to the fact of the matter.
We have been enslaved by corporate money.
\$750,000 was raised by rich people in Akron to make Dan Horrigan our mayor in 2015.
And now he is slowly but surely entrenching himself to be our next 3 decade king. And it's all done by money.
I am telling you this as an absolute fact of the matter: There are politicians in Akron that care about the people. And there are politicians that care about big business.
It doesn't take a political science professor to observe this reality.
Dan Horrigan is for big business. Pastor Gregory Harrison is for the people.
That's the statement that says it all.
If you believe in trickle down economics. If you believe that the most important people in Akron are big businesses. If you believe "blue ribbon panels" from out of town know best how to run our city. Then vote for Dan Horrigan.
If you believe that politicians are supposed to be true to the people that elect them. If you believe Akron has serious problems such as poverty, gun violence, addiction, racial inequality. If you believe our streets and snow plowing and sewers have been completely mismanaged. Then vote for Pastor Gregory Harrison.
This isn't just some little pet project of mine that I hope you might find mildly interesting. This is serious shit!
Will Stancil, research fellow at the Institute on Metropolitan Opportunity at the University of Minnesota, said the Cleveland-Akron region ranks second in the nation in poverty concentration. Only Detroit, where entire neighborhoods have been abandoned, ranked lower.
From here: Akron itself has even greater problems than the Cleveland region as a whole, Stancil said. Left unchecked, you can get something akin to total neighborhood collapse "you can see cleared-out city blocks in Detroit where this has happened.
Our planning director, Jason Segedy, agrees: The trend line is that low income population is increasing, Segedy said. I think the trend in Akron and cities like it is that middle income people have been moving to the suburbs. You have people of slightly greater means moving from the city.
The Dan Horrigan plan is to get more white middle class people to come back to Akron.
But I'm here to tell you, and Will Stancil's research confirms it: "a strong school system is vital."
The Ohio Department of Education gives the Akron School System an overall score of D. Here is the break down of the various areas they look at:

Meanwhile:

Medina gets a B
Hudson gets an A
Revere gets a B
Copley-Fairlawn gets a B
Green gets a B

And on top of that, our tax rate is high.
You can look at all the property tax rates from the Summit County Fiscal Office here.

But I'll pull a few numbers out for you:

Akron: 106.780
Copley-Fairlawn: 90.890
Revere: 85.120
Twinsburg: 90.620
Stow: 76.180

The headline is easy to write: Akron: Worse schools. Higher taxes.
I'm sorry to say: but if you think Buffy and Winston are going to bring their white fluffy dog and 2 kids, Jaden and Dakota, to Akron from Hudson you are smoking some of that pot laced with Fentanyl that is what Akron drug dealers are selling these days.
And do you know what we're going to do as voters of Akron? We're going to elect the guy that is just carrying on the exact same agenda that got us into this mess when we elected the last guy into office over and over again for nearly 3 decades.
We truly have developed a slave mentality. Our slave master is a good master. He knows best. He isn't beating us. He isn't whipping us. He's a good slave master. That's how we are thinking right now. We are zombies that must wake up. We must shake off this belief that we can't have better. We must take our city back from the rich corporations.
You have a candidate that knows the real problems. You have a candidate that has been a police officer and is now a minister. You have a candidate that has spent his life in the neighborhoods that are most in need of help. Shoot! You have a candidate that is going to Stark State right now to learn video media. You have a candidate that is smart, energizing and actually cares about your needs.
That candidate is named Pastor Gregory Harrison.
Vote for Pastor Gregory Harrison for Mayor on May 7, 2019.
This is the most important election you are going to have an opportunity to participate in for the next 4 years.
You think national politics is where it's at. But it's not. All politics is local.
If you don't want to watch Akron just continue to decline and fall into bankruptcy because we have nearly \$1 billion in debt then you MUST MUST MUST go vote this coming Tuesday, May 7 2019.
I don't know how to make this any more important and urgent.
Do not believe that we don't have a voice. Do not believe that we can't make change happen. Do not believe that your vote doesn't matter. Your vote is ALL THAT MATTERS.
You are the change we need to see in Akron. You can do this.
Please vote on Tuesday May 7, 2019.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/underneath-the-addiction/>
og:title Content: Underneath the addiction - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023
Blog Post Date: May 19, 2019

Blog Post Content: I can't truly understand what being homeless is like.
I can only imagine being in a tent with absolutely nowhere else to go. No friends. No family. No money. Nothing. That tent is your last life raft on planet earth. I can only imagine the fear and anger and worry that time in your life must feel like.
But addiction. That's something I totally get. I'm an addict.
Addicts typically have a soul mate. But their soul mate is not some kind, sweet, loving person. No. An addict's soul mate is something like drugs, alcohol, gambling, sex. It something that eats you from the inside out. An addict's soul mate will slowly, but surely rot the person away.
An addict and their soul mate will dance together in an ever increasing spiral of obsession and disease and deterioration. They get each other. They are made for each other. Till death do them part.
You see, addiction isn't a choice in the way people think of "choice."
Addiction is a magnetism. Addiction is a gravitational pull. If falling out of a window and being sucked to earth is a choice then yes the addict made a choice.
An addict fills their need in a trance. They are overcome by a connection that is bigger than them, bigger than their family, bigger than their job. An addiction grows and grows until it is bigger than anything else in their life.

Why does this happen?

We know that, "The children of addicts are 8 times more likely to develop an addiction."

But there are certain external factors that definitely play a role. I can tell you this for a fact because I live with these external factors every single day.

I think the easiest way to sum it up into a nice pretty package is: self hatred.

I believe there is a high percentage of addicts that just hate themselves. Plain and simple.

They were never good enough. They don't measure up. They feel like a total piece of shit.

So, they spend their lives trying to cover up this constant, gnawing pain that follows them around constantly.

And trust me, you can feel like a loser, piece of shit anywhere on the class spectrum. People have told you how much you suck and even worse, you tell yourself how much you suck. It's like a mantra. Repeating it over and over again. I served a lot of drinks to depressed doctors and lawyers as a bartender at a country club.

Along my path of addiction I heard a tip that changed my life: An addict must replace less socially acceptable behaviors with more socially acceptable behaviors.

What they mean is: once an addict always an addict.

I believe that.

Even AA will tell people they are "dry drunks" if they don't go to AA. I think what they mean by that is that you have to quit drinking and start consuming AA. Replace booze with AA. It's a legitimate strategy.

But I believe you can replace it with a lot of things.

For example, I have run 3 marathons. I did this during the great recession. I needed an outlet. And running 2-4 hours a day gave me that outlet.

I now take anti-depression medication that has helped a great deal. I've taken it for years.

But while I feel less anxious, I still feel the pull of my addiction. It's just really strong.

I was a binge drinker. I liked drinking at least 24 beers at a time. That was my preference.

But there were times I would drink whiskey and gin and Scotch. I remember times I kept drinking so much to see if I would pass out or die. I loved to drink hard.

So, when I try to replace my drinking it has to be something of similar intensity.

I know full well that my homeless advocacy is filling this hole in me. I need intense experiences and intense feelings. That's when I feel like I'm waking up and becoming me.

This has become an interesting experience for me because the theory has been that you can swap out one addiction for another addiction.

I believe that is true and that's what you must do in order to get your life back.

But there are other truths we have to acknowledge.

No matter what you swap out, your original addiction will always be your true love. Nothing will ever feel like that.

The heart of why you became an addict never goes away. You still have your genetic drivers and you still hate yourself.

Even though those truths exist there is one thing you get in return: You get your life back.

You get to be with your family. You get to focus on your work. You get to enjoy activities that aren't your addiction. Suddenly, your life becomes much more full.

Sometimes your true love isn't the love that is best for you. You will miss it. You will dream about it. You will fantasize about it. But you can't go back. You can't pretend the two of you will have some kind of casual relationship. That's not what you were about. The two of you were a rocket ship burning up on re-entry into the atmosphere.

That's what addiction is.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/akron-the-recovery-city/>

og:title Content: Akron: The Recovery City - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023

Blog Post Date: May 25, 2019

Blog Post Content: Alcoholics Anonymous was founded in Akron in 1935.

Founders Day this year is June 7, 8, & 9, 2019 Akron, Ohio. Akron is known world-wide as the birthplace of A.A.

Akronite, Dr. Bob Smith's last drink was on June 10, 1935 (a beer to steady his hand for surgery), and this is considered by members to be the founding date of AA.

The Smith family home in Akron became a center for alcoholics. It's at 855 Ardmore Ave, Akron Ohio. They would often bring alcoholics into their house.

I didn't primarily use AA to quit drinking. Although, I always enjoyed a good AA meeting, and still do. I found help in something called Smart Recovery. It's behavioral therapy based. I liked it so much I became a certified facilitator.

My belief is that there is never going to be one method that will treat all addicts and addictions. Humans are too diverse and complicated for that.

I often hear addicts tell me that they don't feel powerless and they don't feel connected to any higher power. So AA isn't a good fit for them. But others swear by it.

If there is one thing I have seen that has incredible power, it's community. People coming together creates energy that is beyond simple, rational day to day existence.

It creates what Carl Jung called Synchronicity. Being together creates something that is different than random coincidences. There is a mystical, undeniable power of community. It creates meaning out of seemingly unconnected events and people.

Even our most ardent haters in the homeless services community were forced to acknowledge that we had created something no one else had ever created before: A community for people that no one cared about.

There was a level of acceptance and inclusion in our tent village unlike anything seen anywhere else.

Take a person who everyone else has said is no good and a waste of space and invite them into your community. You will see a transformation unlike anything you have ever seen before.

Bringing people closer to us is how we solve conditions like addiction and homelessness and even anti-social actions like drug dealing. Pushing people away makes things worse. Bringing people closer makes things better.

I believe Akron will be the city where people of all different backgrounds come to test and learn new recovery methods and practices.

We simply have to get our leaders over one simple wall. They must be brave enough to ask one simple question: what do we do with these people?

The answer is simple: We work with them, of course.

We have the land. We have the buildings. And we certainly have the people that care.

We also have the people that need the help.

Akron is the place where this Synchronicity is meant to happen. That's why I know it will happen. It's meant to be.

Akron is the city where all people are welcome. The addicts, the homeless, the sex workers, the drug dealers, the thieves, the pedophiles. (They are already here. We simply have to acknowledge their existence and accept them as part of our community.)

Once we welcome the shunned into our community then that's when the magic will start to happen.

That's when people from all over the world will come to Akron to work with them.

We will open our city to the old recovery methods and the new.

This will be the transformative Renaissance of Akron. We must make our own way. We have challenges that are much different than Detroit, Cleveland or Pittsburgh. Those cities have embedded big businesses that will push them out of their slumps. Akron doesn't have that. We are not those cities. We must begin anew.

Akron will rise up as the place where we learned how to care for those that no one cared for. It's as obvious as the potholes on our roads.

Dr. Bob Smith gave us our founding. Now we must go to the next level. We must welcome the unwanted into our house.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/pedophiles/>

og:title Content: Pedophiles - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023

Blog Post Date: May 27, 2019

Blog Post Content: Well, well, well. I seem to have hit a nerve.

A person told me that if I was going to support pedophiles then they were no longer going to support me. I didn't realize that I was only permitted to care for socially acceptable people in need.

Pedophiles are likely the most hated people in America, if not the world.

I imagine the word induces images of old, dirty men doing savage things to 3 year olds. That is, without a doubt, beyond grotesque and cruel.

But, pedophilia is a label for anyone who is sexually engaged with anyone under 18.

Like all sex offenses there are many levels and types.

Pedophilia is actually something I have a connection with. My best friend from elementary school is spending life in prison because he is a pedophile. Any time a person gets a personal connection to something it changes your entire perspective.

I am not some life long compassionate human. I had all the stereotypes of all the outcasts. I came to caring about these kinds of people later in life.

I was shocked when my childhood friend wrote me to say he was in prison because of pedophilia. I was also shocked to learn that he was going to be spending life in prison for the crime. It opens up so many questions. What absolutely terrible act could he have done that he was never going to be a free man again for as long as he lived?

It's these connections that breakdown walls of assumptions.

He had a relationship with a 14 year old girl. He described it as consensual. This is the problem with this kind of crime. It's hard to be on an even playing field with a 14 year old.

But ultimately when he talks to me about this he talks about how there is a connection to when he was sexually abused at a young age. I never had any idea that was going on even though I spent nearly every single day with him.

So often the abused become the abuser. This is when things get complicated. Reality is never black and white. It's just endless shades of gray.

Rightfully, adults should not be having relationships with 14 year olds. But the practice is hardly uncommon. Until 2008 the Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints practiced child marriage through the concept of "spiritual marriage" as soon as girls were ready to bear children.

Musician Jerry Lee Lewis's third wife, Myra Gale Brown, was Lewis's first cousin once removed and was only 13 years old at the time.

Full stop! Before I go on let me be very clear here: sex crimes are abhorrent, wrong and must not be acceptable on any part of the spectrum. I want that to be very clear. No one should ever feel the torture of being sexually assaulted or even sexually harassed. Our entire society really needs to work on understanding sex crimes because, I'm sorry to say, they are happening way more prolifically than society even dares admit.

I believe we have 3 options: Kill them, warehouse them forever or treat them.

And truthfully, I am not uncomfortable with my friend spending the rest of his life in prison. He doesn't seem to admit that what he did was wrong. So, I would imagine the likelihood of him doing it again is high.

However, that doesn't mean I can't be his friend. That doesn't mean I can't show him compassion. It may be that he is exactly where he should be. But that doesn't mean I have to treat him with contempt and cruelty the rest of his days.

Compassion takes many forms.

A wounded animal sometimes needs to be put out of its misery.

Compassion doesn't need to look like warm, cozy lovey-dovey white meringue.

A woman recently burned down our porta potty, caused thousands of dollars worth of damage and nearly burnt down the entire building.

There is no value in feeling anger and resentment towards her. Holding that hate in your heart only hurts you. The hated rarely feel that feeling you carry with you 24/7. I have lived that way. It's exhausting.

Compassion becomes a tool to move the world forward. If you do it long enough the emotion of it all eventually falls away. You do it because it helps all of us. A rising tide lifts all boats. It just becomes a job that needs to be done.

Helping a pedophile transform eventually has nothing to do with the individual you are trying to help. It becomes about helping potential future victims. It becomes about creating systems that help future potential abusers.

Helping a pedophile also has nothing to do with condoning or accepting the cruelty of their acts. Of course the acts are wrong, must be stopped and society must be protected from these people.

Sadly, our country is seriously lacking in rehabilitation treatment for anyone. They don't get treatment in

prison. And they don't get treatment when they get out of prison. So, we as a society are left to deal with hardened criminals that often have no incentive or help to do anything other than to go back to old ways of living. Old habits die hard without treatment. But it's probably not a coincidence that the population of America tends to hold resentment, anger and hate towards evil doers. So, there probably isn't a great deal of political will to spend money on treating the hated.

If you are only going to support me as long as I only support the people you like you probably should move on. I am interested in going further and further down the path of working with the most hated people on earth. My belief is that they will never have any hope of evolving if all they are met with is a wall of hate, anger and fear. And as long as we build these walls we as a society will never be able to treat our own addictions of hatred. Ultimately, it is US that need the treatment. Hatred is a disease. Hatred is an addiction. Hatred is stagnation.

"Love your enemy" is possibly the most advanced form of consciousness a human could hope to achieve. But it is the road map to our own personal salvation. It is how we solve all the world's problems.

"But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you." - Matthew 5:44

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/when-the-truth-offends-we-lie/>

og:title Content: "When the truth offends we lie" - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023

Blog Post Date: June 9, 2019

Blog Post Content: I'd like to suggest you get HBO Now.

It's the streaming version of HBO. You can watch it on your phone, tablet, Roku, Apple TV or however else you like to stream tv.

Just cancel Netflix for a month and get HBO Now. It's \$15 with a 7 day free trial.

You can catch up on Game of Thrones. And there are great comedy shows too.

But I'd also like you to watch the 5 episode series, "Chernobyl."

It's the story of how nuclear reactor number 4 at the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant exploded.

An explosion at a nuclear power plant simply is not supposed to happen.

Meltdowns can and do happen. They happen when the heat generated by a nuclear reactor exceeds the heat removed by the cooling systems to the point where at least one nuclear fuel element exceeds its melting point.

Fukushima was a meltdown. It happened after the TÅhoku earthquake caused a tsunami that flooded the emergency generators that were providing power to the pumps that cooled the reactors.

Anatoly Dyatlov was Chernobyl's tsunami. He was deputy chief-engineer of the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant, and the supervisor of the catastrophic safety test which resulted in the 1986 Chernobyl disaster.

On the surface, both nuclear disasters have an easy scapegoat. An earthquake that caused a tsunami and an over zealous engineer that just wanted to get done with a test that had been hanging over his head for some time.

But that's not the end of the story.

While those surface failures did indeed play a part, in both cases of Chernobyl and Fukushima there was an underlying systematic failure that allowed these mistakes to cause the disastrous effects they did.

From here: On 5 July 2012, the National Diet of Japan Fukushima Nuclear Accident Independent Investigation Commission (NAIIC) found that the causes of the accident had been foreseeable, and that the plant operator, Tokyo Electric Power Company (TEPCO), had failed to meet basic safety requirements such as risk assessment, preparing for containing collateral damage, and developing evacuation plans.

And as for Chernobyl, the chief reasons for the accident lie in the "peculiarities of physics and in the construction of the reactor."

From here, "The accident can be said to have flowed from a deficient safety culture, not only at the Chernobyl plant, but throughout the Soviet design, operating and regulatory organizations for nuclear power that existed at that time."

In both cases safety procedures were ignored. Things. Important things slip through the cracks and the public relations position is that the government did nothing wrong. It was just these uncontrollable external factors that caused the problem.

In episode 5 of "Chernobyl" starting at about 53 minutes, Valery Legasov stands up to the USSR and exposes the truth of what happened at Chernobyl. He was an inorganic chemist and a member of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR. He's mainly remembered for his work as the chief of the commission investigating the Chernobyl disaster.

He is standing in a courtroom, recounting what actually happened on that disastrous day.

The judge then responds:

"If you mean to suggest that the Soviet State is somehow responsible for what happened I must warn you, you are treading on dangerous ground. "

Legasov then responds this way:

"I've already trod on dangerous ground. We're on dangerous ground right now. Because of our secrets and our lies. They are practically what define us. When the truth offends we lie and lie until we can no longer remember that it is even there. But it is... still there. Every lie told incurs a debt to the truth. Sooner or later that debt is paid."

This is how disasters come to be.

"When the truth offends we lie."

I see so many parallels with dictatorial regimes and our city of Akron.

We have no checks and balances in Akron.

Our newspaper is nothing more than a propaganda machine for the administration. They never dare say anything against the administration's actions.

And Republicans are so weak and so under represented they don't even really try any more to win political seats. They haven't had a seat on city council in over 20 years.

City council is terrified to say anything publicly against the administration because they are deathly afraid of finding themselves in the cross hairs of that machine.

And because we aren't a disaster of national or global significance, there are no grand commissions coming in to uncover the truth.

We did, however, get a study.

The University of Minnesota Law School created a study, "American Neighborhood Change in the 21st Century: Gentrification and Decline."

They write:

The Cleveland region features two central cities, Cleveland and Akron. The regions neighborhoods are experiencing powerful economic decline and virtually no gentrification or growth.

The report goes on to say:

But neighborhood decline is much more severe in the cities of Akron and Cleveland, where about 75 percent of population lives in a strongly declining area.

Akron is experiencing its own nuclear reactor meltdown. And no one is doing anything about it.

And what does our mayor do? He talks about parks.

Mayor Dan Horrigan's 2019 State of the City Address February 20, 2019:

In 2018, I announced the Akron Parks Challenge an exciting collaborative effort, that allows neighborhood residents to pitch their vision for their favorite park and work together with city officials and design professionals to co-create welcoming accessible, and engaging public spaces that all of us can enjoy.

He goes on to say:

Additionally, I am happy to announce that June 8th thru the 15th, we will hold the inaugural celebration of Akron Parks Week a city-wide effort to engage businesses and residents in volunteering to beautify, clean, and maintain our parks and community centers, all while meeting neighbors and having fun.

Why does he care so much about parks?

There are 2 words in the paragraph above that tell the actual truth. He says: "Perceptions matter."

"When the truth offends we lie and lie until we can no longer remember that it is even there."

Our mayor is overseeing a nuclear meltdown and telling us to look at the parks.

We are in the midst of systemic, infrastructural failure. We live in a town of systemic hopelessness brought on by the lack of good jobs.

That leads to despair which leads to depression which leads to drug and alcohol use which leads to depression which leads to despair. We are in a feedback loop of meltdown.

The poverty rate in Akron is 24.1%. One out of every 4.2 residents of Akron lives in poverty.

That is 47,681 people.

Our director of planning and urban development, Jason Segedy, said it himself: "The trend line is that low income population is increasing, Segedy said. I think the trend in Akron and cities like it is that middle income people have been moving to the suburbs. You have people of slightly greater means moving from the city.

The truth is there if you put the pieces together.

The solution is good jobs, good schools and reducing racial segregation. Those are the key things that matter in our Akron disaster story. Everything else is just frosting on a rotten cake.

But you also have to stop the bleeding.

Get homeless people some place that is safe, clean and secure.

Get guns out of the hands of kids and criminals.

Stop dirty drugs from entering our city that are causing endless overdoses.

We need radical, immediate leadership. Talking about parks while your city is on fire just makes the problem worse.

Just as in Chernobyl and Fukushima, in Akron "the accident had been foreseeable" and "were on dangerous ground right now."

(And yes, for the record, I am suggesting the Akron administration is "somehow responsible for what happened." The machine that has been growing into monstrous proportions for the last 3 decades which include the Summit County Democratic Party, The Chamber of Commerce and other large businesses that make up the SuperPAC Partners Advancing Our Future are destroying us for their own profit and power. They are the root cause of our systemic failure. THEY are the reason our meltdown is happening.)

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/so-ya-want-to-save-the-world-heres-some-tips/>

og:title Content: So ya want to save the world, here's some tips - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023

Blog Post Date: June 17, 2019

Blog Post Content: One of the more embarrassing and amusing aspects of doing this homeless work is I honestly believed the city was going to thank me.

I thought they'd come by and say something like, "there are some things we like and there are some things we don't like, but thank you for contributing to this challenging problem we are facing in our community." HA!

I now know that, without a doubt, they see me nothing other than the actual problem. Leaving homeless people to rot on their streets was the strategy all along. No one was talking about the homeless and that made it a non-problem.

This is how government wants to deal with its true problems. Just don't talk about them. As long as things don't bubble up into the public view everything is fine.

But you should know that this is just one example of endless hurdles of trying to be helpful I've experienced. There is a lot of truth to the saying, no good deed goes unpunished.

I often hear unfortunate stories of people trying to help the homeless by bringing them into their homes. It often ends poorly.

I have a strict policy of not bringing any homeless people to my house. It's not because I don't think I could manage them. Or even that I'd like to have them. It's because on occasion they get mad at me. Like really mad at me. I don't think there is any homeless person I could totally trust all the time. We have a very close relationship that can make for extreme emotions, on both sides.

Dr. Bob's (the founder of AA) wife, Anne, "found herself chased around her kitchen by a crazed ex-drunk brandishing her own butcher knife in his demand for alcohol.

If you think your career of service is going to be filled with that endless feeling of fulfillment I'm sorry to say: it's not.

Burnout is a real issue in the field of giving.

You will find yourself wondering what the hell you were thinking doing this work. You will spend your entire career banging your head against a bureaucratic system that is slow and nonsensical while you are trying to help people that are ungrateful and sometimes downright mean.

And the pay. You get the pleasure of being a helper for VERY little money. I haven't made a single dollar doing this work in 3 years.

Oh. And parts of your family will scorn you for being so foolish wasting your time and money doing this pointless work. You should get a "real" job.

And at the end of it all, you will be lying on your deathbed realizing you accomplished nearly nothing to address the fundamental issues you were fighting the entire time to solve.

So why bother doing it at all?

It changes for me. But as of today my motivation for doing this work is because it's the right thing to do for society. Ignoring your homeless population breeds disease, crime and garbage. I also still really enjoy being

with these people. And I feel like there are very few people who understand the segment of the homeless population that doesn't fit into the housing first paradigm. Because, much to the surprise of the homeless service providers, their one size fits all solution isn't the be-all end-all answer to homelessness. I still find it very interesting. Although I wouldn't be surprised that there will likely come a time where that feeling disappears too.

But there is something much deeper that drives me.

Over time I've chosen to believe in reincarnation.

I believe we are all fated to live over and over again.

We do this to in an attempt to learn something each time we come to Earth.

I can tell you with absolute certainty that one of the major reasons to be alive is to help others. It is possibly the highest form of existence imaginable.

Every major spiritual guide will say basically the same thing:

"And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love." 1 Corinthians 13:13

"Our prime purpose in this life is to help others. And if you can't help them, at least don't hurt them." 14th Dalai Lama

"Kindness is a mark of faith, and whoever has not kindness has not faith." Muhammad

"I do not want followers who are righteous, rather I want followers who are too busy doing good that they won't have time to do bad." Rabbi Menachem Mendel of Kotzk

There is just simply no path of human progression that doesn't include love, kindness and compassion. All paths lead there.

But realizing this path can take a very long time. Countless lifetimes potentially.

I encounter old people who are nowhere near beginning to understand this truth. And I've seen 9 year olds who totally get it.

I came late to the party. And honestly, my path to being a force of good comes from less than good motivations. I am here because of a midlife crisis and mild depression. No other work interests me very much any more.

No matter how futile. No matter how frustrating. No matter how exhausting... any other work is worse, in my mind.

You will see this with artists some times. In fact, in music school they will often tell you that if you can imagine doing any other work besides music you should do that work. The life of a musician is just really hard.

For me, there is one quote that makes the most sense to me. It represents all that I feel and experience in this work. And ultimately it is what keeps me going.

This is so much so, that one of our lawyers refers to me as "the happy warrior." You will typically find me laughing and smiling as things crumble around me. I enjoy the fight. I believe in the work. And the longer I do this I understand that those in authority don't actually want me to do the work. That realization alone keeps me going. I've always had a problem with authority.

I am a threat to the old guard homeless service providers because we are innovating and progressing what homeless services actually are. And government administrators just want the homeless to disappear. They don't want to deal with them because then they'd have to admit they have an actual homeless problem. They can't figure out how that is going to fit into their plan of turning Akron into Medina-lite.

So, I happily carry on. Sometimes it's brutal and exhausting. But mostly it is easy and light. When you are on the path you are supposed to be on there is no other place you'd rather be no matter how rocky the road might be.

Here is the quote that says it all for me: (written on the wall of Mother Teresa's home for children in Calcutta, India, and is widely attributed to her.)

People are often unreasonable, irrational, and self-centered. Forgive them anyway.

If you are kind, people may accuse you of selfish, ulterior motives. Be kind anyway.

If you are successful, you will win some unfaithful friends and some genuine enemies. Succeed anyway.

If you are honest and sincere people may deceive you. Be honest and sincere anyway.

What you spend years creating, others could destroy overnight. Create anyway.

If you find serenity and happiness, some may be jealous. Be happy anyway.

The good you do today, will often be forgotten. Do good anyway.

Give the best you have, and it will never be enough. Give your best anyway.

In the final analysis, it is between you and God. It was never between you and them anyway.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/mayor-horrigan-says-no-one-should-be-homeless-in-akron-ohio/>
og:title Content: Mayor Horrigan Says NO ONE Should Be Homeless in Akron Ohio - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023
Blog Post Date: June 23, 2019

Blog Post Content: We are never going to get off the dime if we can't break down the issue of homelessness in Akron Ohio.

The position of Mayor Horrigan's office is that no one needs to live in a tent in Akron Ohio. We are unlike all other cities in America because we have housing for any homeless person or family who needs it. That's really an incredible statement, when you think about it. I know of no other city in America that has made such an incredibly bold and audacious claim. Akron Ohio should have zero homeless people. That's amazing.

That's from this April 28, 2018 Akron Beacon Journal article:

Volunteers build small, single shelters for Akrons homeless

No Akron resident should be living in a tent or a shack period; and they dont need to, Ellen Lander Nischt [City spokeswoman] said in an email. Unlike some other urban communities across the nation, we are very fortunate here in Akron and Summit County to have healthy, stable, clean and safe housing available for any homeless person or family who needs it.

It would seem to me that if a person were able to refute that claim then we might finally be able to have a real conversation about homelessness in Akron Ohio.

The premise of this post is: If I can prove that there is even one single person that does not have "safe housing" available to them then we should be able to therefore admit that we need to talk about the actual issue of homelessness.

Let me give you that one example:

Keith Stahl, the residential service director at Community Support Services is reported in this article to say this:

One client left Stoney Pointe Commons, a housing complex with rooms for the homeless. She was paying nothing but couldnt take the rules, Stahl said.

He is talking about a woman who lived in our tent village for quite some time. She was part of our community and did quite well with us.

Fortunately, she was given the opportunity to move into Stoney Pointe Commons free of charge.

Stoney Pointe is an amazing facility. It's brand new. Truly, I believe it is nicer than the 2 bedroom apartment I live in.

Stahl said she "couldn't take the rules."

That's not exactly true.

I've spoken with this woman and she is willing to go on video to tell the real reason she left Stoney Pointe. She told me that the reason she left was because women were being repeatedly raped with blunt instruments in the building. She felt unsafe and needed to leave.

I have reviewed the crime logs of Stoney Pointe. There are some minor issues that go on there. But I saw nothing that referenced anything as heinous as what this woman described.

The other part of this story is that this woman will readily admit that she has schizophrenia, among other mental health issues.

I don't want to totally discount what she told me. But I think there is a high likelihood that these things were a product of her mental health condition. I work with many people that recount brutal sexual attacks that are simply not reality.

So, if the primary reason this woman left was because she believed she was unsafe then why did Keith Stahl say she left because she "couldn't take the rules."

Is that what was reported to him and so that's what he truly believed?

Was he trying to protect her private information?

Was he trying to avoid a complicated story about his facility that he rather not get involved with?

Or was he being a company man and just towing the party line?

It is widely reported that Keith Stahl and Mayor Horrigan are friends. So, it's not out of the question that he is just supporting his friend's position on homelessness.

But the reason doesn't matter all that much.

The end result is that the public relations position for all those involved in the Akron monolithic homeless service system is that the homeless are the only ones to blame for their own homelessness. No one should be homeless in Akron. The only reason anyone is homeless in Akron is because they have chosen to be homeless.

We blame the victim here in Akron. It's the homeless person's fault. The only reason they are homeless is because they CHOOSE to be homeless. They love to use that word, "choose."

The homeless position of the Dan Horrigan administration is that there is not one single case anywhere in his city where a person can't be housed. Not one sex offender. Not one drug addict. Not one former meth cook.

Not one former arsonist. Not one person with any mental health condition no matter how severe.

Every single person can be housed in Akron Ohio.

Astounding.

I actually believe we could one day become that city. However, we are far from that today. In fact, we are much further behind our northern neighbor, Cleveland. They are doing much better work addressing their difficult homeless cases than we are.

And as long as our leaders believe or lie to us about how we can house ALL homeless people our homeless condition is actually worse than any city that admits they have a real homeless problem.

Akron Ohio is an addict that can't admit it has a problem. Akron is addicted to a lie.

Here's the thing of it all: I'm a big fan of Community Support Services (CSS). They are the only homeless service provider that continues to come to our facility and works with our homeless population.

This is the statement they make on the home page of their web site:

Mission Statement

Community Support Services: Helping you achieve a healthy mind and body while supporting you to live and work in your community.

Vision Statement

Building communities of hope where mental and physical health are treated equally.

CSS is a mental health facility. And quite a good one, I may add.

But here they have a woman with significant, known mental health issues that they couldn't house.

If CSS can't keep a person like this in a facility how are we to expect anyone else to be able to do it?

At our facility, we are forced to put restraining orders on people with mental health issues regularly.

There is a man we just had to do this to. He believes people continually are trying to rape him in his sleep.

Men and women. It's a repeated issue he believes. This is a problem because he is very strong and can be violent. He has attacked people that he believed were trying to rape him. This story is so recurring that I simply do not believe it. (Although I believed it the first time I heard it.)

For our safety we simply cannot have him around.

I'm dealing with this in one of our houses too. We currently have a man who will not leave. He has cut the cords off of a TV and an air conditioner (I'm not sure why.) He has middle of the night extreme religious events with people he invites into the house that we don't know and he's not allowed to have come in. His "wife" is now living in his room with him. I can't get her out now. He climbs through the window to get in the house instead of using the door. He is simply too big of a condition for us to handle. We are now working with the police to help us remove him.

If you don't have a mental health issue when you become homeless you certainly will acquire one along the way.

Drug use is just a product of the extreme mental health issues homeless people face. They are self medicating.

Keith Stahl knows this.

But why did he say she left because she "couldn't take the rules?"

It's OK to admit we all have a problem. It's OK to admit that homelessness is a complicated condition that no one in the world has truly begun to investigate and experiment with.

Lying either to ourselves or our constituents only makes the situation worse.

Mark my words: Come hell or high water, Akron Ohio is going to be known as the Recovery City of America.

People will come here from all over the world, rich and poor, to get treated for any condition that requires recovery.

We will be the epicenter of innovation, experimentation and the latest recovery methods. (And Dan, with that will bring a lot of money.)

Just sit with that for a moment: Akron: The Recovery City.

We are the home of AA. And we will be the home of all things recovery.

But first, we, as a city, must recover ourselves. We must admit we have many real problems that no amount of new parks is going to solve. No entertainment district, no matter how spiffy, is going to get at the root of our issues.

Akron has the second highest concentration of poverty in America. We have many serious problems. We can recover from them. But only if we admit we have the problems in the first place.

No Dan. We can NOT house "any homeless person or family who needs it. That's make believe talk. And no Dan. It is not because these people are just belligerent assholes that won't behave. It is because they have very, very serious issues that 4 walls and a roof can't always solve.

Let's get serious and fix our problems.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/hanging-out-with-prostitutes/>

og:title Content: Hanging out with prostitutes - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023

Blog Post Date: June 26, 2019

Blog Post Content: There are a couple reasons I enjoy spending time with prostitutes.

First, they often lift my spirits. Their job is to make a person feel better. It's a skill that is actually quite rare and not as easy as you might think. They are just good at making people feel good.

For the record: I am not talking about being with prostitutes in any physical manner. I don't think I've even so much as ever shaken their hands. I've never been with a prostitute sexually and I don't have any intention to do so.

The other reason I like being with them is because it is a direct line back to Jesus.

Many of the other kinds of people Jesus spent time with just aren't around anymore. Lepers aren't a thing in Akron Ohio. And the "sinners" we have today aren't really referenced in the Bible that much.

Drug addicts. Drug dealers. Meth cooks. They just don't seem to be a thing then like they are now.

But prostitutes. They are as much a thing today as I'm sure they were when Jesus was around. Mary Magdalene is given a leading role in the story of Jesus.

There is debate as to whether she was a prostitute or not. Some say she was a rich woman whose life of sexual freedom was purely for pleasure. At any rate, she's fascinating. You can read more about her here. When I get the opportunity to spend time with prostitutes it just makes me feel more connected to God and Jesus.

It also causes me to ask the obvious question: is there anyone Jesus would not have spent time with.

This post talks about the 5 groups of people Jesus spent time with:

Women

The poor

The unclean

Oppressors

Racial enemies

That Oppressors one is challenging for me.

The jist of it all is: no one is too terrible for Jesus.

The correct answer to the question of "who doesn't deserve our love and forgiveness" is: NO ONE.

Every human being must be loved and forgiven. And it's not about them. It's about us. We will never be free of hate and fear until we can allow ourselves to let go and forgive and love everyone. EVERYONE. We must

be able to walk through the valley of the shadow of death and fear no evil. That's the path to salvation. I want to talk more about what I've learned spending time with some prostitutes. But I'll get back to that topic another day. I have a meeting I have to get to.

I might leave you with this challenge: What "sinners" have you spent time with recently? What people that are below your class, below your economic level or are criminals of various degrees have you gotten to know?

Do you ever allow yourself to step out of your social comfort zone?

If the answer is "None" then I would invite you to come to our center and meet some homeless folks. You might be wildly surprised by what you find out about them and about yourself.

We are at 15 Broad Street in Akron Ohio. We're open 7 days a week 9-5. Come in any time you would like. Here's a picture of a couple moms that brought their kids to our center yesterday and served banana splits.

To me, that picture says it all. Banana splits for homeless people. It's about the greatest act of love and kindness I could possibly imagine.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/austin-a-major-win-for-homeless-human-rights/>
og:title Content: Austin Texas: A MAJOR WIN FOR HOMELESS HUMAN RIGHTS - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023
Blog Post Date: July 3, 2019

Blog Post Content: People are pissed.

I don't need to quote any social media comments for you to imagine how people feel about Austin Texas' new law which would permit the city's homeless population to sleep or camp in any public area.

There's a picture of a tire store that has homeless people's stuff in front of it:

People are saying things like they are refusing to have to deal with drunks and addicts shitting and pissing on the streets. They are afraid of being attacked. It goes on and on.

We have to call this kind of talk what it is: This is hate speech.

People hate the homeless. Plain and simple.

The governor of Texas, Gregg Abbott, is a bigot towards homeless people.

At some point cities must start putting public safety & common sense first. There are far better solutions for the homeless & citizens, he says.

He goes on to say:

If Austin or any other Texas city permits camping on city streets it will be yet another local ordinance the State of Texas will override, he tweeted.

People often like to yell at me about how Democrats are the ones who are cruel to homeless people, not Republicans. For the record, Abbott is a Republican and is saying the EXACT things Democratic leaders say. That's because this isn't Republican or Democratic only hate. The entire globe hates homeless people. The hate towards homeless people is 100% bipartisan.

Most people exhibit "Housist" tendencies. They fear the houseless. And then they start saying hateful things. I've had very high-level officials in Akron say things to me like: "Let's be honest. No one wants to live near the homeless."

That's classic bigotry. Plain and simple.

We've been taught to not say that about people we've previously hated: Jews, Blacks, Japanese, Mexicans. But we find it completely acceptable to say it about homeless people. This is a new form of hate I'm calling "Housism." People that have bigoted, stereotypical beliefs and thoughts about people who do not live in houses are Housists.

The mayor of Austin, Steve Adler, (a Democrat for anyone who is keeping count) replies back to the governor who said a VERY housist comment that this will cause a "public safety issue" in a much more learned and educated way:

Mayor Steve Adler responds back saying the city remains laser focused on public safety and health, arguing not every homeless person poses a safety risk and should not be arrested and treated as if they were dangerous.

EXACTLY!

Not every homeless person poses a safety risk to Austin Texas.

My grandfather is reported to say that he would never eat at a Woolworth's lunch counter again because an African American woman served him coffee. He walked out. I can only imagine why he felt so much disgust for this woman. But I'm quite sure it was based in some incredibly irrational hate that had nothing to do with reality.

The picture of Discount Tire I showed above is from a woman who said they will be "losing my business as well as any other place I have to deal with aggressive drunks/addicts congregating."

@GregAbbott_TX this is a @DiscountTire in Austin today. Now that its legal for homeless people to do anything they want in Austin. This location will be losing my business as well as any other place I have to deal with aggressive drunks/addicts congregating. @MayorAdler @KVUE pic.twitter.com/iTIjhqSZSI
â€” Linda (@LindaLynnAK) June 30, 2019

Do you see the bigotry?

She is saying that all homeless people are aggressive drunks/addicts. That is based in nothing other hate, bigotry and a complete lack of human understanding.

That is housist thinking. That is prejudice. That is stereotyping an entire class of people based on external factors that don't equate to each other.

It's like saying all elephants are big therefore all elephants are violent murderers. It's just not an equation that makes sense.

The homeless equation people make goes something like:

"All homeless people don't live in a house. Therefore all homeless people are drunks, addicts and thieves who piss and shit in the streets."

Human beings must learn to catch this kind of thinking before it pours out of our mouths. We must learn to see that we are incorrectly labeling people based on factors that have nothing to do with truth or actuality.

Drunks are drunks.

Addicts are addicts.

People who don't have toilets and trash cans often throw trash on the streets and go to the bathroom in places that aren't bathrooms.

All black people are not criminals. All Jews are not good with money. All gay people are not neat and tidy. And all homeless people are not aggressive drunks and addicts.

This pro-homeless ruling is so progressive and so right. We must see the problem before we can fix the problem.

I suspect the result of this ruling is going to result in some initial messes. Some areas might get cluttered. But what ultimately is going to happen is that our homeless brothers and sisters are going to be given their right as American citizens to live in their own country. This is an incredible forward evolution in human rights and civil rights in America. Adler will be recognized as the father of the homeless human rights movement. I predict what will happen is that a few homeless people will set up a camp, it will get messy and then hopefully the city will bring by some porta potties and trash cans.

The mayor of Austin, Steve Adler, went on to say this:

We need to be able to tell people not only where they cant be, but also where they can be. We need places where homeless folks can be safe and surrounded by social workers and others getting them the help and support they need, he said in a statement.

Adler argued Austins plan to address homelessness could serve as a national model.

I am telling you this as clear as I possibly can say it: This move is on the side of justice, humanitarianism and the future. Steve Adler is WAY ahead of the curve on seeing homelessness as the great social injustice that it is.

We treat homeless people WAY worse than we would ever allow anyone to treat a dog. And that right there should tell you we have much work to do with our housist thinking.

Thank you Austin Texas for doing the right thing here. I know standing up for your beliefs is hard. But thank God some people are willing to do it. You are leading the way forward for America and the world.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/self-hatred/>

og:title Content: Self Hatred - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023

Blog Post Date: July 4, 2019

Blog Post Content: I think people believe I do the homeless work I do because I am somehow a better

person than most.

In reality, I do this work because I feel like a worse person than most. I spend my life trying to do things that will make others respect me and loved ones be proud of me. It's an impossible pursuit. I guarantee you could be Jesus himself and people all around you are going to be annoyed and "disappointed" in you. You will never be a good enough "Son of God."

One of the reasons I was a heavy binge drinker was because it covered up my shame and self hatred. While I was able to stop drinking, I never was able to let go of this intense, seething disgust I have for myself.

So I went in other directions instead of drinking. I ran 3 marathons: Chicago, Pittsburgh and Akron. I built a theater in my home. I threw myself into my businesses. I have been taking anti-depressants for quite a few years. And now I'm a homeless activist.

All those things cover up this feeling. But it always is in there waiting to attack.

Fortunately, the worst of it is a sharp, sudden feeling that typically doesn't last long: a few hours typically. But the pain is so searing that it feels nearly unbearable while I'm in it.

I try to make all these posts have a point. I don't typically just tell a story for the story's sake.

But in this case, that's what I'm doing.

This isn't a post of redemption or salvation or of "how I overcame my self hatred." I've never overcome it. I've only tried finding salves to sooth it. And fortunately, while often present, it typically is not incredibly intense most of the time.

This is just a post of connection. This is a post to let anyone else out there who may feel the same way to let them know they aren't alone.

I want to also say that those "gurus" out there that tell you your happiness is completely in your control are full of shit. "Happiness is a choice," they like to say in some sort of variation. That's not true.

Happiness is a blessing. When you feel it you are fortunate. When you don't feel it it's not your fault.

Chemicals in your brain, circumstances and a lifetime of experiences are what determines your moment to moment happiness. That's all. You can't force yourself to be happy.

Just the same, I hope you have a happy 4th of July.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/the-conundrum-of-the-drowning-at-the-rio-grande/>

og:title Content: The Conundrum of the Drowning at the Rio Grande - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023

Blog Post Date: July 7, 2019

Blog Post Content: I've gotten to hear two sermons recently. This Sunday and last. That's novel for me, considering I haven't listened to a sermon in many months.

Our friend, Holly, took us to her church during our trip to Boston: Old Cambridge Baptist Church.

And I just watched the live stream of the Medina United Church of Christ, Congregational.

Both sermons referenced the horrific picture of the immigrants who died on the shore of the Rio Grande. I could be wrong, but I felt like I heard a yearning from both ministers. "Could we? Should we be doing more?"

Reverend Cody Sanders of Old Cambridge Baptist Church straight up asked the congregation what they should be doing more to help.

And Reverend Luke Lindon ended his sermon today by saying, "Yes we are a church of hypocrites. And there is always room for more."

These humanitarian crises must weigh heavily on the hearts of ministers everywhere. I'm quite sure both of these ministers got into this work because of a calling to help humanity.

As I listened to them I feel like I can hear them asking, "Why am I here? Why am I not on the ground with the great tragedies of our time?"

As a person who has been given the great gift of helping "on the ground" I wanted to share my experiences as it relates to doing this work.

I am incredibly thankful for the Rio Grande drowning picture. It has the potential of changing the entire narrative in the United States as to how we think about the people at our borders. I'm not going to show it simply because it is distressing. You can Google it if you want.

Humanity is often a culture where we dole out compassion and kindness towards other humans like stingy gods. Only certain people deserve our kindness while the rest deserve any cruelty and torture that may

happen to befall them.

Immigrants are currently receiving our cruel judgement right now. We are not allowed to help them.

Four women who left water and food for migrants in Arizona sentenced to probation.

Pia Klemp stands accused of aiding illegal immigration after she saved people from drowning in the Mediterranean and could face 20 years in prison.

Carola Rackete took 53 immigrants who were stranded on a rubber dingy to Italy even though the Italian government had banned rescue ships bearing migrants from docking at its ports.

The homeless are in the same boat. We are also not allowed to help them either.

The mantra of governments and why we shouldn't help the homeless is "public safety."

Literally, a public official, Jeff Fusco, said it 3 times in referencing why I am doing homeless services wrong:

At the end of the day, its about public safety, public safety, public safety, Fusco said.

In the same article the mayor said, "We have enough available options to be able to house people.

Yet mysteriously I receive endless calls, emails and messages on Facebook of people begging me for tents.

The connection between immigrants and homeless people is poverty. Society isn't interested in either group because they don't have any money.

If the end results of these politicians weren't so cruel and tragic to the poorest of the poor, it would be comical. They all chant the same catch phrases in hopes of rationalizing to the public why they don't want to help these poor people.

Poor people are a drain on society. No government official wants more poor people. They want less poor people. Its simple economics.

Money is all that matters. And the death and torture and total disregard of men, women and children that did nothing wrong other than have the bad luck of being born in the wrong place is the end result. The ends justify the means when it comes to culling the poor.

But they can't sell the truth: "We don't want any more poor people."

So, they talk about things like safety and rules and laws.

As long as they can touch a judgmental nerve in their public then they'll go right along with the cruelty. You can always count on humanity's desire to create in groups and out groups. That's why it's so easy to bomb the middle east. Who cares about those people, anyway.

I set this entire stage to get back to my point: I get why you ministers want to help.

Government and it's doppelganger, business, are terrible moral leaders. They both just do whatever will make the most money for their friends and family. Ministers are the only leaders left that still even think about human morality. I suspect you want to take that moral leadership to the front lines of the great spiritual wars of our time.

But you are needed in your church, too.

In both church services I heard of great suffering just in the congregation. (They both had the time during the service where the congregation could pray for those in need.) Recent deaths. Cancer. Heart attacks. Injuries. It went on and on.

I think great ministers want to go to the big battlefields where immense energy is needed of love and compassion. But I see churches as a place where that is needed just as much.

Suffering is the great human connector. So many of us experience incredible suffering even if we happen to be wealthy and born in the right place.

I guess my message is this: Don't feel bad for just being the pillar of love and compassion for your congregation. If all you ever do is help a few people move through their lives with some peace and love that is a magnificent service to humanity. The picture of the father and daughter having drowned on the shore of the Rio Grande is Jesus dying on the cross. It is a reminder of great suffering which leads to great love. Love the ones you're with.

Old people come to you because they are afraid and probably feel alone. They are a wonderful cause no matter where they fall on the economic spectrum. They need you.

The amount of suffering and tragedy happening right this moment on planet Earth is incomprehensible. Yes, the immigrants on our boarder are sexy right now and we are being particularly cruel to them. But I promise you there is a child in your town right now that is sleeping in a car, that is hungry and is scared. You could easily spend all your time and resources just helping the severely in need within a 5 mile radius from where you stand right this minute.

You are good. You are kind. You are the spirit of God incarnate. We are lucky to have you where you stand right now.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/drug-dealers-we-need-to-talk/>

og:title Content: Drug Dealers: We need to talk - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023
Blog Post Date: July 12, 2019

Blog Post Content: I think there is a good chance I would have been a drug dealer if I had been born into a different situation.

Drug dealers are ambitious, driven and like the action. That's me.
And honestly, that's the American culture. Get money at any cost.

We had slaves because it made more money.

We have billionaires running companies that pay their employees so little they have to get food stamps.
Huge companies pay no taxes because they have great accountants.

And of course, "legitimate" drug companies flooded the market with endless opiates and now sell those people Suboxone they are supposed to take the rest of their lives.

It's not difficult to see that the game in America is to make money. So, I get it.

The hypocrisy of America is glaring and embarrassing. The rich get richer and the poor get fucked for doing the same thing.

I've wanted to talk to you in this format for some time. But the time wasn't right. Until now. I want to be clear about where I stand.

First, your business is your business. There is great risk selling drugs. But the market is there. If you don't sell the drugs someone else will. Chances are, you are going to get caught eventually and face a lot of jail time. You probably have friends in jail right now for selling pot while it is being legalized to sell all over the world.

As long as people aren't buying and selling drugs on my properties, my belief is to live and let live.

Second, putting Fentanyl in EVERY. SINGLE. DRUG. seems like totally bad business to me. It pisses off your customers (I know because they tell me). And it puts you at risk for being a murderer. Maybe you know something I don't. But, from my perspective, lacing coke and pot and meth with Fentanyl just seems like a bad business move. If I was dealing drugs, which I'm not, my market position would be that my drugs are clean. I think I could beat your business on that position alone.

I know people are dying because Fentanyl is in every drug imaginable. But this isn't really my agenda. I kind of see it as a "buyer beware" scenario. Street drugs suck right now. If I was doing drugs, and I'm not, the only drug I'd be doing is legalized marijuana.

The street market is fucked up.

You guys are fucking yourselves with this shitty product and handing all the business over to the rich corporate guys. Legal pot is going to be everywhere in the next 5-10 years and you are going to be out in the cold because your pot is laced with Fentanyl. I feel a little bad that the little guy is going to, yet again, be pushed out by the big corporations. But I only feel a little bad. Your product sucks. The Starbucks of pot is coming for you and you are going to be out of business. Their product will be consistent and affordable and, most importantly, safe.

Third, the violence. This is where I draw the line.

I don't blame you for selling drugs. Maybe you can't get pure product and that's why you are stuck with this Fentanyl laced shit. But brutally beating and shooting people is uncalled for.

Over the years I have seen some of you beat, rape and sodomize the weak, the mentally deficient and the elderly. It infuriates me. I guess I could see if you had some turf war with another drug dealer and you needed to take matters into your own hands. I also understand if someone steals from you. But brutalizing your clientele for no other reason than they made you mad just doesn't sit right with me.

I'm telling you this right now: I will turn you in every time I see you fucking up these people. It's a bitch move. It has nothing to do with being the big man on the block. It has nothing to do with running a business. It is bullshit, plain and simple.

When I see you doing this shit it doesn't make me think you are cool or strong and someone to be respected. I just see you as a maniac that needs to go to jail. I'm not going to sit by and watch you do this shit.
Not only is it terrible business, it is unnecessarily cruel. No one deserves to be beaten by your hand because you got a little upset.
Grow up and be a professional.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/fighting-21st-century-homelessness-with-19th-century-tools/>
og:title Content: Fighting 21st Century Homelessness with 19th Century Tools - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023
Blog Post Date: July 13, 2019

Blog Post Content: If you haven't checked it out, I HIGHLY recommend Dan Carlin's podcast, "Hardcore History." You can pick any of them. They are all great.
When I think of how society treats homelessness today it reminds me very much of how much of the world went into fighting World War I. Blueprint for Armageddon I is his podcast on that topic.
The French Cavalry came to this war on horseback and GAS MASKS!

The Germans brought flamethrowers to the party:
I. Weltkrieg 1914-1918
Übungsddivision
Flammenwerfer in Tätigkeit
I love the saying: "When you're a hammer everything is a nail."
We humans are very reluctant to adapt. There has to be A LOT of pain involved before we are convinced to do things differently.
I am here to tell you: the causes of homelessness are different today than they were 100 years ago.
This happened yesterday: Dow jumps 240 points to all-time high as Wall Street ends record-breaking week on a high note
In January 2019 this was written:
Four Homelessness Trends from 2018 and What They Could Mean for 2019 | How Housing Matters
After declining for almost a decade, the number of people experiencing homelessness in the United States increased for the second year in a row.
So we have a booming economy and homelessness is increasing. Why is that?
I believe we have created a perfect storm made up of multiple factors that are culminating right now in 2019.

Rising housing costs
Stagnating wages
Wages that are not livable
Cutting welfare programs
Closing mental health hospitals

Bill Clinton, the beloved of the Democratic party, crushed support programs with one stroke of the pen signing into law his welfare reform:
The Welfare Reform Disaster
With the stroke of a pen, Clinton ended the welfare entitlement, time-limited federal-funded cash assistance to five years over the course of one's lifetime, instituted work requirements, converted the funding stream to a block grant (enabling each state to impose even greater restrictions), and, in what became the cardinal practice under the new more punitive welfare regime, set in motion sanction schedules across the states that penalized recipients for failing to comply with welfare-to-work rules.
And on the other side of the isle, the beloved Ronald Reagan "deinstitutionalized" the mentally ill. So now they are wandering around the streets with nowhere to go.
Both parties are in the business of not providing support to people. Democrats only care about the environment and animals. And Republicans only care about money.
Poor people don't vote. So poor people don't count.
And the institutions that work on the homeless care about maintaining their power first and caring for the homeless second. This is critical to keep in mind.
When an organization becomes successful the people in charge of the organization are primarily focused on maintaining and growing the organization.

So, people become defensive when someone like me suggests even slightly that we could do better. The people in power, such as Dan Horrigan the mayor of Akron, flock to the defense and aid of their powerful friends, the "warm-hearted Continuum of Care professionals" and say things like they are "doing the serious work" and the mayor says this about me:

For all the posturing, loud impassioned speeches, blog posts, public requests for donations and edgy movie posters depicting him as some type of savior, Sage Lewis has made little progress on actually moving the needle on homelessness. Just because he attracts homeless people does not make him an expert in homelessness.

This is all about maintaining the status quo. The powerful want to stay in power most of all. They are terrified of an outsider who "attracts homeless people."

Doesn't it make even a tiny bit of sense that if a person can "attract homeless people" while they run away from other programs that there might be something to what we are doing?

For example, now we're hiring homeless people to work on our properties. We pay \$10/hour and they LOVE it. This is a huge turning point in our program, I believe.

It turns out, homeless people like all other people, want to contribute to society and make money that they get to keep and do whatever they want with. (Other organizations have work programs that force the people to keep most of the money in a savings account. Or they pay very little.)

You see... what we've learned is that a person wants to be treated like a person. They want to be treated with dignity and respect. They don't want to be treated like untrustworthy children.

And for the record, I NEVER have said other programs aren't good. In fact what I ALWAYS say is that Summit County has amazing homeless services. This is why adding a program like ours to the mix is even possible. We have great mental health access, great addiction treatment access, great outreach professionals, food every day of the week. We are doing GREAT in Summit County.

But (and this is where I upset people like the mayor): We need to do more and we need to do better. It's OK to admit that there is a problem and that we all suck in certain areas.

I am the first to admit that our little 50 person tent village sucked. But it sucked WAY LESS than the alternatives. Everyone that stayed at our village stayed there because the shelter wasn't a good fit for them or it was full or they were sick and tired of living alone in the woods.

We were on to something, goddamnit! And they shut us down without giving us the slightest bit of simple human curiosity.

"Why are people coming to that tent village?"

"Why are people staying in tents instead of the shelter, even in the winter?"

"Why would they be willing to contribute to the community instead of doing nothing on the street?"

The people in charge refused to even glimpse at those questions because they were afraid of the answers.

The answers would mean they'd have to retool and rethink and adapt. And humans hate to adapt.

They'd rather bring their horses to a flamethrower party.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/standing-up-to-bullies/>

og:title Content: Standing Up To Bullies - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023

Blog Post Date: July 14, 2019

Blog Post Content: I went to bed with this message ringing in my head last night:

I suspect this person didn't care for my piece on where I stood with drug dealers.

This message amuses me because it was a rather big deal for me to take the public stand I did in that post. I told these drug dealers I'd call the police for brutalizing the weak. And I did. In fact, we had to hide a person because he was terrified they would think it was him that called the police.

And of course there's the government. They are the biggest bullies of them all. They sniff around all our properties. They know full well they could close any of them at any time if they so choose. A missing downspout is a house condemning offense.

People in high up positions whisper to me that they support what we're doing with the homeless. But then in the next breath they tell me they can't support me publicly because... you know... there's too much at risk. Look motherfuckers: I'm risking everything out here. My property. My safety. My freedom. Everything. And I'm not going to stop.

I am not going to be pushed around by people that try to intimidate me or threaten me.
And do you know why? Because THE ENTIRE WORLD pushes around and bullies people that have no power, no recourse, nothing. THE ENTIRE WORLD bullies the poor and the homeless. They have been stripped of everything... including their courage and backbone and dignity.
A new Akron police officer in our area has been coming around recently helping us with the issue of drug dealers trying to scare us and intimidate us. He recently told us that we don't need to be afraid of 2 or 3 bullies when there are 15 or 20 of us. No matter how big the bully is he can't stand up to 15 people. There is power in numbers.
And here's the thing: If one person stands up... another person will stand up. I've seen it happen. It just takes one person to have a little courage and then courage spreads like wild fire. It's the most powerful thing I've ever seen in my life.
The American lions that we once were have now become cowering rabbits. We are afraid of everything. We listen to the 24 hour news cycle of our choice and become more and more afraid.
Our kids can't go outside. They are going to be beat up or sold into sex slavery.
Our women can't go anywhere alone. They are going to be raped in the nearest abandoned property.
We can't drive through "that" neighborhood.
We can't roll our window down for the panhandler begging for money. He'll surely attack us.
And most importantly: we don't DARE stand up to anyone that might ever pay us a dollar.
We can never let our morals and integrity get in the way of the all mighty dollar.
This was a recent headline in Akron Ohio:
"A local asphalt company is suing Akron for not saving taxpayers \$3 million on its bid to resurface Romig Road."
That local asphalt company was Kenmore Construction.
Kenmore bid \$9.7 million. But the city picked The Ruhlin Co. out of Medina County, which is charging \$12.9 million for concrete.
The article goes on to say:
"Kenmore was the only company that came in under budget on the project, which city engineers priced at \$11.1 million with asphalt or \$11.4 million with concrete."
So, Kenmore sued the city. And do you know what happened? Kenmore lifted the lawsuit 2 weeks later. They clearly came to their senses. Standing up for what is right is bad for business.
It doesn't matter if the company that won wasn't an Akron company or didn't adhere to the budget of the proposal. The people with the money get to call all the shots and do whatever the hell they want.
I got to go on vacation to Boston this summer. (Incidentally, Boston is probably the biggest secret tourist town in the U.S. There is a TON to do there. You should go sometime if you can.)
They have the Boston Tea Party Ships and Museum.
The Boston Tea Party was a political and mercantile protest by the Sons of Liberty in Boston, Massachusetts, on December 16, 1773. The target was the Tea Act of May 10, 1773, which allowed the British East India company to sell tea from China in American colonies without paying taxes apart from those imposed by the Townshend Acts. American Patriots strongly opposed the taxes in the Townshend Act as a violation of their rights. Demonstrators, some disguised as Native Americans, destroyed an entire shipment of tea sent by the East India Company.
This lead to the American Revolution.
A small group of people stood up for what they believed was right and it lead to where we stand today. We are now the United States of America because the Sons of Liberty stood up.
In Akron, we have the John Brown House.
John Brown lead a raid on Harpers Ferry to initiate an armed slave revolt in Southern states by taking over a United States arsenal at Harpers Ferry, Virginia.
It has been called the dress rehearsal for the Civil War.
One person stands up and it has the potential effect of causing a chain reaction where other people will stand up.
Do you understand: Me just saying these words is dangerous. Words are dangerous. And that's why people don't say them. They risk losing juicy contracts or worse.
But somebody has to stand up. Somebody has to do it.
A lot of people give me courage. But I often think of tank man:

Internationally, it is considered one of the most iconic images of all time. This man that no one knows stood in front of these tanks leaving Tiananmen Square on June 5, 1989, the morning after the Chinese military

had suppressed the Tiananmen Square protests by force. The tanks would try to get around and he would move to stop them again.

It just takes one person.

You aren't going to hear this message on your 24 hour news channel. You know why? Because it's bad for business. How can you be afraid and buy the stupid shit they are trying to sell you if you are standing up for your rights and the rights of the oppressed.

The revolution surely would be televised. But, in America, television killed the revolution. Television turned us into cowards.

Billionaires don't pay livable wages.

Companies outsource manufacturing to anyone that will make their product cheaper than an American.

Cities turn off water because people can't afford it and then condemn the house because it doesn't have any water.

Homeless people get chased around like wild animal pests that no one wants but they aren't allowed to kill.

(Fucking GEESE can shit anywhere they want and we let them.)

And we do nothing. We just watch it happen.

What have we become? What does it mean to be an American anymore?

Well... I haven't forgotten what being an American means.

Being an American means standing up for your values.

Being an American means not being afraid of the British military that is going to certainly come and stomp your ass for throwing some tea in the harbor.

Being an American means being willing to die for slaves that you yourself never were but refuse to allow to go on any longer.

Being an American means NOT BEING AFRAID.

We have forgotten what being an American truly means.

Today we measure how "American" someone is by the size of their bank account not the content of their character. We worship the billionaires.

Wake up Americans: They are selling all of us down the river and we are gladly lining up to let them do so.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/god-who-raises-the-dead/>

og:title Content: God who raises the dead - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023

Blog Post Date: July 17, 2019

Blog Post Content: It's hard to compete with the writings of a guy like Paul.

Hell, it's hard to compete with any of the great leaders of humanity. I feel like a tool when I compare my writings and thoughts to someone like Martin Luther King Jr. His understanding of philosophy and religion crush my own. And then his speaking. His words are like thunder and lightening. Explosive yet precise.

I've been reading a lot of the Catholic writer Thomas Merton. He is so good it's like he rips a hole in our universe to open up a gateway directly to God. I don't know how he possibly channeled those thoughts and spiritual truths into human words.

Probably my biggest regret of this entire journey of fighting for the incredible injustices of homeless people is that you are stuck with me. I often wish someone like Gandhi would sweep in and take over. But I'm the one that showed up and here we are.

A young woman, Ashleigh Hughes, who works with us shared with me a devotional she read yesterday. It was from Paul the Apostle. It was based on these sentences in the Bible:

Indeed, we felt we had received the sentence of death. But this happened that we might not rely on ourselves but on God, who raises the dead. (2 Corinthians 1:9)

This is what the person who wrote the devotional said:

"The sentence of death" Paul calls it.

What REALLY interested me was the verse before this one:

We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about the troubles we experienced in the province of Asia. We were under great pressure, far beyond our ability to endure, so that we despaired of life itself.

These sentences brings me so much comfort. This is basically Paul saying "the situation sucked and our ability to handle it sucked."

Paul is no joke. He's the real deal when it comes to leadership in humanity. I'm so thankful when someone we hold up in such high regard transparently shares with us their weaknesses and failings. It's like a dog whistle to me. That these "great" people are saying, "look, we don't know what the hell we're doing. We're just making it up as we go. So we're going with the flow and see what happens."

I'm sorry to say, humanity often gets stuck with leaders that don't have any idea what they are doing. They just fake it and hope they make it.

I don't know if there are any classes or books for humanitarian leaders. But that should definitely be a major guiding principle. "You suck; and all your heroes sucked. Just fight anyway. Maybe you'll get lucky."

Invariably, spiritual leaders get stuck in a real bind and they finally let go. They go with the flow, which they often call God.

Indeed, we felt we had received the sentence of death. But this happened that we might not rely on ourselves but on God, who raises the dead. (2 Corinthians 1:9)

This happened that we might not rely on ourselves but on God.

We are meant to suffer so we will eventually let go and let God. The pain is intentional and must happen.

If you fight long enough and hard enough you eventually get yourself in such a mess that you have no choice but to let go of your own ideas and thoughts and "not rely on ourselves but on God."

I see it over and over again throughout history.

The craziest things happen when you let go and let God.

First, they closed our village. Then they closed the lower level of our building to offer services to homeless people. And yesterday they closed our upper level to offer homeless services.

We are currently "allowed" to offer some basic services in our backyard. But it's likely that the health department will be called and they will likely tell us we aren't doing that right either. I don't know that for a fact. But I wouldn't be at all surprised.

This is all done under the premise of safety. We must protect the homeless from the dangers of my building.

We do that by kicking them out on the street. "There! Now they are safe."

What they really mean is when a homeless person dies on the street it is no one's problem so then everything is OK. We can just blame it on the homeless person. "They should have gotten a house."

We are thwarted at every turn. It's maddening. It's not like someone else is helping these people. It's only private people that push into the woods and the darkness to bring these people food and supplies.

The "professionals" believe that the woods is motivating. That if it is painful enough these people will line up for a house like they are supposed to. I am quite sure they feel helping these people with food and supplies is just enabling them to live in the woods. Like homeless people are some sort of pest animal that we should not feed because it will only "encourage them."

Never mind that due to mental health issues, extreme addictions and previous felonies the "system" becomes impossible to navigate for these people. No one talks about that elephant in the room.

Oh wait. I talk about that elephant in the room.

Excuse the sarcasm, but do you think there is any possibility that all the work I do is repeatedly getting shut down because I DARE to stand up to those in power and call them out on their significant failings at the expense of torturing the weakest among us?

The problem with a guy like me is that I'm a student of history and literature and humanity. Would Joan of Arc quit? Would MLK quit? Would John Brown quit? Would anyone I consider a true leader in the history of humanity have quit?

Who do they think they are dealing with?

Ironically, their pressure makes things worse for them.

Indeed, we felt we had received the sentence of death. But this happened that we might not rely on ourselves but on God, who raises the dead.

When you push a guy like me, he doesn't quit, he becomes stronger. He starts letting go of his own thoughts and ideas and he starts relying on God.

We come to a point on the road where we have to let go. We can't hold onto old ideas or old plans. God has new plans. God has a new road.

I have some ideas of where I think God wants us to go. But I'm going to slow roll that out as we move

forward.
What I can tell you is: we must move like water. If a damn gets put up then just go around the damn. It's easy when you let go.
No one said we can't do work on the backyard of 15 Broad Street so come and do work in the backyard of 15 Broad Street.
If someday they tell us we can't do our work there we have nearly limitless ways we can move around that damn and work somewhere else.
It becomes easy to do the work that needs to be done when we let go of what was and open our minds, eyes and hearts to what will be.
Don't feel bad. Don't worry. I feel neither of those.
Just feel love.
Be the happy warrior. We then become unstoppable.
God raises the dead.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/my-big-heart/>
og:title Content: My "Big Heart" - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023
Blog Post Date: July 21, 2019

Blog Post Content: I always cringe a little when people tell me I have a "big heart."
It's something I hear fairly regularly. But it's definitely not how I see myself.
When they say it I imagine Forest Gump. A well meaning mentally challenged individual.
It is also always followed by advice on how I need to counteract my big heart.
"You have a big heart Sage BUT you can't help the homeless in the way you are currently doing."
Like I'm Hodor from The Game of Thrones.

"Stop carrying that boy around and try to grasp the complexity of this situation."
I don't actually see myself as kind or gentle or even particularly loving.
I see myself as a person with a conscience. A person with a moral backbone.
A big hearted person just sounds like someone who means well but isn't living in reality.
Probably the most influential class I ever took in college was a 400 level philosophy class titled "Advanced Ethics."
We studied real world issues like abortion, and eating meat. We then broke them down intellectually and philosophically. I've always carried this class with me especially now in a the world of Facebook where people just discuss these issues emotionally and never really allow themselves to think about them intellectually.
In discussing eating meat we read some works by Peter Singer. He is the Ira W. DeCamp Professor of Bioethics at Princeton University, and a Laureate Professor at the Centre for Applied Philosophy and Public Ethics at the University of Melbourne. He specialises in applied ethics and approaches ethical issues from a secular, utilitarian perspective.
I love Peter Singer because he is an atheist yet has come to an incredibly high level of morality through intellectualism. I was in the heart of my own personal atheism when I was studying him. The idea that you could be moral without needing the permission of an imaginary God spoke very powerfully to me then and still does today.
After reading Singer I can guarantee you will be absolutely unable to rationalize eating meat. He makes a rock solid argument of how the meat industry is totally unacceptable and wrong from every single perspective. This was so profoundly impactful to me that I became a vegetarian... for two weeks.
I just love hamburgers too much.
That says a lot about me.
I am not big hearted or even very courageous. I often wither in the face of selfish desires.
Probably the reason I dislike being called big hearted so much is because it simply isn't true.
Do you know how many pregnant women I've sent back into the street because I wasn't "allowed" to offer them shelter?

I don't know the number either. It's too many to count.

I vividly remember sending a young pregnant woman out into the night in January after our camp was closed by the city because the city told me I wasn't allowed to shelter people in my building either.

She was freezing. She was young. I knew her well.

I sent her into the night with nothing. I had nothing to offer her. No tent. No sleeping bag. Nothing. I just told her she had to leave.

And don't tell me "I was only doing what I could do." That's bullshit.

I acted as a coward in the face of oppressors. "I have too much to lose," I say to myself.

I would be embarrassed to even look someone like Miep Gies in the eyes with the level of cowardice I sometimes portray.

Known for Hiding Jews such as Anne Frank and her family from the Nazis

A couple weeks ago a woman came to us who left a 30 year abusive relationship and was prostituted the entire time. I wrote about her here: [A Sex Trafficked Woman Had Nowhere To Sleep Last Night - The Homeless Charity & Village](#).

All women's shelters are currently full in Akron. The Haven of Rest, the place we all rely on, is on a waiting list for a mat on the floor for women.

A commentor on Facebook wrote something like: "I hope you did the right thing."

Well, I didn't. I didn't do the right thing.

We sent her into the night. No shelter. No safety. Nothing.

I pushed her out into the street with this story still burning in my mind: Woman shot while shielding children from attack by ex-boyfriend.

This shooting happened not a block from our building.

The city told me I'm not allowed to shelter people, is my weak excuse.

The way I made it square in my mind was that I was trying to offer something for the greater good.

Sure. I might have to sacrifice this "one woman" but then if I'm a good boy and I follow the rules the city will let me do my work to help a larger group of people.

Our village was closed in January. And now our entire building is closed to helping homeless people in any way.

They will not allow me to do this work. And the reason is simple: They don't like me.

The homeless service providers don't like me because I am coming to a solution where you don't have to build \$10 million buildings to house 80 people. That's \$125,000 a person. We don't need to create \$125,000 spaces to house homeless people. It's a system that will never be able to solve homelessness.

And there it is: This isn't about solving homelessness to these people. This is about money. They are protecting a system that makes people rich on the backs of homeless people.

They will never stop trying to put me out of business because I threaten their entire system. The biggest risk to them is having an entrepreneur show up to ACTUALLY solve homelessness.

With our current power monopoly in Akron we will never have the tiny homes Kansas City just built for homeless veterans.

Presidential candidate Pete Buttigieg said the Kansas City-based Veterans Community Project is deeply impressive during a campaign visit Wednesday morning. The nonprofit offers a range of veteran services, including temporary housing assistance.

Buttigieg said the Veterans Community Project has the ability to fill the gaps and help veterans in ways the government has not.

Nothing will happen in Akron that the Akron government doesn't approve first.

I've been obsessed with protecting my building in hopes that I would be able to be a center for innovative homeless work. I now know that will never happen.

Have you seen the \$12 million building they are finishing up in front of my building? Have you been to the new Starbucks or Maserati dealership a couple blocks from my building? Are you getting ready for the Entertainment District that was recently approved by city council that you can see from my building?

Not only do they not like me, they don't like where I am. I'm in their way.

They don't care one bit about homeless people. They are much more interested in splash pads.

The 1,600-square-foot splash pad at Joy Park Community Center is set to open in August, Mayor Dan Horrigan said at Mondays groundbreaking.

These splash pads "only" use about 89.5 gallons of water per minute so they're going to be water- and eco-friendly. And at "only" \$193,000 each we should see them popping up like dandelions everywhere. They are

so cheap.

The mayor likes to say: "public space is a public right."

(HAVE YOU EVER HEARD OF A GODDAMN HOSE AND SPRINKLER!?)

Oh, and did you catch this statement the mayor made on how "welcoming" Akron is:

"No one... should be denied a place to live just because of who they are."

See. I can't even turn off the anger and bitterness for a minute.

I'm furious at the hypocrisy and lies and callous brutality of Akron's government. And I'm deeply embarrassed by my own cowardice and selfish motivations.

If my heart is "big" it is only so because of anger and spite.

Please stop telling me I have a big heart. I just have a mild conscience that isn't even particularly brave or courageous.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/what-the-hell-just-happened/>

og:title Content: What the hell just happened? - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023

Blog Post Date: July 29, 2019

Blog Post Content: I can make no promises as to what is about to be vomited on this page or if I'll have the energy to clean it up afterwards.

I guess shock is a good word. I'm still in shock.

Last week, I and many incredibly hard working homeless people dismantled everything we created over the last 3 years. This time inside the building at 15 Broad Street.

6 months ago we were forced to dismantle the village we created. This past week we were forced to dismantle our clothing room, our food pantry, our computers. People like the Food Bank and the Health Department quickly contacted me to let me know that they will now stop allowing me to get food from the food bank or to offer Narcan classes or needle exchanges.

Because it was so hot and homeless people were no longer allowed in our building by order of the fire department, we put up tarp canopies in my backyard. The neighbors at the subsidized housing for low income seniors immediately began taking pictures. The fire inspector told me that these overhead heat shields were in fact tents and they needed to come down too. So we tore those down as well. I mean... why deny the inevitable.

For the record, they looked like this:

Oh, and we also took down the little pool Zack Milkovich donated. I'm sure that violates some sort of fire code:

If I have proven one thing I hope I have successfully shown that homeless people can only be helped in a very narrow, specific way. If you don't do it EXACTLY the way they will allow you to do it then you can't do it at all and homeless people can pound salt.

We have now shown that tents are absolutely an unacceptable way to shelter American citizens in Akron. We have been told that micro homes that many other cities are creating are called "shacks" by the administration of Akron so those will never be allowed.

We have also learned that you absolutely cannot sleep in a park or any public land. You will be given a trespassing violation. I'm working with one person who is looking at 6 months in jail because he has now gotten 2 trespassing violations for daring to sleep on public land.

We also know that if you are a private citizen that allows tents on your land you will be fined if you do not remove them immediately.

We also know that the police will chase you off if they find you sleeping in your car.

So, unless you are "lucky" enough to get a spot in one of our shelters that are all currently full for women right now you will be illegally sleeping ANYWHERE you dare close your eyes.

From a purely scientific point of view I think we've done a great job of proving that trying to sleep anywhere in Akron other than an approved shelter is absolutely, completely illegal. Even if the shelters are full or you have been kicked out or you are not in their work program and can only stay 3-5 nights per month.

So, that's an interesting contribution to the homeless condition, I guess.

It took a hell of a lot of energy from a great many supporters and homeless people to prove out that

hypothesis. But at least we did that.

There was a second point that I was hoping to prove that is still not understood: Human beings, American citizens, people that have families that have lived in this country for generations are sleeping on the streets in the richest country the world has ever known.

I know that I say those words. But I don't believe people actually hear those words.

They are humans. They aren't goats or chickens or scraps of paper or tin cans or pizza boxes. They are mother fucking human beings living on the mother fucking street. DO. YOU. FEEL. ME!??

How do we get to a place in "society" where that is acceptable?

Is it because we have righted this wrong in our heads that they are shit stains of existence? That they don't deserve anything other than what they currently are forced to endure?

We have somehow brainwashed ourselves in a massive group think that "those" people are bad and "we" are good. So, therefore, the current state of affairs makes sense and changing it is going to be complicated and drawn out. It may never be solved.

Here's the thing: Humans have very little hair. We are very vulnerable without the construct of society surrounding us. We can not survive without shelter. And we REQUIRE sleep. Sleep is not a "nice to have" human option. We REQUIRE sleep.

The fact that there is a phrase, "illegal sleeping" is madness within itself. We might as well have "illegal breathing."

I am a little disappointed I can't actually seem to wake up anyone that can actually do anything to this fact: American citizens are sleeping on the streets of the richest country in history illegally. AND THAT IS WRONG. They need tents today, tiny homes tomorrow, communities the day after. That's the triage process that must happen. We can NOT ponder the difficulty of homelessness while people are living unsheltered on the streets. We can NOT allow perfect to be the enemy of good enough.

People that say humans shouldn't live in tents yet allow them to live unsheltered in the dirt are elitist assholes that need to wake up or get out of the way.

But that's just me. What do I know. The "housing first" people have won. Don't give these people anything until we can build them a proper house. It's infuriating. But I'm somehow the asshole know-nothing.

So, tl;dr In Akron Ohio it's illegal to sleep anywhere that isn't a government-approved dwelling that meets every single housing code and housing inspection.

I'm a slow learner. So it's not uncommon for me to take years to understand things the rest of the world just understands.

But hopefully, I've proven that law of society: In Akron Ohio it's illegal to sleep anywhere that isn't a government-approved dwelling that meets every single housing code and housing inspection.

I didn't realize I was creating a scientific experiment that proves bureaucracy is more important than your grandmother sleeping unsheltered on the street. But it is what it is.

Now, on to God.

I am not pleased with God right now. I've had some harsh words for our lord and savior the last few days. But we don't need to get into that.

The fact of the matter is, I have never been on a more clear path in my life. It's not the path of my choosing. But it is my path, just the same.

15 Broad Street must go away. We must all let it die. It is meant to die. It has to die.

It served its purpose and it is done.

15 Broad Street in Akron Ohio proved out everything I discussed above. And for that we should be forever grateful for what it gave us. But that does not mean we need to idolize it or protect it or try to encapsulate it.

I'm telling you: God wants us to leave that building and land. Society can decide what to do with it. That's not our problem.

Our problem is dealing with homelessness in America.

We cannot get sentimental or worry about irrelevant things.

Through God we have learned something that is far greater than what we have proven out legally.

We have learned that community is the salvation of us all.

Relationships will solve homelessness.

Houses will not solve homelessness. Community will solve homelessness.

You will never be able to get anyone in the government to begin to even slightly grasp what we have learned at our core. The government will never solve homelessness because the government doesn't understand any of the people it governs. It doesn't care about the people. It just cares about the infrastructure and making more money.

This is what we must do as citizens: We must continue to build communities.
"You are loved," must be our mantra. That's how we end homelessness. And quite frankly, that's how we solve all our problems in America and the world.
Community has been decimated in America since the industrial revolution. That's why we have systemic hopelessness and generational poverty. We are all living on our own isolated life rafts with an "every man for himself" mentality.
We must look for the communities. We must build the communities.
Communities do not need a building. They just need people.
Logistically
What happens next is what I'm calling "The Homeless Underground."
We have learned, as I've repeatedly said above, that we cannot shelter people in any way other than a government approved dwelling.
The problem with that is that there are still people living on the street.
We cannot stop helping these people. But we must do this much more covertly and secretly.
Camps must stay hidden as much as possible. Neighbors turn in homeless people like they are some sort of enemy of the state.
I believe we need to keep camps very small. And we have to keep traffic to these camps at a minimum.
We also have to accept the fact that we will continually need to move homeless people around.
Fortunately, they haven't forced homeless people to move into detainment camps like we've done with other hated groups of people. But don't put it past them. They can do whatever they want.
We have to hide the homeless. There is absolutely nowhere that is safe for them in Akron Ohio. There is a very clear war on the homeless happening right now. It is undeniable. It is cruel and it is relentless.
If you ever look back in history and think how you would have wanted to be one of the people that helped hide Jews in Nazi Germany or hide slaves on the underground railroad: NOW IS YOUR CHANCE.
Homeless people are the slaves and Jews of America in the 21st Century. They are hated. They are seen as nothing other than a disease in society that must be eradicated.
They need the help and protection of people with resources. They need your help.
This is my path forward. This is the path forward for The Homeless Charity.
We cannot stop. We cannot relent. We cannot allow the forces of evil to triumph. We are on the side of justice, humanity and God. They are on the side of hate.
This is a holy war if there ever was one.
I'm not stopping. I'm asking you to not stop.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/magic-housing-unicorn/>
og:title Content: Magic Housing Unicorn - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023
Blog Post Date: August 1, 2019

Blog Post Content: There's a high profile homelessness "expert" who is against these tiny houses that are popping up all over the country for homeless people.
Barbara Poppe, who coordinated federal homelessness policy for most of Barack Obamas presidency, said she believes the development of slums is a real risk and that some of the ramshackle camps used for homeless people are completely deplorable.
She's going around the country as a consultant telling people not to set up tiny home villages for homeless people. Her mantra is: Just construct permanent affordable housing.
That's from this article: Tiny houses: salvation for the homeless or a dead end? | US news | The Guardian
Let's say a magic unicorn appears from the land of Free Houses For Everyone. This unicorn can just nod it's beautiful spiral horn and up pops instant housing for every single homeless person that needs it. And not only does this unicorn create this housing today, it just keeps creating housing over and over again as people fall into homelessness. (I'm not really sure what land Magic Housing Unicorn is going to get for its magic houses. Maybe it can create a rip in the space time continuum where it can actually build houses right over

existing houses. So two or more universes can coexist at the same time. I'm not totally up on how Magic Housing Unicorn operates. It just is going to work, that's all you need to know.)

I'm glad we have intellectual elitists flying around the country promoting magic unicorn ideologies. Because then it lets us imagine how that will actually play out.

Let's play out the Magic Housing Unicorn world.

I'm assuming you spend a night in your car and Magic Housing Unicorn creates you a house instantly out of thin air. That's going to be nice.

Do you know what's in the backyard of one of our houses right now? 2 campers. One that you put on the back of your pickup truck and one that you tow.

Shit like that appears constantly in my backyard.

We once housed a single person that brought home enough junk that required me to rent 2 40 yard dumpsters (at \$500 a piece) to clean up all the crap he would bring home night after night of scavenging other people's dumpsters.

I am an auctioneer. I've seen a lot of hoarders. But some of the homeless are the worst hoarders I've ever seen in my life. They hoard broken bottles, broken toys, filthy clothes, shopping carts. Just straight up junk that seemed amazing in a crazed, meth-induced high. It's truly endless what some of these people think are treasures.

I can't count the number of dumpsters I've had to get to clean out stuff some homeless people have brought into my building and land at 15 Broad Street. It's truly unfathomable.

I'm currently renting the largest storage unit U-Haul offers just so I could convince homeless people to let me remove things from my building.

So, here's the deal: in Barbara Poppe's Magic Housing Unicorn world you are going to have to have a Magic Dumpster Unicorn too (and probably Magic Storage Unicorn) because here's the thing: you can't kick these people out of the housing created for the homeless. If you do then they are homeless again and Magic Housing Unicorn is going to have to create another house for them. Magic Housing Unicorn is going to get tired.

Do you see? These crazy hoarders aren't doing anything that will allow us to either kill them or put them in jail the rest of their lives. So we are going to have to house them. Otherwise they are going to be homeless that will require housing.

You are going to need to hire endless dumpsters and endless labor to go into these houses and constantly clean out the endless hoarding items some of these people are going to bring into their homes and on their property night after night after night.

And this is the easy issue.

Let's talk about all the Magic Housing Unicorn Trap Houses we're going to need to run.

A trap house is hell on earth. It's a house of violence, drugs and decay. I know. I have run one.

You can run your own trap house really easy too. It's just one easy step. Here's how you do it: Decide you are going to house an active drug user.

You only need one active drug user and everything else will take care of itself. You will have your own glorious trap house in no time at all.

People in the throws of addiction are notorious liars, cheats, thieves and have no moral compass AT ALL.

Now, I'm stereotyping here. This is not the case for all drug users. But this is a very high percentage of drug users. It's just a fact. But you said there was going to be housing for everyone in the Magic Housing Unicorn "Housing First" utopia. So these people will need housing too.

These drug users are also easy push overs. Just wave a little baggy of meth in front of their face and they will instantly go into a trance and do anything for that bag of meth. I'm talking about straight guys sucking dick. I'm talking about jamming needles in their neck that they just pulled out of the trash. I'm talking about letting ANYONE move into their house that has one of these little baggies. As fast as you can throw out an unwanted "guest" in your house another one will arrive overnight. It's like you signed up for the Amazon Prime free delivery of endless drug addicts arriving at your house day after day after day.

So, one drug user will quickly multiply into countless drug users. They'll all start moving into the house. Dishes will pile up. Flies will start coming. Shitty furniture will appear in the living room from over night pilfering escapades. Junk will pile up all throughout the house and spill out into the yard. Needles will end up all over your house and your property because some of these people are too fucking lazy to throw their needles in the sharps container.

And that's not the worst of it.

Then the drug dealers come.

Most drug dealers are evil, brutal and completely devoid of any code whatsoever. These aren't like the cool

drug dealers you see on TV like Breaking Bad. No. Those people, believe it or not, would be a dream. Or the "good guy" drug dealers in the new HBO show Euphoria. I would be ecstatic if those people would move into our neighborhood.

Our drug dealers will find the smallest, weakest person they can find, gang up on him 4 people deep and do the most evil shit you can imagine to him. Real life drug dealers are the Webster dictionary definition of "Pieces of Shit."

These people are going to end up in your house.

You see... they are the people that have the actual drugs.

I've been ratted out to drug dealers (from people that love to tell me they aren't snitches) because I called the cops on them. Drug addicts will do ANYTHING for a drug dealer. So, if a drug dealer wants to start selling drugs in your house: no problem. That definitely will be happening.

But we now live in Magic Housing Unicorn "Housing First" utopia. So, you are now going to have to risk your life trying to get drug dealers out of your house. They'll kill you for much lesser offenses. Personally, I would probably start my own gang. The police will only show up in time to clean up your dead body off your floor. You are going to need your own muscle.

I don't know who is going to be lucky enough to draw the short straw of running trap houses. But I'm pretty sure it's going to end with you either in jail or dead. So, have fun with that.

LONG LIVE HOUSING FIRST!!!!

I like drug addicts. I like spending time with them. I like learning their stories. And I also like doing the hard thing. I would love to house drug addicts.

But there is no way in hell I'm doing it.

Every person in our houses is required to be involved in drug treatment. If you don't do the drug treatment you are getting kicked out of the house. If I find so much as a needle cap in your room I'm throwing you out of the house.

Having a house slip into becoming a trap house is the easiest thing on earth. As much as I like many of the drug addicts I know there is no way in HELL I'm housing them.

"Professionals" would often chastise our tent village because it was making things too easy for these people. If that isn't the pot calling the kettle black I don't know what is. In Magic Housing Unicorn "Housing First" utopia everyone gets a free house. They can hoard. They can invite all their friends over. And even if they do something illegal, they will only be in jail for a while. You'll have to house them when they get out.

Housing First does not work in reality.

That's the cold hard truth of it.

You need levels of shelter.

Sheltering needs to be a meritocracy. Otherwise the outcome is chaos.

You need tents in the woods and other isolated places for people who don't want to change their drug habits or can't stop hoarding or can't control their anger issues.

Then you need villages with tents or tiny houses, if you can afford them, for people that are ready to start re-engaging with society. These people are the ones that want to work on their addictions and their mental health issues.

Then you need transitional houses for people that have quit drugs and are controlling their mental health issues and are generating income somehow.

Then you need actual housing.

Otherwise, your housing first utopia will instantly fall into a dystopia of unimaginable chaos.

But here's the thing: And this is important!

No matter how much of an asshole a person might be. No matter how difficult they are to work with. EVERY PERSON NEEDS SOME SORT OF SHELTER.

EVERY PERSON NEEDS SOME SORT OF SHELTER.

EVERY PERSON NEEDS SOME SORT OF SHELTER.

EVERY PERSON NEEDS SOME SORT OF SHELTER.

Perfect is the enemy of good enough.

We don't have a Magic Housing Unicorn. The truth is we'll never have enough affordable housing, much less free housing for all the people with no income.

Home prices are rising faster than wages in 80% of U.S. markets.

11 million Americans (roughly the population of New York City and Chicago combined) spend more than half their paycheck on rent.

There is not ONE SINGLE county in the nation that a renter working 40 hours a week and earning minimum wage can afford a two-bedroom apartment.

These cold, staggering statistics shake out on the bottom with people living on the street. I don't care what pedigree you have. I don't care what initials you have next to your name. You are a complete and total elitist, snob asshole if you tell people they have to live unsheltered because a tent or a "shack" isn't good enough. Intellectual elitism is for rich people. Homeless people need a tent.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/a-fiduciary-responsibility/>

og:title Content: A Fiduciary Responsibility - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023

Blog Post Date: August 9, 2019

Blog Post Content: This week I got word that "the church" across the street from where we have our dumpster located wants us to move it.

It's not on their land. It's across the street from them. But having to look at it apparently is too much for their sensibilities.

The problem with the dumpster is that people from the neighborhood often pick through it and throw stuff on the ground. Last week someone was apparently doing construction work and threw all of their old construction material in our dumpster. And what didn't fit they just threw on the ground.

We always clean it up. But this is an ongoing issue.

There is now only one "partner" left that deals with us anymore.

The Food Bank ended our relationship after "reading the article" about us closing. They never talked to me personally to learn more.

The Health Department immediately stopped doing their needle exchange and Narcan classes after they heard the fire department said we couldn't have homeless people in the building. Never mind that the sign the fire department posted on our door says very clearly we can have businesses in the building. Narcan classes, and a food pantry, would be very acceptable in that class of building.

Everyone has distanced themselves from us. The only organization that remains is Panera Bread. They are still letting us get day old bread on Friday mornings. But honestly, I suspect they would end our relationship if they knew our situation.

I've been told we are "too controversial."

And that says it all.

What if they might have to take some heat for being a partner with someone who clearly is seen as an enemy of the city of Akron?

It all comes down to money. We are in an era of late stage capitalism where we have been conditioned to become deathly afraid of losing money. "What if the city turns their sights on us for supporting the work Sage does?"

In the documentary created by Pressure Life Magazine, they show footage of the manager of the low income apartment building that is next to us telling city council that they have a "fiduciary responsibility" to protect "the long term viability of the community owner." You can watch that statement here if you want:

Do you know who the "community owner" of Annunciation Terrace is?

Bishop of Cleveland, Clarence G. Issenmann

They also own this place:

Visitation of Mary Parish, Annunciation Church.

They are "the church" that is upset with our dumpster and wants it moved. The way the buildings go are: my place at 15 Broad Street. Then the low income housing apartment building Annunciation Terrace and then the very next building is the church: Visitation of Mary Parish, Annunciation Church.

Do you know why I've never brought this up? Because we get grants from Catholic organizations. I was afraid that if I called out the church that those grants might dry up. It's a rational fear. But then I just become like everybody else. Afraid of standing up because maybe I'll lose money. I'm told the priest at Visitation of Mary Parish, Annunciation Church is "conservative." That's all I know of him. But I also know that they have had a strained relationship with us ever since we began our work with the homeless.

Of all the people that have difficulty with us, Visitation of Mary Parish, Annunciation Church is the one that hurts the most.

You see, I've become quite enamored by some Catholic teachers. Particularly, the Franciscan friar, Richard Rohr and the American Trappist monk Thomas Merton.

And, of course, someone who is a continual driver in spirit for me, the radical Catholic activist, Dorothy Day. In the 1930s, Day worked closely with fellow activist Peter Maurin to establish the Catholic Worker Movement, a pacifist movement that combines direct aid for the poor and homeless with nonviolent direct action on their behalf.

Pope Francis included her in a short list of exemplary Americans, together with Abraham Lincoln, Martin Luther King Jr., and Thomas Merton, in his address before the United States Congress.

And while we're at it, let's not forget Pope Francis, himself. His major focus is the duty to help those who are poor and marginalized and have been neglected.

I am not a Catholic. But I often find myself turning to Catholics as guides for the work I do with homeless people.

And yet, I work next door to a Catholic that wants me to get rid of my dumpster I use to throw away garbage of homeless people. I work right next door to a Catholic whose apartment manager publicly states that he must maintain a "fiduciary responsibility" to protect "the long term viability of the community owner." What am I to believe? The words of Catholics or the actions of Catholics?

Is the duty to help those who are poor and marginalized as Pope Francis tell us good just in theory and not in practice?

What greater test of faith could there be when God brings homeless people right next to your parish and you scorn them and their trash? What good is faith and the teachings of your religion if they take a back seat to your "fiduciary responsibility?"

I've never met the priest of the church next door to me. But a woman from the church came by once and told me that "the homeless should put down the needle and get a job." Is that the message of true Catholicism?

Do they easily forget Mathew 25:40? The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'

I have been an Atheist much longer than I ever had a relationship with God. Yet I feel like I understand the path of God better than the church sitting next to me.

What a missed opportunity this was for them.

But they are far from the only people who have lost their way?

The Health Department would rather stop giving out Narcan and clean needles instead of risking some potential scorn.

And the Food Bank...

I was at another church today. I sometimes pull their trailer to the Food Bank for them. I asked them if there was any way they could pickup some extra water from the Food Bank for me. Beverages literally reach the ceiling at the Food Bank. They would give me beverages by the skid load when we were a partner of theirs. You see, I want water, in particular, because I work with a young prostitute who currently has E. coli because she bathes and drinks out of the river. She has no access to running water. She's not the only person, by far, who bathes and drinks out of that river. But she is the symbol in my mind of these Americans with no access to running water.

First this church said they have so much food that they don't think extra water would fit in their trailer I sometimes tow for them. I told them I could put it in the back of my truck when I drive their trailer for them to the Food Bank. They then asked, "Well, where are you going to put it once you get it?" I reminded them that I have a fully functional 14,000 square foot building. They told me, "We'll talk."

THE FUCKING ANSWER IS "YES! OF COURSE WE'LL GET YOU SOME WATER." YOU ARE A GODDAMN CHURCH!

What have we become in this world? What do we stand for? What does our life represent?

Is the "meaning" of our lives to just protect our money at all costs?

Do you know who mostly helps homeless people?

First and foremost, it begins with other homeless people. By far and with most consistency it is other homeless people that help homeless people.
The next people that help them are the people who have experienced great suffering.
I see former drug addicts. I see people who have lost their children to addiction. I see former homeless people. They are the ones I see mostly who help homeless people.
Do you know who I see the least? Middle class people living in their middle class neighborhoods. People that have the most, people that have the most to be grateful for, people that have suffered the least often are the people who also give the least.
They cower afraid in their antiseptic neighborhoods only ever associating with people that look exactly like them, act exactly like them and are in a class exactly like them.
We are losing our way in America. We are afraid of each other. We are angry at each other. We don't understand what it means to be part of a community. We obsess ourselves with protecting our things and protecting our money... at all costs.
We must right this ship. We must find our humanity. Otherwise we will become the enemy within. We will become the most dangerous force in our own lives. We will be our own demise.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/of-course-i-still-love-you/>

og:title Content: Of Course I Still Love You - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023

Blog Post Date: August 12, 2019

Blog Post Content: I sometimes have to remind myself that there is a cherry red Tesla convertible hurdling RIGHT NOW into the distant asteroid belt of our solar system. It will likely fly through space for millions of years.

Elon Musk did that with the SpaceX Falcon Heavy Rocket. "With 27 engines, the Falcon Heavy is capable of lifting 140,000 pounds into low Earth orbit. That makes it the most powerful rocket on Earth, viable for launching heavy satellites and future space stations into orbit. It has twice the towing capacity of any other rocket in use today."

I love Elon Musk because he really pushes my imagination of what is possible. The biggest hurdle of being a visionary is often the limits of your imagination.

I try to watch each one of his launches because he doesn't just throw rockets up into space and let them crash back to Earth. He rescues his rockets. They freaking navigate themselves back to Earth and land on autonomous spaceport drone ship. There are 2 of them. My favorite is named: Of Course I Still Love You.

If you haven't seen a rocket land itself back on one of these autonomous spaceport drone ships you are missing out on one of the coolest scientific achievements of humanity.

"Of Course I Still Love You" is named based on the Culture fictional universe created by the late science fiction author Iain M. Banks.

Just the names alone pushed my imagination of what is possible. NASA, while awesome, never had the naming flare that Elon Musk does.

I love thinking about a frightened rocket plummeting back to Earth. Not sure of its fate, out in the ocean, out of nowhere, is a friendly robot barge navigating itself to catch this rocket. "Of Course I Still Love You."

That's God.

I was angry this past Friday when I wrote: A Fiduciary Responsibility.

I think some people got a little defensive.

"Please don't judge other churches."

"Don't discount the work of these people"

"Don't give up."

You should know this: If I was giving up I wouldn't bother writing these posts any more. I really need to start making some income and should be focused on spinning up some cash for my family.

I am now of the mindset that it's not the homeless we need to save. We need to save ourselves.

The homeless are doing exactly what a person hurdling through space alone with no money, no family, no resources should be doing. They are surviving day to day and trying to find peace anyway they can find it. There is nothing out there right now to catch them. It is not the homeless that are making bad choices. They are making the only choice they can make in their circumstances.

The people with money, family and resources that are making the wrong choices.

If you think you would behave any differently than the way homeless people are behaving you have a false sense of your true nature and abilities. If anything, I suspect you would behave much worse than them.

Many homeless people are conditioned through generations of extreme poverty. You likely would be outraged that your society had abandoned you on the street. It's much more likely you would be more violent and a much greater thief. Most homeless people quietly live, being shuffled from place to place by the government that should be serving them. The outrage has been beaten out of them many years ago.

We, the people with means and resources, have all the choices. We can decide whether or not we should be helping the person begging on the street corner or the person living in a tent on the other side of town, or the family with no water.

I'm disheartened to say, most of us choose to look the other way. Most of us judge these people for being less than us. Most of us scorn people that have lost everything. It fills me with both outrage and sadness.

Who have we become?

I called out the church next to us for being the major contributor to getting our entire homeless center shut down. But what would your church do if I brought 50 homeless people to live next door? Would your church be able to rise to the occasion? Honestly, I suspect not. Otherwise, you likely would have already started your own homeless village.

I asked a lot of our church neighbors. But that's what Jesus does. I often resent Jesus for asking so much of us. I guess he believed we were up to the challenge. Although, 2000 years later I don't see much evidence of it.

Do you know what a pew is? A pew is a bed.

Every church in America could open its doors tonight and solve homelessness.

Literally, there would be no homeless in America, or the world, TONIGHT, if every church let homeless people sleep on their pews.

But they don't. They lock those doors.

Why?

Because the rich parishioners would probably leave. They'd be too grossed out by having to deal with smelly homeless people all the time. So, our churches lose their way because they are caught up in a system that requires them to cater to rich people and ignore poor people.

That's why Akron shut down our tent village. They want rich people to start coming to Middlebury and rich people are creeped out by poor people.

I get it. I totally get it.

In a highly capitalistic society like America the natural order of things is to push out the poor people to make way for the rich people.

I'm not mad at that. I'm not ignorant of that. I get it.

But it does NOT make it right.

For the future of all of humanity we must evolve to be something greater than a self-centered creature of instant gratification that demands not having to look at things that make it uncomfortable.

We can't give up on cleaning our planet. We can't give up pushing more power and rights to women and minorities and poor people. And we can't give up on each other.

Of Course I Still Love You.

But that doesn't mean I'm going to stop pushing you. We all need to be doing more and doing better by our global community. Me included.

I can't just sit here and feel smug that I took 2 years out of my very long life to shelter 50 homeless people. There are AT LEAST 500,000 homeless people on the streets of America right now.

What would Elon Musk do? He'd be thinking about ending all of homelessness. That's what I'm thinking about.

Where I'm at right now is pushing you to think about ending homelessness in America.

(For the record, please don't house homeless people in your house. Your shed, backyard, garage or under your porch maybe. But don't bring them into your house unless you REALLY know what you are doing.)

I am asking: What can you do to end the greatest human rights disaster of our time and likely one of the top 3 greatest human rights disasters of all American history?

I might bash churches. But it's not because I don't love them. Of course I still love you. I push on churches,

and will continue to do so, because I feel like they could be a major solution to ending homelessness in America right now.

Elon Musk asks a lot to push us further and faster into space. I am asking a lot of us to push us further and faster into ending homelessness in America. If ever there was a country that had the creativity, innovation, compassion and wealth to do this it is America. We don't need the government to end homelessness (all they need to do is just get out of the way). We the people of America can end homelessness in America. American homelessness is a tragedy, a human rights disaster and brutally wrong morally and spiritually. We must end homelessness in America now.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/scumbag-activists/>

og:title Content: Scumbag Activists - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023

Blog Post Date: August 17, 2019

Blog Post Content: There have been a couple local activists getting some heat recently for being less than ethical in their social giving.

This, I think, is shocking to the person in the cross hairs of these accusations. It also throws a wet blanket on the good feelings of supporters.

Martin Luther King was often accused of incredible things. Look at this headline:

Sealed FBI audio tapes allege Martin Luther King Jr. had affairs with 40 women and watched while a friend raped a woman, a report claims

These MLK accusations should be taken in light of a letter J. Edgar Hoover wrote condemning MLK. You can read more about it here: ["You are done: A secret letter to Martin Luther King Jr. sheds light on FBI's malice"](#)

This has happened to me over the years.

I've been accused of stealing money, selling drugs and running a prostitution ring.

In my case, these accusations came from people I had tried to help. That's a weird feeling.

It seems that where anyone trying to do good goes, darkness follows close behind.

I'm not saying these people did or did not do the things they are accused of. I have no idea.

All I can tell you is that I know who I am. And I know the accusations that I've gotten. The things people have accused me of are just absurd.

For a long time people would say I was just helping the homeless so I could run for mayor again. I hated that rumor, not only because it was not true, but because it accused me of having such small vision that all I could imagine was running for mayor. This is a hell of a lot of work to try to make a run for mayor. At least accuse me of doing all this work to run for something like state representative or something. (for the record, I've grown to hate most politicians. I'm not sure I'd want to ever be part of their dirty, sleazy club.)

I hated the drug dealer rumors for the same reason. Why in the world would I quit all these great businesses that could be used as perfect covers for my drug empire to hang around homeless people and drug addicts?

I just felt insulted by the stupidity people thought I was capable of.

And as far as stealing money... The kind of money we're talking about that this charity brings in is not needed in my life. I'm doing fine financially. I don't need to steal a couple thousand dollars from a startup charity.

Here's the actual truth of what motivates me.

Letting American citizens rot and suffer unsheltered on the streets of the richest county the world has ever seen will go down as one of the greatest human rights tragedies in American history. I am very fortunate to be in a position in my life to do something about this.

Here is the dirty secret: I want to leave my mark on the world. I have a crazy desire to want to matter. I want my life to matter. I don't want to quietly fade into oblivion because I chose to not take a stand and not push for something that mattered to me. It is very important to me that I be remembered as a person who did the right thing. It is very important to me to not screw up that legacy with dirt like the rumors that sometimes swirl around me.

So, while I don't know the truth of other activists, I know the truth about me. That leads me to believe that, at the very least, the rumors and accusations of other activists are likely either not true or exaggerated.

These rumors and accusations happen for one reason: The accuser wants to hurt the activist. The accuser feels wronged in some way by the activist. They become filled with hate and anger. And they want to see them go down. Seeing the activist die would be just fine with them. They are filled, they are seething, with hate.

I just got a text message last night from an anonymous person that hates me. It is not uncommon for me to get death threats. A few people HATE me.

All I can tell you is this: when a person attempts to stand up for light and love, darkness and hate will ALWAYS show up too. It's like the activist conjures a magical gym where forces of good and evil must do battle. Anywhere The Good takes a stand, that place becomes sacred ground where The Bad will appear and fight. I'm telling you, it's just a fact. I'm not being some crazy spiritualist here. This battle of good and evil happens every single time good takes a stand.

And, may I say, it happens every time evil takes a stand. The Good will rush in to do battle as well.

So, to summarize so far: I don't know if the activist was doing the thing they were accused of. But I know one thing for a total fact: the accuser made the accusations to hurt, damage and ultimately destroy the activist. They want to see the activist ended. And it's because they are filled with anger and hate. While I don't know if the activist is totally good, I do know the accuser is filled with evil, anger and hate.

A Note To Activists:

I don't need to tell the accused activists much of anything. They, at least on some level, understand everything I've stated above.

This is a message to activists of the future and activists who have yet to meet this inevitable fire of anger and hate.

When (not if, but when), WHEN this kind of anger and hate comes for you, just stand there and take it. Imagine it as a straight-line wind blowing across the land at 60 miles an hour right at your face. Just stand there and let it beat you. You might not even believe you can take it. But I assure you, you can. Just take it. If you want to talk about it publicly, talk about it publicly. If you don't want to talk about it publicly, don't talk about it. It doesn't matter. From a public relations point of view it will likely blow over. If the accusations are not true then the outcome doesn't matter. Just keep doing the work. If you are on a charity and the board of directors fires you then do the work on your own.

You are in a battle of good and evil. Sometimes evil gets the upper hand. That's just the nature of battling. But don't stop. Go in the direction you are able to go. You are a rare person in the world that is called to take the stands you are taking. The army of The Good needs you to keep fighting.

You chose the life of an activist because you found wrongs that needed to be righted. Those wrongs have supporters, no matter how evil and vile the wrongs may be. You will be fought. And there will be those that want to see you fail and crash and burn. There will be no greater joy for them than to see your failure or even death.

You are fighting a holy war. And thank God you are willing to fight it. Most people just keep their heads down and hope not the slightest uncomfortable breeze will ruffle their hair. You were called to stand in the wind and take it all head first.

A Note To Supporters and Boards of Directors

You likely are not made of the same things as the activist you support. You likely have a higher level of fear and worry than the activist you support.

Fight the fear within you.

You gravitated towards the activist you support because you saw something that inspired you. You saw a wrong they were trying to right. Have faith in that belief.

I'm not saying you shouldn't question your activist. I'm not saying you shouldn't investigate rumors or accusations. But what I AM saying is that your activist should be innocent until proven guilty.

Before you run away in fear because you heard something, make sure you have a very good reason for running away. There will never be a cause worth fighting for or an activist worth standing with that won't draw hate, anger and untrue accusations. It's just the nature of the game.

If you want to make a difference you are going to experience pain and suffering along the way. Nothing in nature wants to change. And you are part of a mission that seeks change. Your beliefs and actions will be tested.

It is said that no good deed goes unpunished. I often say it to myself.

The reason no good deed goes unpunished is because a bad deed doesn't want it to happen. The fight between good and evil is real and will always exist.
Evil will come in many forms. In its most dangerous form, it will often look like "rational" moderates who think you are moving too fast or pushing too hard.
If you don't like the word "evil" then call them for what they truly are: fearmongers. They can't resist spreading fear where ever they go. Fear is at the core of every evil act. Fear of the unknown. Fear of change. Fear of other people.
When you feel anxious, when you feel afraid, know this: it is evil creeping inside you. We all experience it. But there are those who embody the fear.
Fear is evil.
Don't give in to the fear. Any of you.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/the-black-market/>
og:title Content: The Black Market - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023
Blog Post Date: August 24, 2019

Blog Post Content: You can buy nearly anything on the black market.
Food. Phones. Laptops. Clothes. Tools. Video game consoles.
The prices for those kinds of things are unbelievably low.
I've seen a Nintendo Switch that retails for \$300 sell for \$40.
A Craftsman breaker bar that retails for \$35 sell for \$5.
High end cell phones in the \$300 range sell for \$20.
And it's quite possible you have bought stuff that has been wholesaled from the black market.
Convenience store owners will pay a percentage of the value of food cards. The going rate right now is about 50%. So, \$200 in food card value will sell for \$100 in cash. They then often buy things for their store and then sell them to the general public.
You also can buy "singles." Those are individual cigarettes. These start to go the other way economically. Things that can be legally bought sell for less than retail on the black market. Things that are illegal enter an entirely different value.
A single manufactured cigarette typically sells for \$0.50. That makes a pack of cigarettes cost \$10.
That's because it is illegal to sell single cigarettes. And most people I work with can't afford a \$5 pack of cigarettes.
Roll your own cigarettes typically cost \$0.25. They cost about \$0.05 each to make.
If you could legally sell single cigarettes that price would plummet. But because it's illegal the price is high.
Do you remember Eric Garner?

He was confronted by police for selling single cigarettes. They ended up putting him in a choke hold and killed him.
It's that kind of harassment that drives the price of single cigarettes up.
This is when things start to get really dark, really fast.
I know a young woman who had to be rushed to the hospital because her drug dealer cut her meth with rat poison. She was found unresponsive in a room. That drug dealer just left her there to either get better or die. He didn't care. He probably had sex with her as compensation for these drugs.
Right now there is TWICE the amount of hepatitis A in Akron compared to Cleveland even though Cleveland is nearly twice the size of Akron.
That's because people can't get access to clean needles from the health department. It's not that the health department doesn't have the needles. They have plenty. They just hoard them.
The health department stopped providing needles at our building I guess out of fear of repercussions from the administration. So people just reuse needles.
I hate Donald Trump. But he has a point about cities like Baltimore. Democrats have been in charge of these cities for decades and the conditions are deplorable. The Baltimore poverty rate is 23%. That's horrendous, for sure. But the poverty rate of Akron is 26%. Akron is WORSE than Baltimore.
When a single party has complete and total control for generations it becomes more like a monarchy. You can't stand up to the government of the city because they have far too much power. They will crush you and no one will come to your aid. It doesn't matter if it's Democrats or Republicans. A one party system becomes totally corrupt. There is no tolerance for a dissenting voice.
So, the food bank and the health department ran away from me because they were afraid of the

consequences of standing with me. For sure, it could be bad for them. People could lose their jobs. This corruption adds to the darkness of the black market.

If a person can no longer get food or water or clean needles from a place they had relied on for years then they have to rely on the black market.

Sometimes the black market is a dumpster.

People in our neighborhood are now walking to Ellet and West Akron for thrown out donuts from donut shops (I'm not going to name them simply out of fear the city will put a stop to this.)

That walk is approximately 5 miles each way.

Some donut shops throw away all the old donuts in the dumpster. They often bag the old donuts separately from other garbage. People know when they are thrown away and eagerly wait for them to be discarded.

They are walking all this way for donuts because there is significantly less food in Middlebury after the Food Bank closed us down. So they dumpster dive for donuts.

Hopefully by now you know that drug dealers are putting fentanyl in most other drugs. Pot, meth, Ecstasy. Anything.

They do this to open up the market. Fentanyl is cheap to get from China. So if they can hook you on fentanyl then they've got a new revenue stream.

The downside is that they sometimes don't dose the fentanyl correctly and they overdose their customer. They end up killing their customer.

As long as the drug dealer doesn't get caught the death of a customer is of little consequence to them.

There are endless customers for all kinds of illegal drugs.

Anything illegal that people want becomes a pure libertarian free market place. There is zero regulation.

There are zero ethics involved. It is just pure capitalism. Make money at any cost with zero oversight. You do it until you are caught or you are killed. Those are the only two forces that put any pressure on the illegal black market. And no one cares. Drug dealers have no other plans for their lives. And the rush is addictive.

The power and the money and the rush of selling illegal drugs is so worth it.

Drug dealers are adrenaline junky maniacs. They'll kill you as soon as look at you. And these are the ONLY people you can buy illegal items from. Pimps and drug dealers and gangs. They control the illegal black market because there is no other place to buy sex and drugs.

And now we have a black market for sleeping.

It was reported this week that a man was beaten and robbed for trying to sleep in Grace Park here in Akron.

Four people in the park told him he had to pay to sleep in the park. When he refused he was beaten. They stole his phone and his money. It was reported here and here.

He missed the curfew of the shelter next to Grace Park. So he tried to sleep in the park.

Apparently that park is now under new management. They are running an open air hotel on the black market.

You see, it's illegal to sleep in Akron.

The first time you are caught by the police for sleeping on city property it is a trespassing violation that will cost you a \$250 fine and 3 months in jail. The second time you are caught it will cost you a \$1000 fine and 6 months in jail.

There is no place you can legally sleep out doors that is legal in Akron. If you can't get in the shelter you are fucked.

And apparently some enterprising black market entrepreneurs are capitalizing on that opening in the market.

In Akron Ohio it now appears that you are going to be robbed and beaten if you don't pay the fee to sleep illegally.

I know for a fact that violence is on the rise in camps all over town. There are predators everywhere because there is no place that is legal or safe to sleep outside.

I don't know if I've done a good enough job of helping the administration connect the dots of the reality of homelessness in Akron. So let me try again.

As you can see in this case: This man missed the deadline for getting into the shelter. There are many reasons you can't get into the shelter as a man, woman or family.

A woman with a 13 year old boy cannot stay in any shelter in Akron with her boy. So she chooses to sleep in her car or on the street. (There is no way in hell I'd leave my 13 year old boy alone in the shelter system.)

If you had 1 beer you aren't allowed into the shelter and you also aren't drunk enough to get into the drunk tank at another facility.

A man can never stay with a child of any age in Akron. There are no family shelters for men and children.

Couples can never stay together in any shelter in Akron Ohio.

A person currently on drugs cannot stay in any shelter in Akron Ohio. Even if they plan on quitting tomorrow they are outside tonight.

If you aren't in the work program of our shelter you can only stay 5 nights a month. That means you are forced to live 25 nights a month outside. Maybe you have storage fees and phone bills that don't allow you to give the shelter 80% of your income to save for housing.

A man told me he was kicked out of the shelter because he played the card game: Magic: The Gathering. Our shelter is strictly Christian. You are forced to pray Christian prayers before every meal and go to Christian church before every bedtime.

Many times the shelters are just booked solid. Plain and simple. I can't count the women who plead with me for a tent because they can't get into a shelter.

There are countless reasons you can't stay in a shelter. If you don't think it is necessary to sometimes sleep outdoors in Akron Ohio you are either stupid or you are cruel. Maybe you're both.

All it takes is one single call from a civilian to have the nuisance department come out and force you to move. And no one is there to help you. Not the Continuum of Care. Not one single church. And of course I'm beaten at every turn for trying to shelter people.

This is why we have begun the Homeless Underground. It is more important and more critical than ever that we develop a secret network of safe places to sleep in Akron. Everyone is attacking the homeless of our city. Civilians. Predators. The nuisance department. Everyone is preying on the poorest and weakest people of our community.

And now it appears there is another illegal product on the black market that people can sell for high prices: Sleeping.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/the-3-stages-of-faith/>

og:title Content: The 3 Stages of Faith - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023

Blog Post Date: August 31, 2019

Blog Post Content: I can't overstate how influential girls and women have been in my life.

If I'm honest with myself, it was probably MaryBeth Glasgow that had as much influence over my abilities as a cellist as any teacher I ever had (and I had some amazing teachers).

I just REALLY liked MaryBeth and she was a really good violinist. If I was going to be friends with her I had to keep up.

And then there were the Kims.

They were a new level of love and desire for me. But they were completely different from each other.

Kim Hoover went to an inner city school here in Akron Ohio. We would drink coffee and smoke cigarettes at Country Kitchen on East Market Street in high school. I would drive in from the suburbs and hang out in the exotic "inner city" of Akron. Country Kitchen was across the street from city hospital. Much to the dismay of my personal history, it is now torn down.

Kim Hoover was, and still is, an explosion of storytelling and life experience. Some good and some (really) bad. I was so enraptured by her beauty and dynamism. She has always been a person who represents the world to me. Good experiences and bad experiences.

She is like a humanist mystic, in my mind. We never really talked too much about religion. Our discussions were always about people and places and experiences... and the power they hold over us. I carry this wisdom she taught me throughout my life. The good and bad experiences of our lives are undeniably powerful. They often fundamentally shape us throughout our entire lives in ways we don't consciously even recognize.

And then there was Kim Martin. I was so in love with Kim Martin. I didn't know a person had feelings as powerful as the feelings Kim Martin brought up in me.

Kim Martin was a Mennonite from Lancaster Pennsylvania. We met at a summer music clinic at Allegheny College in Meadville Pennsylvania. She played the french horn and piano.

I can't explain it. I don't know why it happened. But I just fell for Kim Martin hook, line and sinker.

I distinctly remember having a conversation about God with her and a group of other musicians one night. I had never really thought about God the way any of these people had.

One guy said that believing in God is believing in Santa Claus. It's just wishful thinking based in nothing other than a hope that we aren't all leading pointless lives that have no meaning.

I had never heard anything like that. I grew up going to church. Saying something so bold and extreme as "God is just a childish wishful fantasy" was insane. But I definitely saw his point. My mind was racing with excited thoughts of atheism.

Kim didn't say much during that conversation. But after everyone else left she and I were sitting together. I remember she started crying. I asked her what was wrong. She said she was crying because she was sad those people weren't going to go to heaven.

Now my brain whipped to the other side of the coin. Here is someone who doesn't know these people from Adam. We all had just met each other. And she's crying for their souls. I had never known anyone who cared so much for other people.

If God can make you care for people you don't even know, how powerful is that!

That was the side I took. I got really into religion and God at that point.

I went to a Mennonite church for a while when I got back home.

I loved the simplicity. I loved the kindness.

This church was out in the country surrounded by green fields. It was beautiful and serene and peaceful.

I wanted to tell you about the Kims because for me they represent 2 aspects of walking a spiritual path.

Kim Hoover represents the Earth and the world to me. She just feels grounded in the world. I love her energy. She is Mother Earth.

Kim Martin represents God and faith to me. Everything good about the church and God is what I found in her. She was the living incarnation of what it meant to be a Christian.

Kim Martin was the stage of the Living Faith.

Kim Hoover was the stage of the Death of Faith.

I imagine you understand what I am talking about with Kim Martin. But let me talk just a little more about what I mean with Kim Hoover.

Kim Hoover wasn't anti-faith. I honestly don't know what she believes at all. That's funny considering the hours and hours we have talked over the years. Maybe I have forgotten any spiritual conversations we had because I was so taken by her worldly conversations. But I don't think so. She is just Of. This. World. The good and the bad.

You see, I'm about to get to the third stage of faith. But you must know that the first two stages are Life and Death of faith.

You cannot have one without the other.

There is the stage where you live in faith. You have constructed your beliefs of faith and you live into it as much as you humanly can. Everything revolves around this construct of faith. It's all God all the time.

Then there is the stage where most people are living today. They live in a void of faith. They live in the world. It is certainly not bad. Nature. Books. Movies. Sun rises. Sun sets. Ocean views. National Parks. Trips to Europe. The Macy's Day Parade. The Olympics. Christmas morning. Cherry Blossoms blooming.

I want to jump in here and make a quick point about atheism. I was an atheist for many years. So I feel like I can talk fairly knowledgeably on the subject. I don't consider atheists the "death of faith." I'm sorry to say it but atheists are usually more fundamentalist and extremist and fanatical than most religious people I've ever met. They would rather die on the hill that God is stupid and childish than ever admit that there's a force in the world that is undeniably there. They would do well to go back and reread some Carl Jung who believed that religion was a natural expression of the collective unconscious.

No. Atheism isn't the opposite of faith. It's just people pouting and stomping their feet while refusing to acknowledge the connections we have to each other and our universe. Atheism is simplistic teenage rebellion. They rebel just to rebel.

The Life part of faith is what Jung considered the collective unconscious. It is a mystical connection that can't be denied.

The Death part of faith is of-this-world. It is living in the here and now.

Most of us get caught in one of these and never get out. They become a rut. They become a crutch. It's all people know and therefore it is all they trust. We either trust in God or we trust in the World.

At their worst, these constructs become defense mechanisms. They become shields to protect us from the dark, scary other side. Faithful people do it just as much as worldly people.

Some faithful people surround themselves with only God and Jesus and the church. The world becomes a sin that must be avoided.

And some worldly people become addicted to their worldliness. Their job. Their food. Their tv shows. Their drugs.

Both sides grasp at what they know because they are afraid to let go.

When I quit drinking I was terrified of the unknown. What was I going to fill my time with? What was I going to talk about with friends? How would I manage my cravings and drinking patterns that had become an integral part of my life?

This invariably leads to a lopsided life. We miss out on the true value of the other side. And then we stop growing.

For me, I like to believe in reincarnation. It just helps me navigate my journey on Earth.

I like to believe that I am here to advance my life so that my next life will be more enlightened. I believe we are all trying to get to pure enlightenment. So, if I'm not growing then I am doing a disservice to my life here and now and also my future lives. (Whether this is what really happens is of little interest to me. It's a belief system that helps me make sense of my journey on Earth.)

And this brings me to the third stage of faith: Rebirth.

Rebirth is important because it is very different than just toggling between faith and the world. It's not a simple binary, on/off, switch.

The person I am today is different than the person I was yesterday and the person I will be tomorrow.

It's like a sine wave:

One side of the horizontal line is faith. The other side is the world.

The rebirth stage swings us from faith to the world and back again. But it's always in a new way. The faith of our youth should not be the faith of our adult life or our senior life. The same is true with how we interact with the world. The worldly things that bring us great joy as a child should, hopefully, not be the things that bring us great joy as an adult.

Yet again, we come back to fear. Fear is the ultimate destroyer of life. Fear is the true evil in our lives.

If we refuse to let go and be reborn into a life of faith or a life of the world we then are stuck in a life that is not fully realized. This is not what God ever wanted. We are on Earth to be part of Earth. But we are also on Earth to develop our spiritual path. Each side needs the other. The world becomes a laboratory to live in and experience so that we can better understand our spiritual selves. If all we do is try to block out the world then we'll never become the spiritual person we were meant to be. And if we block out the spiritual world we will never get any closer to realizing our full human potential.

Do you see?

We need the world to grow spiritually so we can grow more humanly. Back and forth. Back and forth. You can't be fully human without having both.

Mind, body and spirit. Our mind and body will never be fully realized without developing our spirit. And our spirit will never grow if we don't allow ourselves to develop our mind and body.

It's tempting to call it a circle. But I prefer to think of it as a sine wave. It's doesn't ever fully come back on itself. It moves forward and is new every time we cross the line from a spiritual focus and then a worldly focus. It's a continuous wave. Back and forth. Rebirth over and over and over again. The more you can do it the more you will fulfill your time you have on this Earth.

The only evil on Earth is fear. Everything else is of God.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/the-answer-is-love/>

og:title Content: "The Answer is Love" by Elon Musk - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023

Blog Post Date: September 8, 2019

Blog Post Content: I don't put a lot of weight in the incredibly nice things people say about me. I am just a regular guy who grew a conscience in his midlife. That's all.

But one trait I will agree with and feel, unfortunately, is sorely missing in a lot of people is PASSION. I'm passionate. About a lot of things.

One of the reasons people liked to play in string quartets with me is because I'm passionate. (Isn't that why we signed up to be musicians in the first place? You can't imagine how many boring musicians are out there in the world.)

One of the reasons people like coming to my auctions is because I'm passionate.

I'm passionate about ending the torture of homeless people in America. I'm passionate about dealing with the real problems of our city, Akron Ohio.

I don't really understand what holds other people back. Are they afraid of showing their true colors? Or do they just not really care about anything all that much?

Another thing that I'm really passionate about is science.

I believe scientists and mathematicians are the people who are trying the most passionately to speak to God. Math is the language of God. Our universe is so precise it's like a Rolex(except WAY better, Rolexes aren't actually very precise at all). The math of the universe proves out over and over again.

I can't read enough about the Large Hadron Collider, the largest machine ever built. Humans built this thing specifically to be able to either confirm or exclude the existence of the Higgs boson... The God Particle. We first hypothesized about this particle in 1964. It's THE vital missing piece of the model that physicists use to describe elementary particles and their interactions. We found this thing in 2012 using the LHC.

Is it the smallest particle in the universe? This is where physics gets so trippy. We don't know if it has any actual dimension at all. We just weigh these things. Their mass is more important than their tininess. The Higgs Boson is 130 times the mass of a proton or of a neutron. As elementary particles go, it is large in mass.

See... here I go again. I could probably just spend the rest of this article talking about this one particle. I'm also really passionate about space travel.

I believe if you have any interest in humanity... people seem to love saving unborn babies, then we should all be laser focused on getting off of Earth. Staying stuck on Earth is like living the rest of your life on a life raft in the middle of the Indian ocean. It's too wild of a place to be living on one random rock in a vast sea of rocks.

Space travel is the only hope humanity has of living any meaningful amount of time.

So, I was REALLY excited to listen to the 2 hour and 37 minute podcast Joe Rogan did with Elon Musk.

Elon Musk is doing so many truly interesting things with his billions of dollars.

Here are some things he's doing with his time:

He founded SpaceX, an aerospace manufacturer and space transport services company of which he is CEO and lead designer.

He is CEO and product architect of Tesla an electric vehicle and solar panel manufacturer.

He co-founded OpenAI, a nonprofit research company that aims to promote friendly artificial intelligence.

He co-founded Neuralink, a neurotechnology company focused on developing braincomputer interfaces.

He is chairman of SolarCity, a solar energy services company.

Those are his day to day jobs.

For fun he is:

digging a hole under Los Angeles to create the Hyperloop: a high-speed transportation system.

He has the designs for a vertical take-off and landing supersonic jet electric aircraft with electric fan propulsion, known as the Musk electric jet.

He also designed and sold 20,000 "not a" flamethrowers.

His goals include reducing global warming through sustainable energy production and consumption, and reducing the risk of human extinction by establishing a human colony on Mars.

This is the kind of person that makes me want to get out of bed and do something with my life. He's a true inspiration.

I loved getting to hear him talk for two and a half hours. Long format podcasts are so much more meaningful than how TV forces people to jam all their ideas into little soundbites.

After all the cool technology talk he got to something important. He got to the essence of what drives him. He talks about terraforming Mars.

"We could be a multi-planet species. That's what we want to be."

At 2:29:34 he says, "I'm pro human. I love humanity. I think it's great."

At 2:29:48 he says, "Strangely, I think a lot of people don't like humanity and see it as a blight. But I do not."

(If you are interested in seeing this, I recommend starting at 2:29:26.)

This is SO critical.

I know many people who are really down on humans. We are destroying our planet. We endlessly murder each other. We're just a piece of shit ruining our only home.

The problem with this theory is that it's these negative people that are the true problem. They have already given up. They always think we're in the bottom of the 9th inning with 2 strikes.

Some real pessimistic fucks setup the Doomsday Clock in 1947. When they first created it they set it to 7

minutes to midnight... meaning we are super near our imminent death. Today it sits at 2 minutes to midnight. After the Cold War. After the Cuban Missile Crisis. We are on the brink of our total destruction at any moment.

Today we "need to be afraid" of 2 existential threats: nuclear weapons and climate change. That's why we only have 2 minutes on the clock of humanity.

The Department of Homeland Security wants us to know that we are in a generational fight against terrorists. We need to be terrified of them.

All this terror and fear is instilled in us by parent-figures that believe negative reinforcement is the way to shape us up. "If we scare the shit out of them they will straighten up and fly right."

What it actually does is breed apathy and hopelessness.

We all sit in our homes thinking everything is hopeless and pointless.

A new Gallup poll shows that just 20% of Americans approve of the job Congress is doing. The vast majority, 75%, disapprove of the job Congress is doing.

Yet we do nothing about it. We don't march on the streets. We don't throw them out of office. We do nothing.

I believe American politicians have stumbled upon a new form of oppression that is much more powerful than the oppression used by violent dictators in places like Syria. They use the tool of apathy and hopelessness.

Congress has not had an approval rating over 30% in ten years and we do nothing about it. They LOVE our fatalism and hopelessness.

This piece of shit mentality is baked into our Judeo-Christian culture. We are fallen and sinners. Thanks to women, by the way. (We have a built-in enemy right at the very beginning of our society's moral story: women.)

I see absolutely no point in this kind of thinking. It does nothing but demoralize us and depress us.

You can see very clearly that telling us that we're terrible sinners does nothing to make most of us be better.

We are obsessed with money and things and pleasure.

But internalizing this loser mentality is working out great for rich people and politicians. We let them roll over us all day every day.

"Wanna give all our jobs to the Chinese and the robots?" That's fine.

"Wanna bankrupt us if we have a serious illness even though we have insurance?" Totally cool.

"Wanna saddle 20 year olds with \$100,000 in college debt that they will have the rest of their lives and will be garnished from their social security payments when they are old?" Makes sense.

"Wanna let our country be run by executives that make 1000 times more money than their workers and then pay no taxes?" Nothing more American than that.

We are beaten down. And I believe it's intentional. Our leaders keep us beaten down so we will just give up and let them do whatever they want.

At 2:30:22 Elon says it: "This may sound corny... but love is the answer."

This is the ONLY way we will ever get beyond the muck and mire we have found ourselves in right now as a society.

Do you think the environment is important? Plant some trees. Become a vegan. Get rid of your car.

Do you love animals? Take in stray cats and dogs. Neuter cats roaming your neighborhood. Protest the meat sale at your local grocery store.

Do you think corporations are ruining the world? Protest in front of Walmart. Create some non-violent protests against Amazon.

Fall in love with what you love.

Find the passion within you. Let the fear go. Be yourself. Be true to who you are.

I truly believe everyone has the ability to be passionate about something. ANYTHING. It doesn't really matter what it is to me, as long as you aren't hurting other people.

Wanna dress up like a furry and eat dinner out of a dog bowl? Be my guest.

Think dancing all night long at the night club is the greatest thing ever? Get out there.

Wanna be a wold champion Fortnite player? Dedicate your life to it.

Just find your passion.

One passion will lead to another passion which will lead to another. This chain reaction will happen within you and the people around you. Passion is contagious.

This is a burning love that we have to find again in ourselves. We have to relight that fire.

Not only is it fine to be your crazy, weird self... you were supposed to be yourself the entire time. It's why you are on this planet. We NEED you to be you. Because together we make up the most amazing symphony

imaginable.

When you cut yourself off from your true self because it's what you think you are "supposed to be doing" you are actually going in the wrong direction. That's not what the universe or God wants you to do at all. Believe it or not, you being you is what will save all of humanity. Don't worry about the outcome. Just do it. The answer is love.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/why-were-selling-15-broad-street-in-akron-ohio/>

og:title Content: Why We're Selling 15 Broad Street in Akron Ohio - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023

Blog Post Date: September 15, 2019

Blog Post Content: Rocky and I bought 15 Broad Street at the height of the great recession. We closed on the building on February 25, 2010.

Nearly everyone said I was insane for doing this. There were only two people that thought it was a good idea: my wife and my banker. Everybody else told me not to do it.

I decided those two people were the people I should trust. I'm glad I did. 15 Broad Street has been an incredible part of my life.

Before us, most famously, 15 Broad Street was Green Cross Hospital. People regularly come in to tell me they were born here.

But it began its life in the clay industry.

In the 1890s, The Akron Sewer Pipe Company of Akron, Ohio, was the largest provider of glazed vitrified clay pipe for the United States. This company built our building at 15 Broad Street in 1913. It was most likely a small pattern shop.

Rocky compiled a really thorough history of the building. You can check it out [here](#).

We bought the building for our marketing company, SageRock. When we bought the building we had about 25 employees. We felt that owning our own building would be better than renting. At the time we rented the Ice and Coal Warehouse from Mike Owen on 129 N. Summit Street. That was a super cool building too.

The recession drastically changed how businesses like ours operate. To deal with the wild swings of production a lot of our work became contract work. It's just more efficient to hire the exact person you need for the specific job. When the job ends then that contract ends.

Today, Rocky and I do pretty much all the work. We got tired of dealing with quality issues. It was more enjoyable and we were happier with the work we put out by doing it ourselves. Today we rent out much of the building on a month to month basis for other small companies.

The recession drastically changed a lot in my life.

I felt like there had to be something more than a system that only valued money. Money is a terrible ruler. It promises the world. But will always leave you empty inside.

So, I ran, unsuccessfully, for mayor. During the process I started talking to homeless people. That's when I found "it." I realized that living for your own personal gain is a meager life compared to living your life for others.

I still do marketing (now with a focus on people that inspire me like schools and nonprofits). But I continue to have a burning desire to leave this world a better place than when I arrived.

I have much more work to do to help empower and lift up the homeless of America. I also am finding an additional path of trying to inspire people as a whole to experience getting involved and giving back to their community.

I have found that 15 Broad Street is not what I need in my life. In many ways it is now slowing me down from moving on to help contribute to the world in new ways.

This building is an incredibly important landmark in the history of Akron. It represents a time when a group of homeless people came together to create a village where they were respected and valued. It also, importantly, represents a time when society told them they were not valued and not permitted to exist. It represents the best and worst of society.

I believe this will be the main anchor story of the history of 15 Broad Street. This is what it will be remembered for 100 years from now.

But it is not my path to preserve that. I have other work to do. I am not interested in posterity and

sentimentality. I am interested in changing the world for the better.

So, I must move on.

We have listed the building at a price that is meant to sell quickly. I don't want to sit on this. I need to be free to do other things.

My hope is that the next phase of the building will be something of a celebration. A brew house. A theater. A music studio. A school. A nonprofit. Those would be wonderful things for 15 Broad Street to be.

But it certainly would also make a beautiful law office or marketing agency space.

You can learn more about the building and the asking price by clicking here.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/sage-lewis-the-activist/>

og:title Content: Sage Lewis the activist - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023

Blog Post Date: September 18, 2019

Blog Post Content: In 2014 Arnold Abbot, a 90 year old man, was charged with feeding the homeless in public in Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

Those "do not feed laws" in Fort Lauderdale still exist.

Mayor Jack Seiler told WPLG, "Just because of media attention we don't stop enforcing the law. We enforce the laws here in Fort Lauderdale."

That's just straight up vile hatred for people he doesn't like. They hurt the image of his city and he's not going to have it.

Appeals Court Rules Against Fort Lauderdale's Food Sharing Ban.

But Fort Lauderdale hates homeless people so much they just came up with another law:

Fort Lauderdale Homeless Feeding Ban Proposed Again | Miami New Times

They don't care how they look. They don't care who they hurt. They just want homeless people to disappear.

This is homeless hatred, plain and simple.

In February 2019, Arnold Abbott died at the age of 94.

In 2066 I will be 94 years old. If we have these cruel homeless hate laws in America in 2066 I will consider myself a failure. I have been put on this planet to create change.

Homelessness is a product of late stage capitalism. Good jobs have been outsourced. Unions have been busted. Mental health services are barely in existence. Health care is out of reach of many. Housing is too expensive. Doctors have flooded the market with opiates. OF COURSE WE'RE GOING TO HAVE A HOMELESSNESS PROBLEM IN AMERICA.

Being surprised that homelessness exists is the only part of this process that doesn't make any sense.

It's important for me to let you know that I'm not anti-capitalism. Ultimately, I believe it is a slightly better system than socialism. In fact, I believe we can solve problems like American homelessness through social entrepreneurship. The problem is that the government refuses to let us work and fix the problems.

We treat the oppressed the same way over and over again in America.

We Americans turned away Jews fleeing Nazi Germany in 1939.

We are turning away refugees right this minute at our southern border.

I don't think I need to link to anything to remind you about what we did to Native Americans and African Americans and women.

Our default is to shun the weak and the oppressed. It's pretty much the American way.

But it's also the American way for people to do something about it. America is funny that way.

Rocky, my wife, tells me that if I go after the city it is going to hurt my philanthropic, moral high ground image. My image is not what concerns me. What concerns me are the cruel unjust laws we have in America that hurt homeless people. We must change these cruel and unjust laws and regulations that are meant to hurt homeless people because our government hates the homeless.

This is who I am meant to be. I am an activist. I am not some white-washed pure do gooder that is going to quietly fade away being known as a guy who was too afraid to stand up against authority.

I'm not afraid to get in the muck and the dirt. In fact, I rather prefer it down here.

But I want to write this post to give you some guiding principles of how I will move forward.

First and foremost: This will be a nonviolent process.

There are many reasons nonviolence is the way to go. These are some quick reasons:

Most importantly: American government is strongest in the violence game. You don't fight your enemy at their strongest point. When you have countless other ways to attack them, it makes no sense to attack them

at their strongest point.

Your supporters get really small. There are only a hand full of people that are willing and able to take up arms. You will isolate yourself when you really should be uniting as many people together as possible. Studies have shown that violent uprisings don't have as much success as nonviolent uprisings. And of course, violence is violent. You can change the world without bloodshed. Your government doesn't think that's true. But it's true.

I have a lot of thoughts about nonviolence. But for now, those are the key points as to why I will only be a nonviolent activist. And I will do everything in my power to keep any violent bad actors from trying to hijack our movement.

Second: This will be fun.

Every act we do should be entertaining and amusing... usually at the expense of our adversaries. We will embarrass them. We will mock them. We will laugh at them. They are notoriously thin skinned and insecure. That's their weak point. That's where we will attack them. We will make fun of them.

Third: We will go after their pillars of power.

These are the people that support them. These are businesses and rich people. All they care about is making money. We will hurt them where they are weakest: in their wallet. We will also embarrass them by connecting them to our adversaries.

Fourth: We will have clear goals.

You can read about the Akron Houseless Movement by clicking [here](#).

These are the demands the homeless of Akron want. These are what we are fighting for.

As we go on we will create demands for homeless people in other cities. Each city has its own set of problems that are being caused by a government that is too inept and too afraid to fix the problems of homelessness in their city.

Fifth: We will be the party of the people.

We are the 99%. It is only a small elite few that we are against.

In fact, there are many wealthy people that support our cause. We are not against wealth. We are not against private property. (Wealth and private property will be the ultimate solutions to homelessness.) We are not against anything other than the rotten corruption of government that does not permit private citizens to help homeless people. We just want the government to get the hell out of the way so people that want to help homeless people can help them. That's all. (Their hatred of the homeless is what is driving their maniacal unjust laws.)

These will be the driving principles of how I am going to move forward. I feel its important for you to know these things so you know what you are getting involved with, if you choose to get involved.

Rocky feels that some people are not going to want to be part of this. They prefer the do-gooder Sage. I completely get that and understand.

But I ultimately have to be true to myself. I am "Sage against the machine." That's just what makes me tick. I've always been this way.

To that end, I have just started a nonprofit political organization called Akron Uprising.

The primary goal of Akron Uprising is to get people engaged and excited about taking ownership of their city. America is supposed to be run BY THE PEOPLE. But today it is run by the businesses. We need to take our country back. Akron Uprising is doing this locally.

If you'd like to learn more, you can join our newsletter here: [Newsletter - Akron Uprising](#).

You are more than welcome to do anything to participate in this Akron Houseless Movement and you will be considered part of this movement as long as you adhere to the guiding principles above.

Print stickers.

Post signs

Make funny dolls

Have impromptu concerts

Make protest camps in your front yard or on the sidewalk (Be advised: a trespassing violation is a misdemeanor 4. That's a \$250 fine and 3 months in jail. The second time goes to a misdemeanor 1 and is \$1000 fine and 6 months in jail.) I don't know if they can charge you for sleeping on the sidewalk.

Have fun. Don't hurt people. Be respectful of the police. And be inclusive of anyone that wants to help homeless people.

And if you aren't in Akron, feel free to start your own houseless movement. We would be glad to support you, if you adhere to the principles outlined here. You can learn more here: The Houseless Movement. We can and should be the change we want to see. This is what freedom means in America. Our government was set up to be this exact thing. You are always on the right side of the law and intention of America when you remind your government to be for the people of America. You have an obligation as a citizen of a democracy to demand this of your elected officials. Doing anything else is pretty much unAmerican. This is who I am. This is who I will be. I just wanted you to know who I am if you want to be a part of what I'm doing.

"I am what I am and that's all that I am." - Popeye the sailor man

I love you.

Sage

P.S. Shout out to Otpor and Srđan Popović and his awesome book Blueprint for Revolution.

You have really inspired me and helped me try to be the best advocate for the homeless of America I can be.
S.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/american-untouchables/>

og:title Content: American Untouchables - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023

Blog Post Date: September 21, 2019

Blog Post Content: The extreme suffering the street brings is a constant hum. Hunger, isolation, hatred, beatings, rape, torture. And then death. It's constant. A constant hum of grinding suffering.

It doesn't have to be this way. But it is because our society has put up invisible walls of classism.

Make no mistake, America has untouchables.

People like to remind me that panhandlers are dangerous. That they are afraid for their daughters' safety having to stop their car next to a panhandler on a corner. That beggars are scamming the system. That people not in housing have surely done something wrong that makes their unsheltered existence, unfortunate but ultimately their fault.

We console ourselves through judgment of these people. Otherwise, the constant view of poverty hits too close to home and we become responsible for our American brothers and sisters. "What can I do to help?" There is a woman who works at the snack counter at the local Sam's Club. She reads these articles. She told me yesterday sometimes she brings a bottle of water to hand out. But sometimes she has nothing. So she waves. She waves to the panhandlers.

It's one of the most beautiful expressions of giving I've heard of in quite some time.

We all have something to give. But so many of us give nothing.

On one hand, Republicans say that the government isn't responsible for taking care of our every need. And then on the other hand they berate the poor as drug addicted losers that need to pull themselves up by their bootstraps. Self sufficiency is the name of their game. They believe they got to where they are by themselves and therefore everyone else should do the same. They easily forget that we all start the game of life at different points on the board and sometimes we land on a shoot and sometimes we land on a ladder. Luck plays a bigger role than anyone ever likes to admit... especially when they personally have been endowed with good luck.

Democrats love to wring their hands about the environment and their costly healthcare bills. (I'm in this camp.) Bernie Sanders doesn't care about people living unsheltered on the streets and in the woods.

Democrats love to judge rednecks, hillbillies and Christians.

Pro-life people love to save fetuses. Yet 4 pregnant women live in the woods we are working with. One is

scheduled to have a c-section in 6 weeks.

Development of new buildings and economics is always more important than taking care of people that have no shelter, no money, no support. Nothing.

The Catholic church next to me is much more pragmatic than true to its values of giving and love. They can't allow their next door neighbor to take care of homeless people right next to their church. What would the out of town parishioners say?

I've been told more than once, "Let's be honest Sage. I wouldn't want homeless people living next to me." Most people will not take in homeless people. And when someone like me does they are forced to shut down.

It's like we are all dedicated to not looking at these people. Everyone has other problems. There are other things that are much more urgent.

How can we think we live in any other realm other than one that hates homeless people. They are untouchable. Most people prefer to judge them and look the other way. And the law forbids you from helping to shelter them if you so choose.

We will never get off this sticking point until we call it for what it is: We don't like the homeless. We don't want to be near them. We certainly don't want them to live next to us. We don't want them to exist. The homeless are an inconvenient truth.

It is illegal and actually unmoral to help homeless people in America today. If they can't get into a proper house then there is nothing we can do. Housing First is the only solution that is viable in the American discussion of homelessness. We just need to get everyone a house. But until that fantasy day happens we can do nothing other than let these people rot on the streets.

These camp sweeps we do in America are absolutely illogical, hateful and unconstitutional. They are enforcing cruel and unusual punishment on people that have nowhere to go. Ask anyone who oversees these tent sweeps where people are supposed to go. All you'll get is a blank stare. It's not their problem. These people are under the authority of the nuisance department. They are nothing more than rats that must be relocated to... well there is nowhere to relocate them. They just need to be relocated.

We have uncovered a festering wound that no one wants to deal with.

We brush aside mental health issues like they don't actually matter to this situation. And we judge drug addiction as a moral failing of these people. "Just put down the needle" is a common statement people who have never had an opiate addiction or been close to someone who has, like to tell me.

Housing is not the solution to homelessness. People fall out of housing all the time.

Community is the solution to homelessness.

Step one to solving homelessness is accepting the homeless.

Telling them, as the mayor likes to say, "living in tents is simply beneath human dignity and should not continue," does nothing to solve the problem of homelessness. It only makes it worse.

That strategy is how you get these people to never get out of homelessness. The mayor is saying homeless people are beneath being human. They are beneath having dignity.

This is the message they receive. They suck. They are pieces of shit. And as long as they live in tents they will never be even human. They are just animals.

How is anyone ever supposed to lift themselves up when the constant message is: You are a worthless, no good piece of shit. I'm not over exaggerating this message. People tell me these things all the time. They straight out tell me the homeless should die.

Step one is acceptance. It's ok to live in a tent. It's ok that you are in the place you are in. You are ok.

Self acceptance is always the first step of moving forward.

This isn't some bad choice these people made. This is the cause of a series of many things that went wrong. A parent's death. A spouse's death. Extreme medical bills. Losing your home in the great recession. An injury that was treated by doctors with opiates. Untreated mental health issues. Mental disabilities. Things like autism and attention deficit. These are all contributing factors to homelessness. No one wakes up being homeless one day for no reason. Things broke down. Many things broke down.

It often spirals down into serious depression and anxiety and PTSD. These people are in a free fall of self-hatred.

You will never chastise someone out of depression. Yet that is exactly what we are doing with homeless people.

We must show acceptance of homeless people and poor people.

As a civilian, the easiest way to do that is to give them \$1.

Money is so sacred and so important in our society. When you give someone a \$1 you are saying, "I'm thinking of you and you are part of society."

The number one thing people tell me is that they don't like to give panhandlers money. Why? Because they are concerned they are going to use it to buy drugs. (Like all of us are some sort of financial geniuses. Most of us are one or two paychecks away from being right where these people are now.)

I pay homeless people to do work all the time. Do you know what they buy? They buy Polar Pops for themselves and their friends. And they buy a pack of manufactured cigarettes they that share with their friends. That's what \$5-\$10 buys. Then they buy food. Then they pay their cell phone bill. Those are the top things people are spending money on.

And may I say, money also keeps thieves from stealing. As a person who is sometimes on the receiving end of this theft, a person with money is a person who is less of a threat to society. By giving a homeless person or a panhandler \$1 you are making the entire neighborhood safer and more at ease.

\$1 represents love. \$1 represents acceptance. \$1 represents community.

I'm not saying giving a water bottle or a granola bar or a bus pass or a cigarette is bad. I'm just saying that a \$1 is bigger. It represents a more open form of love and acceptance.

\$1 is also a form of protest. It's the government that wants the homeless to disappear most of all. When we the people stand with the homeless it makes their hate-filled no sleeping, no feeding ordinances weaker.

When we stand with the homeless we make governmental homeless hatred weaker.

We can solve homelessness. But that's not what the government wants. The government wants them to disappear. We must stand with our homeless brothers and sisters because that is the only way we will actually solve this epidemic of extreme poverty in America.

It should not be a giant mental leap to realize that treating homeless people like... well, like people, would do untold world's of good to help these people get out of a free fall of hopelessness, desperation and depression.

Judging the homeless like our mayor does as being "beneath human dignity" is illogical and hateful.

You start with a \$1. Then you move to a conversation. Then you move to sharing a meal. Then you just hang out with them. This is the path to solving homelessness in America. A continuum of acceptance by all other Americans.

When we say, "You are an American just like me," is when we start the healing process of building true community. We are all people that deserve respect, dignity and appreciation. This is the future we need to be moving towards.

The featured image is of Alice. I took it yesterday. She got dressed up and did her hair to go to bible study. She had a home but she left it. I'm not exactly sure where she is living now.

She is sitting on a Styrofoam cooler. She got some donuts out of a dumpster and wanted to find a place to sit and eat some of them.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/do-you-remember-that-time-the-entire-summit-county-continuum-of-care-came-out-against-us-i-do/>

og:title Content: Summit County Continuum of Care attacks Akron's Tent Village. Here's my response.

Blog Post Date: September 25, 2019

Blog Post Content: It was an opinion piece signed by Mar-Quetta Boddie, Rebecca Callahan, Keith Stahl and Fred Berry AND "the view of 11 other members of the Continuum of Care for the Homeless"

It was entitled "Second Chance Village is not a solution to homelessness" and was written on July 11, 2018.

I often focus on Mayor Horrigan's ham-handed response to the work we were doing with homeless people in our tent village.

But this Summit County Continuum of Care opinion letter is possibly more important in understanding the state of homeless services in Akron Ohio.

Before I discuss that letter, I want to show you a brief email that was sent to me on July 3, 2018 from someone at the Summit County Continuum of Care:

The CoC had to come out with an agreed upon statement.

There is NO WAY that we believe people should be in tents or under bridges, but they do not need to be. There are options.

The people are not taking advantage of all the services that are available to them.

They could all be in homes today if they were encourages and supported to do so.

There is a critical part of this email, which is the premise for the July 11 op-ed is this statement: "they do not need to be."

They are stating that we have homeless people but they do not need to be homeless.

Initially I wasn't sure if this was a lie or if they actually believe it. But I knew one thing for sure: they definitely said it. They said that people do not need to live in tents or under bridges.

My response was this:

Well lets put them in houses today.

I will force them to go. That would be a super happy 4th of July.

The next email from the Continuum of Care makes me think that they weren't lying. That they did actually believe this statement. They wrote:

Im not sure if you are serious.

But if you want to help the current residents secure better housing, I can notify the other housing representatives and we can start the wheels in motion today.

I think we could have all of them out in the next week.

Let me know if you are 100% sure you are ready to do this, because the residents will really look to you for leadership on this move.

It looks to me like they were surprised that I would want people to get into houses. Did they think I was hoarding people in tents and trying to actually NOT get them into housing?

It was such a surprising and, honestly, bizarre response.

Of course I wanted these people in housing.

We learned some very important things after this letter. We learned that the statement "They could all be in homes today" was not only false but they couldn't get everyone from our village in homes six months later.

I detailed this here, but here are the final numbers of those housed when they shut our village down in January 2019 (6 months after this July declaration that everyone could be housed in a week)

Housed in January 2019:

Yes: 32

No: 5

Self Resolved: 8 (these are people that disappeared along the way)

And then, I reviewed those same people as to where they were on March 13, 2019:

Housed on 3/13/2019:

Yes: 26

No: 12

Not Sure: 7

So, not only could we not house all the people from our village ("next week" as was suggested in July), 3 months later, the following March, a significant portion of those housed left their housing.

There is another sentence in the email chain above that is really troubling to me. This person said: "The people are not taking advantage of all the services that are available to them."

So, this is how they make sense of people living on the street. It's the homeless people's fault. They aren't taking advantage of all the services that are available to them.

I now believe they felt that we were all just playing pretend campground over in my backyard. If these homeless people would just do what they were supposed to do everyone would be in a house and we all could live happily every after.

This is their actual belief.

They believe that homelessness is just a fluke that would completely go away if homeless people would just get their act together.

Meanwhile, Wooster (a city near us) just did their first ever summer homelessness point in time count. The results came out 4 days ago:

It showed that homelessness is up in Wayne County

They found that homelessness was up 29% when compared to their January point in time count.

As they probably would admit, this is one of those "duh" moments. Of course you are going to find more homeless people to count in the summer than in January. Homeless people are out and about less when its freezing.

This is important for what the Summit County Continuum of Care pointed out in their op-ed piece.

They wrote:

Since the opening of the village, our unsheltered homeless population grew by 71 percent in one year.

But they didn't have the "duh" moment. They didn't come to the conclusion that of course! the homeless numbers would increase because we pulled people out of the woods, out of abandoned homes and gave them a safe place to live in our tent village.

Their conclusion was that WE were the reason homelessness increased. Their statement was:

In exploring the cause of this increase, it appears the growth and development of the Second Chance Village

is a primary factor.

They didn't say our village enabled them to count homeless people more easily. They said WE WERE A "PRIMARY FACTOR" for the increase in homelessness.

When you put all the pieces together I now truly believe that they actually thought more people became homeless because we made some fun tent village people could hang out at. That was their actual belief. (Don't forget these are the people in charge of homelessness in Akron and all of Summit County.)

They didn't think these people were homeless and chose to move to our village because it was safer and they had more resources than the woods. They believed we created homeless people.

How are we ever going to address the homeless condition when the people in charge of helping the homeless believe:

Homeless people are only homeless because they aren't "taking advantage of the services"

They could all be in homes today -- LIKE TODAY (not tomorrow, not next week. TODAY)

They do not need to be living in tents or under bridges. They are only living that way because they are not taking advantage of the services.

A tent village is not only not needed but it is hurting people, making them homeless and increasing homelessness overall.

This is dangerous thinking.

If the people in charge have so little understanding of why people are homeless, why they aren't in houses, why they are living unsheltered on the street and, most importantly, why they gravitated so strongly to a homeless-run tent village we have little hope of actually solving homelessness.

There's another issue in their op-ed that really bothered me. They came out against you, the supporters of the homeless. They wrote:

Our best intentions of delivering a meal or other resources meet the needs of the moment but do not provide a long-term solution. Long-term solutions encourage people to lift themselves up while providing other critical support. It is important to focus on the root cause or the issue that has led to the homelessness episode.

They are saying:

don't feed the homeless

don't give the homeless clothes

don't treat them with dignity

don't engage them

I know this is true because they told me on two separate occasions that "the street is motivating." What they mean by that is if homeless people suffer long enough and hard enough on the street they will eventually "choose" to get into housing.

When you put all these pieces together you can see how their bizarro world makes sense to them.

There are plenty of houses for everyone.

Homeless people just aren't using all the services.

We could have every homeless person in a house TODAY

When you feed or shelter or clothe or even be kind to a homeless person you are slowing down their path to the endless housing services that are available TODAY.

This is the belief system of the Summit County Continuum of Care. This is at the core of everything they do. But this is a huge logical fallacy. This is a fundamental flaw in their reasoning.

This is critical to understand because this belief system they have created prolongs suffering, promotes isolation and ends in needless deaths from exposure and dying from overdoses alone in the woods.

Ironically, the CoC are the ones who are not following their own advice when they say, "It is important to focus on the root cause or the issue that has led to the homelessness episode."

They don't appear to have the slightest idea what the "root cause" of homelessness in Akron is. How could they when they have such out of touch beliefs about what a homeless person is and even what their own services are capable of?

This isn't some philosophical, theoretical debate that only results in the intellectual amusement of elitist navel-gazers. This is creating policy that promotes torturous living conditions and ultimately kills people.

Fortunately, there are those in the homeless services community that don't think the way these power brokers of the Summit County Continuum of Care think. But they are afraid to come out in the open. They are afraid to stand up to these people. And the reason is simple: They'll lose money: like a lot of money. If you are not on the inside of the CoC you are on the outside looking in. And it's likely your entire organization is based on the good graces of getting money from federal, state and local governments that hand it directly to the Summit County Continuum of Care to do with as they see fit.

We have to stand up and talk out against these oppressive and dangerous policies. The Continuum of Care does not understand what being homeless is truly like.

They need new leadership that is willing to look at homelessness in 21st century America. The playing field is different today than it ever was before. Unemployment is very low. The economy is very high and yet places like Wooster Ohio are willing to admit that homelessness is increasing despite all the economic signs that should mean a decrease in homelessness.

When the Summit County CoC looks at a 71% increase in homelessness and blames it on you and me and a tent village you know we have serious problems.

(I've copied and pasted this op-ed below. It is a very important piece of the puzzle in understanding why homelessness is increasing in Summit County.)

You can find the original here: <https://www.ohio.com/akron/editorial/mar-quetta-boddie-rebecca-callahan-ken-stahl-and-fred-berry-second-chance-village-is-not-a-solution-to-homelessness>

Mar-Quetta Boddie, Rebecca Callahan, Keith Stahl and Fred Berry: Second Chance Village is not a solution to homelessness

Housing is the cornerstone of stability for individuals who struggle with addiction, mental health issues and/or unemployment. Homeless by definition is an individual or family living on the streets or in a place not meant for human habitation, an emergency shelter, transitional housing program or safe haven.

We know that people who live in tents, sheds, abandoned houses, cars or other places not meant for human habitation are less likely to attend appointments, take medications as prescribed or gain employment. Failing to follow through with treatment often leads to hospitalizations, interactions with emergency services, ER visits and incarcerations. All of these outcomes are detrimental to the individual and the community.

Our homeless prevention system, better known as the Akron/Barberton/Summit County Continuum of Care for the Homeless, has 1,340 beds available to provide housing for people experiencing short-term or long-term homelessness. The county will have 76 additional beds designed to serve homeless people, not unlike the individuals at the Second Chance Village, available this month.

Summit County boasts a robust system of services and housing options for individuals who are homeless. For the past five years, the county has seen a reduction in the number of people living homeless, culminating in the declaration of functional zero for veteran homelessness.

This past year we have seen an increase in homelessness. In exploring the cause of this increase, it appears the growth and development of the Second Chance Village is a primary factor. Since the opening of the village, our unsheltered homeless population grew by 71 percent in one year.

Like all persons experiencing homelessness, the people staying at the Second Chance Village do not have utilities, running water, sanitary facilities, permanent shelter from extreme weather conditions, a listed address or a way to prepare and store personal food items. Additionally, they do not have a door to properly secure themselves from unwanted visitors in this type of environment.

The Akron/Barberton/Summit County Continuum of Care for the Homeless believes the Second Chance Village is not a solution to homelessness.

As a community, we have paid much attention and directed significant energy to the Second Chance Village with the best intentions. This attention comes from local politicians, reporters, faith-based groups, students, well-wishers and service providers. In our community, we pride ourselves on making a difference and lifting people up in down times.

Our best intentions of delivering a meal or other resources meet the needs of the moment but do not provide a long-term solution. Long-term solutions encourage people to lift themselves up while providing other critical support. It is important to focus on the root cause or the issue that has led to the homelessness episode.

As a collaborative of providers committed to addressing the issue of homelessness in all communities we serve, we have had many conversations with the people involved with the operations of the Second Chance Village. Our focus was to brainstorm alternative options to provide more housing opportunities to the people sleeping in tents that would be safe and sustainable.

We all agreed it is shameful that people are sleeping in tents because it is perceived to be the only option

available to them. We have performed and will continue to perform outreach in an effort to engage the homeless there and show them that tents are not their only option.

We have done intakes with many to initiate their transition into permanent housing. Some of our efforts have been successful, but challenges still exist.

The member organizations of the Akron/Barberton/Summit County Continuum of Care for the Homeless do not believe that it is acceptable for people to live in tents, on the streets, in sheds or in other places not meant for human habitation. As stated above, the community has the beds available, the community has the financial support available, and the community has the support services in place and available for every resident of the Second Chance Village.

We cannot support or endorse any establishment that facilitates or encourages living in tents or other places not meant for human habitation. The Continuum of Care for the Homeless will remain committed to providing housing opportunities to all the homeless individuals living in tents at the Second Chance Village. We will continue to engage the individuals and offer permanent housing solutions. However, our outreach can only be successful if we have the full support of those operating and giving to the Second Chance Village.

We welcome new ideas, energy and the commitment to help people achieve housing stability and self-sufficiency. We sincerely appreciate the dedication of those who have sustained the Second Chance Village. Nevertheless, the homeless people in our community would be best served by the development and support of permanent housing solutions, of which many are already available in our community.

Boddie is the manager of the Continuum of Care for the Homeless. Callahan is the executive director of the Community AIDS Network/Akron Pride Initiative. Stahl is the director of residential services at Community Support Services. Berry is the president and chief executive of Humility of Mary Housing. This column reflects the view of 11 other members of the Continuum of Care for the Homeless.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/what-its-actually-like-living-with-sage-lewis/>

og:title Content: What it's actually like living with Sage Lewis - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023

Blog Post Date: September 29, 2019

Blog Post Content: Can you imagine the conversations at the King house after they were fire bombed?

The Montgomery bus boycott started December 1, 1955. On January 30, 1956 segregationists fire bombed Martin Luther King Jr.'s house with his wife and 10 week old baby living in it.

I think about what those family "talks" must have been like.

He didn't start the bus boycotts. He was asked to come to Montgomery to be their spokesperson. He was asked to be the president of the Montgomery Improvement Association (MIA).

The Kings are in Montgomery not 2 months and they blow up his house.

The reality of activism is a lot different than the idealism of activism.

Fortunately, my house hasn't been blown up. But the trouble I've caused my family is not insignificant.

The problem is: I've always been this way. I'm just becoming more me.

My wife will admit she knew what she was getting into when she married me.

I was the living embodiment of Dean Moriarty from the book "On The Road" by Jack Kerouac. Carefree.

Adventurous. A free spirited maverick. A person who is "tremendously excited with life."

I was a cellist turned literature major at an expensive liberal arts college on a full ride. (Come to think of it, they probably wanted me there as a form of oddity and curiosity so upper middle class students could see what a poor kid from the other side of the tracks with a burning passion for life looked like.)

The problem with Dean Moriarty is that everybody eventually gets sick of him. This reviewer sums it up by saying "He [Dean] is the most magnetic character in the book, but everybody in the book gets sick of him at one point or another."

I get it. No one is more sick of me than me.

I hate looking at myself. I hate hearing myself. I hate thinking about all the over the top things I do. I'm the front row audience member of the Sage show that would love to just walk out of the theater.

But the problem is: this is me. This is who I am. I am not at peace with myself. I am never content. I can't turn off the passion. I am just a storm. A constant storm.

Loose canon. Bull in a china shop. These are common descriptors of me.

I've learned to control manifestations of this cyclone. I quit drinking 16 years ago. Same with smoking and drinking coffee. I've run 3 marathons in an attempt to control my mind. I've run businesses. And now I'm an activist for homeless people.

These are all just coping mechanisms to try to tame this undying, raging fire that is Sage Lewis. The super hero I most identify with is Incredible Hulk. I'm just always trying to manage this raging beast inside of me.

Ironically, my newest manifestation of an outlet (homeless activist) is probably the most troublesome to my family of them all.

Activism doesn't make sense to those nearest the activist.

Ask the church next to me how they felt about having an activist with 50 homeless people in his back yard. "Sure. It's good to help the needy and all. But let's get real. We can't have all these homeless people around our church. It's bad for business."

Ask the Food Bank or the Health Department when they immediately stopped allowing me to give out food or needles or Narcan after they read an article in the local newspaper they we were shut down. I mean, neither of them bothered to talk to me about what that meant. They just read something and that was good enough for them to abandon ship.

"We aren't here to actually fix real problems. We are just the people that put Band Aids on problems."

When the Incredible Hulk comes to town to fix problems everybody gets a little uneasy. "Whoa Sage. We don't just fix problems around here. We have a process we all follow. You clearly didn't get the memo."

"You're doing it wrong, Sage."

That's the underlying message I hear across the board.

You are supposed to drop off some old clothes somewhere. Or maybe make a donation to an approved charity somewhere.

But actually sheltering people that have nowhere else to sleep. That's just madness.

They always like to tell people "I have a big heart" before they launch into an endless diatribe about how I'm not doing things right and how they are the experts.

The closer you get to the epicenter of the Sage storm the more problematic it becomes.

This is probably why Jesus told his followers not to have a family.

Let the dead bury their own dead (Luke 9:60). He commanded his disciples: Leave parents, siblings, spouse even hate them and follow me.

That's just the activist in him talking. Jesus was a hard core extremist.

He clearly understood that family was just going to get in the way of pushing for serious change.

And that's where I draw the line.

I get exactly what he's saying. I know where he's coming from.

But my wife and kid are the only thing that ties me to Earth. They are the string on my balloon. I have no desire to just float off into the sky becoming a wild tornado with no structure or real connection to the earth.

I feel bad for them. Of all the people that experience the Sage Lewis storm, these two people live in a 2 bedroom apartment with it.

It's messy. It's loud. It's a 6 foot 2 inch 240 pound spinning cyclone sitting at their dining room table in a recliner. I can't even imagine what that must be like. I try to soften it by being amusing. I don't yell. I am kind. I try to help out around that house (poorly). But I'm sure that only goes so far.

I am fearless. I am passion incarnate. I am serious. I am driven.

I am terrifying.

I am the kind of guy that will wake up with a new "brilliant" idea and just do it.

The biggest problem I'm causing my family these days is financial.

While we are fine financially, my wife has grown tired of being my primary financial backer. She runs our agency, SageRock. From doing the work, to paying the bills, to invoicing clients. She does it all.

I had a path that was working to get her off the hook as that sole financial provider for the family. Then the city shut everything down at our building. Our charity simply no longer had a need to use our building so it stopped renting space from us.

Rightfully so, she is over it.

Life is a chess game. If you don't want to lose certain pieces then it limits the number of moves you can make.

I am not losing my family. That's my hard stop. So, it dictates the moves I have left to make.

The clearest move to make is to sell 15 Broad Street.

It is a financial drain on our family mostly because we just don't have a need for it any more.

We don't need it for our marketing agency. We can't use it for our charity. So it has become an anchor that is slowing me down and weighing on my wife.

Selling 15 Broad Street is the most straight forward move to take financial stress off my wife while also letting me be free to continue to help homeless people and change the unbelievable policies of a government

that thinks it's acceptable to torture homeless people.

Possibly you saw the Akron Beacon Journal this past Friday talking about our sale:

Property that once housed homeless camp in Akron is up for sale - News - Akron Beacon Journal - Akron, OH

The full listing is here:

15 Broad St, Akron, OH, 44305 - Office Property For Sale | LoopNet.com

My wife just told me, "It's not easy being married to me. But it has its upsides."

It's hard enough to live day to day with a guy like me. But dragging us down financially is more than any one human should have to deal with.

We all know the incredible speaking capabilities of Martin Luther King Jr., but his negotiation skills he must have pulled off with his wife to stay with him in Montgomery Alabama after that fire bombing must have been legendary and other worldly. That's the speech I want to hear.

I just need to make sure my family is comfortable. I signed up for that way before I signed up for anything else. They will always be what matters to me most. Selling 15 Broad Street is the quickest and easiest way to take some of the heat off them.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/the-negative-behavior-police/>

og:title Content: The Negative Behavior Police - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023

Blog Post Date: October 3, 2019

Blog Post Content: There is a very important statement made by a high up leader in homeless services here in Akron Ohio.

It's stated in this article in the Akron Beacon Journal made by Keith Stahl Director of Operations and Residential Services at Community Support Services. He states:

There is a philosophical debate at the heart of this, Stahl said. If people chose to continue to engage in negative behavior or not live in housing or take advantage of shelters, what do we want to do with that as a society? Are we OK with them just being? And if we are, where do they go?

He's talking about whether it is acceptable for people to live in tents.

This is critically important because this is the position of the entire Summit County Continuum of Care.

They aren't so blatant about the message on their web site. But the sentiment is still clearly there. It's a dog whistle to let homeless service providers know what they are doing to homeless people in Summit County.

The picture on their home page has a sub heading that states "Each person is a branch of strength within the community. Strong branches make a strong community!"

On their purpose page they declare that they are here to "optimize self-sufficiency among individuals and families experiencing homelessness."

They are clearly here to make "strong branches" and "optimize" people. This is their solution to homelessness.

This is crucial to understand because of what it represents.

It is wealthy white people dictating a moral agenda on extremely poor people.

This is troubling because it doesn't appear that they have a single person of color on their board of directors. If I'm mistaken about this please let me know. While I know many people on their board of directors, I don't know all of them. In doing a quick Google search it appears to me that the people I don't know all look white to me.

Has any one of those people come from a background of poverty and homelessness?

Has any one of them experienced generational poverty and are currently living in extreme poverty? Have any of them experienced the ravages of an opiate addiction? Do they know what it feels like to try to claw your way out of an existence that is the only way of life you have ever known? Do they know what it's like to be chastised and ridiculed by the very service providers that are supposed to be helping you? Do they know what its like living on the street with schizophrenia, an opiate addiction and nowhere to sleep?

Then how do you impose draconian, cruel policy on people who you don't actually represent?

It becomes the wealthy white moral agenda imposed on extremely poor people that have never once been asked what they want.

It is an iron fist moral agenda of wealthy white people imposed on extremely poor people. It is, once again, the age old American trope of: Wealthy white people taking freedoms away from people that aren't them.

The most recent comparison is the gay rights movement.

I would think most of us can vividly remember when old white men dictated the morals and laws of the land in regards to gay rights.

Being gay was considered (and still is by many) to be immoral, gross, ungodly and it was illegal to marry someone who was the same sex as you.

It's quite easy for me to replace Keith Stahl's statement on gay people:

"If people choose to continue to engage in negative behavior... what do we want to do with that as a society? Are we OK with them just being?"

I'm sure Mr. Stahl is probably a politically correct liberal that would quickly say we should never say such a thing about gay people.

(He would probably be against the exact same wealthy old white men that are currently creating laws that take away the rights of women and their bodies.)

But where he comes from it is very acceptable to say it about homeless people.

It is a hate statement. Plain and simple. But the dangerous tragedy of it all is: HE'S THE GUY IN CHARGE OF HOMELESS PEOPLE IN AKRON.

It would be like Harvey Milk being the mayor of San Francisco and saying "I speak for gay people. Are we actually going to just be OK with them engaging in this negative behavior?"

Has the United States of America really become that place where we have "negative behavior" police?

Because that's what Keith Stahl is for the homeless people he oversees.

We all are participating in negative behaviors. Each one of us. And significant negative behaviors that are completely legal and hurting ourselves and our society as a whole.

Flying on airplanes is terrible for the environment.

Coal fired electric plants are terrible for the environment even if you drive an electric car.

Eating meat consumes endless food and water... not to mention is mass murder of epic proportions of mammals.

Eating at McDonald's is very bad for you and causes heart disease which is incredibly expensive on society as a whole.

Smoking cigarettes

Drinking alcohol

Gambling

Sky diving

Base jumping

Sailing around the world

Playing video games too much

Watching too much TV

Obsessing on Facebook

Are we now the country where we have a Keith Stahl Negative Behavior police officer coming into your home and telling you that your negative behavior is next on the list of things that are now unacceptable in America?

Homeless people are not bothering anyone. The only reason they have a trash issue is because the negative behavior police believe it would only encourage them more if we gave them trash service.

Not only is this stealing American's freedoms it also is absolutely at odds with how to actually help homeless people.

The Housing First movement, which is the only thing anyone ever talks about in homeless services, is all about accepting negative behavior. Get the addict in a house and then work on the addiction.

So, it's not even the addiction these people have a problem with. It's the tents. They HATE tents.

But if you take away the tents then how in the hell is anyone ever going to work on getting into housing when all they can think about is food, water, shelter, warmth and safety?

I mean, have these people ever even read about Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs?

It is psychology 101: Needs lower down in the hierarchy must be satisfied before individuals can attend to needs higher up.

When you take away their tent you instantly pull the rug out from under them. Both "Basic needs" tiers are instantly stolen from them.

I mean why am I the guy that has to say these things? Why are they not getting this?

The answer is simple:

They don't like tents. They think they're yucky. The mayor himself has said it is "beneath human dignity" to live in a tent. (I'm sure Native Americans would find this not a little insulting.) Because the rich people don't like tents they are willing to take away the basic human rights of survival from American citizens that have nothing.

This is abhorrent. This is cruel. This is shameful. This is the great American disgrace.

The homeless service providers are waging a war on homeless people. It's madness.

Let these American citizens live in peace.

When we become "OK with them just being", which seems like a radical idea to Keith Stahl, homeless people will finally be able to think about where they are going next. We can work with them in the woods and help them, when they are ready, to move to the next phase of their lives. This is the only way we can help these people. This is the only way to solve homelessness in America.

We must meet them where they are today and be accepting of them.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/the-governor-of-texas-hates-homeless-people/>

og:title Content: The Governor of Texas Hates Homeless People - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023

Blog Post Date: October 4, 2019

Blog Post Content: Let me set the stage:

The mayor of Austin Texas Steve Adler and Austin city council voted, fair and square, to allow homeless people to camp on city land in Austin. Homeless people aren't allowed to camp in parks or in front of city hall. But everywhere else is fair game.

Well, the governor of Texas, Greg Abbott, (a Republican, for the record. (some people like to blame Democrats on the entire homeless mess)) is having none of it.

On Wednesday he declared if they don't change this law he is going to step in.

"The governor explained that if he does not witness consequential improvement by that date [November 1, 2019], he intends to direct multiple state agencies to intervene."

He's talking about sending in state troopers to enforce "criminal trespassing" laws.

Austins council passed ordinances largely decriminalizing sitting, camping or lying down in most public places on June 20.

Granted, I don't know a lot about Texas government. Maybe the governor plows into cities all the time down there overturning laws created by city council and approved of by the mayor. But where I come from I'd be pretty outraged if that happened in my city.

Look, I'm about 75% in approval of what Austin City Council did here. Because I have experience running a homeless tent village for 2 years I have some insight that they might not yet have on the topic. I believe they would probably be better off creating a few designated areas for sanctioned homeless tent villages.

They should create rules in the camps and measure results.

But mostly I'm just incredibly thankful they are experimenting with dealing with homelessness in their city.

They will likely evolve their thinking over time as things progress.

But Texas Governor Greg Abbott is having none of it. He's bringing his hired guns on November 1 to fix the the growing homelessness crisis" in Austin.

This is hatred of homeless people. This is homeless hate.

What kind of governor is willing to usurp city law because he is so worried about criminal trespassing?

Honestly, this feels like the most un-Texan thing I can imagine. Isn't Texas supposed to be the Lone Star State? Aren't they the people in America that want less government most of all?

But Governor Abbott is so in love with protecting criminal trespassing laws on Austin city land that he is compelled to ship in Texas state troopers to save Austin city from itself.

This isn't about criminal trespassing. This is about homeless people. Abbott clearly doesn't like homeless people. He wants them to disappear (or leave Texas or die).

I think some of you bristle a little when I use the "H" word. But we cannot cover up the truth of these brutal government attacks on homeless people. Americans have a long history of hating people we don't like. We regularly have hate crimes and we regularly institute hate laws. We must not turn away from things that make us uncomfortable.

Some American government officials hate homeless people. You can see it by their endless camp sweeps, their no feeding laws, their no sitting laws. These are laws put in place by people that hate homeless people. 21st century homelessness is the result of Ronald Reagan decimating our mental health facilities and Bill Clinton destroying our welfare system and also giving away all of our jobs with NAFTA. The chickens are coming home to roost. When the economy is doing great and unemployment is at an all time low but we continue to see a rise in homelessness there is something fundamentally broken in our system. We have to try new ideas to address this great American disgrace and tragedy. When a 90 year old man is arrested for handing out food in a park in Florida, that's homeless hate. And when Akron city mayor Dan Horrigan is attacking 9 homeless encampments all at once TODAY and every Friday that is homeless hate. We can't be afraid of the truth. The truth may hurt. But the truth will set us free. Homeless hate is real. And most of it is being pushed on us by various levels of government in America.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/joker-is-my-guy/>
og:title Content: Joker is my guy - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023
Blog Post Date: October 6, 2019

Blog Post Content: The new Joker movie came out this weekend. It pushes the outer edge of superhero movies into a new darker world that has never been seen or experienced before. Instead of seeing Gotham through Batman's eyes, we now get to see Gotham through Joker's eyes. And it all begins to make sense. (I'm going to likely tell spoilers in this piece. So, read ahead with that in mind.) Look at this screenshot from the review site Rotten Tomatoes:

The critics are against it and the audience loves it. This is so important because of course the critics (the man) are against this movie. The movie is against them. The movie is a dark anthem for the people in a world where the government is against them... just like real life. The government doesn't care about them because they prefer to focus on the low hanging fruit... the wealthy people. Get the wealthy people in and push the deviant people out. That's the essence of the American experiment in the 21st century that has been brewing since the 1980's. Reagan decimated mental health services. Clinton destroyed welfare and shipped all our jobs out of the country with NAFTA. There are so many components to this American condition that are creating a brutal existence for so many people. In this case the focus is on the area of mental health. This movie is as much of a slow, burning grind through the mental health system in America as it is the Scorsese-esque reboot of Taxi Driver for this generation. If you think this movie is "boring" as some professional reviewers have called it, you are exposing yourself as a person who finds the reality of the marginalized Americans who are poor, mentally ill and disdained by their country as boring. This is why Joker is angry. The people on the inside find his condition and world he is trapped in "boring." Batman's father calls them "clowns." Dan Horrigan, Akron's mayor, calls them "living beneath human dignity." Joker is an extreme, blown out fictional icon of the manifestation of marginalization in America. This is what happens when you don't help the people in your country that need help. Just as we don't have a vigilante super hero like Batman in real life, fortunately we don't have a vigilante super villain like Joker. But we do have the millions of people that are on the Joker's spectrum due to untreated mental illness. Fortunately, they don't go on murderous rampages. They typically act out mostly in ways that hurt themselves.

Drug use
Homelessness

Prostitution
Stealing from other poor people

But it's all the same thing.

You are walked step by step through what I've seen many people live in real life America.

Americans with SERIOUS mental health issues are left stranded in the "greatest country in the world."

Do you know what a pink slip is?

I've tried numerous times to "pink slip" people.

Here's how it works:

Someone is clearly, seriously mentally ill. To the point that you are deeply concerned they are going to hurt themselves or someone else.

So, you call the police and let them know you are working with a person you feel is dangerously mentally ill.

They send out a special investigator that is trained on these matters.

75% of the time the person snaps out of it. They play the role of a sane person. (This makes the insanity experienced by the outside viewer even more head spinning.)

The special investigator will tell you straight up that this is what often happens. The person knows how to answer the questions so they won't be taken into custody.

Most of the time the investigator shrugs their shoulders and tells you to call again if the person acts out.

(You only have to call a couple times before you stop calling, trust me.)

But every once in a while the person is so bat-shit crazy they can't keep it together. The investigator comes, the person can't resist telling them about the rock they are convinced is from the moon is instructing them to kill people.

So the system works! The person is "pink slipped" and taken away... for 3 days.

3 days is how long they are gone. In 72 hours they are right back with me, maybe a little more calm for the moment. But here's a news flash: you can't fix a dual diagnosis of drugs and schizophrenia and bi-polar and explosive anger in 3 days.

The person is told to come back for treatment. Sometimes they go. Most of the time they don't.

Just as Joker says in the movie: They feel better in their insanity. That world makes more sense. I can't say I blame them. The world of reality often seems more insane than a murder-instructing rock from the moon.

People often ask me why I still do it.

I've been punched, stolen from countless times. My porta potty was burned down. Someone is currently using a back patio as a bathroom. Human shit piles are big and disgusting.

I do it because the system is WAY more fucked up than the people that are acting out as products of the system.

The way we treat the mentally ill, the homeless and the addicted is the true madness. I am not overstating anything by saying America does not care about these people. We have a one size fits all solution as a society for them: jail.

We lock them up for short stints at a time. They get no treatment. They get no counseling. They are just warehoused for 30, 60 or 90 days and then sent right back into a world of systemic poverty, drug dealer cruelty, and an ocean of hopelessness.

This is their life. Mental illness, often self-medicated, acting out, going to jail and repeating the cycle all over. Joker is my guy.

Joker is a person who has been betrayed by the system.

His actions cannot be justified. But they are clearly understood.

I'm so deeply thankful for this movie because it brings empathy to the marginalized mentally ill.

My hope is that people who hate the homeless and hate the addicted will soften after seeing this movie.

Joker is so much worse than a homeless person or an addict. But the cause of his actions come from the exact same place.

If you watch this movie and can say, "I see how the system can make a person like Joker," my sincere hope is you can then say, "I see how the system can make a homeless person or a drug addict."

We will never solve addiction or homelessness by blaming the victim. By blaming the addict or the homeless. Yes, their actions are their own. They are responsible for their actions.

But their circumstances come from a deeply flawed, broken, corrupt system that hates them and just wants them to disappear so we can get back to the regularly scheduled programming of loving on rich people.

I stand with the Joker. I am his advocate. I am his narrator. I am the person who will fight for all the Jokers of the world because they are just troubled people that the system has forgotten and society has been trained to hate or scorn.

(Incidentally, I also happen to believe we really need a person like Batman in the hood. The police do nothing about drug houses. I also stand with Batman. Unfortunately, unlike Joker, he's actually just pure fantasy.)

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/signs-of-grief/>

og:title Content: Signs of Grief - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023

Blog Post Date: October 14, 2019

Blog Post Content: I have a friend, Holly White, who has a PhD in spiritual matters. (I'm sorry I can't recall your exact area of study, Holly. I just don't have the energy right now to ask anybody.) She and my wife, Rocky, were talking about how I seem to be experiencing symptoms of grief. Holly is well versed in this area. She works at a hospital in Boston helping people with their spiritual needs. This page, Why Experts Talk About Symptoms, Not Stages, of Grief, does a nice job of listing some of these symptoms.

Here are some symptoms I seem to be presenting:

- Headaches and stomach aches
- Deep sighing
- Feeling weak
- Energized: feeling strong/invincible
- Difficulty making decisions
- Low self-esteem
- Self-destructive thoughts
- Feeling lost and empty
- Feeling abandoned or punished by God
- Feeling spiritually connected to God

This experience is interesting because I can sometimes feel one way one minute and then the complete opposite the next minute.

"God's with me. God's abandoned me."

"I feel really energized. I feel really weak."

2019 has been a year of near total deconstruction for all my work. Not one thing I did to help homeless people was taken to heart by either the city of Akron administration or our homeless service providers, the Continuum of Care.

I came in as an entrepreneur and innovator and all they took from the ideas we created were to completely dismantle it and destroy it... and never mention it again.

I am an entrepreneur. I am a creator. I build things out of nothing. This is celebrated in the world of business and the free market. But in the world of bureaucracy it is a disease that must be eradicated.

We are in the process of selling our building at 15 Broad Street.

All signs indicate that my journey on the path of life does not need this building. Renovating cheap houses as transitional homes for homeless people is really where I need to focus my attention. This idea has legs.

But I love that building. I love what it represents. It is zoned Class B. That means you can have businesses in it. Zoning doesn't allow that to happen on any interesting scale in a house.

I am a creator. 15 Broad Street is built for innovation and creation.

It's just one more thing being taken from me.

Even if it's supposed to be this way, it still cuts deep.

(As I write this and process these thoughts and feelings, I get heavier, sleepier, depressed. It feels like I can't write any more.)

Fortunately, things change. Things look up. There is hope right around the corner. I just have to sit here in my comfy recliner with my dog Claribel, or go to my comfy office and work on my fancy computer. Maybe I'll go out to lunch to make myself feel better. Maybe I won't go into work at all. Maybe I'll take a nap on my sectional couch or my fluffy bed. I have options. Many options.

I am surrounded in a warm tub of hope and hopefulness. I just have to wait for it to show up in one of its endless forms that I have the good fortune of having available to me.

I have all my basic needs met. People love me. I'm doing some of the most meaningful work a person could

hope to do.

But that's not how it is for many people in Akron Ohio. We live in a city where poverty abounds and those poor people are judged for not working hard enough or getting a good enough education or not being able to kick a habit.

I can barely get out of my chair right now to pour myself another cup of tea. And tens of thousands of people in Akron Ohio are living below the poverty line all while being looked down on and judged by wealthy people and disdained by their government. They are unwanted. And they know it.

You know exactly how I'm feeling right this minute. You've felt exactly the way I'm feeling right now. I'd be very surprised if you weren't nodding along as I described my current mental state.

You know the debilitating nature of depression.

Yet, turn your mind towards homeless people and many of you immediately lose all sense of understanding and empathy.

"Trash piles up all around where ever homeless people camp."

"There are needles everywhere."

"They smell."

"They poop and pee right on the sidewalk."

And then the government jumps on the chorus...

"Homeless camps are a health risk."

"Homeless camps breed disease."

"There are rats all around homeless camps."

"Health and safety are our first priority."

THEN GIVE THESE PEOPLE A GODDAMN TRASH CAN AND PORTA POTTY.

"Well, we can't do that, Sage. It will just encourage them and make their lives too comfortable."

I'm depressed because all my work has been taken from me. But I'm surrounded by everything I need to dust myself off and get back on that horse.

A homeless person has lost everything, including their most basic needs of food, water, shelter, warmth and safety (just as Maslow's hierarchy of needs describes). AND they are ridiculed and judged and seen as a "nuisance" that must be eradicated. (It's the head of our nuisance department that comes out to endlessly shut down homeless camps while providing no solutions or alternatives as to where they are supposed to go in the 7 days they give them to vacate.)

How the hell do you think these people can focus on anything other than fundamental survival skills with that kind of headwind?

This is madness.

We take the poorest and weakest among us, tell them we hate them (we treat them like unwanted pests), take away their tents and food and water and then scorn them because they won't shape up and "use the services provided for them."

I don't understand how normal, decently educated, adequately intelligent people that run our city and run our homeless services can think any of this makes sense or, further, believe the homeless people in their community are behaving in any other way than the way they are currently behaving.

OF COURSE, they are not going to call homeless services (especially when they don't have access to a phone). OF COURSE they are going to just move to another camp where they hope and pray they will be left alone by the nuisance inspector. OF COURSE they are going to continue to use drugs because it's the only time they feel any peace in their lives. OF COURSE they are going to steal metal and copper because it's the only way they can think about making money right now.

These people are in complete and total survival mode all while being judged by people that drive fancy cars, live in fancy houses and have fancy jobs. How the hell do you think YOU would feel?

Their lives are completely destroyed AND no one wants them around. They are hated and judged and scorned.

How do we ever expect any of them to get up and move forward under those conditions?

Many of us like to think we could do it. I'm here to tell you: most of us would never be able to do it. We are much softer than we like to imagine ourselves. Our lives of comfort and first world problems have made us weak and soft. Most homeless people have lived their entire lives being chiseled and beaten with hammers of pain and suffering and major trauma.

I'd be so worried for your mental state if one day the bailiff came to your house, evicted you, threw all your stuff on the front lawn and you had no friends and no money. So you slid into the woods and hid under a bush just hoping you could make it that night without being robbed or beaten or raped. The amount of PTSD you'd likely carry with you for years to come from that single night would likely be nearly unbearable.

We live in a world where classism is a growing bigotry. Before World War II most of us were poor. We were farmers or simple factory workers.

Today the divide between the have's and have nots continues to grow. And with this separation comes prejudice and judgement.

Homeless people are attacked by anyone above them financially. A person living in a subsidized apartment drawing \$750/month in social security can be one of the most hateful people imaginable towards homeless people. But imagine trying to put a homeless tent village in Fairlawn Heights (Akron's wealthiest neighborhood) and watch people lose their shit.

Whether you hate homeless people or you have a soft spot in your heart for homeless people, the outcome is the same. You don't want people to be homeless any more.

Much to the dismay of the government and government funded organizations I believe we can solve this problem with private money. Of course they don't want that. They want to be the sole saviors of the homeless (while not actually doing much of a damn thing for them). A guy like me is a risk to the system where people get rich off of homeless people. What if HUD stopped giving them money because they were seen as not nearly as effective as a guy with a bunch of \$25 Walmart tents and \$5000 rundown homes that can be renovated for another \$5000?

I'm a threat. Plain and simple.

But if they want to keep their juicy contracts and keep their lush lifestyles they better wake up and smell the coffee. I'm just the first shot across the bow. There will be more people like me. Innovators. Inventors. Builders. Creators. One day their state government or, heaven help them, the national government, will likely decide they aren't effective any more.

The money will go to people that have innovated and adapted and created better results.

And it all starts with the critical soft skills of empathy and understanding.

People living below Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs who are filled with trauma and grief and no community will never be treated effectively just by throwing them in a house. They will leave the houses or never go in the houses in the first place. They'll just end up right back on the street.

Traditional shelters and traditional Continuums of Care are outdated models of homeless services. There are better ways. These providers either need to adapt or they will go extinct.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/my-mom-said-no/>

og:title Content: My mom said no - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023

Blog Post Date: October 20, 2019

Blog Post Content: I had a brief encounter with a young girl yesterday. She was probably 6 years old. She was everything you'd expect from a 6 year old. She started a conversation with me. She was smiley. She was curious.

She read the words on my t-shirt: "Keep your coins. I want change."

It's a screen printed t-shirt made by a homeless guy, Kenny Boldt.

This is him holding one of these t-shirts he made:

I told the little girl that I help homeless people. She said that she asked her mom if she could give some money to the man at the corner of W. Market and Hawkins in Akron. Her mom told her no.

This girl's parents own a restaurant. I suggested to see if she could bring some left overs to this man.

Also going on in my life...

I'm getting chastised by some people right now on Facebook for the sarcastic comments I'm making towards Andrew C. Miller on this post.

It's not my most proud moment. But I keep having this adolescent, rebellious response to anyone who gets upset that I'm upset. "He started it!"

He didn't begin from a place of curiosity and questioning. He came from a place of "tax dollars" and "most put themselves their" and "not even tryin to better themselves" and "lazy drug addict losers".

He came from a place of bigotry and prejudice and hate. This was never going to be an honest conversation. I've decided I'm the guy that holds the mirror up to society and makes them look at their judgmental, classist hate.

Homeless people are so beaten down they just let this kind of cruel, toxic poison to be said with never the slightest rebuttal. Try to say the same things to an organized group like Jewish people and see what kind of

hell storm rains down on you.
The truth is: I don't know how to be.
That 6 year old girl is so powerful.
The energy and optimism and sweet, loving power of a 6 year old is so earth shaking.
But she is stopped in her tracks by a single word from her mom: "No."
I instantly rage with anger and hate towards people who get a free pass to call an entire group of people things like losers, addicts and lazy. Can't they see this is hate speech? That this is bigotry?
Is no one going to call them on their bullshit?
People let all that hate speech slide by and then get upset because I push back. "But seriously Sage... aren't most homeless people actually just lazy, no good drug addicts that refuse to get the help that is out there for them?"
They come to me like they are asking a serious question. Like they are stating facts and aren't actually chanting hateful, bigoted, prejudiced hate speech. I dare you to say that about a Mexican American or an African American. But it's totally fine to say about a homeless American.

I'm upset with the Dalai Lama. (stay with me here)
Everything he says on Twitter is like this most recent tweet:
In todays world, despite ample material development, too many lack inner peace. One way to counter anger, jealousy and competitiveness is to cultivate non-violence and compassion towards others.
THE FUCKING CHINESE STOLE HIS COUNTRY.
The Dalai Lama fled his country in 1959 because the Chinese stole it from him.
I guess I'm just angry.
Fuck the Chinese government! Just look at what they are doing in Hong Kong right now.
That's where I'm at right now.
When the city of Akron took our tent village from us, a shadow of darkness overcame me. It wasn't so much that they forced their will on my private land, it was that they entirely destroyed a place that was caring for the weakest Americans on private land with private money. It was completely invisible to the road and anyone walking by. But they refused to allow us to help these people.
While on a micro-scale, it felt exactly like China came onto my land, occupied my property and shut down a sacred, spiritual place of love and hope and compassion and kindness.
Fuck the Akron government!
You're right Dalai Lama, I don't have inner peace. I don't have compassion towards the government. Why aren't you fighting like hell to get Tibet back?
Even Jesus is telling me to love the tax collector with this story: Luke 19:1-10 NIV - Zacchaeus the Tax Collector.
There's the 6 year old girl, there's the Dalai Lama, there's Jesus. They are all such powerful spiritual advisers. They shake me to my core with their kindness and compassion.
But everyone just told them no. And that was it.
I also live in the town of John Brown. In October 1859, Brown led a raid on the federal armory at Harpers Ferry, Virginia. He advocated the use of armed insurrection to overthrow the institution of slavery in the United States. It is said he created the dress rehearsal for the civil war.
I'm all for risking the complete destruction of America to end the greatest embarrassment of our country: Slavery.
My mentors of social justice often tell me absolutely opposite things.
All I want to do is get basic human rights to homeless Americans.
I don't care how I do it as long as I do it.
I live in a moral universe of opposites, of contradiction. I think that's what I'm being told. Be anger. Be love. To the same person at the same time.
You'll only see one at a time even though they both exist simultaneously in my mind.
People often ask me: "Why do you hate the mayor?"
It's a shocking question. I've never said I hate the mayor and I most certainly don't have hate in my heart for the mayor.
All I want is for him to change his position on homelessness in his city. And I'm willing to do anything to get it done. (I think he is a sensitive guy that has a hard time being publicly chastised. So I hit him where it hurts.)
Ultimately, I'm new to the whole activist role. I'm making this up as I go.
So, I'm reading, I'm researching and I'm testing the waters with different messaging.

If you want to know my overarching strategy for uprising you can read this book: Blueprint for Revolution: How to Use Rice Pudding, Lego Men, and Other Nonviolent Techniques to Galvanize Communities, Overthrow Dictators, or Simply Change the World

I'm a dyed in the wool non-violence guy. But that doesn't mean I'm going to be all sweet and roses all the time. You are going to see me get angry.

I'm fighting for this. I see it as a war against American Homeless people. I am ambitious. I am driven. I obsess over winning.

I see myself in a nonviolent war against the homeless of America and I intend to win.

I feel like God is sending me contradictory messaging all the time. John Brown and that 6 year old girl are both Akronites. They are both me.

I believe God is pushing me towards a path of opposites, being two different things at once.

Homelessness is only going to get worse as the great economic divide in America continues to expand. For all of our sakes, for the sake of our great Republic we must end this classist war against the weakest among us.

I'm not asking for a dime from the government. I'm just asking for them to get the hell out of the way so we the people can treat the disease of homelessness in America.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/mayor-horrigan-whats-your-plan-to-protect-your-homeless-citizens-this-winter/>
og:title Content: Mayor Horrigan: What's your plan to protect your homeless citizens this winter? - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023
Blog Post Date: October 23, 2019

Blog Post Content: [wufoo username="sagerock" formhash="qjg3psz1f9orim" autoresize="true" height="618" header="show" ssl="true"]

This is the first winter we don't have our tent village OR our day center.

If you aren't regularly working with homeless people living on the street, let me tell you what is happening. Mayor Horrigan just closed a major camp last week which has made many people frantic. They are looking for places to hide and prepare for the impending onslaught of a Northeast Ohio winter.

The Farmers' Almanac says we are going to have a freezing, frigid, frosty winter this season.

Homeless people are looking for garages, abandoned houses, sheds, places to hide a tent.

Even after they shut down our tent village, our day center which offered food, indoor shelter, showers, laundry and warmth still was up and running ALL winter long last year. We easily served 50 or more homeless people every day last winter. We opened at 7am and stayed open until 11pm all winter long.

That is all gone. They closed everything down. We now have a \$12 million building getting ready to open with fancy apartments and retail stores directly across the street from us. Middlebury is the new entertainment district of Akron. Homeless people are simply too ugly for this new, fancy neighborhood. (I had my first sighting of a hipster chick walking past my building holding a Starbucks coffee late last week.) But the homeless people are still here. They hide from the government. Being seen is the most dangerous thing they can do for the next 6 months. If they are seen they will be kicked out of their location. Finding a new location and setting up a new camp has to happen within one day otherwise they risk dying from exposure to the elements.

No matter whether you agreed with what we did or not, it is undeniable that Akron has created a major setback for itself in helping homeless people survive the winter months of Akron Ohio.

In fact, during the mayoral debate, Mayor Horrigan said "I always thought a day time drop in center would maybe help."

(I have to really fight back my sarcasm, but...)

I agree Mayor. I always thought a day time drop in center would maybe help too. That's why we created one.

In fact, we had everything (other than the tiny homes) that Josh Sines flushed out in much greater detail than Dan Horrigan did.

You can watch that part of the debate here:

This isn't just some first world problem we're talking about here. We're talking about life and death issues here. People that had a place to go now no longer have that place.

Where are they going to go this winter?

Is our city going to address this need?

Do they know that hypothermia can occur when you are exposed to cold air, water, wind, or rain. Your body temperature can drop to a low level at temperatures of 50°F.

Look at our night time temperatures already:

It's going to get down to 39 degrees on Friday night. That's already in dangerous territory.

These homeless people that have been abandoned by our city government are clamoring to get into one of our 2 transitional houses. We are constantly being forced to push them out because we aren't legally allowed to have more than 6 people in either house.

They are starting to get panicky and desperate. It feels like we have 2 lifeboats with people drowning all around us. We are legally forced to not be able to help these people.

Does Mayor Horrigan have a plan for these people?

Will there be warming centers for these people?

If so, how are they going to get the word out to homeless people?

When will they open?

How long will they be open?

Where will the people go when they get kicked out of the warming centers every night?

Are they going to offer transportation to pick people up and take them to places where they can safely rest at night?

Are they going to offer them food?

Will they offer them supplies to help them stay warm?

Is the mayor going to continue his endless war on homeless camps across the city all winter long?

The mayor has answers for all these questions for every single animal in Akron Ohio. But does he have any answers to these questions for the American citizen human beings living in his city?

WHAT IS THE PLAN MAYOR HERRIGAN?

We need to know the plan so we can help these people live through winter.

We must demand that Mayor Horrigan and City Council tell us what their plan is for all the people living on the streets of their city this winter. This is a dangerous situation. All the homeless people I talk to are scared and don't know what they are going to do.

Click here to ask Mayor Horrigan and City Council what their plan is to take care of their homeless citizens this winter.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/its-ok-jeff-fusco-got-a-dui-driving-a-city-car/>

og:title Content: It's OK Jeff Fusco Got A DUI Driving a City Car - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: October 26, 2019

Blog Post Content: Since 1986 Jeff Fusco has worked for the city of Akron. That's 33 years he has made a GREAT living off of Akron tax payers.

eight years as ward 10 council representative

three-and-a-half years as at-large council representative

Deputy Service Director for 10 years

And now 9 years again as at-large council representative

He also likes to mention that he was mayor from June to December 2015. (He wasn't elected or anything. The first guy had a mental breakdown. The next guy felt up a woman like the first day on the job. And Jeff was the runner up after all that.)

I'm missing 3 years somewhere. But I pulled this from his city council biography.

In 2004, during that deputy service director stint, he was caught and convicted driving drunk in a city-owned car. That's an appointed 6 figure post. It's in the cabinet of the mayor. He was "punished" with a seven-week

suspension from the city without pay.

These kind of incidents are great for the people in power. It makes the sinner much more loyal.

You can easily see that loyalty in 2015 when Jeff Fusco appointed Chris Ludle as the city's deputy public service director. The "interesting" part of that is that Chris Ludle also happens to be Mayor Horrigan's brother-in-law.

The first thing Dan Horrigan did was increase his cabinet with 3 more people than it had before he arrived.

These are sweet deals. For example, Horrigan's brother-in-law, Chris Ludle, makes \$106,454.

To put that a little in perspective, the median income in Akron is \$36,223.

I just wanted to set the table so you can see the kind of nepotism and corruption that is how Akron has been run for the last 30 years. But really, that's not what I truly wanted to talk about.

None of this matters in his bid for re-election.

Jeff Fusco will easily win his re-election bid coming up in a few days. Akron city residents don't really get into the whole voting thing and caring about who runs their city or how it seriously affects their lives. A very few people just vote on who has the most signs in yards and who the newspaper tells them to vote for.

Everybody else just sits the entire thing out.

I'm actually here to talk about addiction.

I have been racking my brain trying to think of any time EVER a person wouldn't immediately and permanently be fired if they were caught driving drunk in a company car. (If you know of any situation where you've heard of someone only getting a temporary break from work because they were driving drunk in a company car, please let me know.)

But this wasn't "just" a company car. It was a city vehicle. It was a vehicle bought directly from the citizens of Akron Ohio. YOU bought the car and someone else said, "Yeah, Jeff drove it drunk. But he's a good guy. We'll give him his car back AND his juicy salary in less than 2 months.

I wish I could say this is a wonderful example of forgiveness and understanding. What it is in reality is that they own Jeff Fusco for as long as he decides to work in the government. Hence, Jeff placing our current mayor's brother-in-law in a \$106,000 appointed job.

While the motivation isn't pure, the fact that they let him keep his job is actually really cool.

We don't have that kind of forgiveness in America.

We are puritanical through and through. There is a moral code and if you don't abide by it you will be forever judged and shunned by society.

Ask any felon what it's like trying to live and get a decent job once they get out of prison.

Ask any drug addict what it's like dealing with family and friends (who aren't addicts) and society as a whole when they admit they have a problem with drugs.

America is unforgiving, brutally and permanently unforgiving.

Let me throw a word out there for you: Pedophile.

How does it make you feel?

I'm pretty sure it might be the easiest trigger word out there.

Vile

Disgusting

Evil

Terrible person

Those are likely some of the more tame feelings the word "pedophilia" brings out in you.

Never mind that actual science is showing that pedophilia is a sexual orientation and unlikely to change. It's a condition that needs treatment aimed to enable someone to resist acting on his sexual urges. No intervention is likely to work on its own; outcomes may be better when the patient is motivated and treatment combines psychotherapy and medication.

That's the rational look at something we hate.

And the fact of the matter is, sexual crimes against U.S. children, as recorded by law enforcement agencies, declined 53% between 1992 and 2006. A review identified four possible explanations for the decline: economic growth, increased numbers of police and child protection workers, greater efforts to identify and prosecute child sex offenders of all types, and increased treatment of aggressive behavior.

If a person can't control their pedophilia actions because it is NOT A CHOICE, it's a sexual orientation, they need to be removed from society. But hating them is pointless. Science is showing they didn't choose to be a pedophile. They are cursed with it.

Hating people only makes things worse. You are creating a self-fulfilling prophecy.

"I am a piece of shit and everyone tells me I'm a piece of shit so I might as well just continue being a piece of shit."

It's a wheel of negative behaviors powered by hate from society.

I got a DUI in college (for what it's worth, I don't have to tell you this, it's been expunged off my record).

I blew .246 - for the uninitiated, that's drunk as fuck.

Most people can't stand up at .246. But I was a professional.

The only reason I got pulled over was because I crossed the white line on the right side of the on ramp of Berea Ohio heading south on I-71. I saw that I did it. I was just lighting a cigarette.

I was a HIGHLY functional alcoholic.

I'm really thankful for getting my DUI.

I went to the 3 day intervention program. They taught me 2 things that always stuck with me:

If you are at this program you have a drinking problem.

If you are at this program this isn't the first time you drove drunk.

I drove drunk all the time. And unlike the time I got caught, there were times where I couldn't see straight. I remember one time trying to find an on ramp in downtown Cleveland in a snow storm. That was probably the most drunk I ever was drinking and driving.

I am so thankful for my DUI because it was a wake up call. While I kept drinking, I never drove drunk again.

I don't think I would have been able to live with myself if I had hurt someone driving drunk.

Humans make mistakes. Humans are strange. Humans are easily addicted to many things, like drugs and alcohol (and sex and gambling).

If you don't believe humans are highly fallible and incredibly weak and driven by our most base instincts... you haven't been paying attention.

We are animals that happen to think. That's it. We are just barely this side of the animal kingdom. And it's OK.

With the right encouragement and love and support we can try to do better. But when we are hated and chastised and ridiculed, the storm is often too great to withstand. We just keep doing stupid shit.

The VAST majority of people are not evil. They are just doing the best they can.

I don't like Jeff Fusco. I don't believe you can trust a word that comes out of his mouth. I've seen him ignore and be completely rude to fellow council people. He's a pawn for the people actually in power and we'll never have any idea what he actually values other than staying in his seat on city council (unless something juicier comes along.)

But my sincere hope is that Jeff Fusco learned from his DUI. I deeply hope he never drove drunk again. And I hope he shared what he learned with people around him. That's all you can ask of any human being.

We are ALL deeply flawed and screwed up creatures. ALL OF US.

Those that live in glass houses shouldn't throw stones. But we do it all the time. It's just yet another deeply screwed up flaw in our human nature. And that's OK too. We just have to try to get a little better the next time we're challenged.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/dan-horrigan-is-losing-jobs-for-akron/>

og:title Content: Dan Horrigan is losing jobs for Akron - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: October 31, 2019

Blog Post Content: Did you catch the Crain's Cleveland Business article that came out yesterday?

OuterBox Solutions Inc., a digital marketing agency and web design company, is set to move from downtown Akron to a new location in Copley Township on Dec. 1, founder and CEO Justin Smith told Crain's on Wednesday, Oct. 30.

OuterBox currently employs 40 to 45 people but are expected to double that size in the next 3 to four years. Smith said the company was looking to get out of downtown, with construction "not only on downtown's streets but on surrounding highways.

"Everything is ripped up and it has been," he said.

Dan Horrigan is in mad love with roundabouts.

According to DriveAkron, our new roundabout on Main Street is going to cost us over \$31 million. (Oh, and according to the Devil Strip, there is a Phase 2 which will cost another \$15.5 million.)

I try not to be a Monday morning quarterback on new ideas. But have you seen this thing? It's small and in dead center of Main Street. My prediction is that thing gets dug up in less than 20 years. I'm sorry. I hate to be that guy with innovation. But I really believe it in this case.

The mayor says the city is going for a grander entrance into downtown, something that really catches your eye. They want more foot traffic and there will be bike lanes.

Have you ever biked in Akron? I have. Try going across one of those bridges on Market that have no extra space on the curb side. Akron drivers are not kind to bikers. It's terrifying. I stopped doing it. (For the record, I have biked across Scotland. So it's not like I have a bike phobia or anything. I'm just not biking on Akron roads.)

This is going to make it harder to drive down Main Street, plain and simple. And Akron is a driving town. We drive cars. I'm sorry it's not what Dan Horrigan wants. But it's the fact of the matter. He just keeps focused on fantasy future Akronites than the people that actually live in Akron now.

We have another roundabout coming at East Market Street and Canton Road in the city's Ellet neighborhood. Akron estimates the project will cost \$4,470,891.

The key focus for Dan Horrigan is to get to 250,000 residents by 2050. He truly cares more about the future people of Akron than the people that live here already. We currently have 198,000 residents. They want to "attract middle-income residents." Akron's current median household income is \$36,223

There is one way to solve MANY problems in Akron. J.O.B.S.

Jobs. Jobs. Jobs.

That's the difference of Akron today versus Akron 2 or 3 generations ago. All the jobs have dried up.

Now we have extreme opiate usage (and meth usage), escalating gun violence, Akron is now recorded as the 19th deadliest city in America calculated from the FBI's 2018 crime stats.

There's no hope in the hearts and minds of the current residents of Akron. That's what it all comes down to.

Horrigan is putting a pretty bow on Akron with his new "Grand Entrance" while the rest of the city burns.

But let's get back to OuterBox.

They aren't just leaving downtown. They are leaving Akron entirely. They are moving to Copley.

People like OuterBox will be the marketing and advertising agencies of the future. Our big agencies in Akron come from a print arena. They don't have digital in their DNA like a company like OuterBox does.

Akron just lost a company that will likely be a significant business leader in the future. Or maybe they'll get bought up by a much bigger fish that would want to grow the OuterBox headquarters.

And not for nothing, these kinds of jobs that left Akron are really good jobs. They are jobs that pay mortgages. Horrigan says he wants to "attract middle-income residents" and he loses a company that was creating these exact kinds of jobs.

Does Horrigan think these workers are going to live in his new downtown lofts and commute (on bikes, I guess) to Copley?

It's a business tragedy. This is a major fumble and significant missed opportunity that should have never happened. Horrigan is ALL about the future of Akron and he just let a true Akron future gem get away.

In Mayor Horrigan's 15 person cabinet (that he immediately increased from the previous administration by 3 people as soon as he became mayor) there is not one single person dedicated to technology.

Samuel DeShazor, who they pulled from the Greater Akron Chamber (which is actually who runs Akron), looks like a nice cheery guy. But according to his LinkedIn profile, as soon as he got out of college he became the Senior Director of Business Development with the Greater Akron Chamber. He did that for 19 years and now he's the main Economic Developer of Akron. It doesn't appear this guy has ever once worked in an actual company much less run one. It looks like in 2004 and 2005 he went to some trade shows in Germany. That's nice.

I'm not dissing DeShazor. I'm just trying to make a point.

Without actual business leadership and actual understanding of future business growth sectors, it makes complete sense that a company like OuterBox just slips through the cracks and leaves Akron entirely.

Maybe Dan believes that once his pretty little roundabout gets all done there are going to be so many jobs flooding Akron, losing 45 here and there is going to be totally worth it. Yuppies with white fluffy dogs and baby strollers are going to be pouring out onto the downtown streets on their bikes and walking around.

(Mind you, I'm writing this as an insane Fall rainstorm drenches our city.) People will just be walking and biking and biking and walking. It's going to be glorious. People are going to be throwing away their cars just

so they can get downtown to walk and bike.

Let's say that happens. Let's say it all comes true. It's like a Utopian urban city of the future where the streets are filled with smiling, happy middle class people biking and walking everywhere.

There's just one problem: there is a Dystopian urban city 5 blocks in any direction where people can't afford skyrocketing water bills, people are dying from overdoses in abandoned houses and drug dealers are freely raping and beating and shooting anyone that gets in their way. Do we just pretend that isn't happening?

Here's a news flash: the minute Buffy has a drive by shooting on her street in the new and hip urban residential housing that's going up right in the middle of gang territories, she is getting the hell out of dodge. It's what the immigrants do.

My dentist lived on the North side of Akron as a son of an immigrant from Romania. NONE of his family lives in Akron anymore. Shoot... his two dental practices aren't even in Akron.

Jobs. Jobs. Jobs.

It's the only hope we have of changing the tide of hopelessness and the dystopian reality that is truly what Akron currently is.

There is only one word that ever should come out of Dan Horrigan's mouth: JOBS.

I'm really sorry OuterBox felt the legitimate reason to leave Akron. It shouldn't have happened. Basic business understanding is that it's ALWAYS easier and cheaper to keep a customer than to get a new customer. We didn't need to lose OuterBox. But we did. It's just bad business, plain and simple.

I truly believe in my heart of hearts that one day we will shake off the stranglehold of out-of-touch elitists that have run our city for the last 30 years. We will, one day, have leaders that care about the people and businesses that currently are in Akron.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/america-hates-poor-people/>

og:title Content: America Hates Poor People - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: November 2, 2019

Blog Post Content: Murderers. Rapists. Pedophiles. Thieves.

They all slept inside last night. They play board games. They watch tv. They eat every day. I know it's prison and people hate being there. But at least, as a society, we take care of these people.

But homeless people. At 8am today in Akron Ohio it is 35 degrees. They slept outside last night.

Women, pregnant women, senior citizens, children, veterans, people with autism, schizophrenics . Every cross section of American society has representatives sleeping outside.

There is only one group of free people that is immune: People who currently have money.

If you have a job, or have some form of steady income, you are immune from sleeping on the street.

It doesn't matter how bad your addiction is. It doesn't matter how terrible a person you are. As long as you have money coming in, you get to sleep in doors.

People with money and convicted criminals... they are immune from homelessness.

People that have no money and have done nothing wrong that requires them to go to jail or prison, they are thrown out on the street.

This isn't about a system that mistakenly got broken. This is by design.

We are saying: You are ugly. You are stupid. Your street drugs are repulsive to us. You don't dress right. You don't talk right. We don't want you in our club. Get out!

You can see how liberals make fun of West Virginians (who fight all our wars for us), rednecks (who grow all our food for us), hillbillies, "crackheads", "white trash", fundamentalist Christians. The writing is on the wall.

We liberals look down on all of these people while we lift up first generation immigrants and Muslims.

But Republicans are probably worse. They talk a good game about Christianity and low income white people.

But look at what they actually do: They give massive tax cuts to rich people. Rich people are their favorite people. They might throw a bone to Christians and poor whites every once in a while. But that's just to keep them on the hook for votes. (At least Republicans give them this much. It's way better than what Democrats offer to these folks, which is just scorn and judgement.)

The truth is: America hates poor people. I know it. You know it. And most importantly, THEY know it.

We idolize rich people. We hate poor people. Everyone is somewhere on that scale. That's why we have to "keep up with the Jones'." We don't want to slip down the slope of wretched poverty.

I'm railing on this point for one reason: This is why we have rationalized that it's ok homeless people are suffering incredible pain and anguish on the streets of the richest country ever created in the history of humanity.

This is how we got here. We hate poor people.

Some people like to tell me that it's the drugs.

Granted, it's not lost on African Americans that no one cared one tiny bit when their kids were dying on the streets from crack. But now that white people's kids are dying from opiates suddenly everyone is up in arms over the "tragedy" of drug use in America.

We are meant to feel compassion for "Succession's" Kendall Roy, the son of a billionaire media mogul, who suffers from addiction:

But tell me what the message is when we see these endless before and after pictures of people using meth:

The fact of the matter is: that's not what most people who use meth look like. Do you know what they look like? Like everybody else. These before and after meth pictures are meant for one purpose: to repulse you. This is judgement, plain and simple. A cocaine habit cost about \$370/week. A meth habit cost about \$37/week.

Rich people do coke. They are portrayed as beautiful but tragically troubled.

Poor people do meth. They are portrayed as ugly losers.

It's not about the drugs. It's about the people who do the drugs. When rich (and white) people do drugs it's a tragedy. When poor (and sometimes black) people do drugs it's disgusting.

We must realize that the reason we leave people to die on the streets of America is for one simple reason: they repulse us.

We are afraid of poor people.

Being poor is the greatest fear in America. We cower with our heads bent and our eyes down out of earth shattering fear that, with one wrong move, we too might face a fate worse than death: being poor.

We don't say anything about our deplorable health care, our broken roads, our jobs that were outsourced to other countries. We're afraid of what they might do to us. "What if, God forbid, I lose my job because I took a stand?"

I think some people see me as some sort of strange unicorn-type person because I stand up for homeless people. It's true. Not many people are willing to push against the system that doles out these human rights atrocities to fellow Americans. It all makes me appear nearly saintly.

But I'm no saint. I'm just a guy. I'm just a guy who woke up one day and said, "What the hell is going on here? This isn't right!"

To me, I'm not what is shocking here. The shocking part of it all is that there are so few people out here standing up for these people. Or are standing up for anything.

It's like watching a car on fire with people in it. Of course I'm running to that car to get the people out.

That's not the work of a "hero" or a "saint". That's the work of an average human being. That's what we're supposed to be doing.

Yet our leaders and our ministers and our priests... they all just sit in their buildings. Maybe they hand out a meal every so often. That's great and all. But when people are burning up in a car, a sandwich isn't going to really solve the problem.

Men, women and children slept outside last night as churches all over Akron and America locked their doors. I don't know what is the greater atrocity: Watching people die on the streets or watching people lock up heated garages, churches and schools to sit empty while Americans freeze to death on the streets.

I often feel more pity for the clergy and leaders of America than I do for homeless people. They are truly the lost ones. How far behind have they left their God that it makes sense to lock their doors, particularly in the winter, to the poor and the needy?

They say it makes economic sense. Their wealthy parishioners would feel uncomfortable. Maybe they would leave.

I say it is better to have no church at all than to have a church that is based on the fear of losing money.

It has come to the point that it's not the homeless I'm nearly as worried about as it is everyone else.

We drive by beggars on the street and have big moral internal struggles about whether or not we should give them a dollar. Do you know what poor people do? They give them their last dollar. They give them their last cigarette. They give them a blanket. They give them anything they have to give.

It's the poor people that have lessons to teach us. We have nothing to teach them... other than holier-than-thou judgement and stinginess and fear and loathing.

I absolutely believe this is a test from God. It's like God is doing a survey to see if we've learned anything.

"Here's a person begging for anything on the street. What are you going to do?"

"Here's a person overdosing on opiates. What are you going to do?"

"Here's a person who can't afford medical treatment for their cancer. What are you going to do?"

We're failing the test.

Some of you are all excited about the second coming of Jesus. If you were God do you think we're ready to get another message? I see absolutely no evidence we've learned much of anything the first time Jesus showed up. I wouldn't send anything down to Earth yet, if I were God.

The salvation of humanity is through community. Of leaving no one behind.

There is absolutely no excuse, especially in America, for allowing fellow Americans to suffer so greatly because they don't have money. It's embarrassing, tragic and deplorable.

We have to admit that we have a prejudice against poor people. We judge them. We hate them. We are terrified of becoming them.

The only options we're giving these people are houses and apartments they can't afford. We do that because doing anything else is uncomfortable and people with money make all the rules.

This must change.

We, the judgmental, who live in our warm cozy houses are the danger in society. We are the problem in society. We are the disease that is expanding the divide between the rich and poor. We are the ones destroying our environment. We are the ones ignoring poverty. We are the ones with extra money and extra time and we're spending our extra time watching Netflix and spending our extra money at Amazon.

I'm telling you: WE are the problem. Not the poor. We have created the poor by isolating them and hating them.

We have much soul-searching to do. We have to stop looking outward for the problems of the world and start looking at ourselves. We created climate change. We created homeless people. We created drug addicts. If we can't understand that, we will never begin to understand how to fix any of these problems.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/i-am-a-wuss/>

og:title Content: I am a wuss - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: November 8, 2019

Blog Post Content: I am a wuss.

I'm in Austin Texas for a symposium at the Community First Village.

A sold out group of people from as far away as Australia converged here to discuss the truly revolutionary concepts of this master planned village for the chronically homeless.

The only way to get a home here as a homeless person is by being homeless for at least a year or a culmination of a year over 3 years. Most people who live here have been homeless for over 10 years.

I have a great deal to say about this place and the ideas are still forming.

But what I want to talk about right now is where I slept last night. I slept here:

That's a legit tipi. It's huge inside. It can sleep 11 people. It has these beautiful long timber poles that all converge into a spiral formation at the top of the tipi. I was looking up at this:

The first night I slept there the weather was perfect. This was my roommate:

That's all well and good. But this is what the temperature was last night:

Have you ever camped in 43 degree weather?

I have and I NEVER enjoy it.

Here's how it goes...

You walk into your tent from outdoors and nothing changes. In fact, I swear sometimes it feels colder.

A tent is just meant to keep the rain and wind off you. And may I say, as you're stewing in your head about how freakin' cold it is, you, at the same time are thankful that wind isn't hitting you any more. Forty degree wind cuts through you like a demon. It penetrates into your feet, your hands, your face. It reaches into your bones causing them to scream in pain and ache.

And 40 degree rain... that shit will just straight up kill you.

We all wear cotton clothing. Jeans, socks, underwear, t-shirts, hats, scarves, gloves. The vast majority of clothing today is made out of cotton.

Cotton holds moisture like a sponge.

You don't even need to get cotton directly hit with rain for it to suck up moisture from the air.

If your cotton clothing is wet you are better off to take it all off and shiver in your dry blankets and sleeping bag.

You can easily slip into hypothermia and die due to the cold moisture that cotton will absorb and linger for hours and hours.

My roommate was no dummy. He had his human servants move his entire operation into the laundry room. This is where I found him last night:

He made this place look good. So I joined him this morning. I'm writing this in the laundry room in between a washer, dryer and mop bucket. It's the only place open this early that has heat.

I'm a camper.

I have camped on both oceans and the gulf coast. I have camped in national parks, national forests and countless state parks.

I have camped on private campgrounds and endless KOAs. I've camped in the mountains. I've camped in the plains.

I've camped in some of the most manicured campgrounds you could imagine. Shoot... I've camped at Disney World. And I've camped at some of the biggest dumps you can imagine.

Community First Village is, by far, the most charming, high end, lovely, top of the line campground setting I have ever experienced. And the customer service... it's as good as anything the Ritz Carlton has ever put out. (I was deeply trained in Ritz Carlton service as a restaurant server there.)

And it's all for the love and compassion of our most long-term suffering homeless neighbors they could find. My mind is a little blown because these people are constantly thinking about how they can connect their multi-millionaire and billionaire friends into new and wonderful ways to care for and love and delight the people that everyone else despises.

I'm fighting to be able to shelter people in anything at all and these people are building tiny houses designed by world-class architects.

The disconnect is jarring.

ALL tiny houses here have heat and air conditioning. Some people live in new RVs with kitchens and bathrooms.

They are long past making homeless people sleep in tents with no climate control.

But they have a small area for guest to come and stay on the property. 3 of those shelters are tipis.

I really like sleeping in the open air in a tent. Most of us have no idea what outside air really feels like to your body. It's intoxicating to sleep in. Indoor air is always more polluted than open air in a campground.

I chose sleeping in the tipi for a couple reasons:

I have never had the opportunity to sleep in a tipi before. I didn't want to pass that up.

I like tent camping.

I like to empathize with our houseless brothers and sisters.

I'm glad it was 43 degrees and rainy last night.

It's terrible.

I don't care how experienced a camper you are. Camping in 43 degrees and rain sucks. There is just no ifs ands or buts about it. It sucks.

This is the temperature in Akron Ohio right now:

I don't think I've ever camped in 27 degrees.

I don't have the gear for it. I don't have the will for it. I just don't want to do it.

If it was 27 degrees here I would have taken an Uber to a local hotel.

I don't think I would have been able to sleep in 27 degrees.

And that's nothing. It's still early November. We'll be getting into single digit temperatures soon.

Last night there were people who had no shelter, no coats, no hats, no place to rest. They wandered the streets of Akron Ohio in at 27 degrees freezing cold just waiting for morning to come.

This is America. This is reality. Tragedy is too small a word to describe what we are inflicting on these people. And we do it because we judge them. We accuse them of being lazy, of being addicts, of "choosing" to live like this.

NO ONE CHOOSES to live a life of abandonment and torture and suffering. No one.

We have built this prison of shunning and suffering for these people.

We have chosen this for them. They have chosen nothing.

They have nowhere else to go.

Do we feel smug about this? Do we just shrug our shoulders and say the problem is "complicated?" Imagine this, let's say at noon today a tornado rips through your neighborhood. It decimates 50 houses. Fortunately, everyone was either at school or at work. So no one died. But your home, your house is gone. What do you think will immediately happen? I'll tell you what will happen:

The Red Cross will descend on your neighborhood like the cavalry. They will have water and blankets and credit cards to help people go into hotels. If the problem is big enough, your mayor will declare it a city emergency and open up as many school gyms as necessary to make sure you have a warm, safe place to sleep tonight and as many nights as you need it until you get back on your feet. The news will be all over the place sharing the stories of tragedy and horror. Money will flood in. People from all over the country very likely will start caravanning across the country to your neighborhood to help you.

You will get more love and compassion and kindness than you will know what to do with. Yes, you experienced a great tragedy. But you are loved. You are cared for.

63,000 people live homeless on the streets of New York. No one comes to help them.
60,000 people live homeless on the streets of Los Angeles. No one comes to help them.
7,000 people live homeless on the streets of San Diego. No one comes to help them.
7,000 people live homeless on the streets of San Francisco. No one comes to help them.
12,500 people live homeless on the streets of Seattle. No one comes to help them.

The Red Cross doesn't come. Their neighbors don't come. The churches don't come. The government doesn't come. No one comes to help them. We have veterans living on the streets for decades and we do nothing for them. They are freezing right now. They are not loved. They are not cared for. No one is checking on them this morning to see if they are ok. They will likely die alone and no one will come to celebrate their life. What did the homeless veteran do to deserve such cruelty and what did you do to deserve such compassion and care? Are you a saint? Are you a magnificent person? Are you "deserving" of the kind of love that will envelope you in your time of tragedy while the homeless veteran freezes night after night on the street? We are a judgmental and stereotyping people. We are very quick to make snap judgments about anyone and everyone. This bothers me because so many of these same judgmental people also call themselves Christians. There is not a single word anywhere in the Bible that says something like: "Fuck the homeless." But that is our method. That's our long standing characteristic. That's our modus operandi. That's just the way we do it.

I was a better Christian as an atheist than the vast majority of Christians I've ever met. I'm sorry to say it. But it's true.

I am a good person because I choose to be a good person. It is the right thing to do. Jesus just offered a road map on how to do it. You don't need to believe in Jesus to be a good person. It just helps if you get a little lost from time to time. Just like how Community First Village offers a road map on how we should actually be thinking about and caring for our homeless neighbors.

You can see quite clearly all the people who make the words of Jesus fit into their beliefs instead of having their beliefs molded into the words of Jesus.

I don't know if anger will get people to wake up. I don't know if love will get people to wake up. I don't know if ANYTHING will get people to wake up.

But we, the entire world, are in a zombie trance of believing the homeless are bad people and don't deserve our love. I don't care what religion or lack of religion you come from but that it abhorrently, terribly, brutally wrong.

I will not rest until one day the leaders of the world wake up from the self-imposed nightmare they have created for our weakest, poorest citizens.

This is wrong. This is wrong. This is wrong.

That featured image is one of the many Homeless Jesus sculptures placed around the world.

"The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of

mine, you did for me."
- Matthew 25:40

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/churches-please-have-mercy-on-the-homeless/>
og:title Content: Churches: Please have mercy on the homeless. - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist
Blog Post Date: November 11, 2019

Blog Post Content: I'm at a point where I don't know what else to do. I am certainly not quitting. But it feels like every single thing I do is inadequate and not enough.
So I'm just going to beg and plead with you to PLEASE help these people.
Tomorrow night it is going to be 15 degrees in Akron Ohio. Here's the forecast:

People are sleeping on the streets. They are already freezing. They are going to be facing life threatening temperatures tomorrow.
They are completely abandoned by their friends and family and service providers we have here in Akron. They have nowhere to turn.
Please. Please. Please have mercy on these people.
Please God, let your flock see the critical need of the homeless surrounding them and help them see their way to finding it in their heart to care for the most needy in their neighborhood. Please, Father God, help them find compassion and mercy and grace within their hearts to shelter those most in need from the cold. Maybe you feel these people don't deserve your kindness.
Maybe you feel you can't figure out how to serve these people.
I understand.
What I'm asking you is challenging and maybe even scary.
But they have nowhere to go.
The city has completely shut me down from helping homeless people. We have a couple houses. But that's not much room. We need more.
If you are willing to do ANYTHING to help the homeless I will gladly support you in any way.
I will run a day center for you. I will run a sleeping center for you. I'll do whatever it is that you would be willing to do.
Please be the hope and love and compassion that is in your heart. Please see your way into being a place where the most needy can come in from the elements and get warm.
ANYTHING you can do would be incredibly appreciated.
If you want to talk more about this please feel free to call me at: 330-416-7519 or email me at
The city just continues to shut down camps and offer no warming centers or no alternatives to places like The Haven of Rest. Many people I know have been thrown out of The Haven of Rest. They are alone and scared and freezing.
PLEASE HELP THESE PEOPLE.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/dear-governor-dewine-please-help-us/>
og:title Content: Dear Governor DeWine - Please Help Us. - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist
Blog Post Date: November 14, 2019

Blog Post Content: Dear Governor DeWine,
I am writing because I don't know where else to turn.
Perhaps you have heard about the multi-year fight we have been having with the city of Akron over the right to shelter our homeless citizens.
Here are a couple articles that do a good job of covering the issue at hand:
Why a Private Landowner Is Fighting to Keep the Homeless on His Property - The New York Times
Remember Tent City - Cleveland Magazine
And here is a documentary that was in the Cleveland International Film Festival about our story:
Inside Akron's Tent City - a documentary by PressureLife
I have never said that tents are the final solution to ending homelessness. But what I have said is that there are men, women, children, veterans and senior citizens freezing and unsheltered on the streets of Akron and

most major cities of Ohio.

It is cruel and inhumane to allow these people to linger and suffer while there are people who are more than willing to take care of them and shelter them.

We were forced by the city to shut down not only our tent village, but also our day center which had showers, food, clothing, computers and a thriving community of homeless people and supporters.

Additionally, in December of 2018, 277 people sent emails to our mayor asking him to save our tent village using this form:

<https://sagerock.wufoo.com/forms/m10jg5qr06djug4/>

He did not acknowledge a single one of those messages.

Then in October of 2019 another 121 citizens asked Mayor Horrigan what his plan was to shelter the homeless this winter using this form:

<https://sagerock.wufoo.com/forms/qjg3psz1f9orim/>

He did not acknowledge a single one of those messages.

A very recent Akron Beacon Journal article featured the stress our homeless shelter system is experiencing.

The article says that a group of homeless service providers will send a letter to Mayor Horrigan asking him to open up emergency warming centers in our city. We are already in the throws of brutally cold temperatures.

We need shelter solutions in Akron immediately.

You can see that article here:

Shelters tackle bed shortage as temperatures drop and chronic homelessness surges in Akron - News - Akron Beacon Journal - Akron, OH

If you aren't aware, I would like to bring to your attention what the Republican Governor of Texas recently did.

He will be creating a temporary homeless campsite on state land in the capital city of Austin. You can read more about it here:

Texas Gov. Abbott opens homeless campsite on state land in fight with Austin | Fox News

We have seen Democratic leaders run our large cities for decades while homelessness, opiate overdoses, shootings and even Hepatitis A plague these large communities.

Mayor Horrigan has done nothing to work with us or any homeless service provider to address our critical need in this area. The only thing he has done is chastise me and our supporters in op-eds like this:

Dan Horrigan: Let's clean up the picture on the Homeless Charity - Opinion - Akron Beacon Journal - Akron, OH

I don't know where else to turn.

Homelessness is increasing as the divide between the rich and poor continues to expand. We have a serious life or death emergency on our hands and our leaders in Akron are doing nothing.

PLEASE help us. We have nowhere else to turn. PLEASE.

At that very least, it would mean a great deal to me, our supporters and the homeless citizens of Akron if you could acknowledge that you received our message. We are alone and seemingly hated by our own city government.

Thank you for listening.

Sincerely,
Sage Lewis

If you'd like to contact the governor of Ohio about this issue you can do so here:

<https://governor.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/governor/contact>

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/the-lamb-and-the-tyger/>

og:title Content: The Lamb and The Tyger - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: November 16, 2019

Blog Post Content: The problem with me is that I take things seriously.

I don't read the history of a man like Akronite John Brown and just say, "Aw that's nice."

No.

"John Brown advocated the use of armed insurrection to overthrow the institution of slavery in the United States."

Let me say it another way: John Brown was going to kill your fucking ass for being a supporter of slavery. He was coming for you.

Did that catch your attention?

"Oh no! I can't stand swear words, Sage. It hurts my delicate sensibilities."

Do you know what hurts my sensibilities? That your sensibilities are hurt by a word but the act of allowing human beings to rot on the streets of Akron Ohio doesn't cause the same outrage.

I've been scolded for using swear words.

If there is a word that will jar you awake from this human rights atrocity we whitewash with the word "homelessness" then you better believe I'm going to FUCKING use it.

Wake up!

And grow up. You aren't 7. You are adults.

Children are getting shot in schools by other children and you want to talk to me about swear words?

You need to get a grip on the truth of the world we live in.

If swear words were the greatest disaster in America right now I'd gladly swear all day long.

I am what change looks like.

It's painful and gross and hard to look at.

If you think that the only reason we had slavery was because we weren't kind enough to slave holders you and I are not living in the same universe.

John Brown was dissatisfied with the pacifism of the organized abolitionist movement: "These men are all talk. What we need is action" "action!"

While I am a nonviolent activist that doesn't mean we aren't going to get dirty along the way.

I am coming to break the very system that has somehow rationalized the acceptance of the third great wave of human rights atrocities in America. (Native Americans and Slavery being the other two.)

I am me. I am not you. I am not an organization. I am no one other than me.

I am being called to do this work. Without this work we will only ever put salve on a festering wound that is called homelessness. We must cut out all the infection first if we are ever to have any hope of ending the disease of homelessness.

Homelessness is fundamentally, absolutely abhorrently wrong. It deserves as much passion and fire and fierceness as any atrocity in our history.

The mere fact that people are telling me to stop using swear words while I'm fighting this inhumane cruelty is complete evidence that I'm not being loud enough. I'm not representing the brutal cruelty of American homelessness enough.

I don't know what you think God is, but let me reset that reality.

God is duality. God is contradiction. God is multiple things at once. God is the original superposition that we have come to learn to be the fundamental truth of our existence at the most basic level.

Superposition is the ability of a quantum system to be in multiple states at the same time until it is measured.

God is multiple things at once.

For example:

God is the lamb.

The lamb is a common metaphor for Jesus Christ, who is also called "The Lamb of God" in John 1:29.

William Blake wrote a poem about this. It's short. Here it is:

The Lamb

BY WILLIAM BLAKE

Little Lamb who made thee
Dost thou know who made thee
Gave thee life & bid thee feed.
By the stream & o'er the mead;
Gave thee clothing of delight,
Softest clothing wooly bright;
Gave thee such a tender voice,
Making all the vales rejoice!
Little Lamb who made thee

Dost thou know who made thee

Little Lamb I'll tell thee,
Little Lamb I'll tell thee!
He is called by thy name,
For he calls himself a Lamb:
He is meek & he is mild,
He became a little child:
I a child & thou a lamb,
We are called by his name.
Little Lamb God bless thee.
Little Lamb God bless thee.

This is what most people want to see as God and Jesus. Someone who will love them and care for them and coddle them sweetly.

But God is also The Tyger. Here is William Blake's answer to his first poem: "The Lamb"

Tyger Tyger, burning bright,
In the forests of the night;
What immortal hand or eye,
Could frame thy fearful symmetry?
In what distant deeps or skies,
Burnt the fire of thine eyes?
On what wings dare he aspire?
What the hand, dare seize the fire?
And what shoulder, & what art,
Could twist the sinews of thy heart?
And when thy heart began to beat,
What dread hand? & what dread feet?
What the hammer? what the chain,
In what furnace was thy brain?
What the anvil? what dread grasp,
Dare its deadly terrors clasp!
When the stars threw down their spears
And water'd heaven with their tears:
Did he smile his work to see?
Did he who made the Lamb make thee?
Tyger Tyger burning bright,
In the forests of the night:
What immortal hand or eye,
Dare frame thy fearful symmetry?

If you know me fully you know that I am both the lamb and the tyger.

You have seen me caring for people in the woods. You have seen me sheltering people in my backyard. You have seen me showing a considerable amount of respect to a group of people most other people hate.

But you also see me rage. You see me swear. You see me shout on street corners. You see me protesting. You see me seething with anger.

I often feel like I'm yelling into the abyss. Does anyone actually hear any word (other than a swear word) that I'm saying?

I am not coming as The Tyger out of fear and resentment. I am coming as The Tyger as a fire of change to a system that tortures American citizens.

This is what Christianity is.

You can choose to look at what you want. But this is the reality.

Jesus entered the temple courts and drove out all who were buying and selling there. He overturned the

tables of the money changers and the benches of those selling doves. Matthew 21:12

I suspect if I did this very thing in the horseshoe of the Akron City Council chambers you would condemn me and call me a tyrant.

We have whitewashed Jesus. We have wiped away his radical extremism and made him into a passive lamb. We have emasculated, sanitized and romanticized an extreme radical that was executed not because he told you to love your neighbor but because he came to destroy the whole damn system. (And not for nothing, he did. I don't know how many Roman gods you pray to these days but I don't pray to any.)

If anything I am here to remind you of the man you worship.

Jesus swears.

Jesus was the original gangster.

Jesus tears shit up.

He is not here to make you feel better about yourself.

He is not here to tell you everything will be alright and you should let the establishment roll over you.

He is here to radically transform the world. That's painful. That's brutal.

Jesus is a social justice radical.

Have you ever seen this poster:

This is a poster first produced in 1917 in New York. It was used at that time by the Workers Rights Movement "in other words, by those seeking justice and seeing in Jesus the example of an ally and advocate.

I don't know if you've been paying attention to any of the Black Lives Matter Christian protesters, but I'm here to tell you: they are loud, angry, rude and make shit inconvenient.

This picture is of activist and public theologian Rahiel Tesfamariam.

You can learn more about her here:

Op-Ed: Radical Black Christians in the New Civil Rights Movement

Americans (particularly white middle class Americans) have been lulled into a passive state of apathy. Netflix and Amazon have turned us into zombies. And Facebook has turned us into sniveling myopic crybabies unfriending anyone who doesn't agree with our every belief.

Our churches have abandoned the poor and the needy and the homeless in exchange for making bigger buildings.

I have been given an assignment by God to be a prophet. To be a truth teller.

I am not here to be a salesman, telling churches and the government that they are doing a wonderful job helping the poor and the homeless. That's a total lie. You know it and I know it.

The church of today is run by a bunch of men who have sanitized and domesticated a social radical by the name of Jesus. They have become passive and submissive and uncertain and compliant and complicit.

If you didn't want to be a part of a radical movement that began with a 2 year living protest created in the form of a homeless tent village to call out the atrocities of homelessness and now you're suddenly shocked, you haven't been listening this entire time.

I am here to break the system. Because the system is rotten to it's core. I always have been this person.

As Martin Luther King Jr. said, "In the End, we will remember not the words of our enemies, but the silence of our friends."

I'm not sorry you are seeing me rage. I'm hoping it reminds you of who you are as an American who was born out of revolution and as a Christian who is trying to follow the words and deeds of the greatest radical social activist ever known in the history of humanity.

The featured image is from here:

Album Review: Everley - "The Tyger and the Lamb" - New Noise Magazine

If you are interested in learning more about Jesus as the activist here are a few articles on the topic:

Our church leaders need to see Jesus as a radical activist

What our leaders aren't telling you: Jesus was a radical social activist

Meet the Radical Pastor Pushing Jesus as a Political Activist

Cultivating the Activist Heart of Jesus

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/accepting-american-slums/>

og:title Content: Accepting American Slums - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: December 1, 2019

Blog Post Content: Do you know that phrase, "like a bat out of hell?"

I don't think you can truly appreciate a phrase like that until you have actually gone "like a bat out of hell." We were screaming east on I-20 trying to make the 120 mile trip from Dallas to Kilgore Texas in as close to an hour as possible.

My cab driver kept complaining how exhausted he was because he'd been up for 24 hours and he didn't plan on a 2am 120 mile fare, but couldn't pass it up.

My flight had been incredibly late, all the rental cars were sold out and I was running an all day social media clinic starting in 6 hours at 8am in Kilgore.

We stopped at a gas station for pick me ups. I got several 5 hour energy drinks and the largest Diet Coke they sold. He got sunflower seeds. He swore sunflower seeds were a great stimulant. Maybe that was something he learned in India as a kid. But all it did was make me more tense driving faster than I had ever driven before as he complained about not being able to keep his eyes open.

To keep my mind off my impending fiery death I made small talk. I asked him how he came to America. He said he was obsessed with the show Dallas as a kid living in India. He LOVED it. He loved the wealth. He loved the huge houses. He loved the wide open spaces. All he wanted to do was move to Dallas so he could live that life. He said he believed as a kid that roads were actually paved with gold in America.

That's why he lived in Dallas Texas his entire adult life.

Naturally, America wasn't all his childhood dreams were cracked up to be. He still loved living in Dallas. But none of the streets were made out of gold and very few people lived like JR Ewing.

The truth of America is much different than the marketing messaging.

We are currently living in a very interesting era.

Today, while unemployment remains low and the economy is doing exceptionally well, wage growth has remained stagnant.

I don't want to lose you to talking about mind numbing economics. So look at this graph:

The top 1% of the American population is getting more and more of the total pie of money. And 49% of new income goes to the top 1%.

It wasn't always like that.

Look how the share of the top 1% and top .1% share of income decreased during what is called "The Great Compression"

From 1937-1967 income inequality fell dramatically. This was the height of the middle class. People were buying houses. You could raise a family on one income. And you were paying to send your kids to college. Today, this inequality just keeps growing. The inequality expansion last year took place at the same time median household income nationwide increased to almost \$62,000 last year, the highest ever measured by the American Community Survey.

Yes, the median household income is awesome. But in America today that just means that people at the top are making a lot more and the bottom people are making a lot less. Very few people are actually making \$62,000.

For example, in Akron Ohio the median income is \$36,223. That's a MASSIVE difference than the \$62,000 overall American median income. And keep in mind that the Akron median income of \$36,223 is also MASSIVELY different than what is really going on in reality. In my circles a person with a \$750/month social security benefit is the belle of the ball. People with \$190/month food cards are also hugely popular.

I don't need to belabor this point.

What I'm getting at is the way America is currently structured, extreme poverty is just the reality of the situation. Of course we're going to have 500,000 people living on the streets of America. This is what the bottom of income inequality looks like.

The destruction of unions, outsourcing good jobs to other countries and automation are major contributors to this income inequality. And the rich are incredibly powerful in America today. Both parties suck up to their chocolate fountains of money. They will do anything to keep the money flowing. Income inequality is the price we pay for this late stage capitalism ecosystem.

Fixing income inequality is not my cross to bear. I am focused on the homeless condition in America. I'm not interested in what America might look like in 10 years. I'm interested in what America looks like today and I want to fix it TODAY.

Today we have 500,000 people living on the streets of America. We have to accept it and end the war we

are waging on these people.

It is pointed out in this LA Times article: We don't need protection from the homeless. They need protection from us.

People are being beaten to death just because they are homeless and cities, such as Akron Ohio, all over the country are implementing these bizarro dystopian camp raids that just make homeless people go around in circles camping in places they were thrown out of a month ago.

And the way we are "fixing" it now is equally as trippy and surreal.

In Los Angeles they are building apartment units for homeless people at an average cost of \$531,373 per unit.

In comparison, we are doing the exact same thing here in Akron Ohio. Our most recently created homeless apartment complex, Stoney Pointe, cost \$11.3 million for 68 units. That comes out to \$166,176 per unit.

The median listing price for an entire single family home in Akron is \$80,300.

That means we could buy 2 entire houses for the cost of one unit at Stoney Pointe. (One of our homeless transitional houses we bought from the Land Bank cost \$5,000.)

I live in a duplex I paid \$106,000 for. It has 2 two bedroom apartments in it, a 3 car garage and a nice backyard.

We are living in a truly insane world.

We have to accept the fact that the chickens have come home to roost. We made this mess and we have to live in it. I see absolutely no indication that we are going to change course any time soon.

We need to accept the fact that we need American slums.

We need a place for people at the very bottom of the system we have created can live.

But here's where the story actually turns good. It turns out capitalism is, as Homer Simpson says, the "cause of and solution to all our problems."

We have SO much money flowing around this country. And there are many people willing to share it.

Look at this overhead shot of Community First Village in Austin Texas:

This is a highly structure, highly organized community built for chronically homeless people. They all are required to pay rent. It's around \$300/month. But it's significantly less than what rent costs anywhere else in Austin Texas. This is a community built and designed for chronically homeless people. Most people who live here have been homeless over 10 years.

Look at these tiny houses in Community First Village:

They are temperature controlled, they have electric and wifi. And they are very near community kitchens and bathhouses where a person can go into a room and lock the door and have privacy.

American slums do not have to be what slums are like in third world countries. I only used the word "slums" to get your attention.

I also used the word slums because we already have slums in America.

Here's a picture of Skid Row in LA:

These types of unstructured homeless tent communities exist all over America for one reason: We don't want to admit we have a homeless problem in America.

We shun the homeless. We scorn the homeless. We arrest the homeless. But it does nothing to actually fix homelessness.

We absolutely MUST have structured, organized and planned villages for homeless people that are disruptively affordable. It is only at that point that we will be able to systematically work with them and treat them for all the conditions that come with living on the street for years.

We are never EVER going to solve homelessness by building single unit apartments that cost hundreds of thousands of dollars each. It's completely unsustainable.

A REALLY good tiny house can be created for under \$10,000. And an emergency tiny house can be created for under \$1,000.

We are going to have to do some initial triage that's going to look messy. I'm talking tents and sheds. But that's only because we have been ignoring these people since the 80's when we took away mental health services and when we took away welfare in the 90's. We have some ugly cleanup to do.

But once we get that under control then we can start making things that really play to the strengths of Americans. We can create innovative, creative dwellings and communities that have never been thought of before.

It's not for a lack of compassion, creativity and innovation that is holding us back from ending homelessness

in America. It's bureaucracy and a complete lack of interest from our elected officials. All they care about is sucking up to the people with all the money.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/intravenous-drug-users-this-is-for-you/>

og:title Content: Intravenous Drug Users: This is for you. - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: December 5, 2019

Blog Post Content: If you are "shocked" by swear words or just actual life in general, this post is not for you. This post is for people that shoot drugs.

Look...

I don't give a shit that you shoot drugs. I'd probably shoot my shit too. It looks like a really powerful way to go.

But a lot of you are fucking assholes and I'm sick of it.

Someone once told me that they have shot every drug imaginable. They've gone as hard as a person could go. And they said NEVER ONCE were they so fucked up that they couldn't put their used rig back in their pocket instead of throwing it on the ground.

What the FUCK is it with you assholes that throw your shit on the ground?

It's simple. Throw it in a trash can. (I know this isn't the approved approach but I'm not talking to anyone that would actually care about the "approved" method right now.)

Break the needle off, put the cap back on and throw the fucking shit in the goddamn trash.

Do you want to know why I give a shit about any of this?

It's because these old church ladies roll up on me and bitch all day long about needles.

Literally, 3 years later, there is a lady who found a needle on the steps behind her church (one fucking needle) next to us and has forever more blamed ME for it. She can't get anything in her thick skull other than the fact that someone left a GODDAMN needle on her property.

Never mind that they serve meals multiple times a week over there. Never mind that their church is SURROUNDED by drug houses. I'M the reason a needle showed up on her steps one day.

And I don't even give a shit about what she thinks about me. She's old and regressive and judgemental and hateful... all while calling herself a Christian.

What I give a shit about is how hard I have to overcome this bullshit to help you and all your friends who are homeless.

You're fucking up the whole goddamn operation.

Everybody is so fucking freaked out about needles. If you want to instantly trigger a prim and proper middle class housewife just show her a needle. She'll nearly faint just from the sight of it.

And look... I get it that they are assholes in their own right. I get that they think everybody that's homeless is shooting drugs all day everyday. I get that their prejudice is simple minded and hateful. They actually piss me off much more than you throwing your needles around. They are the people who actually are the biggest contributors to the homeless epidemic in America. Politicians often feel exactly the same way and support every single "Not In My Backyard" complaint they ever make. That's actually why we have people living in tents. Because they despise you and judge you and would not blink an eye if all of you just died tomorrow. Yes. I hate them.

But you can't give them any more ammunition. Because, unfortunately, these hateful bigots have money and city officials like them more than they like you.

So, you get attacked endlessly by the nuisance inspector. You are closer to a disease infected rat in their eyes than being what you actually are: a motherfucking American citizen.

Every time you throw a needle on the ground you reinforce their bigotry and hatred.

You know you fucked up your invitation to the coffee shop down the road, right?

They really wanted to be active homeless supporters. But no. You had to fucking shoot your shit in their bathrooms and on their steps and then just leave it all laying around.

You are fucking this movement up. Grow up and find a trash can.

I'm not telling you to stop doing drugs. I'm not hating on you for being a shooter. I'm just fucking sick and tired of hearing about needles being left around.

What the FUCK is the matter with you?

Do I need to make this any clearer?

THROW YOUR FUCKING SHIT IN A TRASH CAN!

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/defining-akron-poor-hard-working-addicted/>
og:title Content: Defining Akron: Poor. Hard Working. Addicted. - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist
Blog Post Date: December 8, 2019

Blog Post Content: Knight Foundation gave Akron \$104,000 to create new Office of Integrated Development. I'm pretty sure what we mostly got for that money was this shiny 61 page full color brochure. I have a copy of the printed version. It's fancy.

From this article, our mayor, Dan Horrigan writes:

Vision-driven, community-focused development is not just the right thing to do, its also good business. My hope in the coming years, as we take this more inclusive approach to development, is that our residents find increased economic opportunity for themselves and their families and an overall improved quality of life.

Early on in the brochure the mayor writes:

The City of Akron is not the first community to undertake this type of restructuring. Cities including Detroit, Lansing, Louisville, and Minneapolis have each engaged in this type of process in recent years. While the City of Akron learned from those cities and hopes to inspire other cities, the resulting mission, values, structure, and plan for OID are authentic to the realities and many opportunities present in this community

And in the ABJ article, the new OID director, James Hardy says:

While developers of the strategy looked at what other cities, particularly Detroit, are doing to address similar legacy economic and community issues, this plan is not a cut-and-paste of those other efforts, Hardy said. It is authentically Akron, he said.

Let me translate that for you: Detroit is cooler than us. We're just going to do whatever it is they are doing. And let me tell you what else is going to happen: This \$104,000 document is going to be put in a drawer and never be revived again.

They talk about all these "indicators" they are going to use to measure success. Who's going to be looking for these indicators? City Council? City council is jut now a rubber stamp for the mayor's office. If they want to keep their jobs they'll shut up and do what they're told.

We've had untold numbers of these kinds of studies. Have you ever once heard of them to be reviewed again? Shoot. Do you remember the commitments the mayor made on his first website when he first ran for mayor? I know he had them. But they certainly aren't there any more. And I've never heard him mention them again.

Let me tell you what ISN'T in this 61 page glossy waste of money:

Our gun violence issue.

Our addiction issue.

Our overdose issue.

Our D rated school system issue.

Our high cost of water issue.

Our high property taxes issue.

Our \$36,223 median household income issue.

These are issues that are not being dealt with anywhere in this document but are obviously incredibly significant factors in determining the future "success" of Akron.

On page 31 there is a discussion on "inequities":

They bring this up because Akron has a serious race issue. 30% of our population is African American and is no where NEAR represented to that percentage in the city or businesses in the city.

They used business speak to get at the REAL issue: (from here):

Akrons black households earned 59 cents in 2018 for every \$1 made by white households

What I didn't see ANYWHERE in this pretty, glossy 61 pages (of bullshit) was how Akron African Americans are going to get the WHOLE DAMN DOLLAR (shout out to Nina Turner at the March 2016 Bernie Sanders rally at the Civic Theater for saying something similar.)

Look: All this glossy print is cover so they can keep doing exactly whatever the hell it is they want.. like our mayor continuing to give his brother-in-law unbelievable pay raises and promotions. (For 10 years Chris Ludle was a highway maintenance superintendent. Then when his brother-in-law became mayor he instantly got a cabinet position as citys deputy public service director (where he oversaw last winter's snow plowing debacle). And after this most recent election win, Dan Horrigan gave his brother-in-law another upgrade to the Director of Public Service)

They just want you to "look at the birdie" while they do nothing other than make themselves richer. These people are all in way over there head. The only reason they have these jobs is because they play ball with the big construction companies in Akron. That's the ONLY reason they run this city. It's certainly not because they deserve it or are capable of pulling off this huge transition that is needed to move Akron to its next inevitable identity crises. I've recently been getting into the punk music scene Akron had. The Bank was really the start of it all.

From here: Derf's Blog

Akron was, for 100 years, the commercial center of city life. Like most downtowns, it fell inexorably into ruin during the Sixties as white-flight, urban sprawl and gleaming, new shopping malls drained it of its vitality. By the late 70s, half the stores were closed, replaced by seedy bars and porno shops. Plywood covered the windows of soot-blackened buildings. Streetlights, the ones that worked, cast the street in an eerie apocalyptic glow.

This was the backdrop of what was truly the foundation of the entire punk rock movement.

Also from Derf's Blog (this post is SO good. If you want to know more about Akron's punk scene you should really give it a read.)

Most people think punk rock was born in New York at CBGBs... or in London with the Sex Pistols. Neither. The Pistols didn't form until 1976, inspired by the Ramones. CBGBs opened in 1973 and early punk acts started playing there later that year. Devo was already playing gigs in Akron by that time, as was Rocket From the Tombs up in nearby Cleveland. The Ramones were inarguably the most influential punk band, but Devo and RFTT rose out of the societal muck at the same time.

And truthfully, that is who we are to this day. We have spit shined downtown Akron (like lipstick on a pig) but in reality we've been in a perpetual recession for 50 years.)

From here:

Still, he [founder of the Akron Sound, Rubber City Rebels' lead guitarist Buzz Clic] recalls the tenacity and creativity of Akron musicians in the '70s. "On the whole, Northeast Ohio was a pretty depressing place to grow up but it made you tough," he said. "You had to figure out ways to amp up the excitement. They were just smart guys that had something to say and figured out a way of getting it out there."

Ask any smart young person TODAY why they are still living in Akron and 80% of the time you are going to hear the same exact answer: "My family lives here."

We aren't here because a \$36,223 median household income and dirty needles and daily shootings and endless overdoses is so exciting. We are here because our families are here. And then we make the most of it.

Ask someone from Seattle what they think of the Midwest. They likely will tell you that all us Midwesterners do is work. That's not too far off.

We work all the time and we're poor. That's the reality of Akron Ohio.

If you aren't living that reality you likely work for the city. Otherwise, you moved to the suburbs and probably work at one of our hospitals.

But here's the thing... we are like the original and perpetual grunge scene.

Tell me this isn't you on your porch last night:

Nirvana in 1989.

We are NOT this stupid \$350,000 bronze statue that's going to go in the middle of our stupid multi million dollar roundabout on Main Street:

This is going in the center of our town and is being made by an artist from Zanesville.

ZANESVILLE!!!

Just last night I was talking to a truly amazing Akron artist who creates mind blowing sculptures all over Akron about this "situation."

He was like: "It is what it is. Don't get so stressed out about this, man. You should drink more and smoke more pot."

That's probably my problem. I can't handle recreational drugs. So all I can do is prescribed anti-depressant medication.

This is the Akron way.

Akron is incredible over and over and over again. Each time rising up a little bit only to be shot down. But we just shake it off, say "it is what it is" and keep being us.

Sometimes, when we are REALLY good we leave Akron so we can actually realize our greatness and become

successful. People like this include:

John Brown
Chrissie Hynde
Devo
Lebron James
Black Keys

Akron is a place where we do great, incredible things and never expect anything to come of it. We just do it to do it.

We would all do well to refresh our memory of Bob Dobbs and the Church of the SubGenius. Devo actively embraced the parody religion Church of the SubGenius. In concert, Devo sometimes performed as their own opening act, pretending to be a Christian soft rock band called "Dove (the Band of Love)", which is an anagram of "Devo". They appeared as Dove in the 1980 televangelism spoof film Pray TV. Akronites may be the greatest disciples of "Slack" to ever live.

Of course politicians are going to fight this image every step of the way. But fuck them. They aren't us. We are us. They are just parasites making hundreds of thousands of dollars off our Akron tax dollars as they drive us closer and closer into \$1 billion worth of debt.

We don't need \$100,000 to make a study. We ARE the study. We know who we are.

To that end, I was playing around on Photoshop last night. (Don't worry. I didn't bill Akron tax payers a single cent for the work.) I've touched up our city seal a little bit. Here's my suggestion:

If I had to pick, I'd say the greatest Akron contributor to society is Dr. Bob... the co-founder of AA. Every year we have Founder's Day here in Akron. (It's June 12th, 13th, & 14th, 2020 this year.) People from all over the world come to Akron to remember how AA got its start right here in Akron. You can hear the Akron futility in each of the 12 steps. (Just replace the word "Akron" for the word "Alcohol.")

No one other than an Akronite could have ever created a more perfectly powerless guide of how to overcome our addiction to our city: Akron.

We are the original and forever ever more true founding members of AA - Akronites Anonymous. "Hi. My name is Sage and I'm an Akronite."

Being an Akronite creates our foundation. It gives us a fundamental kind of hopelessness that we will always be powerless to our fate as an Akronite. But it also does a lot of good for us.

It makes us stronger.

It makes us more compassionate and understanding of others' shortcomings.

It makes us more determined not to give up. Every time we fail, which is often, we get up and try again.

It makes us realize that we have much to give and offer the world regardless of whether or not it makes us famous or rich.

It makes us see that intrinsically we are ALL good and worthy of self-acceptance and love from others.

This is the path of moving through the core, foundational hopelessness that ingrains each and every one of our Akron souls.

We all must recover from our Akron-ness. Yes, we are born out of poverty and failure. But that birthright is ours. And it makes us forged from a furnace of struggle.

We are NOT a \$350,000 bronze statue imported from Zainesville.

We are a rusty frog in front of our library in Highland Square:

PR Miller sitting on his frog.

That's what Akron looks like.

Akron is dirty. Akron is punk. Akron is grunge.

Only when we become proud of who we ACTUALLY are will we ever be able to fall into the groove of truth and authenticity.

Be your poor, stoned, loser selves Akron. It makes you beautiful and powerful.

The featured image is of Devo in 1979

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/akron-wont-open-warming-centers-until-zero-degrees-fahrenheit/>
og:title Content: Akron won't open warming centers until ZERO degrees Fahrenheit - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist
Blog Post Date: December 12, 2019

Blog Post Content: A supporter of ours, Eva Buhite, called the Akron Mayor's office at 330-375-2256. They told her that they will not open any homeless warming centers until the temperature gets to ZERO degrees.

(They also told her that we are NOT allowed to say the mayor needs to open warming centers. So check your freedom of speech at the door when you call the mayor.)

This is cruel and inhumane.

I took 5 minutes to see what other cities use as guides for when they open warming centers. Here are a few I just found:

SALEM WARMING CENTERS - About Us

For the 2018-19 Warming Season, warming centers are activated anytime that the temperature reaches 32 degrees or below from November 1st-March 31st.

Milwaukee partners with day warming centers and raises temperature threshold to serve homeless | The Milwaukee Independent

Anytime the temperature goes below 32 degrees, there is now a list of shelters that will be open for the homeless population to walk in and get warm.

Emergency warming center open for the homeless | WHNT.com

When the temperatures drop below freezing for more than 24 hours consecutively, Grateful Life Community Church welcomes people and pets. "Two-legged, four-legged, flying, it doesn't matter," said Larry Jess, Board Chair at Grateful Life Community Church.

Warming center to open in Newark Tuesday, Wednesday nights

According to the National Weather Service, the temperature is expected to be around 20 degrees around 7 p.m. Tuesday night with a wind chill around nine degrees.

Code Blue Extreme Cold | Baltimore City Health Department

When temperatures, including wind chill, are expected to be 13°F or below. This threshold can be reached by having a temperature at or below 20°F with 5 mph sustained winds or a temperature at or below 25°F with 15 mph sustained winds. When other conditions (i.e. strong winds, forecasted precipitation for more than two hours, extended periods of cold, sudden cold after a warm period) are deemed by the Health Commissioner to be severe enough to present a substantial threat to the life or health of vulnerable Baltimore citizens.

Freedom Warming Centers Seek Funding, Volunteers for Winter - The Santa Barbara Independent

Since then, homeless advocates and members of the faith community have banded together to open the temporary shelters "which operate when the temperature goes below 35 or when a 50 percent chance of rain overnight is forecast.

Warming Centers in the St. Louis Area

Excessive cold indicators: wind chill expected to be -15 degrees or less, or stagnant air temperature is 15 degrees.

Severe Weather " 211info - Oregon

when the temperature is forecast to reach 32 degrees and below

There is a complete and total lack of interest and care for homeless people in Akron Ohio.

Doctors know that hypothermia can occur when temperatures drop below 50°F. And you are at risk of hypothermia at higher temperatures in wet and windy weather.

This is cruelty. This is inhumane.

Why does our Akron government not care whether the homeless of our city live or die?

They have a responsibility like every other city in America to care for their homeless citizens.

This is especially true after they closed our village and warming center. "They broke it so they bought it."

If they don't like the way we were taking care of homeless people then they need to do it themselves.

This is a violation of the 8th Amendment of the Constitution. The lack of action on the part of the city especially during winter months is using the elements as a form of torture and brutal punishment for a people they don't like. This is a clear act of cruel and unusual punishment for people they see as drug addicted losers.

Keith Stahl, MSW, LISW. Director of Operations and Residential Services at Community Support Services, as

well as personal friend of the mayor, has told me on two separate occasions that "the street is motivating." What he is saying is that if these people suffer enough on the street they will eventually come begging to him for services. Not only is that despicable and reprehensible, it is also not how the homeless (the people he gets paid a lot of money to "care for") actually function. The street and all of its brutality just makes these people MORE homeless and pushes them further away from services. We MUST demand that the officials of the City of Akron step up and provide warmth to our homeless citizens. Anything else is torture.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/the-great-calling/>
og:title Content: The Great Calling - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist
Blog Post Date: December 15, 2019

Blog Post Content: I am repeatedly pulled in by Catholic thinkers.

Thomas Merton
Richard Rohr
Dorothy Day

And there are others that I haven't gotten to yet simply because I'm so taken by these 3. Their connections with God are mystical and deeply spiritual. Our Protestant friends are a little too structured and rules-based for my free-spirited mind. For me, God is beyond all words and thoughts. It's hardly interesting to even try to explain God. At best, our words are dim reflections of a light source that is FAR beyond the visible spectrum we are capable of seeing or even understanding. Our eyes can detect only a small part of this electromagnetic spectrum. What we can see is on this known spectrum:

Our machines now help us "see" beyond the visible spectrum. God is not only that entire spectrum, God is an infinite number of spectrums we don't even know exist. God is the multiverse of multiverses. God is infinite infinity. That's as close as I can possibly imagine God and even that is too small. (Oh, and of course God is infinitely smaller than the smallest particles imaginable. A Higgs boson elementary particle is an infinite multiverse compared to the smallness of God.) Catholic thinkers seem to touch on this great metaphysical mystery. Metaphysics is the branch of philosophy that examines the fundamental nature of reality, including the relationship between mind and matter, between substance and attribute, and between potentiality and actuality. Ultimately, this is just one tiny sliver of "God" as well. But it's this sliver that interests me. (I like thinking about the Universe and Quantum physics. So, of course, I like applying that same intellectual exercise to how I also think of God.) I am a spiritual astronaut. I love floating in the black abyss of the great unknowable darkness that is God. It's in this great abyss that I look. I seek. It's not a light. It's not a sound. It's not a taste, or touch or smell. The only word we have left in human language to describe it is "feeling." I seek a feeling. It feels more like a gravitational pull than anything else I can describe it as. It is my personal Great Attractor. A spiritual gravitational anomaly. That's what I'm looking for. It runs in a completely different direction than from the gravitational pull of capitalistic society. The marketing, the advertising, the fear mongering of buying and purchasing. I feel that too, of course. I'm not immune. But that gravity is shallow and hollow. The only thing it does is create more pull and more desire to purchase more. That's what our society wants of us. As President Bush reminded us after 9/11, even in the face of great terror we must continue to "be bold" and conduct business and shop. That's the American fundamental belief system. Capitalism. The tragedy of it all is that it's a lie. Business and buying is as much of a dangerous drug as heroin, fentanyl

or crystal meth. It separates us from our family, from our friends and what is truly important... our community.

America is selling us a potent, addictive drug and tells us it is the "American way."

The power of it is that they promise the happiness that comes with great amounts of money is right over the next mountain. If you just make more money then you'll finally be happier.

As a person who has made some money, I can tell you: the happiness never comes. You were either a happy person to begin with or you weren't. The money never changes that.

So the satisfaction never comes. The payoff never comes. We just want more. Earn more. Buy more. It's never ending. And it's never fulfilling.

The sooner you can learn that truth the sooner you can change direction and look for meaning down another path.

Salvation and redemption and fulfillment.

These things can be found and had by any person on earth. Rich or poor. Any ethnicity. Any age. And ironically, I see more poor people and people with more suffering find this sooner than those who have the most things and the most to be grateful for.

The calling is coming together.

The calling is sharing.

The calling is community.

Often times, people like to use the word "giving". I use it too. But it suggests a kind sacrifice. It's not a sacrifice. It's the greatest feeling you will ever have.

Now... my community works for me. But it may very well not work for you.

My community is the homeless. Truth be told, I like working with them because I am a simple and lazy person. You can completely change a person's life with a dollar or a cigarette. It also seems like a great tragic, absurd human rights cruelty that in the richest country the world has ever seen, we can't see our way to give the poorest of poor ANYTHING to shelter themselves. Literally, I'd consider it a great win and advancement if we were permitted to put up human length dog houses with some straw on the ground for insulation. That's why my community is the homeless.

But for you, that may very well not be your community.

My niece is an animal person. She has a deep connection with all animals. She is still in high school but it is my great wish that she always finds a way to work as deeply as she can in the animal community.

And there are environment people. And Central America people. And Africa people. And Middle East people. And immigrant people. It goes on and on.

Almost all of us hear the calling. Yet almost all of us ignore it.

Out of fear, we refuse to change direction from the great money attractor to the great God attractor.

Money fails us over and over again. God never fails us. God is right behind you waiting for you to turn around.

In the Bible the word they use is "Metanoia."

It's true meaning has been maligned with the translation as "Repent."

But it is much more nuanced than that. It is "a transformative change of heart; especially: a spiritual conversion."

It means: Turn Around.

God is right behind you. Turn Around.

You know the feeling. You have it regularly. You just choose to ignore it.

My great wish for you is that you open your heart to your great calling. You have it... whatever it may be.

When you start down the path of your great calling you begin fulfilling your destiny. You begin living your life as it was meant to be lived.

Be open to the "feeling" of your calling. It is the greatest gift God and Earth and Humanity together will ever give you.

The featured image is Elon Musk's Tesla Roadster flying in space. You can track it's progress here:

Where is Starman? Track Elon Musk's Tesla Roadster in Space! · Where is Starman?

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/what-akrons-extreme-evictions-actually-mean-to-us-all/>

og:title Content: What Akron's Extreme Evictions Actually Mean To Us All - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist
Blog Post Date: December 18, 2019

Blog Post Content: I was driving a man across town to a friend's house.

He had stayed at our tent village for a time. But I didn't recall him very clearly.
He is deep in the throws of a hard core Fentanyl addiction.
Fentanyl is 50 times more addictive than heroin and 100 times more addictive than morphine.
He hadn't shot up for 2 hours. He said his stomach was starting to get sick. (It was 6pm.)
He said because he was able to stay indoors that night he wouldn't have to use again until morning. But by then he'd be in full on withdrawal and feeling terrible.
But this is the interesting point:
He said that if he would have had to sleep outside in the cold he would have definitely shot up again. Being outdoors, unprotected from the winter elements and the dangers of the street are just too much to handle as the extreme withdrawal symptoms of Fentanyl started to over take him.
Being warm, in a safe place, enabled him to withstand the severe pains of Fentanyl withdrawal.
I hope by now you've seen the news that Akron is facing highest eviction rate in Ohio and is the 24th highest in the country.
This is incredibly important to the very fabric of our city.
Boston University reports that:
People who are threatened with eviction, even before they lose their home, are more likely to report poor health, high blood pressure, depression, anxiety, and psychological distress.
They go on to say:
Eviction often leads to residential instability, moving into poor quality housing, overcrowding, and homelessness, all of which is associated with negative health among adults and children.
I was inspired to write about this today because of a conversation I just had with a woman who is forced to evict a person from the duplex she lives in and rents the other side.
The tenant is not paying rent, is bringing a lot of people into the house and is really loud all night long.
She said she is "sick about it."
I know the feeling.
I have had to force so many people out of our transitional houses that sometimes I wonder if I'm making more homeless people than I'm helping.
Hoarding. Drug use. Illegal activities. Hoarding. Not doing any of the program we require. Hoarding. (Did I mention hoarding?)
It's a brutal position to be in for everyone.
I am supposed to be the person trying to fix homelessness and here I am throwing people on the street.
Look at this poverty desert in Akron pulled from here:

If I had to guess, I would suspect you could easily conclude that the places that have the lowest income probably have the highest evictions.
The heart of our city is poor, destitute and evicted.
It only follows that it is also where you are going to see very high levels of serious mental illness and addiction.
The longer I do this work the more it becomes clear to me that addiction is a symptom of a broken, brutal system. It is not a cause.
Addiction is a form of escape and relief from the trauma of their lives caused by living in a city with the highest eviction rate in Ohio and the 24th highest in the nation.
And then there are the water and sewer bills.
Let me make a little chart for you: (the numbers I'm going to show you are in "hcf" - hundred cubic feet).
This is what different cities across America are paying for water and sewer:

City
Water (hcf)
Sewer (hcf)
Total

Akron
\$2.73
\$10.65

\$13.38

San Diego
\$5.25
\$3.59
\$8.84

Lynchburg Virginia
\$2.68
\$6.02
\$8.70

Las Vegas

\$55.40 per quarter - TOTAL

How insane is it that we are paying SO much more for water and sewer than San Diego which is an actual desert and we in Akron live surrounded by the largest body of fresh water on Earth?

Meanwhile, here are the median household incomes for each of those places:

Akron: \$36,223
San Diego: \$71,535
Lynchburg: \$41, 971
Las Vegas: \$53,159

And get this:

Lauren Green-Hull, the associate director of Fair Housing Contact Service in Akron said,
"In just the last year, rents have almost doubled in just the city of Akron alone, so a unit that was a three-bedroom unit that would be \$1,000 for a family a year ago, is now renting for about \$2,000, \$2,200."

This is happening simply because there is high demand and low supply.

Instead of fixing up houses in Akron, our administration tears them down.

If you are living above the Akron median household income of \$36,223, I beg you to take a minute and imagine how you would feel if you were constantly in a state of worrying if you and your family would be evicted.

Akron is a city filled with terror and trauma.

I hope no one wonders why we have so much addiction and violence. When the system is hopeless and, in fact, the cause of your pain and suffering, of course you are going to take matters into your own hands.

Poverty, evictions, trauma, mental illness and addiction: They all go hand in hand.

No wonder our top 3 employers are hospitals:

We are living in a city of incredible pain and suffering.

This isn't some kind of mild amusement for intellectuals to casually ponder. This is the-ship-is-sinking, all hands on deck, code red, DEFCON 1, cocked pistol emergency.

Akron isn't just in decline. It is rotting from the inside out.

We MUST stop the bleeding immediately. People MUST get a sense of stability and safety before they will ever be able to regroup and get their footing.

Utilities must stop being turned off. We must enact emergency funds to help low income and no income people not lose their utilities.

We can't throw people on the street if they have nowhere to go. AMHA (our public housing program) needs to get involved at this point instead of after people have already become homeless.

All people need access to food. The Food Bank can feed everyone that needs food. We just have to get it to them.

These aren't bleeding heart liberal ideas. This is the only way we are going to see a decrease in drug use and violence. This is the only way we are going to stop Akron from becoming a scene out of Mad Max Fury Road where we're all out on the street begging for water:

For the very survival of our city we must take drastic action NOW.
Building parks and roundabouts while our city is burning is utter madness. These are things for cities that aren't dying.
Look at where we are right now in Akron:

Akron has a 26% poverty rate.
42% of children are below the poverty rate.
Akron facing highest eviction rate in Ohio, 24th highest in the country
Over 2000 kids are reported homeless every year in Akron.
Household income is growing in the state of Ohio but falling in Akron.
Akron is the only large city in Akron that saw its poverty rate increase.
Only Lorain and Akron experienced a decline in household income.
Our schools are failing. Our overall district grade is a D.
We have over 100 arson investigations every year.
Over 400 sexual assaults were reported in 2017.
902 vehicles were stolen in 2019.
Akron has nearly \$1 billion in debt.

If you think I'm over reacting you truly are not reading the situation correctly.
The more unstable the living conditions become in Akron for low income and no income people the more dangerous and unstable the city becomes for all of us. This then increases white flight pushing higher income earners to the suburbs which then increases the pool of poverty. We are circling the drain.
This is a dire situation.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/dorathy-day-alan-graham-sage-lewis/>
og:title Content: Dorothy Day | Alan Graham | Sage Lewis - A communist, a real estate developer and an entrepreneur. - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist
Blog Post Date: December 22, 2019

Blog Post Content: There is a very clear thread that runs through the work of the 3 of us.
If you aren't familiar, Dorothy Day founded the Catholic Workers Movement.
She, among other things, created "houses of hospitality" and then a series of farms for people to live together on communes. These were created for the homeless and anyone in need.
Alan Graham is the founder of Community First Village. It is a 51-acre master planned community that provides affordable, permanent housing and a supportive community for men and women coming out of chronic homelessness.
And then we created our homeless run tent village, and after the city closed that and our day center, we are rebuilding with 2 transitional homes for people with serious homeless conditions.
First, let me say that while I just listed the names of 3 people here, I only did that for a way to simplify the conversation. None of us would ever say we were the sole, or even primary, driver of the work we found ourselves in. We are simply the PR managers who all believe personal storytelling is the most powerful form of marketing.
There are strong connections between the 3 different organizations here. And there are also some clear differences.
The biggest connector is love.
To this day that is still a radical belief. Unconditional love is not something you will find in most homeless programs. To be in a program everyone must agree to strict rules and regiments. Being thrown out is highly likely. It is made very clear that they are not your family and this is not your home.
Dorothy and Alan and I would say what we have helped create ABSOLUTELY is your home and we are definitely your family. We love you for who you are today not for who we think you should be tomorrow.
Just yesterday a man came to me to apologize for overdosing in the bathroom of one of our houses. I told him he had no reason to apologize. I gave him a hug and told him I love him.

After that exchange he told me he was actually trying to kill himself. He said he wanted to go be with his mom. The city towed away a camper he was staying in. It had all of his possessions in it. He just couldn't take it anymore.

I told him I was glad he was still alive. We all would have missed him very much.

(How would I ever have gotten to the truth of his actions if I just ridiculed him and told him never to step foot in our house again? Now I have real information to better work with him.)

That's the exact kind of interaction you would find with Dorothy, Alan and me. It's not something you would easily find most other places.

We believe that love is the answer. True love. Not this conditional junk that others parade around.

Dorothy, was the greatest at unconditional love. There were no rules. And nothing was expected of you in her houses. If you didn't work she just assumed you had a good reason for not working.

This is why she is going to become a Saint in the Catholic Church and Alan and I are not.

Alan and I do have rules. But they aren't things like "you can't live here if you are on drugs."

For Alan, the biggest rule is that everyone pays rent. It's about \$300. If you want to stay at his village you have to pay rent.

For me, it's that you have to show forward movement. You can't just sit and do nothing. (This is lax with older people and disabled people. They typically can afford rent. And I just believe they have a right to rest in their later years. As long as the disabled or elderly person is paying and not being harmful to the community I am more in Alan's camp.)

I think we came to our models because of our backgrounds. Dorothy was heavily influenced by communist ideologies. Alan was a real estate developer. And I am an entrepreneur.

Dorothy valued equality for all. Alan values the worth of the dollar. And I value work.

We're just all products of our environment.

I'm not going to talk more on Dorothy and Alan simply because I am not them. And for all I know, they would disagree with my assessment of their value systems.

But I will talk a little bit more about my values.

In our tent village everyone had to contribute at least one hour a day to the village. You could sweep or clean or help people fortify their tents. Many people worked MUCH more than one hour a day.

Because of this system we were a homeless services powerhouse. We were open from 9-5 seven days a week. And we would often open at 6am and close at 11pm in the winter.

"By the homeless for the homeless" is at the center of everything we do.

They elected their own tri-council. They voted on whether or not someone should leave the village. They ran their own security. They ran every aspect of the village and day center.

All of this was very intentional. Homeless people are not helpless people. They don't need people to do their work for them.

As it was then, it is now: volunteers and non-houseless people are very welcome and we love them.

However, they are additive. They are not the core of the work we do. If a houseless person needs something done they would do best to find another houseless person to help them.

No one lives in our houses other than houseless people. They don't need a nanny looking over their shoulder. If they don't like what is going on in their house they need to fix it themselves. (Ashleigh and I have weekly meetings at the houses. And they can call us anytime. But we aren't there to get them out of every scrape. If someone is overdosing in the bathroom they better tear that door off the hinges and save the person. No one else is going to do it for them.)

Non-houseless people are critical to our movement and our organization. I don't want you to think differently. The work they do for us is massively important and we are truly grateful. Furthermore, connecting houseless people with non-houseless people is a foundational cornerstone of our work. We believe this is the only way we can change the false perceptions of what people think of when they think of "the homeless."

We just want the houseless to work along side the non-houseless. It makes new connections and empowers people that sometimes feel powerless.

This instantly changes a person's perspective on themselves and the world around them. Work creates dignity. Purposeful work is transformative.

When a houseless person saves the life of another overdosing houseless person, I can't imagine a more potent way of making that person feel needed and valuable.

So, our model revolves around community AND work.

I will say, out of financial necessity we are trying to get some people to pay to live in our houses. Our utilities are currently really high. So we need to cover those costs.

It may also be useful to know that I consider myself a social entrepreneur. So I am very interested in being self sustaining.

A model we potentially could develop into would be to have half our residents pay rent and the other half work for their rent. Elderly and disabled people typically get at least \$750/month in income. This model is both financially realistic and idealistic.

I like this possible model because then the elderly or disabled person is valued because they pay to keep the house running.

Hopefully, you can see the theme in what we are creating. Community and work.

This is the Mission and Vision of The Homeless Charity:

Our Vision:

Helping all of us realize we all have worth and deserve dignity.

Our Mission:

We recognize the worth and dignity of the houseless population.

We help reaffirm the worth and dignity of houseless people through work and community.

We then help the non-houseless people realize the worth and dignity of houseless people by bringing all of us together through work and community.

Ultimately we look to break down all barriers that separate the houseless and the non-houseless. We are all just people.

Our Mission and Vision isn't just a bunch of words on paper. It is our constitution. It drives every single action we do.

This is something else Alan and I have in common. Here is the Community First mission and vision:

Our Purpose & Vision

We empower communities into a lifestyle of service with the homeless.

Our Mission

We provide food and clothing, cultivate community and promote dignity to our homeless brothers and sisters in need.

Everything is about community for them. For us, we believe it is community and work equally.

We completely agree with their Dignity component. Our take on it all is that work and contribution to the community is how we all find dignity in our lives.

The key to this whole discussion is not to hold any of us in any great regard. Dorothy would often say, "Don't call me a saint, I don't want to be dismissed that easily."

I'm quite sure Alan would agree and so would I.

None of us are different than anyone else. We are just a communist, a real estate developer and an entrepreneur. We just refused to watch our neighbors starve and rot on the streets. We shouldn't live in a society where that's considered saintly. That should just be considered common human decency.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/meet-patty-19-sage-against-the-machine-podcast/>

og:title Content: Meet Patty - #19 Sage Against The Machine Podcast - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: December 27, 2019

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Blog Post Date: December 10, 2019

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Blog Post Date: December 2, 2019

Blog Post Content: [buzzsprout episode='2360570' player='true']

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/13-finally-looking-forward/>

og:title Content: #13 - Finally looking forward - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: September 26, 2019

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Blog Post Content: [buzzsprout episode='2360552' player='true']

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Blog Post Date: May 16, 2019

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Blog Post Date: May 9, 2019

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Blog Post Date: May 3, 2019

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og:title Content: #1 - Why - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: May 1, 2019

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Blog Post Date: December 20, 2019

Blog Post Content: [buzzsprout episode='2360609' player='true']

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URL: <https://sagelewis.com/20-traumatic-states-of-america/>

og:title Content: #20 - Traumatic States of America - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: December 28, 2019

Blog Post Content: [buzzsprout episode='2363960' player='true']

Mental health is a MAJOR problem in the United States.

If you are thinking about suicide please give these people a call: You aren't alone:

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline

Call 1-800-273-8255

Available 24 hours everyday

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/21-be-yourself-trust-yourself-sage-against-the-machine-podcast/>

og:title Content: #21 - Be yourself. Trust yourself. Sage Against The Machine Podcast. - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: January 2, 2020

Blog Post Content: [buzzsprout episode='2394077' player='true']

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/united-state-and-canada-2020-homeless-point-in-time-pit-dates-and-web-site-links-pitcount/>

og:title Content: United State and Canada 2020 Homeless Point-in-Time (PIT) Dates and Web site links

#pitcount - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: January 4, 2020

Blog Post Content: (Use the hashtag #pitcount and take pictures of the new friends you meet during this count. People getting to spend a little time with homeless people is probably the best and most important part of this otherwise absurd exercise. I'd LOVE to see your pictures.)

HUD requires that the Homeless Point-in-Time (PIT) count be held during the last ten days of January so that it can account for people who cycle in and out of homelessness, and may be unable to pay for temporary shelter at the end of the month.

But as you will see below... the methodology different cities, counties and states use is all over the map. Kern County, for example, is Friday, Jan. 24, 2020 from 3:30 a.m-10 a.m. (Who the HELL wants some stranger all up in their grill at 3:30am?)

Rhode Island is Wednesday, January 22, 2020 and at select times and locations between Thursday, January 23 through Saturday the 25th.

But if you want HUD money you'll do this count. The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) requires communities to complete the count in order to receive federal funding for homeless programs.

As I wrote before, I believe these point-in-time counts are total and complete bullshit.

It's like playing hide and seek for a day. But the ramifications are a matter of life or death.

How do you expect a bunch of volunteers, who haven't developed any relationships with homeless people at all ever, to be able to go out onto the streets, into abandoned houses, into the woods, into vacant buildings and parking garages and find all the homeless people in one day?

We should be reporting numbers all year long. Many cities have 211 services where homeless people can call in. How many calls do they get each year for people who are homeless? How many people are turned away from shelters?

If we really gave a damn about homeless people we'd be doing a MUCH better job of counting them.

How do we know that there are 7100 cheetahs in all of Africa, but Akron Ohio thinks they only have 78 unsheltered homeless people? The answer is simple: people care about cheetahs more than they care about people freezing and dying on the streets of the richest county the world has ever seen.

Even the people running the agencies that "help" homeless people care more about keeping their jobs than actually helping those they've said they were going to care for. That's the only reason they are doing these counts... so they get their millions of dollars from HUD so they get paid this year.

But, it is what it is. And maybe some day these counts will improve.

While I'm not a fan of using this as some definitive guide to count homeless people, I am a BIG fan of meeting some new homeless friends. The best part of this exercise is that people that maybe have never gotten to talk to a single homeless person a day in their lives suddenly gets to sit down with them face to face and learn a little about their story.

If you decide to volunteer to help with the point-in-time count I STRONGLY encourage you to get to know the people your are "counting". Ask them how they became homeless. Ask them about their families. Ask them about their friends. Ask them what they do with their day. Ask them how they are feeling and doing. You know... ask them things you would ask your friend.

That's the great gift of the PIT count... making new friends.

I'd also LOVE to see your pictures you take with your new friends. Please take pictures and tag them with the hashtag "#pitcount"

I decided to go through the web and find as many web sites as I could for states and cities and counties that are promoting their point-in-time counts for 2020.

I know I'm missing many. (If you have a point in time count you want to promote just put it in the comments below.) Shoot... I can't even find the date for the point-in-time count for my own city.

Here's what I found and the links for you to learn more about the homeless point-in-time count for your area in 2020:

[2020 PIT Count Announcement and Additional PIT Count Resources - HUD Exchange](#)

[Oregon](#)

The 2020 count is starting on Jan. 22 in Port Orford, moving to the North Bend, Coos Bay and Powers areas on Jan. 29, the Coquille, Gold Beach and Brookings areas on Jan. 28, and then Myrtle Point and Bandon on Jan. 30.

[Point-in-Time Count & Reports | Mo BoS CoC - Missouri](#)

[January 29, 2020](#)

[2020 Point-in-Time Count: Save the Date & Get Involved - Mecklenburg County - Housing & Homelessness Dashboard](#)

[The Point-in-Time Count will take place on Wednesday, January 29, 2020](#)

[Homeward - Point In Time Count - Richmond, VA 23235](#)

[The dates for the 2020 Winter PIT count activities are Wednesday, January 22 and Thursday, January 23.](#)

[Volunteer registration is open for PIT activities on January 23rd.](#)

[Point-In-Time Homeless Count - Phoenix, Arizona 85003](#)

[The 2020 PIT Count will be conducted on January 28, 2020.](#)

[Point-in-Time Count - Memphis, TN 38103](#)

[The 2020 Point-in-Time \(PIT\) Count will be held the morning of January 22, 2020.](#)

[Washington State Department of Commerce Annual Point in Time Count](#)

[The 2020 Point in Time \(PIT\) Count will be on Thursday, Jan. 23.](#)

[Point-In-Time Count | United Way of Denton County](#)

[The 2020 Point-In-Time \(PIT\) Count is January 23rd.](#)

[2020 Point In Time Count - ECHO](#)

[Early in the morning of January 25th, 2020, hundreds of volunteers will head out across Austin/Travis County to count every person experiencing unsheltered homelessness.](#)

[Point In Time \(PIT\) - Michigan](#)

24 HOUR POINT IN TIME (PIT) COUNT OF HOMELESS INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES Wednesday JANUARY 29, 2020

Point-in-Time Count 2020 | website - Rhode Island

The 2020 PIT Count will be held on the night of Wednesday, January 22, 2020 and at select times and locations between Thursday, January 23 through Saturday the 25th.

Point in Time Count | KC Homeless - Kern County

Friday, Jan. 24, 2020 from 3:30 a.m-10 a.m

2020 PIT Count Date - Western VA CoC

The 2020 Point-in-Time (PIT) Count for the Western Virginia CoC will be conducted on Wednesday, January 22 with a back-up date of January 23 in the event of inclement weather.

WeAllCount - San Diego

The San Diego upcoming Point-in-Time Count, known as We All Count will begin at 4am on the morning of January 23, 2020 for the majority of San Diego Countys deployment sites.

2020 Northeast Florida Point in Time Count Tickets, Wed, Jan 22, 2020 at 4:30 AM | Eventbrite

Wed, January 22, 2020 4:30 AM 8:30 PM EST

2020 Point-In-Time Count | Anoka County, MN - Official Website

The 2020 Point-In-Time (PIT) count is set for Wednesday, January 22, 2020.

Point-In-Time Count Fredericksburg Regional Continuum of Care

The date for the 2020 Winter Point-in-Time count has been set for the night of Wednesday, January 22nd.

Point-In-Time Count | San Bernardino County Homeless Partnership

will take place on January 23, 2020.

Count Us In - All Home King County

Count Us In 2020, King Countys Annual Point in Time Count (PIT), will be happening Friday, January 24, 2020!

Point-in-Time Vermont Coalition to End Homelessness

Night of January 22, 2020

CT Point in Time Count | Connecticut Coalition to End Homelessness

I can't find the date and time.

2020 Homeless Point-in-Time (PIT) Count - Jan 23, 2020 - Polk County.

Date: January 23, 2020 Time: 5:00 AM - 5:00 PM EST

Everyone Counts - Metro Denver

January 27

The 2020 Point in Time Count | Project HOME - Philadelphia

The PIT count will take place this year on January 22nd, 2020 from 10:30 PM until 4:00 AM the next morning.

2020 Oahu Point In Time Count

Thursday, January 23, 2020 at 4 AM 11 AM UTC-10

Broward County Point-in-Time Count

January 29 and 30

Point-in-Time Count | EveryOneHome.org - San Leandro, CA 94577

I can't find the date

Everyone Counts: Homelessness Partnering Strategy Coordinated Point-in-Time Counts - Canada.ca

Counts will take place between March 1 and April 30, 2020.

Point in Time Homeless Count | Georgia Department of Community Affairs

I can't find their date this year

Homeless Count | Coalition - Houston

Sheltered Count: Monday, January 27, 2020

Unsheltered Count: January 28, 29 & 30, 2020

Volunteer for the 2020 Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count

January 21, 2020: San Gabriel and San Fernando Valleys

January 22, 2020: West Los Angeles, Southeast Los Angeles, & the South Bay

January 23, 2020: Antelope Valley, Metro Los Angeles, and South Los Angeles

NJCounts Our Neighbors Experiencing Homelessness! - Monarch Housing - New Jersey

They have a count down clock on this page but I can't find any other information

Point in Time Count - Reports "A Home for Everyone" - Portland and Multnomah County

They seem to do it every other year. I don't think they are doing it this year.

Point-In-Time Homeless Count | City of Palm Springs

Volunteers are needed Wednesday, January 29, 2020

K-Count - Kentucky Housing Corporation

The 2020 K-Count for the Kentucky Balance of State (BoS) will be held on Wednesday, January 29, 2020

Point in Time Count Coordinator | Central Okanagan Foundation

This is a job posting for the position of PIT organizer. It's \$28. This is Canada.

In March 2020, Kelowna will participate in the Kelowna 2020 Coordinated Point-in-Time Count supported by the Government of Canada's Reaching Home Strategy.

Riverside County Seeks Volunteers for 2020 Homeless Count - InlandEmpire.us

More than 700 volunteers are needed for the 2020 count, which is scheduled for Jan. 29 through Jan 31.

2020 Thurston County Homeless Census - Thurston Thrives

They talk about trainings on this page. But I don't see the date they are doing their count.

2020 Point in Time Count Chittenden County Homeless Alliance

ANNUAL POINT IN TIME COUNT, Jan 22 & 23, 2020

Point-in-Time Count 2020 | Pierce College District

Date: January 24, 2020

HMIS Announcements - Main

The Night of the Count will be Tuesday, January 28, 2020.

2020 Austin PIT Count Volunteer Sign-Up - Ending Community Homelessness Coalition (ECHO) | GivePulse

Saturday, January 25th, 2020 from 2:00am to 9:00am (CT)

2020 Kern County Point-In-Time Homeless Count - Jan 24, 2020 - Delano Chamber of Commerce

Name: 2020 Kern County Point-In-Time Homeless Count Date:

January 24, 2020

Time: 3:00 AM - 10:00 AM PST

ORCCA | 2020 Point in Time Count Coos/Curry Counties

January 28th

City of Long Beach Seeks Volunteers to Participate in 2020 Point in Time Count

Jan. 23

Volunteer signups open for the 2020 Point-in-Time count in Collin, Dallas, Tarrant and Denton counties |

Community Impact Newspaper

Counties in the Dallas-Fort Worth area have opened volunteer signups for the 2020 Point-in-Time count Jan. 23.

NEWCAP Inc. Point-in-Time Count - Florence, Marinette, Menominee, Oconto, and Shawano Counties

ON JANUARY 22, 2020

Volunteers Needed for the 2020 Homeless Count | Edhat - Santa Barbara County, the Santa Maria/Santa Barbara County Continuum of Care (CoC), and the Northern Santa Barbara County United Way

5:30-8:30 a.m. on Wednesday, January 29, 2020

Summit County Ohio Continuum of Care |

They got this new website this year. But it doesn't list anything about this year's point in time count. (The United Way links to this old site: www.hmisummit.net/coc/Default.htm. It talks about the Point in Time Count... in 2016.

This is my home county and I literally can't find the date of our PIT count anywhere. If someone has a link please send it to me.

The featured image is of former councilman Zack Milkovich spending time talking with our homeless friend Kenny Boldt.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/22-be-yourself-no-matter-what-anyone-tells-you/>

og:title Content: #22 - Be yourself no matter what ANYONE tells you. - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: January 5, 2020

Blog Post Content: Here it is in audio format:

[buzzsprout episode='2411237' player='true']

You watch it in video format here:

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/focusing-on-the-may-2023-akron-mayoral-campaign/>
og:title Content: Focusing on the May 2023 Akron Mayoral Primary Election - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist
Blog Post Date: January 9, 2020

Blog Post Content: I just want to write this down so we don't forget.
In May 2019 these were the numbers: Akron mayor (Democratic): Incumbent Daniel Horrigan claims victory with 10,839 votes; Greg Harrison has 2,955.
In 2015 these were the primary numbers:
Daniel Horrigan 10,647
Michael D. Williams 8,088
That's out of 122,357 registered voters.
All we have to do is win the primary. And we'll take over the city.
I used this tool to get the total registered voters:
<https://lookup.boe.ohio.gov/vtrapp/summit/precandpoll.aspx>
These are the 2015 primary results here:
<https://www.summitcountyboe.com/ElectionResults/Results/elect090815P.htm>
These are the 2019 primary results:
<https://www.summitcountyboe.com/ElectionResults/Results/elect050719ps.htm>

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/23-sage-against-the-machine-podcast-believe-in-someone/>
og:title Content: #23 Sage Against the Machine Podcast. Believe in someone - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist
Blog Post Date: January 12, 2020

Blog Post Content: Here's the audio version:
[buzzsprout episode='2465126' player='true']
Here's the video version:

Here's the Kofi Made in Akron video I mentioned:

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/24-sage-against-the-machine-podcast-there-is-nothing-in-the-world-you-can-do-that-isnt-going-to-piss-people-off/>
og:title Content: #24 - Sage Against the Machine Podcast. There is nothing in the world you can do that isn't going to piss people off. - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist
Blog Post Date: January 15, 2020

Blog Post Content: Here's the audio version:
[buzzsprout episode='2499223' player='true']
Here's the video version:

This is what Malcolm X said about the March on Washington: " Yes, I was there. I observed that circus. Who ever heard of angry revolutionists all harmonizing "We Shall Overcome. . .Suum Day. . ." while tripping and swaying along arm-in-arm with the very people they were supposed to be angrily revolting against? Who ever heard of angry revolutionists swinging their bare feet together with their oppressor in lily-pad park pools, with gospels and guitars and "I Have A Dream" speeches?

You can read more here:

http://college.cengage.com/history/ayers_primary_sources/malcolm_x_washington_1964.htm

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/the-force-is-in-all-of-us/>

og:title Content: The Force Is In All of Us - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: January 19, 2020

Blog Post Content: I now believe that religion is nothing more than a tool. It is a tool to help guide your life. A religion is a tool that helps you connect ever so slightly with the "All".

I believe in nearly everything: heaven, hell, reincarnation, nothing, afterlife. It's all true. And because it's all true, none of it is true. We are smaller than the smallest particle ever imagined in the scope of the multiverse. We arrived super late on the scene of the space-time continuum. We know nothing.

When a conscious, thinking being can't even explain what sleep means (something we do 1/3 of our time on Earth) how can anyone possibly think they have the slightest grasp on a thing we call God?

For me, moving in between spiritualities and religions makes the most sense. It helps me get just a little closer to the thing we call God. (For the fully indoctrinated of any single religion that thinks I'm talking complete heresy, a quick trip to any Universalist Unitarian Church should quickly recalibrate your awareness of your fellow human brothers and sisters. I'm not being at all radical here.)

I've been thinking a lot about the Force recently.

For the record, Jediism is a thing. In every recent census in New Zealand, 20,000-30,000 people put "Jediism" as their choice of religion. (Feel free to do so in this year's U.S. Census, if you like. I don't know what I'm going to put yet.)

I was watching #8, The Last Jedi, last night.

Luke tells Rey that "the force is in all of us."

He's saying that the force isn't something that just Jedi have. He said WE ALL have it. It connects us all.

He isn't just talking about the light side of the force. He's talking about the dark side too.

Rey terrifies Luke because she doesn't fear the dark side. She doesn't move away from it. She goes towards it, which makes Luke think that he's going to lose another person to the dark side of the force like he did with Kylo Ren (the son of Han Solo and Princess Leia).

What is ironic is that it might have been Luke who actually pushed Kylo Ren to the dark side. Luke was terrified with his interest in the dark side.

But as we know with both Darth Vader and Kylo Ren, they were never TOTALLY consumed with the dark side. There was a battle within them.

In a way, it makes me more understanding of Kylo Ren and it makes me LOVE Rey. She is simply not afraid... of anything.

Yoda said this:

Isn't this EXACTLY how we find Luke Skywalker in #8 "The Last Jedi?"

He's afraid and alone and refuses to go help anyone. What's darker than that?

It's the fear that is the evil.

Anger and hate that comes from love is wildly different than anger and hate that comes from fear.

I like Christianity because it is a religion of helping the poor and needy. But so are the Jedi. And in a way I like them more...

The Order consisted of polymaths; teachers, philosophers, scientists, engineers, physicians, diplomats, and warriors.

Jedi philosophy emphasized self-improvement through knowledge and wisdom, adherence to slave morality, and selfless service through acts of charity, citizenship, and volunteerism; this ideology is a recurring theme in the Star Wars universe.

I don't care for their denouncing of emotions. The Jedi denounce emotions as the root cause of mortal suffering. This is why I never had a deep connection with Buddhism. "Desire is suffering" the Buddhists say. It's also called being human.

When you denounce ANYTHING isn't it because you are afraid of it? So, the Jedi denouncing all emotions is just yet another form of fear that makes me lose interest real quick.

But then I REALLY love their connection to all things in the universe. I'm a die hard believer in connection. I like the idea that there is a "force" that connects us all. That might be my biggest driving force of them all. I don't believe in time and space. And therefore I believe everything is existing all at once all together. We just can't be anything other than totally connected.

So yeah. I don't like the Jedi's anti-emotion angle. And the Sith are just so.... mean all the time. So I don't think I'd pick either of those.

But a follower of "The Force" might still be a contender.

The ancient Chinese call it Qi (pronounced "chi"). "A vital force forming part of any living entity." They've been thinking about this since 1600 BCE.

I like "The Force" better than "Qi". It just rolls off my tongue easier and plus we have all these cool movies about it.

My point of all this isn't to try to convince you to come join my "The Force" church. In fact, it's the opposite. I LOVE the contradiction of spirituality. I love that things are both yes and no, up and down. Physicists call it "superposition," being in two different states at the same time. In fact it's not even just "two different states" at the same time, it's being in MULTIPLE states at the same time.

Science has done a better job of defining reality than most religions. "Superposition" is just an exquisite word.

God is in Superposition all the time. Even in our own mind.

But here's the thing about superposition: as soon as you look at it, IT ALL collapses into ONE position. So, God becomes one thing for you and it becomes something completely different for someone else.

No doubt, God has so many different superpositions, it's quite easy to believe that God exists in different states for every single living creature in the entire multiverse.

At this point in the journey I'm taking you on my hope is that it becomes quite easy to understand that no religion fits any one person. You simply must create your own religion. You need your own texts. You need your own ceremonies. You need your own shrines.

My brother-in-law likes to tell me that he prays at the "River of glass smooth water" on Sunday mornings. He's a wakeboarder. There is little else that a hardcore wakeboarder loves more than flat, flat water. I love that.

This is when your spiritual journey gets really interesting and really exciting.

What do you believe? What do you not believe?

I'd love to know your beliefs and anti-beliefs here in the comments or on Facebook.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/episode-27-sage-against-the-machine-podcast/>
og:title Content: Episode 27 - Sage Against the Machine Podcast - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist
Blog Post Date: February 22, 2020

Blog Post Content: Here's the audio version:
[buzzsprout episode='2811331' player='true']
And here is the video:

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/25-sage-against-the-machine-podcast/>
og:title Content: #25 - Sage Against The Machine Podcast - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist
Blog Post Date: January 22, 2020

Blog Post Content: Here's the audio:
[buzzsprout episode='2556196' player='true']
Here is the video:

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/26-sage-against-the-machine-podcast/>
og:title Content: #26 - Sage Against The Machine Podcast - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist
Blog Post Date: January 25, 2020

Blog Post Content: Here is the audio:
[buzzsprout episode='2574535' player='true']

Here is the video:

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/sages-recommendations-for-working-with-homeless-people-in-a-coronavirus-world/>

og:title Content: Sage's Recommendations For Working With Homeless People In A Coronavirus World - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: March 11, 2020

Blog Post Content: I want to make very clear that I am not a doctor. I am simply a person who is as educated as many people are with what is happening in our world with Coronavirus. That said, I haven't seen any realistic documentation and recommendations on how best to work with homeless people during this time of Coronavirus in America... especially with our lack of ability to adequately test people.

HUD has created a toolkit to help caregivers of our homeless neighbors here: Infectious Disease Toolkit for CoCs - HUD Exchange. It addresses what to do at various stages of homelessness.

They have Webinars about this topic. Here is one of the webinars:

There is also this page: National Coalition for the Homeless What homeless folks should know about Coronavirus (COVID-19).

And this is a good page too: Coronavirus (COVID-19) Resources | United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH)

These tools are all well and good. However, many of the recommendations simply aren't going to happen. These are the recommendations from HUD:

Communicate the need for access to clean water, hand washing stations, and public restroom access for people living in encampment sites to key stakeholders responsible for the provision of municipal services.

Educate municipal partners on the risks of disease spread in both sanctioned and unsanctioned encampments and the potential impact on the broader community.

Thoughtfully include law enforcement partners when appropriate.

Encourage public works and sanitation departments to create regular schedules for the provision of trash pick up.

Encourage public health partners such as Healthcare for the Homeless, PATH providers, and local public health departments to create regular schedules for onsite vaccinations and street medicine services.

I spoke with a reporter yesterday who said that when he contacted a homeless shelter yesterday, March 10 2020, they had made NO plans for dealing with coronavirus.

I do not believe we are going to see ANY activity from the Summit County Continuum of Care or our local government when it comes to working with our homeless population. Nor do I believe that most of the country will be providing things like hand washing stations and porta potties and trash pickup for homeless people in unsanctioned homeless camps. I certainly can't imagine anything like that happening in Akron Ohio.

This will increase death among homeless people and will also increase transmission of coronavirus within our community as a whole. Homeless people will be continuing to enter stores and gas stations likely untested and untreated which will spread coronavirus to many other people.

There is absolutely NO PLAN as to quarantining sick people who don't have a home.

Respiratory illnesses are prevalent in the homeless community, as are other significant health issues. This makes the homeless population a high risk group of people. Coronavirus is a deadly condition for homeless people.

No matter what angle you look at this, homelessness and coronavirus is a very serious issue that is not being adequately addressed by homeless service providers.

Here are my recommendations as to what we should potentially do in the real world. These are recommendations for both homeless helpers and homeless people themselves.

If you are sick with ANYTHING do not visit homeless camps or shelters or transitional houses. In America, we simply are not testing appropriately for coronavirus. We know that it is now in Northeast Ohio. And we have

no way of knowing if people have it or not. If you have a runny nose, fever, cough, ANYTHING, please refrain from going near homeless people. They will get infected.
Do not bring food or any other supplies to homeless people if you or anyone around you is sick. Coronavirus can live on items for some time. Because homeless people are such an at risk group you are endangering their lives by bringing potentially contaminated items to them.
If you are sick, just assume you have coronavirus when working with homeless people. We can't get tested. So we can't know. This is a life threatening issue for our homeless friends. Please treat it as such.
From here: Symptoms of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) | CDC:
The following symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure.*

Fever
Cough
Shortness of breath

Please be on the lookout for these symptoms for our homeless friends.
If you see these symptoms in a homeless person PLEASE call a healthcare provider for the person.
Here is the number for the Summit County Health Department:
(330) 923-4891

Here is Summa Health Akron Emergency Department number: (330) 375-3361

And here is an article from the CDC on what to do if you think you or a friend have coronavirus:

Prevent Others from Getting Sick | CDC

When in doubt, call 911.

If you believe a homeless person has coronavirus DO NOT transport them in your car. Call for an ambulance.

They will infect your vehicle potentially for days.

If an ambulance won't come then I don't know what to tell you. I might transport people in the back of my pickup truck.

This is what the CDC says:

Wear a facemask if you are sick.

If you are sick: You should wear a facemask when you are around other people (e.g., sharing a room or vehicle) or pets and before you enter a healthcare providers office.

If you are caring for others: If the person who is sick is not able to wear a facemask (for example, because it causes trouble breathing), then people who live with the person who is sick should not stay in the same room with them, or they should wear a facemask if they enter a room with the person who is sick.

We should try to get supplies for people we are working with in the woods and on the street.

Hand sanitizer
Tissues
Facemasks for people who are sick
Rubber gloves

I believe homeless people will become sick and will be sent away from hospitals. So they will be in camps, in shelters and in transitional houses.

You are going to have to make a very educated decision if you are going to help these people when they are sick.

Here is my recommendation for ideas on what to do if you choose to help homeless people that become infected with coronavirus.

Wear clothes that you can change out of when you are done working with them.

Take a thorough shower when you are done working with an infected person.

Wear rubber gloves when working with the person.

The sick person should have a mask on when you are working with them and so should you. Wear a mask when you are working with a sick person. If you can't get a mask put a scarf or bandanna over your mouth and nose.

Make sure you thoroughly wash your hands when you are done working with them. I will likely quarantine myself in my camper if I start working with sick people. I will stay away from home for 14 days AFTER the last time I come in contact with a person with coronavirus. (I realize that's not possible for everyone. But it might be something to consider if it's possible for you.)

This appears to be a very serious pandemic. They will likely compare it to the 1918 Pandemic (H1N1 virus). Hospitals are not going to have enough ventilators to treat people. They may not have enough beds to treat people. I feel quite strongly that volunteers are going to be treating homeless people in place. It will be inadequate. But it always is with how we treat homeless people. At least they will know that people care about them and they are loved.

Please be smart. And if you have any additional ideas please post them in the comments below.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/sages-quarantine-plan-for-homeless-people-in-regards-to-coronavirus/>
og:title Content: Sage's Quarantine Plan For Homeless People In Regards To Coronavirus - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist
Blog Post Date: March 14, 2020

Blog Post Content: I want to put this out there sooner than later. There is a possibility I have already been exposed to coronavirus. So, in the event I get sick I want to make sure my ideas are out there. Obviously, these are just my personal opinions and if I'm out of the game then others will maneuver based on the information on the ground at the time.

I have already written: Sage's Recommendations For Working With Homeless People In A Coronavirus World. But in this case I want to talk about specific quarantine ideas.

As of today no one in Akron Ohio has given any recommendations as to how we are supposed to manage our homeless population in the event they become infected with coronavirus.

In this HUD document: Preventing and Managing the Spread of Infectious Disease within Encampments (PDF) they are telling us that ALL homeless encampments should be receiving access to clean water, hand washing stations, and public restroom. They are also supposed to be supplied with trash service.

As of yesterday, city officials are still closing encampments in Akron. They are showing no awareness of the threat to our entire community by not having a health plan in place for their homeless citizens.

I brought bottled water to a camp yesterday. I will continue doing so as long as I'm medically able.

There has been a request for baby wipes at this camp. (This is the camp on Adams Street.) I don't currently have any wipes. I would prefer if we could get them some hand sanitizing wipes or gels. I'm not sure how likely that is. But it would be about as good as we can do as volunteers as far as hand cleaning is concerned. Here are my thoughts as of today, Saturday March 14, 2020 on how we should manage quarantine with our homeless neighbors.

My Truck

If I am not able to go to camps and the food bank and our transitional houses because I become sick I would like to offer my truck to either Ashleigh or Lerryn while I'm out. They could continue bringing food to our transitional houses from the food bank. I believe we need to be going to the food bank as often as possible to keep food flowing into our neighborhood.

I know that at least one church in our neighborhood has stopped all meals. I've heard of others throughout the city.

As of today people have donated \$2980 to a fund for food. I'm so overwhelmed by people's goodness I can barely express my gratitude. It is so humbling. So we need to keep a system in place to keep food moving no matter who is in or out of the work at any given time.

The Arlington House

This house has an incredible amount of activity.

Ashleigh and I have expressed our desire to allow no one in either of our houses other than the people that live there during this time.

But I simply don't believe that is overly realistic, particularly in this house.

I believe because of the regular access to this house there will be a high likelihood that coronavirus will present at this location.

PLEASE. If you have a fever or a cough and you do not live at our houses PLEASE do not come into either of our houses.

If you want to bring supplies and donations to this house, for your safety and the safety of the people in the house, I ask that you please just leave donations on the front porch. Just knock on the door and let them know they have arrived. Try to not come into the house whenever possible.

I have purchased a thermometer specifically for homeless people. I will be testing people's temperatures in each of our houses. I'll also be testing in camps if they allow me.

If you are a volunteer PLEASE take your temperature at least daily. You may not feel hot. But you could be. I feel like a temperature is a good sign of coronavirus.

If the Arlington House becomes infected I believe it should become a quarantine zone.

The house should be closed and no one should be allowed in or out. We should do everything in our power to get people everything they need (I mean everything) so they don't need to leave the house. And they don't need people to come into the house.

The Red House

This house is fairly secluded. Not many outside people come to this house. I would (and have) encouraged them to just not let anyone in their house that doesn't live there. They are quite agreeable to that. If we can keep them well fed and supplied in that house it's quite possible they will stay in the house without a great deal of desire to leave the house.

My recommendation is to make sure we understand the needs of the people in that house and supply them with those needs.

Volunteers come by that house. But I think most of the work is done outside. That is great! Hopefully there won't be too much difficulty or change in habits to keep people out of the house that don't live there.

Creating a quarantine encampment

In what I believe to be the likely event that a homeless person comes down with Coronavirus, I suggest we create a quarantine encampment. I don't want to suggest any locations here because it will surely be closed by the city if they find it.

I watched a webinar from HUD and the CDC about homelessness and coronavirus. The elephant in the room was: "How are we going to quarantine people that don't have a home?"

They gave no answers on the webinar. But here is my answer: We create a quarantine camp. We rent a porta potty. We either fabricate a hand washing station or we buy an affordable one.

We must vigilantly bring EVERYTHING to these people. If we can supply all of their needs then they will have little desire to leave. Ideally, it would be great if we could do this in a totally enclosed area. Having a fence all the way around would be ideal.

We need to keep well people out of this area. And we need to entice sick people to stay in. This needs to be a very low barrier area. We should anticipate difficult situations with mental illness and stealing and arguing. We may have to create more than one quarantine area for people that are particularly difficult to work with. I have tents for this project. I probably can get blankets from donors quite quickly.

I believe that if a person becomes infected in one of our houses or we establish a quarantine encampment we are going to need volunteers that are willing to work with these people. We need gloves and masks. Some kind of full body suit would be ideal as well.

These people are going to need over the counter medication and likely help staying on their already prescribed medication. Please do some serious thinking if you are willing to help in that regard. I don't know if medical professionals would be able or willing to help us with this work.

In the unlikely event that someone else creates a more official location for quarantined homeless people, we should certainly encourage our friends to use those locations. But part of this process is going to be creating a quarantined location where they will freely stay at. I can think of some locations where a person would refuse to go no matter how sick they were.

We also need to be in contact with medical professionals about the status of sick people. We need to know when we need to move people to hospitals, if we are able to do so.

I do not recommend transporting sick people in your own vehicle. It could easily get contaminated. Try to get an ambulance to take people. If an ambulance won't come I'd suggest transporting people in the back of a pickup truck.

I feel like I'm preparing for the apocalypse. But for our homeless friends, society has become an apocalypse. No one thinks of them. No one makes realistic provisions for them. And most of all, no one in power understands them.

If something better comes along for homeless people, by all means, abandon this plan and go with that. But, I am not at all optimistic there will be anything better than this plan.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/worried-about-her-dad/>
og:title Content: Worried about her dad - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist
Blog Post Date: April 18, 2020

Blog Post Content:
80% of the time I'm able to emotionally distance myself (for my own psychological wellbeing) from the brutal suffering caused by homelessness. But sometimes it really hits me. Like this message I got last night. I've been friends with her dad for years. He's lived on the street all the time I've known him. The biggest lesson my own dad taught me (indirectly) was that people just do the best they can. And we have to learn to accept that so that we can let go of the anger and hurt.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/sunday-morning-with-sage-4-19-2020/>
og:title Content: Sunday Morning with Sage 4-19-2020 - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist
Blog Post Date: April 19, 2020

Blog Post Content:

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/ohio-supreme-court-declines-to-consider-whether-lower-courts-may-create-barriers-to-lawsuits/>
og:title Content: Ohio Supreme Court Declines to Consider Whether Lower Courts May Create Barriers to Lawsuits - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist
Blog Post Date: April 28, 2020

Blog Post Content: Sadly, the Ohio Supreme Court refused to hear our case that our law firm, Institute for Justice, diligently attempted to be heard. Throughout this ENTIRE process we have been fought every step of the way by the mayor, city council, zoning and courts ALL on technicalities. We simply want SOMEONE to answer the question: Does an American citizen have the right to shelter those in dire need on his own property? They refuse to answer that critical humanitarian question while stopping us on aspects that have nothing to do with the issue at hand.

ALL OF THIS does nothing other than steel my resolve.
I. WILL. NOT. QUIT.

The way we treat the most desperately in need people in our society is an abomination. Thank you Institute for Justice for your never ending pursuit of finding justice for our homeless population. We are on the right side of history. We will prevail. It's simply a matter of time. The full story can be seen here:

Ohio Supreme Court Declines to Consider Whether Lower Courts May Create Barriers to Lawsuits - Institute for Justice

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/ohio-supreme-court-declines-to-hear-our-case/>
og:title Content: Ohio Supreme Court Declines To Hear Our Case - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist
Blog Post Date: April 29, 2020

Blog Post Content: Our law firm, Institute for Justice, has fought as hard as anyone in this battle for the rights of homeless people. Our case has always been that a person should be allowed to shelter those most desperately in need on his own personal property. We have been beaten down every step of the way on technicalities. They are doing everything in their power

to not have to address the real issue at hand... Should I be allowed to shelter people on my own property? This is yet another set back in this critical human rights fight. But I can tell you, with every loss my resolve becomes all the greater. The harder they push the more I realize they simply do not want to deal with their homeless crisis. They just want to push the issue down the road. Their politician avoidance would be laughable if it weren't so tragic.

Homelessness is wrong on every level: moral, health, safety. Allowing people to rot on the streets of the richest country in the history of humanity is the great American atrocity of the 21st century.

We will not quit until homeless Americans are allowed to live in peace in their own country regardless of how much money they have.

Here is the full press release Institute for Justice put out:

Ohio Supreme Court Declines to Consider Whether Lower Courts May Create Barriers to Lawsuits - Institute for Justice <https://bit.ly/2KJ7ZiH>

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/do-the-right-thing/>

og:title Content: Do The Right Thing - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: April 30, 2020

Blog Post Content: This is Kenny Boldt. He has instilled within me a very powerful motto: "Do the right thing."

Very often I hear his words when I am tired or lazy. "Do the right thing."

A couple weeks ago a grandma, mom and 8 year old girl were on the street. This kind of tragedy is so prevalent and so insurmountable I often see it and often just let it go. "What can I do?" I say to myself.

Kenny brought these people to me and said, "Do the right thing."

That started the wheels in motion. I talked to Lerryn. Lerryn talked to our partner, Peter Maurin Center, and we got them in a hotel that night. And now they are in housing.

None of it would have happened without Kenny telling me to "Do the right thing."

Thanks Kenny. You make me a better person.

(For the record, Kenny is homeless and almost always takes care of others before he takes care of himself.)

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/personal-authenticity/>

og:title Content: Personal Authenticity - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: May 1, 2020

Blog Post Content:

I get to go out today and spend time with some of the most amazing and cool people I've ever met in my life. I bring food and water out to some homeless people on Fridays. I can't think of any work in my life that makes me feel more alive, real and honest. #homelessness

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/finding-your-path/>

og:title Content: Finding Your Path - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: May 2, 2020

Blog Post Content:

I consider myself a searcher.

I also consider my time here on Earth as that of a tourist. A person who is on an all inclusive cruise getting to taste some of the sights and sounds of Earth. Considering that our planet is 4.543 billion years old, my 100 years (if I'm lucky) is not even a blip on the radar.

Yet I get the opportunity to leave signs of my existence. Like graffiti on a cave wall that we humans have always seemed to love to do.

This blog is that kind of graffiti. Though I would be surprised if it would be archived long enough for my grandchildren to see, much less the millennia of existence of cave paintings or pyramids. It truly makes me wonder which society was the smarter one.

Even though my time is nearly infinitely small, I feel more than a tourist. I like to think of myself as that of a traveler. The distinction between tourist and traveler is small. But it helps me navigate my existence.

Indiana Jones is a traveller. My grandparents on a cruise ship are tourists.

And that leads me to the idea of what the hell it is we are all doing on this planet. How much of any of our lives live up to the lives of our fictional characters? Luke Skywalker, Neo from the Matrix, The Godfather...

Good or bad, our fantasy humans are LIVING their lives while we all slink back to our keyboards and our service sector jobs that don't even pay a livable wage.

Why do we "choose" to live like this?

Is it because life is so precious? That our only goal is to live as long as we possibly can with the least amount of stress and difficulty?

"I just want to be comfortable," is a phrase I've heard many young people tell me that have applied for jobs with me. It's like they consider their entire existence a continual kind of terminal illness. "Just make me comfortable, Doc."

I guess it's just fear. As a species we are top of the line, apex predators. But individually we are scared little mice. The mouse species is strong. The singular mouse is weak. I get it.

Ultimately, I believe you can't live your life wrong. The way you live is the way you are meant to live. It's fine.

But I guess this message is for the people that are ready to wake up to their true life. It's time to snap out of it. This is your alarm going off. You aren't in the Matrix any more. Now you're in the real world.

Get out there and start living your life.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/futility/>

og:title Content: Futility - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: May 5, 2020

Blog Post Content:

The most futile feeling in the world is sitting in courtrooms and political chambers listening to politicians and appointed officials talk about how I have a "big heart" but zoning laws are more important than people dying on the street.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/this-is-hate-speech/>

og:title Content: This Is Hate Speech - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: May 11, 2020

Blog Post Content:

I wanted to point this picture out for exactly what it is: Hate.

It is hate directed towards addicted people.

The reason I want to point it out is because it is also VERY acceptable in most of American society.

The words "Grow Up" in the bottom right reflect a complete ignorance of what an opiate addiction is.

Fentanyl, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, is up to 100 times more potent than morphine and many times that of heroin.

Others can better explain how trapped fentanyl makes you. Others can explain to you how their child died on fentanyl. And most of my homeless friends have lost close friends to fentanyl.

We will NEVER EVER begin to turn the corner on addiction by shaming people or accusing them of being losers. Ultimately, the hate towards addicts just creates a deeper sense of depression and self hatred.

In my mind the real evil in America is the hatred towards people who are suffering incredible agony at the hands of a brutal overlord. I'll take an addict over a hater any day of the week as my friend. Judgement, particularly at the hands of self-righteous Christians, is brutally hurtful at the least and suicide inducing at the worst. And most of all, it is EXACTLY OPPOSITE everything Jesus stood for.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/social-warfare/>
og:title Content: Social Warfare - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist
Blog Post Date: May 18, 2020

Blog Post Content:

I see myself as a freedom fighter. We have institutionalized homelessness in America. Government and corporate service providers have thrown up their hands. "They just don't want our help." So people are left to rot on the streets and in the woods. We live in a world where giving human beings a toilet is "encouraging them." Like they are rats. We have created social warfare against our poorest citizens. This must end.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/destruction/>
og:title Content: Destruction - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist
Blog Post Date: May 19, 2020

Blog Post Content:

To you, this may look like an empty field. To me it looks like destruction. This was a home. This was a village to people who the rest of society gave up on. And they were not allowed to exist. They were considered illegal. Citizens of their own country, considered illegal. There is an institutional war against homeless people in America. They are hated by their neighbors and their government. An entire group of Americans: hated despised and criminalized for existing. We must fight and end the Homeless Wars.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/i-just-want-to-live/>
og:title Content: I Just Want To Live - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist
Blog Post Date: May 20, 2020

Blog Post Content:

The sentiment of this sign keeps me marching forward. "I just want to live." For me, it's not about the food or the tents or any of that. For me, it's about acceptance. Homeless people are going through a dark part of their journey. And the LAST thing they need is us telling them they are living wrong. We shun them like they are rats. When really they are in the midst of brutal suffering and struggle. I will always maintain that it is US that is the villain in the story of homelessness. We are Darth Vader. We are Satan. We are the embodiment of hate and cruelty heaped on a weak and beaten person. So I march forward.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/gary/>
og:title Content: Gary - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist
Blog Post Date: May 21, 2020

Blog Post Content:

This is my friend Gary.

I won't tell you how many felony "numbers" he has. But it's not just a few. He's the real deal.

We have a true friendship. My life is SO much fuller and better for being friends with Gary.

I love you man.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/reincarnation/>

og:title Content: Reincarnation - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: June 5, 2020

Blog Post Content:

It's hard to argue with reincarnation when you understand the fundamental laws of energy in the universe. The first law of Thermodynamics states: The total amount of energy and matter in the Universe remains constant, merely changing from one form to another. Energy cannot be created or destroyed. In essence, energy can be converted from one form into another.

I believe SO firmly that my spirit is part of every major revolution (past, present and future, because time doesn't exist). I now believe that I am on a cosmic journey of standing for justice. The magnetism I feel when I see injustice is hard to even describe.

I am there for you. I was always there for you. I will always be there for you.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/copy-from-john-brown-page-that-was-taken-down-the-summit-county-historical-society-of-akron/>

og:title Content: Copy from John Brown Page That Was Taken Down | The Summit County Historical Society of Akron - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: June 14, 2020

Blog Post Content: This page once was online here:

<https://www.summithistory.org/john-brown>

It now redirects to this page:

<https://www.summithistory.org/perkins-brown-partnership>

This is how the redirect looks on a server lookup:

#1 Requesting: <https://www.summithistory.org/john-brown>

Request

> GET /john-brown HTTP/1.1

> Host: www.summithistory.org

> User-Agent: Mozilla/5.0 (Windows NT 10.0; Win64; x64) AppleWebKit/537.36 (KHTML, like Gecko)

Chrome/42.0.2311.135 Safari/537.36 Edge/12.246

Response

< HTTP/1.1 301 Moved Permanently

< Connection: keep-alive

< Content-Length: 0

< Cache-Control: no-cache, must-revalidate

< Content-Type: text/html; charset=UTF-8

< Expires: Sun, 19 Nov 1978 05:00:00 GMT

< Location: <https://www.summithistory.org/perkins-brown-partnership>

Here is the original copy:

In 1844, abolitionist John Brown, soon to win fame in Kansas and at Harper's Ferry, moved into a two-room cottage across the street from the Perkins Mansion. He remained there while working with Simon Perkins, Jr., in the wool trade. Brown moved on and the house was used for other activities, but his name has remained associated with it for over a century.

John Brown was born in Torrington, Connecticut on May 9, 1800 and moved to the Western Reserve with his family in 1805. He grew up in Hudson and there he learned how to be a tanner or leather maker. He married his first wife, Dianthe Lusk, in Hudson.

Afterward, he moved to Pennsylvania, but his tannery there did not succeed. His first wife, Dianthe, died there and the widowed John married Mary Ann Day. He and Mary moved to Franklin Mills where John entered into a partnership with Zenas B. Kent in 1835, with the idea of building a tannery along the banks of

the Cuyahoga River.

Unfortunately, John Brown and Zenas Kent did not have a good partnership, and eventually they stopped doing business together. Around this same time, though, a number of investors planned to start a new company, the Franklin Land Company, with the goal of turning Franklin Mills into a major industrial city. The idea was to raise silk worms and create an American silk industry. After all, the silk worms' major food source, the mulberry tree, grew extremely well here. (Later, of course, they would discover that silk worms do not thrive in cold Ohio winters.) Then other industries would follow and the economy would boom. In any case, John Brown believed that real estate in Franklin Mills was going to be extremely valuable, and that by investing early, he would end up a wealthy man. Brown borrowed large sums of money, bought over 95 acres of land, and waited for his investment to pay off.

Instead, in 1837, the entire nation was caught up in an economic crisis. Franklin Mills never developed into a major industrial metropolis, and John Brown was driven to bankruptcy. Eventually, Brown would leave Franklin Mills, returning to Hudson, then Richfield.

He switched his career from tanning leather to raising sheep. While at Richfield, he was offered employment by Simon Perkins of Akron and moved his family there. In Akron, Brown formed a partnership with Simon Perkins. Representing the firm of Perkins and Brown, he went to Springfield, Massachusetts, to try and sell Western Reserve wool. The venture was soon in trouble, and Brown traveled to Europe to try and salvage the business. He failed, Perkins asked him to continue working in Akron but John and his wife Mary moved to the Adirondack Mountains in New York, building a farm in the hamlet of North Elba.

Eventually, Brown would end up involved in a bloody conflict in Kansas Territory between those who hated slavery and those who favored it. Brown began using violence to reach his goal, which led him to the infamous slaughter of pro-slavery advocates at Osawatomie. There is some evidence that after Brown's bloody raid at Osawatomie Creek in Kansas, citizens of Akron raised cash and contributed weapons to Brown when he returned to describe his passionate fight against slavery in the summer of 1856. Akron historian Karl Grismer believed that cases of arms stored in the Summit County Jail made their way into Brown's hands.

Brown ended up fleeing the country, taking refuge at Chatham, Ontario. By the summer of 1859, John Brown decided to do something about slavery once and for all. Returning to the United States, he and a group of others decided to raid a federal arsenal in a place called Harpers Ferry, Virginia, which is now in West Virginia.

The raid, which took place on October 16, 1859, was a failure. Brown was captured, put on trial, and condemned to death for his actions. On December 2, 1859, John Brown was hanged at Charles Town, Virginia. His body was sent to New York State to be buried on the grounds of his farmhouse in North Elba. While John Brown's raid on Harpers Ferry was unsuccessful in ending slavery, it did force the nation to pay attention to the issue. The national controversy over Brown's trial helped fracture the Democratic Party, which helped Republican candidate Abraham Lincoln win the election of 1860. Unhappiness with the results of that election led, in part, to South Carolina deciding to secede from the United States, an action which led in turn to the Civil War.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/to-every-thing-there-is-a-season/>

og:title Content: To every thing there is a season - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: June 16, 2020

Blog Post Content:

This is a friend of mine's favorite verse in the Bible: To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven: A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted; A time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up; A time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance; A time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing; A time to get, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to cast away; A time to rend, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak; A time to love, and a time to hate; a time of war, and a time of peace.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/the-collapse-of-an-unsanctioned-homeless-camp/>
og:title Content: The Collapse Of An Unsanctioned Homeless Camp - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist
Blog Post Date: June 29, 2020

Blog Post Content: One of the nearly endless frustrations I have with this work is how there is not even a basic curiosity of how these homeless camps work.

I've never understood why anthropologists aren't swarming homeless camps to try to get a better understanding of how early civilization was formed.

Every single homeless camp I've got to be part of shows incredibly interesting behaviors and formations that seem to occur over and over again. We get this incredible opportunity to see how the earliest civilizations might have behaved and sometimes thrived and probably oftentimes failed.

Another truly fascinating occurrence just happened in an unsanctioned camp here in Akron Ohio.

Coronavirus has significantly cut back employees in our city. So, we don't have the normal workforce to dismantle homeless camps. Additionally, the CDC and HUD have both explicitly stated that we should not break up camps as it likely will increase the spread of Covid-19.

So, one larger camp has been permitted to remain intact for quite some time. I would say at it's largest it maybe had 40 people.

Last week we went to the camp and everyone was gone. EVERYONE.

We know the people at this camp. We work with them regularly. They all had left without any notice or any reason why.

It looked just like every shut down homeless camp. Many abandoned items that couldn't be carried out.

Endless trash. And just this eerie feeling of being in a ghost town.

This is interestingly strange because the Summit County Continuum of Care recently put a porta-potty and hand washing station just outside this camp.

Here's Becca posing with these items. She was a long-time resident of this camp.

This was a HUGE step forward in our collective care for Akron homeless people. Never have anyone in the main homeless services sector supported our houseless friends in such a way.

So, why would you leave a place where there is water, a toilet and all the people who support you know where you are?

I believe the fundamental problem is that there is no ownership.

This is how every camp I've ever known develops: One person (or a couple) set up a tent. They create a safe environment. They make a fire pit, a sitting area, a tarped area so you can sit outside if it's raining.

Then one of your friends asks if they can come. It's no problem because your friend is a good person and it would be nice to have another person to help with chores like hauling water and burning trash.

Then their friend shows up. You don't really know them. But you hear they are "good people". And so it goes.

And then one day someone shows up that you specifically DON'T want at your camp. There is drama over it. Some people say the person should stay and some people say the person should go.

Ultimately, the person stays because "what are you going to do about it? You don't own this land."

And then that's when things break down. People start getting things stolen. People start using drugs that you absolutely never wanted in your camp. Meth users stay with meth users. Alcoholics stay with alcoholics...

And opiate users... nobody wants to be around opiate users because they bring overdoses which bring cops.

And cops bring parole violations which puts everyone at risk of going to jail. (Homeless people always have parole violations because they can't afford a phone or transportation to get to court hearings or even a calendar to know what day it is.)

So the drama rises.

And then the stealing expands to neighbors around the camp. Water is stolen. Electric is stolen. Unlocked cars are opened and searched for money and charging cords. Trash piles up. Scrappers bring the most bizarre things into and around the camp... broken couches, shopping carts with 2 wheels, pieces of wood, things that look like treasures while on meth yet are truly just trash.

Like a star, the camp begins to explode and then ultimately the camp implodes.

No one has authority. The people who are more criminal in their behavior tend to be more aggressive. The "live and let live" homeless people are typically gentle and quiet and kind. So they get rolled by the people causing the trouble.

It then appears that people ultimately scatter. Like dust in the wind they just move away. Everyone just

moves away.

While this is the first clear case of watching an unsanctioned camp grow and ultimately implode, I truly believe this is the natural course of events. I've seen it happen in smaller circumstances before. But I've never really gotten to see it naturally fully take its course because the city usually intervenes and shuts it down before we can see what happens on its own.

Simply put: society can not prevail without clear authority and rules.

The homeless tent village on my personal property functioned pretty well because we had clear authority. The villagers elected a tri-council from the village to be the ultimate overseers of rules and who came into the village and who was kicked out. They appointed security personnel who had very clear roles and realms of authority.

VERY interesting things occurred in this setting as well. Overzealous security people would sometimes become too powerful. And at one point there were so many meth users in the camp that they elected themselves into the tri-council (that was one of the few times I stepped in and removed all of tri-council and had people vote on tri-council members from a select list of candidates.)

I simply do not understand why A) people aren't endlessly fascinated by these unique and incredible society structures and B) why are we so adamant to not engage these people where they are today and helping them move back into society one step at a time?

I sometimes feel like I'm one of the very few sane people in the insane asylum of American society. How can people not care about these people? Why must we always say "it's our way or the highway?"

* The featured image here is of Ashleigh Hughes the Community Director of The Homeless Charity standing in this abandoned camp.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/podcast-why-i-resigned-as-executive-director-of-the-homeless-charity/>
og:title Content: Podcast: Why I Resigned as Executive Director of The Homeless Charity - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist
Blog Post Date: July 27, 2020

Blog Post Content:

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/the-societal-importance-of-the-trap-house/>
og:title Content: The Societal Importance Of The Trap House - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist
Blog Post Date: August 15, 2020

Blog Post Content: As someone who ran a trap house for a time, let me tell you... it's a thankless job. People you've never met appear out of nowhere. They move in. They bring their belongings (of which they often have a lot).

They build doors out of found objects. They mount hinged locks on doors in your basement and other random places throughout your house. You suddenly find entire sections of your house locked off to you. Who knows what goes on behind those doors.

Then their friends start showing up. People you don't know bringing other people you don't know into your house. They move in. They bring their stuff. And their pitbull dog comes too. (It's always a pitbull.)

The pitbull is sweet. But he torments the cats. (Did I forget to mention we also now shelter stray cats?) And if you are a creative soul, like me, when they ask you if they can "paint" you say sure. A creative outlet might be nice.

The painting is usually large sayings spray painted in the living room and all the bedrooms. It's usually in black. (I don't know if black is the only spray paint they can find. Or if it's all part of the larger artistic plan.) Heaven forbid the heat goes out in the winter. You can't pay to repair the furnace right away. Did I forget to tell you that none of these people pay rent? But never fear... they have a plan.

If they get their hands on a kerosene heater, they'll use that to warm the house. But invariably they will not use it correctly and your entire house will now be covered in a thin black smoke colored shade of dark grey soot adding the finishing touches to the black spray paint art decorating your entire house.

But indoor campfires are also completely acceptable forms of heat.

The windows are now all covered in old blankets nailed to the wall. This serves two purposes... it insulates the house to help keep whatever toxic heating device is being used to provide as much warmth as possible.

And, of course, it provides that added benefit of keeping prying eyes out of the house.

[Edit: I forgot to mention that these covered windows now make the entire house pitch black when the electric is turned off. So, it could be a bright sunny day outside. But inside your trap house it's a pitch black freezing cave.]

Invariably, the police will come. But everyone is under strict rules to never open the door to police. (That can sometimes backfire. Police sometimes have legal, legitimate reasons for you to open the door.)

If this was the end of the story, believe it or not, things would be manageable. But it's not the end of the story. Far from it.

This just sets the stage for what comes next. The illegal shit.

No matter how many times you beg and plead to not allow drugs to be bought and sold in your house, drugs WILL be bought and sold in your house.

The entire neighborhood will know. I once had the crack smokers who lived next door come and complain to me because they didn't want to be living next door to opiate shooters.

Everyone hates the opiate shooters. "No slow just go" is a common tag line of tent communities and abandoned houses in my neighborhood. It means that you are welcome to do meth but if you are doing opiates you are going to get kicked out.

Opiate users overdose. That brings EMS. And EMS brings police. And EVERYONE hates the police.

Police run warrants. And warrants lead to arrests. Most of my friends have warrants. But that's another story.

But it's not just the drugs. It's the prostitution rings. And it's not just the prostitution rings. It's the prostitution scams.

In my house I had a woman who ran a scam where she would go to the university which is just a few blocks down the street, she'd find an unsuspecting mark, she'd bring him back to my house (what kind of college boy idiot would walk into my house and think it was a good idea is beyond me) and start the process of having sex for money with him.

Then out of nowhere her "uncle" would barge in the door. (It was really her boyfriend) He'd start screaming that she was underage and this guy was in huge trouble. He was going to call the cops (yeah right). (This woman was cute and all. But to think she's underage is a bit of a stretch. (None of us could believe that story held up.) But who knows. My trap house looked scary as shit and her boyfriend was terrifying looking in his own right.)

Then they shake the guy down for whatever they could get out of him.

It was mostly innocent enough. No one typically got hurt. And they could usually make a few hundred dollars by taking the guy to the atm at the next door Dollar Store.

But of course, one day they screwed up a perfectly good scam.

This time their mark was a 17 year old white boy. Society hates when the poors fuck with the upper class 17 year old whites.

There were 3 people involved in this scam. The police were superiorly pissed off with these people. I think the woman left town. I don't know what happened to her boyfriend. And the other guy is still wearing an ankle bracelet a few years later, I think.

That's probably the most exciting story out of that house. Although I have some other close runners up.

And the trash. The fucking trash.

There are two annoying characteristics of some meth users. One is the incessant talking. I mean they just talk and talk and talk. It will make you go insane. And the other is endless dumpster diving. Meth makes you think that a shopping cart with 2 wheels is the greatest find of your life. You just need to find two more wheels and it will be good as new. Of course you never find the two wheels because there are so many other "greatest finds of your life" to be had. So the junk just piles up in your house and in your yard and in your driveway.

Have I painted a good enough picture of a certain kind of trap house? Do you feel the angst and frustration and sisyphian endless struggle of running a trap house?

I'm telling you: it is truly God's work.

Because while these people can be annoying and frustrating and confoundingly exasperating, they have to go somewhere. Trust me, you don't want them living in the abandoned house next to you. And you really don't want them in the tent village down the road.

You need someone who is willing to deal with their shit and try the best they can to make some sort of structure out of it.

Yes, the prostitute scam people needed to go. That's a little too much.

But drug users. Really? Do you really want to pay to lock them up in prison?

You can debate me all day on this point, but I believe sex workers and drugs should be decriminalized. The war on drugs has got to be the biggest failure of anything America has ever done. And it does nothing other than break up families and pull people out of society so we don't have to deal with them. And then there is the money. The war on drugs makes people rich. That's the only reason it still is in existence. It's a way for rich people to syphon money off the government so they can get more rich.

Yes. I have seen people come out of jail sober (if they chose not to do drugs in jail). But because they got no treatment in jail they are back to their regularly scheduled programming within a week. Drug treatment programs work. Jail does not work.

And in case you have never been a slave to a drug like I have and MANY other people have, let me tell you... you only quit when you are ready. You can't force a person to quit. You can't shame a person into quitting. And there is no "rock bottom" for houseless people. Free fall just becomes a way of life.

A trap house is the product of a society that shuns and condemns addicts. It is a "serious" crime to have drugs on your person. This infuriates me as booze can be found in every gas station, grocery store and drug store in America. There is no more hypocritical policy than this.

You can get blind drunk as often as you want in America. But somehow pot is a schedule 1 drug. Madness!

Other, more rational countries, are now providing Supervised Injection Sites.

The health risks of IV drug use are extreme — 130 people die from an overdose every day in the United States. [External link](#) The lifetime risk of dying from an opioid overdose is greater than that of a car collision: [External link](#) 1 in 96 versus 1 in 103.

There are about 100 safe injection sites throughout Canada, Australia and Europe. The Netherlands have the most — almost 40 injection sites throughout the country ([PDF, 594 KB](#)). [External link](#) But there are currently no sanctioned supervised injection sites in the United States. A December 2017 evaluation of drug consumption facilities [External link](#) discusses an unsanctioned site in the country that operates under the direction of an unnamed agency.

You can learn more about these here: [Supervised Injection Sites Are Coming to the United States. Here's What You Should Know.](#) - Blog

So, because we are such a judgemental puritanical society we take care of our drug addicts in trap houses. Shit holes run by people that don't have the resources to do it well. But at least they do it when no one else will.

Philadelphia is the one lone city in America that is trying to get a safe injection site. But of course Americans won't have it: [Plans for first US 'safe injection site' derailed again](#) - BBC News

So, the truth and the reality get buried.

There are two houses on the east side of Akron doing this work. They take in the hardest cases. They feed them. They shelter them. They provide water, electric and heat. They actually do a much better job than I ever did. I was too much of a push over. My trap house was basically an abandoned house with spotty utilities. When I bought the house it was condemned and nothing was working. But people desperately wanted to move into it. (In fact, that's how I came to own a trap house in the first place. Friends of mine were freezing, living outside with no shelter and my house with no utilities was WAY better than where they currently were staying. They just showed up one day and I let them stay.)

I was inspired to write this story today because one of these trap houses is closing. The person running it has had enough. He's moving on. Managing these people with these addictions and mental illnesses and all this lifetime of emotional baggage is SO hard. But thank God a few people do it.

At the end of this month there are now going to be about 12 people that will be sent into the wind. And do you know what's going to happen to them?

They are going to move into the woods. They are going to throw all their trash all over the place because they have no trash service. They are going to shit where ever they want because they have no toilets. And their needles are going to be strewn all over our parks and sidewalks because no one is going to go around cleaning up behind them.

They are going to get hungry because we can't find them to feed them. So they are going to steal food from local stores. They are going to become more isolated. They are going to feel more rejected. So their addictions and mental health issues are going to get worse.

So there's the truth. I get that you hate addicts and homeless people. But which scenario do you hate more? Do you hate them doing drugs in a house where they have rudimentary services? Or do you hate them doing drugs behind your churches, behind your schools and in your parks? You have to pick. You can't lock up all the addicts. You just can't physically do it.

I have this dream of Akron being the Recovery City of America. I mean we are the home of AA, after all. It would be SO incredible if we had the first Safe Injection Site in America. But of course we don't have

leadership with anywhere near that level of vision. We just get parks with splash pads. To the man that served the addicts and lost and forgotten and shunned so well in Middlebury, Akron Ohio... Thank you for all you have done for our friends. You are a true hero. I'm glad you are taking care of yourself and moving on. You did the work that no one else is willing to do. And to all the people that are currently running trap houses... thank you for your work. Stay safe. Let me know if you need any Narcan. I also have access to some cots if you need them. And if I can, I'll bring you food when I have it available.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/sunday-morning-with-sage-trap-houses/>
og:title Content: Sunday Morning With Sage - Trap Houses - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist
Blog Post Date: August 17, 2020

Blog Post Content: We discussed trap houses this morning. It was recorded on August 16, 2020. Here is the audio version:

Here is the video Version:

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/this-is-why-you-dont-rat-out-a-shooter-chief-ball/>
og:title Content: This Is Why You Don't Rat Out A Shooter, Chief Ball - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist
Blog Post Date: August 19, 2020

Blog Post Content: I've been thinking about getting a gun. I've been thinking about the Ruger AR-556 MPR

As I was fantasizing about my new purchase, my obsession turned to murdering a particular drug dealer in my neighborhood. I thought about how, when, where... I was getting so into the idea that I had to just stop thinking about buying the gun altogether. (I don't really want to go to jail for killing one shitty drug dealer.) But I'm telling you, that's where we are in our American cities today. The democratic parties that have run these cities for decades are now to the point of blaming us for the gun violence.

Our (Akron Ohio) police chief did a video with our mayor where he said:

We need the community's help. Oftentimes community members may not want to share their information. So frequently we will not have a person on scene that we can talk to about what had happened or what they saw before officers arrived.

We understand their is a real component of fear that's at work there. But we need to do our very best to overcome it.

That that I say: FUCK YOU, YOU MOTHER FUCKER!

Here's that part of the video:

At one point in dealing with this particular drug dealer, I was talking with a police officer. He told me that this guy "couldn't shoot all of us" if we worked together. So, if this guy starts spraying bullets, if we all don't shit our pants and run for cover... that if we all rush him at once, then we could take him down.

FUCK THAT!

I think maybe the key point these police officers are missing is that MOST PEOPLE have little to no interest in taking on a murderer. They don't want to be part of a shoot out. They don't want to risk the lives of their entire family by "overcoming a real component of fear."

We all know about this drug dealer I'm referring to. The police know him. The entire neighborhood knows him. We ALL know his background. Yet he just walks freely around town.

The reason I was talking to a police officer about this asshole in the first place was because he attempted to cut the leg off of a friend of mine on the side of my building with a machete. The victim certainly wasn't going to turn him in. He was just thankful he didn't cut his leg ALL the way off. I just was sick of this guy's shit.

Do you think the drug dealer got in trouble for that heinous act? HELL NO! He left town for a while. But he's back now.

You see, the people living in these neighborhoods are left to fend for themselves with these animals. It gets pretty fucking scary at night all alone out there.

Do you know why people will never rat out a shooter? Because there is absolutely no guarantee the police are going to do anything about it. Then you have a super pissed off guy that is more than willing to kill people looking for your rat ass.

So, unless I'm willing to go kill this guy myself there is no way in hell I'm going to name him in this article. Everybody from that neighborhood knows EXACTLY who I'm talking about. But they won't say anything either.

Why would I think talking to the police now would be any different than when I talked to the police when he tried to cut that guy's leg off?

This is how it all works: people in the "good neighborhoods" sit around wondering why neighbors don't speak up. Then the mayor and the police chief look like they would do more "only if" people would start speaking up. They get voted in time and time again because institutional voters and old people don't want anything to change. And poor people don't vote because they are so beaten down that they don't think anyone will make things better for them.

If we don't have a viable alternative career path for these people besides drug dealing and being part of a gang then there is no talking or basketball playing that will ever solve this problem.

I am at the point where I TRULY believe the only hope is Batman. WE NEED BATMAN.

And I'm not even joking.

P.S. I forgot to mention another component of all this inner city neighborhood community dynamics. Even if you file a report anonymously, you have put yourself at incredible risk. Because if ANYONE gets word of that fact that you did it, there is a big possibility that they will go to the drug dealer to rat YOU out. (The ratting policy only works one way. You don't rat out the drug dealer. But snitches get ratted out to the drug dealers all the time.)

"Why" you ask? It's simple. They might get some free drugs for being loyal. (That's exactly what happened to me.)

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/do-the-right-thing-2/>

og:title Content: Do The Right Thing - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: September 13, 2020

Blog Post Content:

Do the lessons of the world yell at you like they yell at me?

I worked at Perkins restaurant washing dishes when I was 14. The manager said I was doing too much. I played the trombone. I played the cello and I was in choir. He said I needed to quit something. I was doing too much. He was right. So I quit his job. (He told me that wasn't what he meant.)

I was principal cellist in the Baldwin Wallace Orchestra. I was on a full scholarship. The director once told the orchestra that if we weren't fully committed we should get out of music. He was right. I left the program. (He told me he wasn't talking to me.)

I once heard Councilwoman Omobien speak. She said if you want something done don't look for others to do it. Do it yourself. That was the beginning of me putting 50 tents on my land for the forgotten homeless people of Akron. (I don't know if she would have approved or not. I think she is torn.)

People call me a loose cannon. But I feel like I'm an incredibly loyal and committed student of the lessons of the world. Just because you don't like how I interpret your wisdom doesn't make me random and chaotic. If anything, it makes me one of the most predictable people you will probably ever meet.

The problem is integrity.

Where I and most of the world disagree, it seems, is where we each fall on the spectrum of being true to ourselves.

The other problem is that my fear switch is mostly broken. I'm just rarely afraid.

Let me ask you this: if I saw a puppy in a burning house, what do you think I would do? (I sincerely hope by now you know without question I would rush in to save the puppy.)

See. That's not a loose cannon. That's someone with a broken fear switch and a high level of integrity.

My homeless friend, Kenny Boldt, taught me 2 incredible lessons. The one that is applicable to today's story is: Do the right thing.

Life gets incredibly easy when you put that statement in the front of everything.

How should I act? What should I do?

Do the right thing.

I knew I had to leave the Homeless Charity when they said it was too much of a risk to have a known sex worker living on the charity's land.
I imagine they were at least a little caught off guard when I immediately resigned as executive director. Probably in their eyes I fell into the loose cannon camp.
But of course I would resign. How could I not?
I live and die by the wisdom of Kenny Boldt. Do the right thing.
I still love The Homeless Charity. And they continue to run 2 transitional houses for homeless people, among many other things. And furthermore, I get where they were coming from with their concern about people doing illegal things on their land.
But I simply couldn't stay.
They presented a life lesson to me. I asked them what Jesus would do with a sex worker. They told me I had responsibilities to protect the charity as executive director. I agreed. So I left. Super simple.
I also learned that I can't do the work I am called to do in a group, in a charity. Invariably, the organization becomes more important than the cause. You can see it clear as day in every single charity that got big.
So I've decided to do the work I am called to do as an individual, not as a charity.
I am not a professional surveyor, so the picture I am about to show you is not the most accurate rendition of land ownership you will ever see. But hopefully you'll get the idea.

The red circle is land I personally just bought this week. The orange circle is land I now currently own. That's the building at 15 Broad Street and land around it.
The land behind the building is now officially being called: The Dorothy Day Garden For The Forgotten and Unloved.

As long as I own that land it will be a garden where all are invited. If you don't know who Dorothy Day is, here is a brief summary of her:
Dorothy Day was an American journalist, social activist and anarchist who, after a bohemian youth, became a Catholic Christian without in any way abandoning her social and anarchist activism. She was perhaps the best-known political radical in the American Catholic Church.
Dorothy Day was the walking icon of the principle: Do the right thing.
Dorothy Day is one of my great teachers. She is who I continually aspire to be.
She began the Catholic Workers Movement which included Catholic Workers Houses. Anyone can have a Catholic Workers House.

You can learn about their values here:

<https://www.catholicworker.org/faq.html#4>

They typically refuse nonprofit status because of their anti-tax stance. You can learn more about that fight here:

<https://www.catholicworker.org/dorothyday/articles/191.html>

There are many dangers to integrity on all fronts. The government wants obedience to the state, not some "unrealistic" morality to the Forgotten and Unloved. Organizations all eventually just start chanting the phrase "It's too much of a liability."

Being independent allows me to brush those worries aside so I can focus on being an unrealistic idealist with integrity.

Staying independent will help me stay true to my personal values.

(But I will always pay my taxes. There is power in land ownership. It's hard enough to keep the government off your land even if you follow every law and pay every dime in tax.)

Integrity is a chicken bone in the throat of reality instructors. If nothing else, I want them to wrestle with the "Sage Conundrum." What do we do with a guy like Sage?

The answer is written in the Bible, of course, as well as all throughout human history. But hopefully I will be a symbol to remind you of what many of you have professed to be faithful to. There was a guy named Jesus who asked you to be true to God. I'm asking you to be true to Jesus. And if you don't care for Jesus then be true to Kenny Boldt: Do the right thing.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/my-position-on-violent-activism-october-2020/>

og:title Content: My Position On Violent Activism - October 2020. - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: September 27, 2020

Blog Post Content:

I watched a really powerful interview on Fox News with the president of Black Lives Matter in New York,

Hawk Newsome:

This interview was incredibly interesting to me because he is our modern day MLK or Malcolm X.

He is responding to the police and government tactics of 2020.

Many things are similar to the '50s and '60s. But somethings are different.

I highly encourage you to watch this interview because you are hearing the words of an experienced activist. Everything he says is clearly from a perspective of active activism.

I am SO SICK of hearing white moderates tell black people to "be peaceful" as they go march for the right not to be shot to death by law enforcement. What does the white moderate know about this situation? The only thing they know is that they are comfortable and they are willing to protect that comfort at all costs.

Listen to Malcolm X in 1962:

Has ANYTHING changed since 1962?

There is nothing the African American, the poor American, the homeless American or the addicted America can do that will ever be equal to the murderous, torturous, brutal oppression that the white man hasn't already done to them in spades and for centuries.

I will NEVER stand in judgement of someone else's form of activism. You only have to turn on Disney Plus and watch the musical, Hamilton, to realize we are a country formed from violent activism.

An activist who judges another activist's actions is not much of an activist at all. They are more of a whiner than an activist.

And further, how can you watch that Malcolm X 1962 speech and think that nonviolent activism has done a lick of good?

Police continue to murder us with impunity.

All that said, we must follow our own path of activism. Ultimately, I believe it is a colorful rainbow of activism that is the best form of activism. When the white man has had enough, he can reach out to whatever hand he is ready to shake and get to work.

I want to be very clear where I personally stand on violent activism. Again, it's not to condone or condemn someone else's form of activism. It is merely to let you know who I am, where I stand. That way, you are free to decide whether or not you support my movement. I don't want anyone to ever feel misled by who I am or what I do.

I have one ultimate rule: I refuse to hurt or kill another person.

Hawk Newsome, like Malcolm X, talks about the right to defend yourself. And one only has to look at the Breonna Taylor tragedy to see very clearly why that is a just and understandable position.

It is just not my position.

I own no guns. I carry no weapons of any sort. (For the record, I do occasionally carry a box cutter so I can more easily open boxes of food when I'm delivering food from the food bank. Although, I currently don't have one because it went missing at a food run a few weeks ago. Homeless people often desire knives for protection from other homeless people.)

I don't carry pepper spray. I intentionally carry nothing as a weapon. While I have a tool box in my truck that has some wrenches and hammers, you have my word that I will never use them for any kind of physical defense.)

I am the kind of person that feels bad stepping on an angry wasp that refuses to go away. I take stink bugs outside. I rather enjoy spiders making webs on my porch and in my garage.

I am not going to hurt another human, no matter what he does to me.

That's my line in the sand.

But that's as clear as it gets. From that point there is a lot of negotiable wiggle room.

I will say this... As a small business owner, I will never do anything to intentionally hurt a small business.

They are often struggling against very similar storms of difficulty that stem from the same system that wants to keep everyone down except the multinational corporation.

And honestly, at this point, I am not going to actively promote or engage in looting or physically, "burning it to the ground." I just don't see the strategic value in it. You'll end up in jail and your actions are just going to get cleaned up by some insurance company.

But you should know that I support your looting and destruction of physical things like statues, government buildings and large corporations. I won't always publicly cheer you on. But I'm like a proud poppa watching the young revolutionaries demanding to be heard.

MLK rightfully said, "A riot is the language of the unheard."

I refer you to my exhibit A:

There is nothing the African American, the poor American, the homeless American or the addicted American can do that will ever be equal to the murderous, torturous, brutal oppression that the white man hasn't already done to them in spades and for centuries.

Not that I have any right to ask you of anything, but if you would, please consider passing over the small businesses and other businesses in our inner-city communities. The people of the communities rely on them every day.

Let your voice be heard in the suburbs. It will be more impactful there anyway.

From there, for me, it's GAME ON.

I'm not going to tell you exactly what I will do because that would spoil the surprise. And the surprise is the best part.

I will however say this, I love demoralizing, shaming and isolating politicians and other public figures that refuse to work for the people.

My overall goal is to get people engaged in local politics and policy. It's a HUGE wheel to start moving. It may not even be possible to ever get it moving.

But if we don't get it moving, if we don't get people active in local politics and policy, I can assure you of one thing: the people will keep looting and rioting as politicians do nothing and refuse to listen.

There is no downside for a politician who sits by and watches their city burn to the ground if people don't vote them out.

It's just more construction contracts for their rich corporate friends.

I am in the long game. I am here to attempt actual systemic change. It's probably my most idealist, naive belief of all my idealistic, naive beliefs. But that is who I am. And that's the role I choose to play.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/god-according-to-sage/>

og:title Content: God According To Sage - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: October 6, 2020

Blog Post Content:

Honestly, I wish I wasn't writing this now.

I have "more important" things to discuss with you than God right now. (Homelessness, Black Lives Matter and overall governmental and systemic torture and murder and oppression of people.)

But if I don't jot these ideas down now they will fade from memory. And I'd like to refer to them in the future.

You see, some day I think I'd like to become a minister. I like the idea of being a minister over a politician for several reasons.

Ministers seek the truth. Politicians seek the votes. That makes politicians natural born liars. I much prefer to be honest with you and me.

My grandfather was a minister. I have fond memories of him and connecting those dots feels resonate with my family line and the universe to me.

I also like the idea of being a minister because I have found such meaning and connection to how I fit in nearly infinite space and time through my own personal journey finding connection. For lack of a better word, finding God.

So many of us have been pushed out of any kind of spiritual connection to the universe. I mostly blame the church for that. They often sell God in a way that favors them more than it favors God. And you can see it from a mile away.

The average thinker can smell this sales pitch like a skunk that has walked through your backyard. We all close the curtains and turn off the lights when we see those white-shirted, bike-riding Mormons come up our driveway. Although some of us like to "mess" with them and toy with their beliefs like this guy:

There is a lot reason people talk about "mind, body and spirit." Spirit is possibly the most uniquely human part of us. But we've shoved it in a drawer because most of the spirit peddlers are, quite honestly, bad at their jobs.

So I feel like there is a needed opportunity for someone like me to step in and offer some alternative perspectives on "God" that maybe you've never heard before.

Nothing I'm going to tell you is radical or even particularly interesting or new. In fact, some of what I'll tell you is much older than most of what you might be thinking today.

I want to put some of these ideas out here in case you may be in a place in your life where maybe you are looking for something more. Maybe something I'll say will create a spark in you that will lead you down a path you hadn't thought of taking.

Let me first say that I decided to call this series "God According to Sage" because the idea of God or whatever word you find most comfortable using is nearly infinite. (Plank's Constant has mathematically determined the universe isn't infinite. There are places, tiny places, we can't go.) But "nearly infinite" is still pretty big. So what I'm telling you is only the tiniest sliver of truth in a multiverse of truths. It's just the truth of the All that means something to me. And maybe it will mean something to you.

So here we go. Here are a couple very big truths in some very little space. These are the truths that inspired me to start this series. I'll flush them out over time. But I just wanted to get them written down before they fade away.

1. God loves you.

You don't need to do anything, say anything or pay anything to win God's love. The mere fact that you are sitting here on earth should be all the proof you need that God loves you. You are a bizarre creature that does incredibly astounding things. You make things. You think of new things. You have jokes. You have ideas. And those are just the most basic human abilities. Your ability to have hope and dreams and love for things completely unrelated to you is just wild.

And to think... You are the culmination of nothing more than star dust. You are just made up of dirt randomly floating around in the universe. You. Are. Special. You absolutely cannot deny that truth. Of course you're loved. Who couldn't love you? You are astounding. Sometimes you are astounding in a good way. And sometimes you are astounding in not so good ways. But one thing is for sure... You are astounding. Any true designer and creator would be nothing short of blown away with who you are and how you live your life.

2. If all you want is love then stop right here. You're good to go. I love you. The universe loves you. And the designer loves you. It's a given and you've got it. But if you want something more, if you are searching for something, then in the immortal words of Brittney Spears, you gotta "Work Bitch!"

Your body can't get stronger unless you exercise. Your mind can't get smarter unless you learn. Your spirit can't get connected, plugged in, unless you go forth and start connecting.

Now. Don't get me wrong. You aren't doing spiritual work to earn brownie points with God. Nothing you can do, say or pay is going to make God think better of you. If anything, the universal observers probably will think you petty and silly for even attempting to try. Like you have some sort of sacrifice or alms or penance a creator of the infinite would find useful. (But for all I know, they probably love that too and find it sweet and charming that you're even trying.)

You are doing the spiritual work for you. You are doing it to help you reconnect with your universe. You came from the universe. You'll return to the universe. And while you're on Earth you have the opportunity to find that connection with the universe.

It might help you to think of spiritual work as sending postcards home while you're away on a trip. "Having a great time. Wish you were here." Or: "Worst trip ever! Remind me to NEVER come back here again."

Either way, writing the spiritual postcard should help you remember your family and friends. To remember they love you and are SO excited to hear every detail of your trip when you get back.

This postcard story, like all stories, is just a metaphor. It's just a symbol to help us all get just a little closer to the universal truth of it all. From a blade of grass to the Hadron Collider, I encourage you to look at them all as messages, as symbols, for the larger truth.

This connection idea is the premise for the overall message I'd like to share with you. It's the main course of the meal I am making for you.

There are many other side dishes I'll be serving. Dishes like liberation, injustice, oppression and violence. (Everyone else loves rubbing your nose in all your sin. I feel like it's just a way for a judgmental church father to try to make you feel bad and straiten up and fly right. They all have that covered yet barely ever scratch the surface of other equally important messages of systemic failings. Your sins are so inconsequential in the eyes of God. They only matter in how they effect your time on Earth.)

I'll get to those dishes as we go along.

But really I just want you to know that we all love you. You are wonderful and beautiful and amazing. Today. Right now. You are unbelievably amazing. Please don't let anyone take that away from you. Anyone who says anything different is just plain wrong and has truly missed the entire point of the message of God.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/please-join-me-on-discord/>

og:title Content: PLEASE Join Me on Discord - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist
Blog Post Date: October 7, 2020

Blog Post Content:

Community is this HUGE theme in my life. If we can come together I truly believe we can solve all the world's problems. But the problem is "They" don't want that. That love keeping us divided. If we can overcome that division I truly believe we can change the world.

To that end, I've set up a place where we can all come together and hangout and share stories. It's called "Sage and Friends." It's on Discord.

I know going to another place is no fun. But I'd LOVE it if you'd come try it with me. I truly believe Discord and places like it are going to be the future. Facebook is a toxic waste dump of hate and evil. We can make our own little toxic waste dumps on Discord.

Please join me here:

<https://discord.gg/YaNBK6s>

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/homeless-fact-7-america-hates-homeless-people/>

og:title Content: Homeless Fact #7 - America Hates Homeless People - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: October 8, 2020

Blog Post Content:

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/sunday-morning-with-sage-october-25-2020/>

og:title Content: Sunday Morning With Sage - October 25, 2020 - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: October 25, 2020

Blog Post Content:

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/sex-cults/>

og:title Content: Sex Cults - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: October 28, 2020

Blog Post Content:

Do you ever fantasize about running a sex cult?

I used to think EVERYBODY wanted to be the things I'd imagine being:

CIA Agent Art thief Drug dealer Homeless tent village operator

It doesn't take many anecdotal surveys to realize most people have no interest in any of those things.

2020 has taught us many things. But one of the more powerful teaching moments of 2020 has been how shockingly different most of us are. It turns out we all have crazy aspects of our lives that most other people would find totally surprising.

White supremacists Anti-fascists Outlandish racists Hardcore protestors

Khaki pants wearing accountant by day, torch carrying KKK member by night.

But who of us doesn't have some wicked skeleton in our closet? We express outrage at one person's grotesque nature while behind the scenes we're covering up our own perverted fetishes.

So, yeah. I like to play out how I'd run a sex cult.

And honestly, can't you see me as a sex cult "guru"?

I'd grow out my hair that is bald on top but would be grey and wispy and scraggly around the edges. I'd let my grey beard grow and grow and grow. I'd start wearing white robes like Gandhi.

I'd start saying stupid crap like: "The way is not the way. It is the way." (I believe I have a knack for saying meaningless bullshit that people think is some sort of high level wisdom.)

While I'm a little in awe of how these sex cult guys know exactly how to pick out the most vulnerable "disciples," I'm sure there must be some how-to books on how to get your own personal sex cult off the ground. I think I could grow a pretty average, middling sex cult in no time.

If you are a "fan" of sex cults, like me, I highly recommend "Wild Wild Country" on Netflix. That guy was a sex cult master.

Sex cults are on my mind today because Keith Raniere, founder of the sex cult Nxivm (pronounced Nex ee Um), has been sentenced to 120 years in prison. I don't need to tell you the entire brutal, disgusting story. Plenty of other people have done it in graphic detail.

He was a multi-level marketer that just took the MLM model to the next level by getting women to seduce other women into his nightmare of an organization.

Every time I think about starting my own sex cult the evolution of thought goes something like this: I should start a sex cult. But my sex cult won't focus on sex. In fact, I will make it a point to not be like all these other sex-cult-guru-losers. No one EVER would say or do anything that humiliates or demeans anyone. We would be all about self-empowerment and self-gratitude. Rule #1 would be: no one in authority EVER has sex (or does or says anything even remotely suggestive) with anyone in the group. My non-sex sex cult will be all about lifting people up, making them feel good about themselves. And when they start feeling good about themselves then we can work on helping them feel good about all the other people of the world. Yeah. I don't want to start a sex cult.

The thing is, my non-sex sex cult is probably a dream for many people. Maybe for more people than people running actual sex cults. They just don't make national news like actual sex cults. They aren't salacious and scandalous. They are just nice places to be.

I have a big problem with run-of-the-mill sex cults. Yes, the lifetime damage done by these predators is horrendous. But that's not what bothers me the most. What bothers me the most is what such selfish, small thinkers these sex cult operators are. All they care about is being worshipped and sexed. It's just so basic. Is that all you want out of your cult guru life? Being worshipped? It's embarrassing how myopic and little these people think. Wouldn't attempting to lift up as many people as possible be a true accomplishment? Isn't that a much greater audacious vision for a "guru" to have?

These guys just prey on the weak and needy to make them into slaves. (Literally, Keith Raniere called his followers slaves.) I just can't get over what cockroaches these losers are. Their cruelty is only surpassed by their shallow vision.

There is a point for me writing this.

The monsters of the world come dressed as priests, officials and teachers.

I want people I know, particularly young people, to be aware that there are some incredibly selfish people in the world. And they often put themselves in positions of authority. They build trust. They exude knowledge and experience. But they are ultimately building a web to trap unsuspecting people that are looking for the very thing these people are promising.

Most people have the natural tendency to trust what people in authority say. We have been bred (by authority) to trust authority. These predators use that power to their advantage.

While I can't guess at the percentage of good leaders versus evil leaders, my guess is that good leaders FAR outnumber evil leaders. But a few evil leaders can do massive damage.

I don't need to tell you the horrific stories of priests, teachers, police, coaches and relatives using their authority to attack people in unspeakable ways.

My message is always the same... whether I'm talking about people interacting with homeless people or PhD professors: Don't be afraid. Just be smart.

Trust your instincts. Bring a friend. Know your boundaries ahead of time. Never let someone convince you to do something you don't want to do. Be clear about your boundaries. It's hard to say what you want. But you need to say it. (It actually gets easier the more you do it.) Don't be afraid. Just be smart.

I will never blame the victim for being entrapped by a predator. But predators exist in all walks of life. They are selfish and will hurt anyone to get what they want.

It's hard to believe a person wearing that police uniform, that doctor's scrubs, that pastor's robe could possibly be out to do terrible things to you, but it sometimes happens. And, I'm sorry to say, it could happen to you.

Don't be afraid. Just be smart.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/why-do-you-care-about-people/>

og:title Content: Why do you care about people? - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: October 31, 2020

Blog Post Content:

I'm growing to hate larger and larger swaths of people.

People that are irate for having to wear a mask even though there is a good chance it would protect our elderly and sick from dying. People that will blindly stand with police even though we can all clearly see that police are getting away with murder. People that would rather drill for every ounce of oil and coal in every single nature reserve in the world even though the cost of wind energy is on a projection to be cheaper than either of those energies. People that would mow down the entire Amazon forest because it will make them rich. Rich men telling poor women what they can and cannot do with their own bodies.

And those are just the people on "that" side of the coin. I think I am growing to hate moderate liberals even more.

Middle class white women telling black men how they should and shouldn't protest. Being "outraged" by every single thing I mentioned above yet too afraid (or too apathetic) to even have the courage to post something about it on Facebook, much less stand up for it in person. Pulling me aside and telling me I'm being too loud. I'm risking too much... by taking a stand for things I believe.

It's the cowards I hate most of all.

Who's worse: the gunman that murders countless kids in American-style school shootings because he can't take it anymore... or the person who does nothing to try to stop the next one from inevitably happening?

There are 7 BILLION of us on planet earth right now and we protect our singular individual lives like they are some sort of sacred idol that must be guarded at all costs.

What are we doing on the planet if our entire mission and vision is to protect our own individual life at all costs so that we can live as long as humanly possible while accomplishing exactly nothing?

I enjoy substitute teaching when I get the chance. I was filling out paperwork yesterday for a new sub job. I got to the point where they ask for two emergency contacts. I could only think of one: my wife. There's really no one else to call, if I fall ill.

I become more and more alone and angry. On a long enough timeline there is a decent chance I will die drunk and alone.

You see... everything I mentioned above has absolutely nothing to do with the people I mentioned. It has everything to do with my perspective on me. I hate people because I hate myself.

I feel that I am not doing enough. That I'm not working hard enough. That I'm not working fast enough. That I could die at any minute and I would have accomplished exactly nothing.

I am the coward.

I am the person I hate most of all.

Jamie, a very good friend I've kept since college, has a belief that no one ever does anything altruistically. That there is always some selfish reason for doing something good. While it's impossible to empirically measure every good deed and understand it's true motive, (although it would only take one act of kindness that was done for pure love to disprove his theory) he is likely right. Every compulsion to do good is driven by an internal motivator that is just some itch to scratch.

Even the motivation of "having a good heart" is driven by a selfish desire to do good.

At that point nothing can ever be pure. Nothing could ever be real. So even my good deeds and fight against injustice is embarrassing and shallow in my mind.

What drives me? Am I really trying to be true to God? Or is it just some basic instinct to pay penance for the mountain of shame I carry in my soul?

My self-hate is a chess game where there is no escape. I can't do or say anything that will ever prove that I'm anything other than a small, self-indulgent parasite. Even this blog post is a humble-brag of self-pity.

(Please don't tell me I'm a good person. It will only make it worse.)

I was asked by my young friend, Ashleigh Hughes, why I care about people. It's a seemingly simple question that is actually profound with multiple layers of reality and truth.

I believe the evolution of being a humanitarian goes something like this:

1% of humanity says: "Hey look! I see a need in society. I want to help. How can I help?" 1% of those people actually do something. They will go volunteer at the local homeless shelter. They'll start riding their bike to work. They will become a vegetarian. 1% of those people will "do their part" the rest of their lives consistently and will actually sacrifice some parts of their lives for the greater good. When they die, the local paper will do a nice little write-up about them. It will be written on page E4... inside the community section. Then there is a splinter cell: 1% of these people realize that the ACTUAL problem is systemic. The root cause of the problem they are trying to address is caused by a huge machine that is killing the world for one reason: MONEY. These people go to protest movements. They make signs. They call their government representatives. They will travel to Washington DC to go to bigger movements. They'll write blog posts.

They'll yell and stomp their feet and maybe even go to jail for their cause. Sometimes they spend a few days in jail. If they yell loud enough people will threaten to kill them because there is a slight chance they might make a modicum of difference. They won't make much of any difference. 1% of these people actually do accomplish something. A bill is written. A law is enacted. Maybe even a constitutional amendment is created. They may even win a Nobel Peace Prize. People will figure out how to flow around the new law and continue their scalping of resources and murdering humans. Nothing much changes at all.

And who cares? Does the machine actually care about any of these people? It can easily wait them out. 99% of people are too busy (because the machine intentionally keeps them busy) to actually do anything to make a difference. Even if a few idealists create something like the French or American Revolution, it's only a matter of time before the machine gets its foot squarely back on the necks of the people again. And the next time the machine won't be so forgiving of those young radicals.

The general consensus is that if you can motivate 3% of the community you are trying to change to join a boycott or attend a protest, the machine will actually stop and take notice. Do you know how absolutely herculean it is to move 3% of anyone to do anything?

You don't have to be particularly observant to realize the futility of every single step along that path. All logic tells you to stop. Quit. Just go eat something and watch the Queen's Gambit on Netflix. Watching someone else do something with their life is much easier as you tell yourself you couldn't actually accomplish something meaningful. You aren't "special."

But this is where it gets interesting. A funny thing enters into the arena. It's a thing that defies all logic. It's a thing that makes no sense. It's a thing that is probably the most human, crazy irrational thing of them all. It's hope.

Hope shouldn't exist. Hope is ridiculous. Hope is only for children and naive dreamers.

But yet it's not. Hope leads to quantifiable change. Things get incrementally better.

Slavery ends. Women get to vote. A 5 day/40 hour work week becomes law. The entire world is moving up the scale of being healthier and wealthier.

All of that only happens because a few people had the ridiculous, audacious belief that they could make a difference.

And it's not an inconsequential number of people. It doesn't take many people to make a difference. Even though it's 1% of 1% of 1% that's still A LOT of people. The history of humanity is filled with incredibly brave, incredibly diligent, unrelenting people. I often think of all the people that hid Jews in Nazi Germany. That was a death sentence for you and your entire family if you were caught.

The White Rose was a non-violent, intellectual resistance group in the Third Reich led by a group of students including Hans and Sophie Scholl. Hans, Sophie Scholl and Christoph Probst were executed by guillotine four days after their arrest, on February 22, 1943. Their offense: printing pamphlets standing up against the Nazi regime's crimes and oppression. They called for resistance.

Sophie was 21. Hans was 24. Christoph was 23.

Who do you wish you had been if you were a 20 year old in Nazi Germany? One of the handful of White Rose members that died because they had the insane hope that they could topple the Nazi regime? Or one of the countless 20 year olds that kept their head down praying nobody would notice them as millions of people were being exterminated right outside their village?

I know who I hope I had been.

But that's just the tip of the iceberg. If you want to be inspired just Google "Awards for Courage." There are countless awards and countless people you've never heard of that have done insanely courageous things to help someone they often didn't even know.

Everything good that has happened in society has only ever happened for one reason: HOPE. An irrational hope that the vast majority of people thought was too stupid, too risky and pointless. Every single right, social safety net, and freedom. Every. Single. Thing. ALL is owed to a stupid, naive hopeful person or small group of people.

Who do you want to be? Do you want to be the person who tells other people all the reasons they are doing things wrong and trying to make a difference is pointless and dangerous? Or do you want to be the person that tries to change the world?

I know who I want to be.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/the-unknowing-place/>

og:title Content: The Unknowing Place - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: November 4, 2020

Blog Post Content:

Before they slip away and become a mash of impressionistic wisps of memory, I wanted to record my feelings the day after the November 3, 2020 election between Joe Biden and Donald Trump.

Those names are burned into our brains today. But just as last year's blockbuster movies have faded from our memory, so will this election and, believe it or not, this entire godforsaken year.

If anything, I hope you see me as a person that fights against injustice, inequality and corruption in a cruel system. Maybe I'm one of the more diligent fighters you know. I hope that's how you see me. It's who I continually strive to be. (I also hope that you find me to be kind and happy. One of my attorneys calls me "The happy warrior.")

But even your happy warrior is ultimately just a person. I am fallible, and human.

So, as I woke up this morning looking at a sea of questionable electoral college votes with yet another nail biter of an election, I only had one feeling: exhaustion.

Yet again, pollsters put out wild predictions of Biden leading by 10 points and here we are. 8:00 am on November 4 and it could be anyone's guess who will win.

Donald Trump is prematurely declaring victory, telling states to stop counting votes (something that doesn't make any sense other than to allow him to win). Joe Biden is asking for people to be calm and patient.

We all are like middle children caught in between both of these realities. We just all went back to work sitting in the Unknowing Place.

The economy. Racial inequality. Covid-19. The presidential election.

All are these massive question marks that could each be more than enough for one human to handle. But they are all just poured on like cement from a cement mixer truck. The heaviness makes it hard to emotionally breathe.

I could tell you it's all going to be alright. Of course that's true. One way or another we will move on from this moment to another moment. History tells us that strife always resolves into a calm, no matter the calamity, no matter the division. But that doesn't matter right now. That doesn't matter in the Unknowing Place.

Will things get worse before they get better? As of right now, I have no earthly idea. My guess is that in one universe Donald Trump wins and in another universe Joe Biden wins. And then those realities splinter off into nearly infinite realities and outcomes of their own.

Even as a person who lives for the fight, even I was hoping "Sleepy Joe" would win and we all could take a breather.

The biggest differing issues between Trump and Biden aren't Individualism versus Socialism (as the conservatives have positioned the battle), it is fighting versus peace.

Trump fights. Biden wants peace.

I will be forever thankful for Donald Trump in helping bring the darkest parts of our society to the surface. Racism. Political division. Police brutality. Women's rights. LGBTQIA rights. Supreme Courts picks.

These are fights conservatives are making us have. And we are then forced to fight against them. It's not like these are new issues. These are the great American issues. These are the simmering issues that exist in reality. But they are often buried so that we can pretend they aren't there. But they are there. These are fights we must have.

I am thankful to be here for the fight.

There is another reality Donald Trump has brought into the light. Republicans fight to win. Democrats hedge their bets.

We were all told we needed Hillary last time and Joe this time because they were our best chances of winning. The energized base wanted Bernie. But we were told it was too risky. Well look at where the safe bet has gotten us yet again.

I'm so sick of the safe bet. Democrats are weak and sad. Republicans are strong and determined. When you take the issues away, which party would you rather be part of? I admire Republicans so much for their resilience and tenacity and determination. I want to be part of a party like that.

Today I am content with whatever way the chips fall. And truthfully, I won't be at all upset if Trump wins. Because at least we get to keep fighting the great fights of our time.

Sleepy Joe is just going to lull us back to sleep so we can all just "get along" and pretend everything is just fine.

I feel the same way about Covid-19. I'm content with whatever the government decides to do. Masks or no masks. But I'll keep fighting for what I believe. I believe masks represent compassion and kindness to our elderly and weak neighbors. So I'm definitely going to wear a mask and I'm going to ask you to please wear a mask... not because your government told you to, but because it's the right thing to do.

If Donald Trump wins I'm going to fight against injustice, inequality and corruption in a cruel system.
If Joe Biden wins I'm going to fight against injustice, inequality and corruption in a cruel system.
These are externalities that are now out of my hands. All I can do is what I can do. Both presidents offer their own challenges. It's not like either of them are anywhere near committed to the fight against injustice, inequality and corruption in a cruel system as I am. So they both are backdrops that require fighting against. Whatever happens happens. It doesn't change who I am or what I'm doing.
The Unknowing Place is actually something that has very little to do with me. I know exactly who I am and where I am. Nothing has actually changed.
My advice is to try to be aware of your circle of concern versus your circle of influence. Your circle of concern means a lot to you. But you have almost no control over it. Your circle of influence is what you control. Those are the things you can influence and change. Try to stay in that circle as much as possible. Take care, if you can. Get some sleep, if you can. Get a little exercise, if you can.
I love you,
Sage

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/consistency/>
og:title Content: Consistency - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist
Blog Post Date: November 7, 2020

Blog Post Content:

Even if I complain about the critiques of my words and actions, I like getting them. All of them.
Homeless people will sometimes start spreading rumors that I'm a piece-of-shit-pimp-drug-dealer. It never bothers me.
While the "piece of shit" part is legitimately debatable, the pimp/drug dealer part is just not true. I don't sell or do drugs. And I am a feminist. I am VERY sensitive to women's rights. While I support sex workers, I would never EVER turn a woman out.
But that's not what they are actually saying.
What they are saying is: "Sage, you aren't supporting me. I need your help and you are denying me."
The message under the message is what is important. They are trying to get my attention.
This is the exact message we are getting from so many people in America today.
Neo-NazisConfederatesYoung black males committing drive by shootingsYoung white males committing school shootingsAntifaBoogaloo Movement Proud Boys
Hurting and murdering people is morally wrong. Racism (particularly racism that powers the entire American machine) is genocide based on nothing other than skin pigment.
But there is a message behind the murder and hate that is legitimate.
The message is: I'm hurting and no one is listening to me.
That's always the message of terrorists and rioters. "I am suffering at the hands of people I don't even know or can even see. So I'm going to take it out of what is in front of me right now."
I love looking for the message behind the message.
Governments and political parties will try to make everything black and white. But everything is gray. EVERYTHING IS GRAY. (Do you know that the word "gray" can acceptably be spelled g-r-a-y or g-r-e-y? That's poetic because even the spelling of grey is gray.)
I got word that some people think my messaging of late is not being consistent. (this is actual constructive, direct criticism that doesn't require me to look for the message behind the message (or does it? more on that in a minute).
I'm not 100% certain I know the full meaning of the criticism. But I think I can patch it together.
One minute I support liberal ideals and the next minute I advocate for Trump supporters.
How can I be a civil rights leader while supporting Trump supporters? I mean they are supporting a man who is trying to destroy all of American democracy because he doesn't like how the vote counting is going. Quite literally, Trump only is supporting votes that support him. He, as president of the United Fucking States of America, calls people names and says countless things that are absolute lies. Even his most loyal supporters will outwardly admit that he would be doing A LOT better if he'd just keep his damn mouth shut. The only thing that is surprising to me is how well Trump is doing considering the brutal headwind he was facing going into this election. (I'm writing this on Saturday morning, November 7, 2020. The election hasn't been officially called at this point. But it's looking really bad for Trump. I believe quite strongly that Biden will be our new president. But you can see if I'm right or wrong in the future.) You truly have to be delusional to think Donald Trump is beloved by most of the country given where we are today. Trump supporters could do

well to take a step back for a minute and try to appreciate why some people (actually, most people,) think he shouldn't be our president any more.

But you all should know this: you are going to see me start to lean in HARD in support of Trump supporters in the near future.

Non-college educated white people have been a major victim of globalization and automation. All while liberals make fun of their religion and their way of life.

American farmers (the greatest farmers humanity has ever had) feel hated by liberals. So do truck drivers. So do oil workers. So do fisherman. The people who literally supply us with all our food and all our energy are chastised by liberals.

To say liberals are innocent in the mess of divisiveness we've found ourselves is easily as delusional as anything they accuse conservatives of being.

If you feel that I am not being consistent in my support of conservatives and, gasp, white men, you haven't fully grasped who I am.

I fight against inequality, injustice and corruption of the machine. I am at war with the machine. That includes the church, the Republicans, the Democrats, the government at all levels. I'll fight any organization at any time. There is no organization that is immune to my potential fixation on their corruption. No organization is sacred, especially an organization that is willing to murder and oppress people for its own survival. Organizations are all here for the people. But they all inevitably end up serving the leaders of the organization while the people they were meant to serve suffer at the machine's hands.

For the record, I've said it before and I'll say it again: I AM NOT AN ANARCHIST. I am not death. I am rebirth. I look to break down and then reform organizations. I till the soil. I turn things over. (Do you get it, or would you like me to keep going?)

What I am NOT is beholden to some organizational ideology. I hate dogma. I am true to people. All people. Of course, there are points where one group of people feels another group of people is taking more than their fair share. That's always been more true for American black people than American white people. But white people have legitimate issues too.

What is most important to remember is that it's not people oppressing people. It's SYSTEMS oppressing people. The vast majority of people murdering people is usually within people's own races. (Most white murders are of white people. And most black murders are of black people.)

Here's some 2018 FBI data on that point:

You can see more of that data here.

Citizens killing citizens is not really my interest. I particularly hate to see young people being randomly killed. But that is someone else's battle to fight.

I am much more interested in police murdering citizens because it falls in line with my whole injustice, inequality and systemic corruption position. It is undeniable that police are illegally murdering people (usually black people) and are being protected by police unions, mayors and city councils.

That's where my passion lies. That's where my war resides.

And that's my consistency.

I'm very glad someone questioned my consistency because consistency means a great deal to me. Being a leader with morality and ethics and integrity is nearly nonexistent these days. I want to be that for people. But what I refuse to be is a shill of any organization. (You should know right now that if your organization ever asks me to speak, there is a very good chance that at least part of the speech will be the corruption within that organization.)

That is my consistency. I am not ever going to be "consistent" for the system. So, when you are happy I'm supporting your cause today, don't come crying to me when I start railing against your organization tomorrow.

Get it?

P.S. I almost forgot. I believe there is also a message behind the message of concern that I'm not being consistent. I think the message is: "Sage, how can you say you support me while you then go and support my adversary?" It's simple. You aren't adversaries. You never have been. Your political party has just brainwashed you into believing you want opposite things. You both want the same things. And they are both achievable. The machine is the enemy not your fellow American brothers and sisters.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/im-ashamed-of-you/>

og:title Content: I'm Ashamed Of You - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist
Blog Post Date: November 16, 2020

Blog Post Content:

Have you seen Dave Chappelle on David Letterman's "My Next Guest Needs No Introduction"? Dave Chappelle is one of the most socially aware people in America. I recommend watching anything of his you can get your hands on. He could be the greatest comedian to ever live.

At one point Letterman asks if he wanted to be a leader. Chappelle emphatically said no. He said MLK died penniless. And so did Malcolm X. He is simply not interested in that.

Someone has to step up. Someone has to lead. And it can't just be power hungry politicians that only are in it for their own self-interest.

I believe I have earned the right to be the moral leader of Akron. I'm willing to be that person. So I'm taking the role. I'm your new benevolent dictator of morality. Welcome.

And as your newly self-declared moral authority, my first declaration of moral wisdom to pass on is: STOP BEING A DICK.

I see absolutely no difference between traditional extreme liberals and traditional extreme conservatives. You are two sides of the same coin. You both literally say the same bullshit to each other when you win an election. You both are bad losers and even worse winners.

I told my small but committed audience of Sunday Morning with Sage that I put civil war at 30%.

It's obviously a wild guess. But as I compare previous wars that were caused by one powerful spark, I see a lot of people on both sides trying their damndest to be that spark.

I made a Compilation of videos from Washington DC march for Donald Trump this week. It just reiterated to me how angry people are at each other.

And then of course we have the added inflammatory gas of social media.

You barely have to say anything to set people off into a bloodthirsty uproar.

My friend and Akron Ohio councilwoman, Tara Samples, got reamed on Twitter yesterday for daring to say the unimaginable:

"Not ONE veteran should be homeless in America."

People were pissed that she doesn't care about ALL homeless people. (an absurd conclusion) Apparently the liberal identity politics of today says that it's inappropriate to suggest one group not be homeless while others are homeless.

But it's just a symptom of a larger social theme of anger sprayed in any direction.

I'm fighting my own battle of bitter hatred on Facebook today. I took issue with this photo:

I wrote:

"You "progressives" are all like "black lives matter" and then you belittle and berate Trump supporters in incredibly ignorant hateful ways. You think you're better than them. But you're not. You are just as unthoughtful and hurtful as you claim them to be."

Granted, I did it to cause a reaction. And people didn't disappoint.

They endlessly are insisting that all Trump supporters are hateful racists. Of course that's factually just not true. But it's the party line for extremist liberals.

There is only one fact about Trump supporters: they're conservatives. That's why they voted for Trump. The Republican party convinced them that Democrats are socialists. They don't want to be socialists. So they voted for the Republican. That's it. Nothing more.

Are there racists in that mix? Of course. Are there people that hate black people and brown people in that mix. Of course. But it's not most of them. By far.

(Do you actually think there are no racist liberals? Just look at the Twitter picture above and tell me that isn't ignorant, racist bigotry towards those men liberals have never met. Not to mention the absolutely hateful comments below it.)

"About six-in-ten Americans (58%) say race relations in the U.S. are bad, and of those, few see them improving. Some 56% think the president has made race relations worse;"

Nearly 60% of people think race relations are bad. That means that there is a portion of Trump supporters that agree that race relations are bad AND Trump has made them worse.

What Americans (most Americans) have a VERY difficult time understanding is that, believe it or not, people don't always think like they do.

If you give the slightest damn about understanding your fellow Americans I highly recommend you look at these exit polls from this election: National Results 2020 President Exit Polls.

It's not racism that makes people gravitate to the Republican. It's education, religion, urban vs rural. It's many many things.

If I lived in the country I probably would be a Christian and I probably would have voted for Trump. And I ALSO would probably still care for people and be a humanitarian. (Just like if I lived in the middle east I'd probably be Muslim. Surrounding culture matters. A lot.)

I work constantly with country living, gun loving, Trump supporting Christians who drive into Akron every week to care for homeless people... black and white. (If I have any difficulty about their beliefs it's how difficult they struggle with sex work and drug use. But I'm telling you: THEY ARE NOT RACIST.)

On top of this, we know for a fact that "whites continued to favor the Republican candidate in 2020—as they have in every presidential election since 1968—it is notable that this margin was reduced from 20% to 17% nationally. It doesn't mean they are racist. It means that Republicans have convinced white people to vote for them. National politics is about math, plain and simple. It actually has a lot less to do with any tried and true values at all... Other than winning.

You think Trump supporters are racist for one reason: you've been told to believe that they are.

A third of Hispanic/Latino voters (36 percent of men, 28 percent of women) also backed him, as did nearly a third of Asian-American voters.

"Trump did better among Black and Hispanic voters this year than he did in 2016; ironically, the one demographic in which he lost ground was white men."

I know this is going to shock my politically engaged liberal friends, but it's true: some people don't believe he's racist. And others don't have any earthly idea what all us political insiders are taking about.

I highly recommend you read this article:

"The Real Divide in America Is Between Political Junkies and Everyone Else"

The summary of the article puts it very clearly: "Most Americans view politics as two camps bickering endlessly and fruitlessly over unimportant issues."

If you really care as much about politics as you say you do then you would do well to understand the actual people in America and not just your psycho friends.

"A Wall Street Journal report on pro-Trump Latinos in South Texas offers a glimpse at their reasons. Some credit Trump with a good economy. Others see him as someone who speaks up for religion. Still others worry that Biden may hurt the oil industry, where many locals work. Some feel that the Democrats are anti-law enforcement — or even blame them for the past summer's riots linked to anti-racism protests."

Yes. I agree that Trump has made race relations worse. Yes. I think he's a total dick. And yes. I voted for Biden.

But that doesn't mean I now hate Trump supporters. And liberals are pissing me off so much with this bullshit, so much so, I may stop supporting their lame corporate Democrats they force me to vote for altogether. There is a possibility I may stop participating in national politics at all. You all are pretty freaking ridiculous. Particularly considering YOU FUCKING WON!

You fringe radicals on both sides do more damage to your cause than your political enemy ever could.

If I vote for the Democrat I'm a communist who doesn't want to work for anything.

If I vote for the Republican I am a racist that hates healthcare and black people.

You are both some of the worst political strategists I could possibly ever imagine. You have no idea how to expand your tent. You both just want smaller and smaller tents filled with your own shit that you love to smell all day long.

And I wouldn't actually care how myopically ignorant you both are except for one reason. I think you both could actually REALLY fuck things up for the rest of us.

I truly think there is a legitimate possibility of you two starting a civil war ALL because you both refuse to talk to each other.

I refuse to participate in your civil war.

I refuse to take part in your fraternity of hate against fellow Americans that don't think like you.

I refuse to sit quietly as you berate half the country simply because you've never had one meaningful conversation with your "enemy."

Both of you are ignorant bigots that are too caught up in your own bullshit to see how it's YOU that's doing the most damage to the country.

WAKE UP! THE ENEMY IS THE MACHINE. Not your American brothers and sisters.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/the-needle/>

og:title Content: The Needle - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: November 21, 2020

Blog Post Content:

I knew who threw this rig on the ground. I was angry at him. But I thought he broke the needle off so I was mixed emotionally about it. But I was wrong. I pulled the orange cap off and the needle was still fully intact. I broke off the needle on the ground, put the cap back on and threw it in the trash. (I don't know if that's the best approach to handling these things on the street. But a young homeless woman did this in front of me once and it always left a powerful impression.)

I was pissed.

I went into the gas station where I found this to get my Polar Pop and a pack of cigarettes to share with my houseless friends.

The man who I highly expected did this was sitting on the ground under the bus stop shelter across the street. He waved me over. I was ready to give him a stern talking to about how doing this makes ALL drug addicts look bad. About how doing this makes my job harder trying to build compassion for addicted people. He's an older African American man who lives unsheltered in the neighborhood. He constantly is being beaten and stolen from.

I got to him and tears were streaming down his face. His dark skin contrasted powerfully with the salty water reflecting the sun on his face.

He asked me. No. He begged me for money for "his medication". This is a man who has lost everything and is in brutal emotional and physical suffering.

As much pain as fentanyl takes away it brings it back tenfold on the way back down. He was suffering as much as any human being I have ever seen suffer.

I rarely bring cash with me. Not because I care what people do with it. But EVERYONE needs cash for endless reasons. \$20 lasts five minutes in this gas station parking lot.

Of course I didn't scold him for leaving that needle in the parking lot. I got it. He was in so much anguish and depression that doing the right thing with that needle felt like climbing Mount Everest to him. He couldn't do it.

I sat on the ground there with him and talked to him for a while. I gave him a couple cigarettes. I lit one for him with a lighter another homeless person gave me to do this very thing.

Another friend came by and started razzing the man I was sitting with. Just talking shit, but in a friendly way. My friend asked me one more time for 50 cents, this time for a bus ride. The other guy shouted, "Yeah. Like you go anywhere on a bus."

My friend who was so beaten down stood up and started yelling at my other friend to "stay the fuck up out his business."

I could tell he felt better. I think the smoke and the conversation helped.

I wanted to share this story because this is the story of humanity. Every time you think you can't understand why people are acting "stupid" or "hateful" remember this: hurt people hurt people. Everyone got to the place they are in for powerful, legitimate reasons. You likely would do the exact same thing if you were in their shoes.

And I also know that the reason you often judge others so harshly is because you are hurting too. So just as I can't be angry at my friend for throwing his dirty rig on the ground, I can't be angry at you for being angry at him.

All I ask is that when you are in a moment of strength to try to remember we all are just doing the best we can.

I love you.Sage

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/the-dark-night-of-the-soul/>

og:title Content: The Dark Night Of The Soul. - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: November 22, 2020

Blog Post Content:

THIS is something we need to discuss in greater detail. There is a profound understanding our houseless neighbors have of the power of the Irrational, of a total annihilation, of the darkest depression... That rebirths them, bloody and in anguish, into a relationship with God that most of us could never possibly grasp. Where all the true meaninglessness of EVERYTHING on this earth has proven itself not as some theoretical, hypothetical concept, but as a cold hard truth and reality of their life on Earth.

Life is cruel and meaningless and pointless and filled with only hate and pain that plummets you to depths of

darkness unimaginable to most humans.

It's a darkness so black, a hole so deep that clawing your way out of it feels hopeless and pointless and impossible. The only thing darker in this blackest of black holes is your own shadow of your own fears, desires, traumas and failings.

And in that hole, in that abyss, God is waiting for you. The love of God is a black sun that is invisible to most but blinding to those in this hell on Earth.

Words fail the understanding those who experience this deepest of sufferings.

Suffering is nothing ever wished for. But it is a cruel rip in the fabric of life where transcendence exists.

If a homeless person ever speaks to you about God my recommendation is to listen to them like you are hearing the words of the most practiced monks to ever grace our planet.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/akron-the-most-progressive-city-in-the-world/>

og:title Content: Akron: the most progressive city in the world - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: November 24, 2020

Blog Post Content:

One of the things I hate about our mayor, more than anything, is how visionless he is.

His biggest goal is to get the population to 250,000 people. We're in the 190s now and I'll take a bet that our population decreases in the 2020 census.

Letting people build houses tax free for 15 years is not going to cut it when your schools suck and people are getting shot left and right.

You have to do something to stand out. You also need to love the people you have. 190,000 is just fine.

My first idea is to make Akron the "Recovery City." We're the home of AA. EVERYONE should come to Akron to get away from their stress and recover from whatever addiction ails them. We would offer the most diverse, cutting edge recovery methods in America.

But that's just a small part of my larger vision.

No one would be more progressive than Akron. If someone else has it we'll have it too. But eventually all innovation in progressive thinking would start here.

Here's just a small sample of what I'm talking about.

\$15 minimum wage
We defund the police and give the money to mental health professionals who work along side police. All police officers are required to carry insurance like doctors and nurses. Rainbow is our official city color and our new city flag.
Plastic roads
Rubber roads
Decimalization of sex work
Decriminalization of all drug use
No jail time for parole violations
No library book fines
Free access to the zoo for all Akron residents
Free bus access to people below the poverty line
Ending the 15 year tax free home building program
Tax free startup businesses for 15 years. 4 marijuana plants per house permitted
30% of all marijuana businesses must be African American owned.
Stainless steel public toilets
Pot hole patching contracts for small and startup businesses. 30% must be African American.
Fire hydrant painting contracts for small and startup businesses. 30% must be African American.
Free public phones on all major streets.
Free condoms and feminine hygiene products throughout the city for those on SNAP. If a large company is getting a tax break it must have 30% of it's executive suite be African American. Akron will enforce the most progressive affirmative action system in America in all of it's public jobs. There will be 4 safe injection sites in the city. There will be a homeless tent or tiny house village in every ward. Innovative housing ideas will be highly encouraged. We will stop tearing down houses and offer them to low income people to renovate and own. Houses with children cannot have any utilities turned off. No utilities can be turned off between December and March. Evictions will be greatly reduced and rare. There will be city-run health insurance offered to all Akron citizens not able to get Medicare or Medicaid. Cost will be based on income. Communal living will be encouraged. City gardening and farming will be encouraged. If you have an idea we want you to try it out here in Akron. Starting a business in Akron will be incredibly easy and incredibly supported.

This list isn't meant to be exhaustive. It's just meant to be a starting point.

The only way we're going to stop our clear death spiral is through innovation. Being progressive is being innovative.

This is the Akron of the future.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/dorothy-days-baptism-of-her-daughter-tamar/>

og:title Content: Dorothy Day's Baptism of Her Daughter, Tamar - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: November 24, 2020

Blog Post Content:

My feelings of this moment in the biography, "Dorothy Day: Dissenting Voice of the American Century" by John Loughery, Blythe Randolph, were interesting enough to record.

"The baptism of Tamar Teresa Batterham took place in July 1927 at Our Lady Help of Christians."

This was a major transformative moment for Dorothy. She clearly was evolving from her atheist, communist friends.

My initial feeling was that of sadness. I felt like the church had gotten their hooks in her. That she had succumb to the great con.

But as I kept reading, that changed.

For me, this was the moment that made it ok.

The Communist Party cared about the welfare of the poor but was unequivocal in its opposition to religion, and everyone at the League or The New Masses was a confirmed atheist. She asked the elderly Spanish priest at the small church that she attended during the winter months in Manhattan, Our Lady of Guadalupe on West 14th Street, about this troubling dichotomy. Father Zachary Saint-Martin's counsel was reassuring. Keep your job, he told her. You have a child to support. That must be your priority, and if your faith is strong enough, there is no need to worry about anything else.

In fact, it made me side with the church. Her atheist friends were going to be the judgemental ones. Not the church.

In fact, it made me realize that the conversion was a true transcendence.

I initially wondered if you needed a faith to be a good person. I don't believe you do.

But if you want to understand why caring for the unloved and forgotten is at the core of everything that matters to God... To the All of the All, then you have no choice but to jump off the cliff of the cosmic, spiritual abyss.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/wake-up/>

og:title Content: WAKE UP! - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: December 3, 2020

Blog Post Content:

This is an article written by an 8th grader.

Raja writes: "To be a leader you do not need to be perfect, it does not matter where you are from, what your gender is. All that matters is that you act. Raising awareness, cleaning up trash, finding sustainable ways to live, cleaning up the oceans and so much more. All this needs to be done and we can do it. We can band together and do this. We can organize protests, we can create groups to clean up the trash from the land and ocean, we can do it all. The choice is ours whether we fix this or not. We must all become leaders because the earth is not just where we live, it is our home."

I come across prodigies like this every so often. They aren't made. They are transported out of nowhere. We mortals can't begin to understand their natural gift of transcendent enlightenment.

But to say some superficial cliché like "Out of the mouth of babes" and then move on is to take a pass on the most incredible gift you have been lucky enough to have been given.

Raja and others like them are a message from the universe. They are the messenger. And message is:

"WAKE UP! This is not right. WE are living wrong. WE are allowing incredible tragedy to happen right before our eyes. By doing nothing we become the evil we say we hate."

There is only one way to make this world better. It is by YOU taking action, YOU standing up, YOU fighting against a system that destroys, murders and pillages everything in its wake.

You can read Raja's full story here: It's time for a new leader: you

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/akron-movement/>

og:title Content: Akron Movement - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date:

Blog Post Content:

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/my-decision-on-running-for-governor/>

og:title Content: My Decision On Running For Governor - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: December 10, 2020

Blog Post Content:

I had asked people here if I should run for governor.

I hope I thank you enough for the abundant support you show me in so many ways. From donating to various fundraisers to your endless encouragement. Facebook can be a place of great disease of thought and also an incredible fountain of human connection, particularly in the year 2020.

In short, I've decided not to run for governor.

There are many reasons. But mostly I think I bring a unique perspective on standing with our houseless brothers and sisters. I am an adamant believer in helping build houseless pride. There is absolutely no shame in living in a tent or tiny house or shelter made out of found objects. You are showing your resilience, resourcefulness and creativity. You are hurting no one. Live your life the way you choose to live your life. It's the rest of us that have the real emotional and intellectual growth to do. We simply can't shake our desire to judge other people.

I am so drawn to politics. It's the mixed martial arts of the mind. As Donald Trump has shown, there are many paths to political life. I firmly believe he'd still be our president if it were not for Covid. I LOVE the political fight.

I will always believe that we will ALL owe Donald Trump a great deal. Whether we reacted against him or with him, many of us reacted. The mere fact that we all voted more than ever is proof of that. Trump got me really excited about politics.

I also want to be the person that pushes you to dream and hope and believe. Don't let anyone EVER tell you that you aren't qualified to do something. That's small thinking. That's your addict friends telling you not to quit your addiction. In this case, the addiction is to not grow and not dream. (There is no correct way into politics. If you are interested in it JUST DO IT.)

Thank you for listening to me. Thank you for supporting me. Thank you for everything.

I love you.Sage

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/how-to-properly-steal-food/>

og:title Content: How To Properly Steal Food - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: December 12, 2020

Blog Post Content:

Have you been reading these stories on how food stealing is on the rise? Here are a few:

Stealing to survive: More Americans are shoplifting food as aid runs out in the pandemic | The Seattle Times
Shoplifting Spikes In U.S. Amid Increasing Desperation As Pandemic Drags On

The devastating reason food shoplifting is on the rise

Hunger Crisis Leads More Americans to Shoplift Food Essentials - Eater

Pandemic-caused unemployment leading to more 'people being forced to steal' food to survive

I wanted to put a little how-to guide together on how to steal food better.

First, you should know that roughly 90% of the population has stolen something in their lifetime. So anybody that tells you it is wrong to steal can go suck a dick. Most of those people were stealing just for fun. You are stealing to feed your family.

You also should know that it is much more likely that you are going to get caught these days than 20 years ago. Cameras and social media make it a lot easier to find people that have stolen something.

Make sure you know the kind of crime you are committing. If the value of the goods was less than \$400 – it will be charged as misdemeanor petty theft, which is punishable by up to six months in jail and fines ranging from \$50 to \$1000. I'm talking a pack of gum can get you 6 months in jail if they want to do you like that.

I'll just pull the last two paragraphs from this article. They sum it up well:

Where the value of the property stolen was worth more than \$400 – the person will be charged with grand theft, which can be charged as either a misdemeanor or a felony. The decision will be ultimately left up to the prosecution as how to charge you. This is normally dependent upon any past convictions on your criminal record. The penalty for grand theft can be up to one full year in jail or state prison; a large price to pay, especially if you had a momentary lapse in judgment. The best scenario is to be charged with an infraction.

An infraction is less serious than a misdemeanor and the penalty for infraction petty theft is less than \$250. Infraction petty theft is applied to theft cases involving merchandise valued below \$50. If you were arrested for shoplifting, your best defense is to hire a criminal defense attorney as soon as possible.

The last thing you want is to have to spend a number of months in jail over a mistake. Any type of conviction will result in a permanent criminal record which will haunt you for the rest of your life.

So yeah... if you are starving and you are stealing food, just hire a criminal defense attorney to bail you out.

As always, the rich can get out of crimes that poor people will pay the full price for. That article is right about one thing. Stealing food because your family is starving will sit on your record the rest of your life. It will make it harder for you to ever get a job or rent an apartment. But you are hungry today. So do what you've got to do. I'm not going to give you advice on how to steal. I don't have any great wisdom on that. Know where the cameras are. Watch some how-to videos on YouTube. Be smart. I would, however, like to offer a little wisdom on WHERE you are stealing. As you know, cities segregate poor people into certain areas of the city. So, theft is going to be higher in some areas than others. If you are able, I'd like to strongly encourage you to try to stop stealing from stores in your own neighborhood. The Dollar Store in my neighborhood is constantly getting their front door broken into and have hundreds of thousands of dollars of loss every year. The logistical risk to this is that the store could leave the neighborhood. Then if the local grocery store leaves we'll have a real problem. People won't have any place to buy food, much less steal, and then desperate people will start doing even more desperate things. They'll start attacking each other more than they already do. I would like to HIGHLY encourage you to stop stealing in your own neighborhood. Get on a bus and go to the multinational big box stores that have intentionally stayed out of your neighborhood because they don't like you. Bring the hood to them. I have a friend who has made a decent life traveling to the surrounding neighborhoods with "shopping lists" for his friends. He'll pick up what people need and then sell the stuff to them at deep discounts. There is no amount of theft that would make even the slightest dent in these multi-billion dollar stores. It's just a rounding error for them. Consider yourself a modern day Robin Hood. Don't feel the slightest bit bad about surviving off the scraps of big box stores. They are creating billionaires as your family starves. There is another way. My friend Mary lives at 47 N. Arlington in Akron. EVERY. SINGLE. DAY. 7 days a week she makes hot meals for homeless people in the neighborhood. And then she packs a lunch for them to eat later in the day. She's no one special. She's not a nun. She's not a minister. She is just a person who used to live in our tent village and is recovering from alcoholism. By every metric she is just a poor woman living in a group home with other poor people. As she and I went to the Food Bank yesterday she told me she was super excited because her food stamps were coming and she was going to go buy the makings of biscuits and gravy to make and give out next week. She makes some of the best biscuits and gravy you will ever eat in your life. I hope it twists your brain that one poor, recovering alcoholic woman can feed the entire neighborhood out of her house and countless churches don't do a GOD DAMN THING. Or if they do manage to do something it's one day a week. You can live eating once a week. But it's a brutal existence. I truly don't understand the use of churches these days. Most of them are nothing more than self-aggrandizing, masturbatory, insular corporations that pay no taxes and make shit tons of money for themselves. Do what you were put on earth to do: HELP PEOPLE IN NEED. Bread lines are back. People are starving. Get your shit together, churches! Take a lesson from Mary and make meals for your local hungry people (I guarantee you have them) 7 days a week. (And don't take off Christmas and other holidays. I REALLY hate that shit.)

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/what-if/>
og:title Content: WHAT IF - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist
Blog Post Date: December 14, 2020

Blog Post Content:

The Battered Women's Shelter in Akron has an ENTIRE floor in their spiffy new building that has never been opened to shelter people. They own an entire apartment building that sits empty. They tore down a house designated as a shelter (no easy feat to get "shelter" status.) I wish I could say they are the only ones in town that withhold shelter as people literally freeze on our streets. The local Catholic Worker's Movement is sitting on two empty houses.

It goes on and on. Empty houses and buildings owned by churches, and non-profits who are in the business of sheltering those most in need.

And why do they withhold shelter? Money, of course. They are filled with the "what ifs." What if someone hurts themselves in our house? What if they sue us?

All the while, they are comfortable with the grandest "WHAT IF" of them all. WHAT IF a person dies on the street because you were too afraid to do the right thing?

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/the-alarm-sounded/>

og:title Content: The Alarm Sounded - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: December 15, 2020

Blog Post Content:

When the alarm sounded and a pregnant 20 year old woman needed help...

Did the Continuum Care help?

Did Access Shelter for women help?

Did the battered Women's shelter help?

Did the Haven of Rest Help?

Did the government help?

Did one single FUCKING church help?

No.

I literally BEGGED for help and every organization turned me down. She has a boyfriend and cats and uses drugs. So she isn't the "right" kind of person they help.

But you helped.

You bought her food.

You bought her medication because the incision of her C-Section became infect after receiving 4 transfusions of blood.

You bought her a motel at least until this coming Saturday. (She is going to the doctor on Thursday to see if her incision can be stitched up again after allowing it to drain as an open wound.)

You will look after her as she goes back into the woods with no running water, no electricity, no toilet.

You will make sure she stays warm.

You will make sure she has food.

You will do the right thing when all the organizations that are supposed to be helping her look the other way and blame her for the position she is in.

You are the hero we need.

You are better than all of us deserve.

You are the embodiment of Jesus and the Buddha and Gandhi.

I am continually and simultaneously filled with hate and love, with pessimism and hope, with doubt and belief.

You are what makes me have love, hope and belief.

Thank you for your never ending kindness and compassion and non-judgmental love.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/complacency/>

og:title Content: COMPLACENCY - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: December 16, 2020

Blog Post Content:

I can't decide who frustrates me more:

White people who say they care about black people and then elect Joe Biden (who's sole contribution to BLM so far is to tell you to shut up about "Defunding" the police.)

Or the entire rest of society who doesn't get the humanitarian nightmare of people of every color, age and gender freezing to death on the streets of the richest country in the world.

MARK THESE WORDS: The most evil force in the world, the most destructive power to ever to exist on planet earth is COMPLACENCY.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/personal-note-on-where-to-focus/>

og:title Content: Personal Note on where to focus - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: December 16, 2020

Blog Post Content:

One of the reasons I love chaos and intense situations is because everything becomes so clear to me. The next step is as clear as day. So you just do that step and then the next step presents itself. I never feel more alive and useful than when I'm in chaos. Getting to help Spring Garden Waldorf School move from a completely non digital school to a school of complete remote learning this year due to Coronavirus was exhilarating, fun and most importantly, useful. I constantly am searching for my highest and best use. I have such a short time here on Earth I want so badly to make the most of it. But here I am in a time of internal peace and comfort and I'm almost totally lost. Peace makes me feel adrift. I don't know which direction to take from one day to the next. I don't know what is most important. Because nothing is urgent nothing feels particularly important. That, of course, is ridiculous. I've been thinking about community organizing. I truly believe that the way the machine wins is to keep us separated. "Divide and Conquer" is such an effective strategy. Solidarity is the path to power. For example, I am constantly trying to find common ground with Trump supporters. Their needs are exactly the same as the black person's needs: a system that doesn't oppress them and access to a good job, affordable housing, food and healthcare. Poor white people with no college education have more in common with minorities of color than they are even comfortable considering. So they stay at each other's throats. Community organizing. I need to give that some more considering.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/akrons-racist-housing-project/>
og:title Content: Akron's Racist Housing Project - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist
Blog Post Date: December 16, 2020

Blog Post Content:

This development project tells the ENTIRE story of what City of Akron, Ohio - Mayor's Office wants to see happen in Akron. He wants rich white people to move into Akron without having to pay taxes on their luxury properties for 15 years. Gives no fucks how schools are supposed to educate these kids for free and then let's black people (30% of our population) continue to pay the extremely high property taxes to bail out their rich white neighbors. If you don't see this as a racial issue you are blind. Akron always has been a racist town and we're just doubling down on that racist philosophy.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/burn-it-down/>
og:title Content: Burn it down - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist
Blog Post Date: December 17, 2020

Blog Post Content:

I can't think of a single organization in this god-forsaken, hypocritical "most-Christian-nation-in-the-world" country that I'd shed a single tear for if it was burned to the ground and had to build back up from scratch.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/i-will-not-bullshit-you/>
og:title Content: I Will Not Bullshit You - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist
Blog Post Date: December 17, 2020

Blog Post Content:

I have made a personal packed to not bullshit people. People get lied to by their leaders ALL the time because their leaders don't think they can handle the truth. That is some of the most cynical bullshit. They are saying people are too stupid to handle my 4-D Chess. So, this is my thinking on Defunding the Police: I like "Defund the Police" because it unites people around an enemy. I believe people need an enemy. I wish they didn't. But I don't see any other truth. I'm OK with making the police the enemy for now because they need to be taken down a couple notches. They are

literally murdering innocent human beings (black and white).

But my hope is that what it does is take the money and try new things. Try getting more cops from the neighborhood in the neighborhood. Try bringing mental health workers into the neighborhood. Try bringing role models into the neighborhood. Invest the money in testing new initiatives to see if it produces better results.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/they-want-to-erase-you/>

og:title Content: They Want To Erase You - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: December 18, 2020

Blog Post Content:

The powerful control history.

Kings and queens and presidents and great wars are played out in every classroom in the world year after year, generation after generation.

But the history of the people is a faint murmur. Their fight. Their bravery. Their wars against the governments and businesses and churches and nonprofits that have a general disdain for the common person are erased from the history books as much as possible.

I mean do you truly understand what American communists stood for in pre world war 2? Did you even know there were communists in America before the 1940s fighting tooth and nail for the equal rights of the American worker who was so (and continues to be so) abused and taken advantage of at the hands of super rich capitalists that would make Jeff Besos look like a peace and love hippy?

The fight of the people against the machine that always seeks to keep them under it's boot is erased by the machine who prints the history books.

WE must tell the stories to our children of the true great people of history that faught against all odds because they believed so vehemently that society can be better, that our organizations can be better.

But before we can tell the stories we must learn the stories for ourselves.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/the-system-is-killing-us-unite/>

og:title Content: The System Is Killing Us. UNITE! - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: December 18, 2020

Blog Post Content:

Cops killing people for fun. Governments letting men, women and children die alone on our streets and the ever increasing murders we are committing on ourselves.

IT ALL COMES FROM THE SAME PLACE.

A system so diseased, so broken, so failing of the people it swore to protect is crumbling at the hands of selfish, arrogant, evil leaders.

Another man was shot dead last night in Akron Ohio.

IT'S THE SYSTEM THAT IS KILLING US.

The jobs are shit. The services are shit. The only thing that matters to these people are the rich industrialists.

If we do not unite as one people they will EASILY continue to keep us weak and living a life of eating their crumbs.

PLEASE JOIN THE AKRON REVOLUTION. <https://slkt.io/ePXY>

The ONLY way we will win is by standing as one people united.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/a-federal-judge-will-not-stop-the-city-from-clearing-out-a-homeless-encampment-in-seattle/>

og:title Content: A federal judge will not stop the city from clearing out a homeless encampment in Seattle. - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: December 18, 2020

Blog Post Content:

The story is always the same. Government officials say people "shouldn't" live in tents. Then they say there is shelter available. But what they DON'T says is that the shelters won't let you bring your pet or your significant other or most of your belongings. Just because a bed is open doesn't me that it is available for a specific person.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/newsflash-homeless-people-are-not-animals/>

og:title Content: NEWSFLASH: Homeless People Are Not Animals - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: December 18, 2020

Blog Post Content:

Here's an article on the fact that only 2 people went into an emergency shelter:

Only two homeless people sought safety in emergency winter storm shelter - but for providers, it's a teaching moment - pennlive.com

I am never disappointed in seeing how completely ignorant homeless service providers are to who homeless people are, what they value and who they trust.

You can't put out a bowl of food and whistle for a human being to just dutifully show up. They are just as smart as you. They are just as aware as you. They know full well nothing is free in this world. They may not know how they are going to have to pay for that bed. But they know for damn sure, one way or another they will pay for that bed.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/9-9-million/>

og:title Content: 9.9 million - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: December 18, 2020

Blog Post Content:

According to the US Census Household Pulse Survey, by the end of October, 9.9 million Americans were not up-to-date on their rent or mortgage payments and had little to no confidence that their household could pay next month's rent or mortgage on time.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/from-cnn-with-evictions-ban-expiring-soon-new-housing-crisis-could-threaten-minorities-most/>

og:title Content: From CNN: With evictions ban expiring soon, new housing crisis could threaten minorities most - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: December 18, 2020

Blog Post Content:

With evictions ban expiring soon, new housing crisis could threaten minorities most

"Communities of color are the hardest hit by the eviction crisis, representing 80 percent of the vulnerable," according to the National Low Income Housing Coalition.

<https://www.cnn.com/2020/12/18/us/minorities-evictions-coronavirus/index.html>

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/watch-plastic-recycling-is-an-actual-scam-climate-town-on-youtube/>

og:title Content: Watch "Plastic Recycling is an Actual Scam | Climate Town" on YouTube - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: December 18, 2020

Blog Post Content:

Most plastic is not recyclable. So it's sent to a dump or burned.

Plastic Legislation to get involved with:

Depending on where you live, there's a lot you can do. NCSL Overview:

<https://www.ncsl.org/research/enviro...> Earth Day Plastic Action: <https://www.earthday.org/act-on-plast...>

Cleveland Preemptive Ban: <https://www.cleveland.com/open/2019/0...> Nat Geo breakdown:

<https://www.nationalgeographic.com/en...> CIF: <https://www.clf.org/blog/the-truth-ab...> WSJ:

<https://www.wsj.com/articles/plastic-...> NRDC: <https://www.nrdc.org/stories/single-u...>

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/nothing-changes/>

og:title Content: Nothing Changes - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: December 19, 2020

Blog Post Content:

This quote from "Dorothy Day: Dissenting Voice of the American Century" by John Loughery, Blythe Randolph resonated with me in this morning's readings:

"Yet, to Dorothy's dismay, no matter how outspoken her journalism, nothing seemed to change. The articles that the paper printed in 1949, such as David Mason's "Jesus Christ or Jim Crow?," could have been published in 1933."

It makes me think of Paul Ryan listening to Rage Against The Machine during his workouts.

Tom Morello: 'Paul Ryan Is the Embodiment of the Machine Our Music Rages Against'

People just bob their heads to the music that is screaming for change and revolution.

And quite frankly it makes me think of me.

How much louder do people like me need to yell before you hear us?

You say you are with us but then you give us Joe Biden. You didn't come out to vote for Bernie Sanders.

I know my liberal friends hate when I say this but as much as you guys love to shit on Trump supporters, THEY GOT THEIR OUTSIDER IN! So who really is the bigger piece of shit? You or them?

I know you'll mutter some bullshit like "but I don't know what to do, Sage." So let me spell it out:

ALL POLITICS IS LOCAL

Stop obsessing over things you can't change today. You didn't get Bernie in. You fucked that up. So now get local.

City Council is a part time job. RUN FOR IT.

You get a phone, sweet health insurance, more money than the median income in Akron. And all you really need to do is come vote on shit on Monday nights. That's where you'll change the city into the city that actually cares about its people. Cuz right now the people sitting in that horseshoe are just voting for the big corporations.

The next election for Akron mayor and city council is going to be in May of 2023. Start your campaign now.

And if you can't imagine being in office, which is just a lame excuse in my opinion for complacency and apathy, then find a friend who will run and build their campaign for them.

Your best bet in Akron is to run as a Democrat (most of the sheep in Akron just vote for the person with a D next to their name). Doing this will also put your first election in May of 2023. It's the primary.

That's good because you need far less votes because almost no one comes out to vote in the primary...

Which in a Democrat city like Akron, the primary is the only election that matters. A Republican won't win in Akron and the Republican party won't help you. They have back room deals with the Democrats to give their friends some juicy contracts.

I won't stop yelling and swearing. But unless you get your shit together it doesn't matter what I do. THEY WIN.

There are many things that piss me off about liberals. They are arrogant. They are condescending. They are elitist. They are hypocritical. They are judgemental while saying they are tolerant. And they are whiney. Oh so whiney.

But you're my team. Most of what you believe in is what I believe in.

So man the fuck up, get your shit together and win some mother fucking political races.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/peter-maurin/>

og:title Content: Peter Maurin - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: December 20, 2020

Blog Post Content:

I believe that so many of our troubles can be traced back to the fact that our history, the people's history, is stolen from us by the government. They write the history books.

You need to know that there was, and still is, something called the Catholic Workers Movement. It was started by 2 people. Dorothy Day, a communist sympathizer, divorcee who once had an abortion. She lived with the people in squalor and poverty.

And Peter Maurin who often slept in his suit. Below is a wonderful summary of Peter Maurin.

I often like to play the game of "who am I?" Am I Peter or am I Dorothy? And I like to include my friend Ashleigh Hughes in the game too... I truly believe she has the potential to be the first great homeless advocate.

The truth is... You never are a true reincarnation of any one person. You are the product of energy of many people and plants and animals, not to mention your environment and actual genetics. You will never be a carbon copy of a person.

But that's not the point. The point is that they inspire you. Understanding their lives, how they lived and what they thought inspires you to step up your game. To understand that you can go harder because others, many others, went way harder than you.

I thought of you when I read this quote from "Dorothy Day: Dissenting Voice of the American Century" by John Loughery, Blythe Randolph -

"Dorothy's insistent statements that he was the one responsible for any good the Catholic Worker had done in the world were always taken with a grain of salt. It was obvious to everyone that Peter never would have managed to keep a newspaper or a house of hospitality going, that he was too scattered, too given to wanderlust. Yet Dorothy was right in demanding that primacy be given to inspiration. Without Peter, it never would have occurred to her to attempt to start a newspaper, open a house of hospitality, become a spokesperson for a new path in life. While Peter was alive, Dorothy and those who believed unequivocally in Peter's greatness—Sheehan, Sullivan, Porcelli, Bethune, Ordway, Marge Hughes—felt that they were privileged to live in the presence of a latter-day St. Francis of Assisi. Peter could be irritating, exhausting, and confusing, but he was a perpetual reminder that their mission was not at its heart about politics, labor, or even the alleviating of suffering; rather, it was about joy in poverty, renunciation, love for all humanity, the example of the saints, and an unreserved commitment to God. The Catholic Worker was, in its essence, a Franciscan movement. With her Prince Myshkin gone, that burden of reminder fell exclusively on Dorothy's beleaguered shoulders."

Start reading this book for free: <https://a.co/7GE9h6C>

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/ohio-deaths-from-drug-overdose-may-set-new-record-in-2020/>

og:title Content: Ohio deaths from drug overdose may set new record in 2020 - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: December 21, 2020

Blog Post Content:

<https://www.dispatch.com/story/news/crime/2020/12/17/ohio-deaths-drug-overdose-may-set-new-record-2020/3916549001/>

Addiction is not a weakness. Addiction is not a moral failing. Addiction is an actual transformation of the brain.

We need safe injection sites.

All drugs must be decriminalized. Pot must be legalized. Everyone needs to be able to grow their own marijuana.

This is how you win the war on drugs.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/seattle-police-arrest-homeless-people/>

og:title Content: Seattle Police Arrest Homeless People - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: December 21, 2020

Blog Post Content: Seattle police clear homeless camp, make arrests | TribLIVE.com

SEATTLE — Police cleared a homeless camp in Seattle early Friday morning after a judge declined to block authorities from removing the people and tents. Police arrested 24 people and accused them of various offenses including failure to disperse, trespass and resisting arrest, the Seattle Police Department said on Twitter.

Have I ever mentioned...

FUCK THE POLICE!

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/another-akron-murder/>

og:title Content: Another Akron Murder - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: December 21, 2020

Blog Post Content: Man shot to death Saturday in home invasion

I don't know what to do other than report this shit.

The despair in Akron and Ohio in general is brutal and severe and tragic. It all comes back to jobs. And that is a crushing failure of both Democrats and Republicans because they want the money of rich industrialists. And they are willing to let the people of Ohio rot in exchange for that money. It's truly a deal with the Devil.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/st-paul-homeless-camp-fire/>
og:title Content: St. Paul Homeless Camp Fire - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist
Blog Post Date: December 21, 2020

Blog Post Content: Fire breaks out at downtown St. Paul homeless encampment - StarTribune.com
Friday's fire comes as city officials are preparing to close eight homeless encampments in the city, including the one at Kellogg Park, and relocate residents to shelters starting next week. They cite a risk of fires and exposure to the cold for the impending closures.
I'm not saying this fire wasn't intentionally set by someone. But I'm not saying it wasn't.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/lansing-sweeps-homeless-camp-despite-cdc-guidelines/>
og:title Content: Lansing Sweeps Homeless Camp Despite CDC Guidelines. - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist
Blog Post Date: December 21, 2020

Blog Post Content: Lansing officials tell people to leave homeless camp by Monday
"Clearing encampments can cause people to disperse throughout the community and break connections with service providers," the guidance says. "This increases the potential for infectious disease spread."
Why do they not adhere to CDC guidelines? It's simple. THEY HATE HOMELESS PEOPLE.
IT'S ALL ABOUT HOMELESS HATE.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/melise-gave-away-1000-of-chick-fil-a-to-homeless-people/>
og:title Content: Melise Gave Away \$1000 of Chick-fil-A to Homeless People - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist
Blog Post Date: December 21, 2020

Blog Post Content:

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/thou-shall-not-be-poor/>
og:title Content: Thou Shall Not Be Poor - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist
Blog Post Date: December 22, 2020

Blog Post Content:
Let's be honest... We are capitalists. We are swimming in a giant lake of capitalism. We have never swum in any other lake. This lake provides for us. And we all love to talk about how absolutely incredible this lake is (even though ALL of us know this lake has some real problems).
So it only stands to reason that in Lake Capitalism there are some deeply held beliefs. Not only are these unquestionable beliefs, they are so deep they don't even need to be spoken. When you have never so much as dipped a toe into another lake OF COURSE you are going to swear up and down your lake is the best lake. The main belief is that if you can't survive in Lake Capitalism there is only one reason why: you aren't trying hard enough.
You are lazy. You are weak minded (how most of us truly feel about mental health issues). You are a waste of space.
Just as a walleye can't survive in the Pacific Ocean, some people can't survive in Lake Capitalism.
We have to make room for them.
By no means am I suggesting that the government has to shell out a single dime for them, I am just saying we have to let them have a place of peace and happiness.
We must have a space for poor people to live and be loved. Some people will just be down on their luck temporarily. And some people will live their entire lives there. They aren't bad. They aren't weak. They are

just people who are drowning in Lake Capitalism and need a life raft.

As diehard believers in Lake Capitalism are sure to do, some will call these places: slums, dirty, a safety issue, a health hazard. They will vehemently petition to close these areas down. But they only do this because they are vehement disciples of Lake Capitalism. They will yell and stomp their feet that Lake Capitalism has everything ALL of us need. We just have to work for it.

We must tune out these hateful rhetorics. They are just angry because they are afraid of anything that is not them.

21st century slums (feel free to call them slums if you want. As long as the people living in them are free to live they won't care what you call them. They'll probably make t-shirts exclaiming their Slum pride) need to look different than slums before them. Primarily, we need innovative and cheap fire safety in these places. I'm not talking these ridiculously expensive fire systems. I'm talking reliable battery powered smoke detectors, emergency ladders, etc. But that's about it. Everything else will take care of itself. Maybe some community bathhouses would be nice.

When you give people space and respect amazing things can happen. I have no ulterior motive here. I'm not creating some trap that is ultimately designed to suck people back into the main Lake Capitalism swimming area. I honestly can no longer say with any kind of truth that the way we live in mainstream America is better than living in a hut made out of found objects sitting on the bank of a lovely winding river.

When we give people space and respect it allows us to find our own space and respect. Loving and respecting others is the fastest way to loving and respecting ourselves.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/akron-evictions-delayed-by-mail-service-covid-19-orders-moratorium/>
og:title Content: Akron evictions delayed by mail service, COVID-19 orders, moratorium - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: December 22, 2020

Blog Post Content:

"And tenants who've lost jobs and wages to the pandemic can continue to file for eviction protection until Jan. 31 under a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention order that would have expired Dec. 31."

I know this is difficult for landlords. I'm one myself. But there is REAL desperate need out here. We cannot evict people right now.

<https://www.beaconjournal.com/story/news/2020/12/22/akron-evictions-delayed-mail-service-covid-19-orders-moratorium/3994547001/>

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/national-coalition-for-the-homeless-20-years-of-hate-national-coalition-for-the-homeless/>

og:title Content: National Coalition for the Homeless 20 Years of Hate - National Coalition for the Homeless - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: December 22, 2020

Blog Post Content:

<https://nationalhomeless.org/20-years-of-hate/>

California saw the most crimes against people experiencing homelessness in 2018 and 2019. Often considered ground zero for homelessness, Los Angeles, in particular, saw almost 10% of overall incidents recorded, from acid attacks and video-taped stabbings to police officers murdering a homeless man after a noise complaint.

I can't even think of something to say about this. Hurting homeless people is a direct attack on God. It's abhorrent.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/portland-sees-dramatic-rise-in-deaths-of-homeless-people/>

og:title Content: Portland sees dramatic rise in deaths of homeless people - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: December 22, 2020

Blog Post Content: This is going to be a brutal winter for homeless people all over the world. Mass evictions plus less shelter space due to social distancing = More Dead Homeless People.

Portland sees dramatic rise in deaths of homeless people - Portland Press Herald

More than 60 homeless people died in Portland in 2020, a dramatic increase from previous years, according

Preble Street, a nonprofit social services agency that organizes a vigil for unhoused people who die in the city each year.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/salem-homeless-camps-washed-away-by-flooding/>
og:title Content: Salem Homeless Camps Washed Away By Flooding - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist
Blog Post Date: December 22, 2020

Blog Post Content: 'This is heart-wrenching': Salem homeless camps washed away by flooding | kgw.com
"This is the first time I've been homeless like this and it's really been an emotional drain for me. It's heartbreaking to see how there's no rescue. The only stuff that we have is priceless to us and we're losing all of that with no help," she said.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/why-cant-akron-have-these-pallet-tiny-homes/>
og:title Content: Why Can't Akron Have These Pallet Tiny Homes? - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist
Blog Post Date: December 22, 2020

Blog Post Content: 'Pallets' pop up around Lane County to shelter homeless people
The county purchased 120 shelters for \$888,300, which was covered by money from the federal CARES Act. The county allocated \$1.25 million in coronavirus Relief Funds toward winter sheltering.

While the structures are sturdy, secure and warm, service providers emphasize that they are meant to serve as a transition from living without housing to stable housing. The shelters are built by Pallet, a Washington-based company that says its employees have experienced homelessness and that the shelters are a "stepping stone out of homelessness and into a life of stability

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/the-akron-law-the-homeless-won/>
og:title Content: The Akron Law The Homeless Won - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist
Blog Post Date: December 22, 2020

Blog Post Content:
I want to make sure this does not get lost either by the city law department OR the city as a whole. On September 6, 2016 these homeless Akronites won a settlement and consent decree against the city of Akron.

Those homeless people were:
WILLIAM BUKER, NICOLE GOULD, CARL LYNCH, PATRICK MOE, MELVIN THOMPSON, and CODY USNER
This was referred to as Moe v. City of Akron (5:14-cv-02197)

You can read more about it here:

Law students file suit in federal court on behalf of 11 homeless people in Akron The Daily
When Rebecca Sremack was a third-year student last year in Case Western Reserve University School of Law's Milton A. Kramer Law Clinic, the Akron native found a way to link her dedication to important causes in her hometown with the Kramer Clinic's mission. Case Western Reserve law students on Friday filed a federal class-action lawsuit, claiming the city of Akron wrongfully raided places where the homeless live.

The lawsuit contends that personal property was taken without notice or a chance to object to the seizures. The lawsuit names certain city administrative and police officials as defendants. According to news reports, Akron police issued a statement disputing the lawsuit's claims and asserting the legality of its actions.

THEY WON THIS LAWSUIT.

Here is the complete consent decree:

<https://www.sagelewis.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Final-Consent-Decree-and-Settlement-Agreement-and-Release-9.6.16.pdf>

Even though this is the law of Akron, I can see the city slipping back into old habits. They are not following the orders in the decree. In doing so they are in contempt of court.

We MUST document each time a camp is swept in Akron so that we can compare it against this decree. I've seen first hand how they do not catalog items properly or even store them properly.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/nytimes-how-cities-lost-control-of-police-discipline/>

og:title Content: NYTimes: How Cities Lost Control of Police Discipline - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist
Blog Post Date: December 22, 2020

Blog Post Content:

This is a pretty shocking expose of the immediate power of police unions.
How Cities Lost Control of Police Discipline <https://nyti.ms/3aAMONS>

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/still-no-room-at-the-inn/>

og:title Content: Still No Room At The Inn - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist
Blog Post Date: December 23, 2020

Blog Post Content:

I am planning a peaceful protest on Christmas Eve night. I will be building a makeshift shelter in remembrance that thousands of years ago a man and woman, who was very late in her pregnancy, were traveling (apparently to pay taxes).

As the story goes, there was no room at the inn.

So they slept in the barn with the animals. The newborn baby slept in a manger, a feeding trough for livestock.

Thousands of years later there is still no room at the inn.

In symbolic unity with the hundreds of thousands of Americans who will be without shelter this Christmas Eve (and every other day of the year) I planned on just putting my shelter on a piece of land that would not bother anyone, other than the government who doesn't want us to see homeless people.

You can learn about the event by clicking here.

In a moment of probably fear, (spending Christmas Day in jail is not going to go over well with the family) I reached out to a church to ask if I could put my shelter on their lawn.

This was clearly a last minute idea. And I know that churches are made of governing bodies. So I knew I was asking a lot.

But just the same, homelessness is not something that is planned for weeks or months in advance. In an eviction, you are sleeping in your bed last night and you are on the street tonight.

I want to make very clear that I am not angry at this particular church. I put them in this uncomfortable spot. They did not ask to be called out like this.

HOWEVER, I AM angry at "the church" in general. The Church has outsourced its responsibility to poor people to the government. The fact that the government helps poor people more than the church does would not be something that would please MANY Christian leaders throughout history... Not the least of which would be Jesus himself.

Here is the church's response for my request for help.

Hello Mr. Lewis,

It is an interesting event you are planning. This church supports efforts to raise awareness of homelessness, and aid in its resolution. We are a founding member of the local Family Promise program that serves homeless families, and we remain committed to continuing support of this important service in Akron.

Unfortunately, we cannot give permission for you to shelter on our front lawn. Such an event as you are planning would have to come before our Council, which is the governing body of this church, and there is not enough time for that body to adequately address your request and make an informed decision. The rapidly approaching Christmas season, combined with the challenges of communicating effectively in this pandemic, further complicate consideration of your request.

Your passion for advocating for the homeless is well-known, and we pray that your mission to help those in need is met with great success. We hope that you will be able to secure another location for your event.

May Christ's peace be with you,

Pastor Debbie

Rev. Deborah Rhinesmith

Fairlawn-West United Church of Christ

2095 W. Market St., Akron, OH 44313

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/the-visual-stain-of-homelessness/>

og:title Content: The visual stain of homelessness - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist
Blog Post Date: December 23, 2020

Blog Post Content:

St. Paul clears out homeless camp in Kellogg Mall Park; 7 more to be vacated | Duluth News Tribune
"We only care (about housing the homeless) when we see it visually," said St. Paul resident Joe James, disgustedly. "We only care because we see people out here and we want to remove the visual stain."

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/la-homeless-camp-sweeps-continue-despite-cdc-guidelines/>

og:title Content: LA Homeless Camp Sweeps Continue Despite CDC Guidelines - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: December 23, 2020

Blog Post Content: Attorneys decry 'cleanups' of homeless encampments during pandemic in LA - Lookout Local Santa Cruz

"There is simply no public health justification for continuing the displacement of unhoused residents at this time," write Catherine Sweetser of Schonbrun Seplow Harris Hoffman & Zeldes LLP, along with Pui-Yee Yu and Shayla Myers of the Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles, in a letter obtained by The Times.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/human-rights-of-homeless-people-must-be-fought-for/>

og:title Content: Human Rights of Homeless People MUST Be Fought For - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: December 23, 2020

Blog Post Content: Homeless Encampments – The Shift #RIGHT2HOUSING

The Shift has developed several resources to help ensure the rights of encampment residents are upheld. Download them and use them in your community!

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/poverty-is-coming-back-to-america/>

og:title Content: Poverty Is Coming Back To America - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: December 27, 2020

Blog Post Content:

I now firmly believe that the era from about 1950 - 1980 was an anomaly.

There was money. And it was spread widely across America.

But that's not how capitalism is meant to work. Capitalism is a game played by capitalists. And I'm sorry to say, if you don't own property that creates income for you, if you don't make profit from the labor of others... You are not playing the game of capitalism. You are merely spectator on the sidelines.

I'd tell you to "get in the game." But that's just a hilarious, sadistic joke capitalists like to tell. There is no way in hell they want you in the game. More players is bad business.

So they pay most people a barely livable wage, often using the tools of the government to support their low wages. Food stamps aren't for the people. Food stamps and subsidized housing is how capitalists can pay slave wages without actually needing slaves. Plus all that government subsidy money ends up right back in the hands of the capitalists. So it's a win win for them.

And for white collar workers who make a decent wage, they keep them under the thumb of the banks with home mortgages, leased cars and endless trinkets like Apple watches and designer clothes. Just look at what housing costs in places like San Francisco and many other posh cities.

Always remember this: if you're sitting at the poker table and you don't know who the sucker is: IT'S YOU. America is one giant poker table. You don't even know you're playing the game, much less the easy mark. But that's what you are to a capitalist: an easy mark.

You might think this is all heading to a point where I tell you that I'm becoming a communist. But it's not. The only thing worse than capitalism is socialism (REAL socialism, not the bullshit socialism many of you label free healthcare and free education) and communism. I assure you, capitalists will be just as happy to play their game on a table called Communism as the table they are currently playing on. Corruption is impossible to avoid in communist states.

Plus, capitalism gives us excess that has the potential to slip down to poor people.

Food Banks are this ingenious creation. They are able to let capitalists write down the loss of the food they send to food banks so they pay less taxes. Paying less taxes, after all, is one of the funnest things capitalists

love to do. And then this excess food goes to poor people. It's really a clever system that works for everyone.

I know you might say that if capitalists payed livable wages we wouldn't need food banks. Maybe. Maybe not. More money on the table in the hands of suckers is just more fun for Capitalists.

I'm telling you, significant poverty is coming to America. Think Hunger Games. It's going to look a lot like that, hopefully without the tributes. But even that aspect of it wouldn't surprise me in the least.

I see no immediate political will to require Capitalists to stop hoarding wealth and put it back on the board.

Plus, if anything, the government will just take the money and give it to their own Capitalist friends.

So more poverty with more hoarding by the few is what I see in our immediate future.

I say this for one reason: if this is the game politicians want to play then we must make space for all the poor people. Stop hiding them in the mountains of Appalachia. Stop hiding your homeless under train tressels.

Evey city. Evey ward in every city, particularly the rich cities and rich wards, must make space for slums and tents. If you are going to make a system that is built on a game called Capitalism you can't pretend the consequences of the game don't exist.

Of course I know this won't happen. Part of the benefits of the game for the winners is not having to look at the losers of the game.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/how-effective-are-protests/>

og:title Content: How effective are protests? - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: December 28, 2020

Blog Post Content:

I just came across this quote:

The problem I experience is that individual people are good but organizations become soulless. Almost the instant they are created they come alive as a unfeeling, compassionless robot. "I. Must. Do. What's. Best. For. The. Organization."

I see this so clearly in churches and nonprofits. The organization is more important than doing what's right for the people the organization was sworn to protect.

And that goes right up the ladder until we get to the granddaddy of them all, the organization called The United States of America.

The people disappear.

Hundreds of thousands of people have died this year from coronavirus. And we are still throwing temper tantrums about wearing masks.

Let me ask you this: imagine you are going to the hospital to see your 90 year old dying grammy. She has Covid. Before you go in the nurse tells you that you have to put on special clothes, a mask, a face shield, gloves and coverings for your shoes. Would you have any problem doing it?

Now, a doctor is asking you to put on a mask when you walk into a grocery store to protect someone else's grammy. Would you have any problem doing it?

I don't need to run a giant study to tell you that WAY more people have a problem with the second scenario than the first.

Our individual morality is wildly different than our collective morality.

In my life I have seen countless school shootings, I have experienced a 100 year pandemic and I watch police just continue to kill people in the most cowardly ways.

Nothing changes.

All of this is to say: I don't think protests are working.

I also don't believe violence is effective.

My theory is that you have to target one person. One person of power. I think that might scare the powerful. I'm not talking violent targeting. That isn't necessary. All you have to do is ruin them. Strip them of their power. Ruin their reputation. For many of these people that's a fate worse than death.

But there is a second part of this process that is critical. You MUST have a very clearly defined request.

"I will stop if you give me X."

And then you must stop.

I believe you can come up with another target and another demand later. But you must be true to your word. Otherwise working with you is pointless.

At any rate, that's my working theory of nonviolent direct action.

If you have ideas I'd love to know what you think.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/santa-cruz-activists-halt-homeless-camp-eviction/>

og:title Content: Santa Cruz activists halt homeless camp eviction - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: December 29, 2020

Blog Post Content:

We MUST fight along side our homeless brothers and sisters for their fundamental right to live in their own country.

Thank you Santa Cruz for standing strong.

Santa Cruz activists halt homeless camp eviction – Santa Cruz Sentinel

The more than 75 activists and homeless individuals gathered along the park's Dakota Avenue entrance facing off against some two dozen Santa Cruz Police Department personnel were, at least in the short-term, successful in their mission to "Stop the Sweeps," as organizers' social media announcements urged.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/denver-opens-its-first-safe-open-space/>

og:title Content: Denver Opens Its First Safe Open Space - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: December 29, 2020

Blog Post Content:

Given the state and structure of the United States of America, Safe Open Spaces, aka sanctioned tent villages, are inevitable and absolutely critically needed NOW.

Denver's first legal homeless encampments only a first step, experts say

Certainly, the need is there for the encampments, also called safe open spaces, they say.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/boston-shelters-lack-space-for-homeless-as-winter-arrives/>

og:title Content: Boston shelters lack space for homeless as winter arrives - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: December 29, 2020

Blog Post Content:

Shelters lack space for homeless as winter arrives

Estimates of the size of the state's homeless population hovers around the 18,000 mark, according to estimates from a 2019 report by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Though in previous years Boston has been able to accommodate almost its entire homeless population, organizations are struggling to allow guests to distance and still provide adequate shelter.

Tiny houses and Safe Outdoor Spaces (sanctioned tent villages) are how you stop the hemorrhaging today.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/132-homeless-kids-in-ardmore-oklahoma/>

og:title Content: 132 Homeless Kids in Ardmore, Oklahoma - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: December 29, 2020

Blog Post Content:

Ardmore, Oklahoma population is 24,795.

The racial makeup of the city is 73.02% White, 11.27% African American, 8.78% Native American. About 13.6% of families and 18.3% of the population were below the poverty line, including 24.9% of those under age 18 and 12.0% of those age 65 or over.

There about approximately 3000 students in the Ardmore schools.

132 OF THES STUDENTS ARE HOMELESS.

Of all the people we as a society find totally acceptable to be homeless (veterans, seniors, pregnant women) HOMELESS KIDS are the group that confounds me the most. I mean don't we love kids in America? On second thought, we continually allow schools to get shot up and we do NOTHING about that either. Never mind, America doesn't care about anyone. My bad.

Over 100 students identified as homeless in Ardmore

These situations take mental and physical tolls on students and make learning difficult. Emde recalled a metaphor taught in her training where two students are walking to school and one is having to carry so much extra baggage he can barely walk. Not only do these children come to school without a good meal, clean clothes or a shower, but they have often gone many sleepless nights worrying about whether their family will have heat when it gets cold or if they're going to be able to keep their house.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/lost-to-covid-19-akron-native-rev-tom-weller-died-of-covid-19/>
og:title Content: Lost to COVID-19: Akron native Rev. Tom Weller died of COVID-19 - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist
Blog Post Date: December 30, 2020

Blog Post Content:
Doug Livingston of the Akron Beacon Journal did a very nice piece on Tom Weller here:
<https://www.beaconjournal.com/story/news/2020/12/28/lost-covid-19-akron-native-rev-tom-weller-died-covid-19/3910018001/>
My ears always perk up when I read a story of a person committed to "the least of these."
The stories fill me with both happiness and sadness.
I'm happy to be reminded that there are so many people throughout history dedicated to the unloved and forgotten.
But I'm sad that we never seem to learn their lessons as a society.
How many compassionate and giving people must come and go throughout history before we say, "this is how our society should be?"
We never seem to learn the lessons taught by people like Reverend Tom Weller.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/tacoma-housing-now-has-occupied-a-hotel-to-save-homeless-people/>
og:title Content: Tacoma Housing Now Has Occupied A Hotel To Save Homeless People - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist
Blog Post Date: December 30, 2020

Blog Post Content:
STAND STRONG @TacHousing!
We all must stand with our homeless brothers and sisters in this brutal and cruel and torturous homeless system in America.
Tacoma Housing Now Has Occupied A Hotel To Save Homeless People

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/the-church-has-always-abandoned-the-poor/>
og:title Content: The Church Has Always Abandoned The Poor - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist
Blog Post Date: December 31, 2020

Blog Post Content:
"If religion has so neglected the needs of the poor and of the great mass of workers and permitted them to live in the most horrible destitution while comforting them with the solace of a promise of a life after death when all tears shall be wiped away, then that religion is suspect."
This was written by Dorothy Day, a woman so pious, and committed to Catholicism she is on the path to becoming a Saint.
The Church of any denomination of Christianity has always been far less concerned with social justice than with preserving its self-serving ties to the powerful and monied.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/more-murders-in-akron-than-ever-before/>
og:title Content: More Murders In Akron Than Ever Before - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist
Blog Post Date: December 31, 2020

Blog Post Content:
I woke up to this headline: Man, 19, killed in West Akron shooting, adding to record year for killings

And then the article is mostly spent trying to unwind how Akron defines a murder compared to a homicide. That's the plan in Akron Ohio. If you don't like the statistics just confuse people. (We have also invented an Akron-only way to grade our schools so they don't look so faily.)

This is exactly how you can tell your dear leader, Dan Horrigan, is completely in over his head. The highest murder rate EVER does not happen in a vacuum. You can't explain it away with the condescending quip, "kid's these days."

Murders are going up because the street is taking charge. The street is taking charge because the city is failing the communities.

Look at where we are right now in Akron:

Akron has a 26% poverty rate. Police recorded 186 gun-related crimes in the first six months of 2018, 247 in 2019 and 317 through July 1 of this year. That represents a 70% increase in gun crime. 42% of children are below the poverty rate. Akron facing highest eviction rate in Ohio, 24th highest in the country. Over 2000 kids are reported homeless every year in Akron. Household income is growing in the state of Ohio but falling in Akron. Akron is the only large city in Akron that saw its poverty rate increase. Only Lorain and Akron experienced a decline in household income. Our schools are failing. Our overall district grade is a D. We have over 100 arson investigations every year. Over 400 sexual assaults were reported in 2017. 902 vehicles were stolen in 2019. Akron has nearly \$1 billion in debt.

We are being lead kamikaze-style right into the ground by a mayor who has no idea what to do.

His "plan" is to let people build tax-free houses and somehow magically get his population to 250,000 people. I assume that he thinks he can turn Akron into a large Medina and gentrify all the poor people to somewhere that isn't his problem.

The majority of Akronites have no hope. They are living in the Hunger Games while a few people on the west side are merrily and ignorantly carrying on like everything is great.

Akron is a hope-free zone for most people. It's every man, woman and child for themselves.

Until there is hope there will be MORE drugs, MORE murders, MORE crime.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/an-update-to-demass-learning/>

og:title Content: An Update To Demass Learning - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: December 31, 2020

Blog Post Content:

Back in 2012 I created something called "Demass Learning". I then got pulled really hard into the homeless humanitarian disaster in America. But I've recently come back to exploring Demass Learning a bit more. The concept is that of a "prosumer" idea. That we are both the consumer AND the creator. This is wildly different than the industrial era where there were very clear lines between the consumer and the producer.

You can learn more about it here: <https://www.reddit.com/r/demasslearning/>

I think I'm going to work on it at Reddit for a while. It seems like an ideal platform for a prosumer model of education.

I've also started adding some educational content there as well. And, if you have educational content you'd like to share please feel free to do so. I'd love to learn what you are learning.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/the-washington-post-the-stock-market-is-ending-2020-at-record-highs-even-as-the-virus-surges-and-millions-go-hungry/>

og:title Content: [The Washington Post] The stock market is ending 2020 at record highs, even as the virus surges and millions go hungry - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: January 1, 2021

Blog Post Content:

The stock market is ending 2020 at record highs, even as the virus surges and millions go hungry

By Hamza Shaban and Heather Long

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/business/2020/12/31/stock-market-record-2020/>

"The recovery has been incredibly lopsided. High-income workers have been back to full employment for six months, but the recovery has stalled for low-income workers and we're still missing millions of jobs," One in 8 Americans, more than 27 million adults, reported they sometimes or often didn't have enough food to eat in the past week, according to Census Bureau survey data collected in late November and early December.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/get-on-the-spectrum-of-voluntary-poverty/>

og:title Content: Get on the spectrum of voluntary poverty - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: January 1, 2021

Blog Post Content:

We in America have been so indoctrinated into the cult of Capitalism that an alternative economic philosophy seems like pure and total madness.

I am not a Communist. Not that I have anything against the communist movement. I'm not afraid of Communism as the big and mighty U.S. of A. seems to be.

I just am not convinced that the greed of overly ambitious humans can be overcome so that a healthy communist experiment could actually take hold.

While I felt compelled to make that statement, that's not really what I'm talking about here.

I want to raise the idea of personal, self-imposed poverty.

I simply believe that one more package from Amazon is not going to be the final piece in your puzzle of personal peace and happiness. In fact, I think that as the packages build up our internal peace and happiness becomes less. The noise gets louder. The stuff adds to our anxiety. And the debt gets heavier.

I'm not telling you to give up all your possessions and become part of the van life like Jake and his dog:

I'm also not telling you not to give up all your possessions and become part of the van life like Jake and his dog.

What I'm mostly suggesting here is to become aware of how your stuff and "comfortable" life are making you feel. I believe we are so brainwashed by the American capitalism dream that most of us never stop to take a step back and ask ourselves if it's paying off like we hoped.

And all of this leads me to my ulterior and ultimate motive. I'd really like to see you get closer to the Universe and God (if that's a word you feel comfortable using).

I believe we have a purpose for being here. But we are so caught up in the day to day grind of a capitalist system (that is entirely fabricated so a few people can get really rich) that we are being robbed of our personal journey that the universe actually wants us to be on.

Chasing stuff and money is a tricky trap. You think you need to do it. You think you want to do it. BUT I'M TELLING YOU! It's all just a maze created by a few rich people to keep you constantly running to find a little piece of cheese. But what is really happening is that all the running you are doing is turning their giant wheel so that they make more money than even they can possibly comprehend. They are addicted to making obscene amounts of money and have gotten really good at it. And they are making the money all off of your struggling and hard work.

The reason you have no money left in your bank account is because these Capitalists have created a massive global subsistence farm where all the rest of us are convinced we must live.

But what's worse (I don't really care about your money), what's worse is that in creating this elaborate trap they have also stolen your destiny. They have stolen your relationship with God and the universe. That's the most shameful, tragic moral of this entire godforsaken story.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/akron-city-go-home-owners-taxes-just-went-way-up/>

og:title Content: Akron City Go Home Owner's Taxes Just Went WAY Up - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: January 3, 2021

Blog Post Content:

If you aren't aware of this, you should be.

I was just reading this Letter to editor: Property taxes rising amid pandemic, thanks to Summit County office

The property value of my home went WAY up. I can afford to pay these new significantly higher property taxes. BUT WHAT ABOUT ALL THE PEOPLE THAT CAN'T?

And please don't forget that Akron is allowing rich people to come into its city and build new houses and get out of paying property taxes for 15 years. That means rich people that build in Akron don't have to pay for the roads or the schools or the fire stations or the EMS or ANYTHING that the rest of Akron property owners have to pick up the slack for.

City of Akron, Ohio - Mayor's Office - DAN HARRIGAN - clearly hates all existing Akron home owners and

wants to throw us over for newer, shinier home owners.
It's all just unbelievable.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/downtown-construction-to-restart-on-akrons-main-street/>
og:title Content: Downtown construction to restart on Akron's Main Street - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist
Blog Post Date: January 4, 2021

Blog Post Content:
What I might hate about Corporate Democrats most of all is how they aren't actually for business. They are just for their corporate friends' businesses.
Dan Horrigan is killing businesses on Main Street in Akron.
<https://www.beaconjournal.com/story/news/2020/12/29/downtown-construction-restart-akrons-main-street/4074505001/>

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/boston-doesnt-have-enough-homeless-shelter-space/>
og:title Content: Boston Doesn't Have Enough Homeless Shelter Space - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist
Blog Post Date: January 4, 2021

Blog Post Content: Massachusetts shelters lack space for homeless as winter arrives
BOSTON — As temperatures fall and positive coronavirus cases rise, advocates are concerned about homelessness in Massachusetts, where shelters remain at a reduced capacity due to the pandemic, and many are anticipating having to turn people away as outside conditions worsen.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/second-homeless-person-dies-in-the-cold-in-kansas-city/>
og:title Content: Second homeless person dies in the cold in Kansas City - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist
Blog Post Date: January 4, 2021

Blog Post Content: When is enough enough?

American homelessness is a needless and tragic and cruel humanitarian disaster.

Second homeless person dies in the cold in Kansas City
A deceased person was found in a vacant building Sunday Night, two days after a man was found dead in a wooded area in Kansas City.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/it-never-matters-that-people-are-freezing-to-death-on-the-streets-of-the-richest-country-in-the-world/>
og:title Content: It Never Matters That People Are Freezing To Death On The Streets of The Richest Country In The World - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist
Blog Post Date: January 4, 2021

Blog Post Content: I've been following this story since it began.
Basically, an activist group occupied a hotel and put homeless people in it. Some with chronic illnesses. Some with Covid.
And then what happened next is what always happens: The activists were shut down, no real solutions were created. And the only actual solution that came out of this is that police will know how to shut it down MUCH faster next time:
Motel standoff ends in eviction for homeless activists - CBS News
Fife police also said in the statement: "Procedures have now been put in place to ensure that if something like this were to occur in the future, it would be met with swift and certain actions reaffirming the position that Fife is not a city that is welcoming to criminals or people engaging in criminal activity, no matter how noble or important the underlying cause."
As someone who has been a direct action activist for year fighting for the humanitarian rights of homeless people: I can tell you without ANY hesitation: the system will stop any and all solutions for actual problems in society:

school shootings
police murdering innocent people
homeless people freezing to death on the streets of the richest country in the world.

Maintaining the status quo is ALWAYS more important than saving the life of someone who has been tragically murdered or victimized. NEVER believe that the system of America wants to help its people. The people are nothing more than a necessary evil that stands in the way of the powerful maintaining and becoming more powerful.

Please never forget that quote from the article above: "no matter how noble or important the underlying cause."

That is the absolute truth of America. No one matters. Only the system matters.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/akron-city-council-votes-to-resume-shutting-off-your-water/>
og:title Content: Akron City Council Votes To Resume Shutting Off Your Water - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: January 5, 2021

Blog Post Content:

Remember this when the city comes to shut off your water and your children ask why they can't get a drink of water and then the city comes to evict you become you have no water.

Mike Freeman, Brad McKittrick and Sharon L. Connor did this to you.

They voted to shut off your water because they believe not shutting off your water hurts you. Literally that's what they said.

This is all lead by the corporate Democrat pig City of Akron, Ohio - Mayor's Office Dan Horrigan.

The hatred and disdain for poor people is real. And they don't care one fucking bit that by turning off your water they are instantly creating the most brutal third world catastrophe imaginable. Running water and trash service (which is also ended when they shut off your water because they are the same bill) are the foundations of modern civilization. And they happily steal it from people they hate...POOR PEOPLE.

You know you can sell water for drugs in Akron, right?

FUCK YOU!

Akron lawmakers initially reject moratorium on water shutoffs.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/dismazed-and-driven-my-look-at-family-homelessness-in-america-by-diane-nilan/>
og:title Content: Dismazed and Driven: My Look at Family Homelessness in America by Diane Nilan - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: January 5, 2021

Blog Post Content: Telling stories is how humans learn best. I'm so thankful Diane Nilan has created this memoir:

Dismazed and Driven Memoir - Diane shares stories from her 15 years on America's backroads as she chronicled family homelessness. Living full-time in a small van, her solo travel to non-urban locales included adventures and unforgettable encounters.

Dismazed & Driven - HEAR US: Voice and Visibility for Homeless Children and Youth

After decades working with homeless families and adults, Diane Nilan hit the road in 2005 to chronicle stories of invisible families and youth experiencing homelessness in non-urban areas across America. For the past fifteen years, crisscrossing the country in her small van, she filmed scores of interviews of parents and kids. Each was invited to share views on homelessness and the importance of school. In this memoir, Nilan introduces us to people she met, helping us to understand their backstories. And we get to meet this tenacious, caring, prophetic woman who won't let us look away from children and families in need of stability and grace.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/sweeping-kansas-city-homeless-camp-killed-scott-sixx-eike/>
og:title Content: Sweeping Kansas City homeless camp killed Scott "Sixx" Eike - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: January 5, 2021

Blog Post Content: Man froze to death after sweep of Kansas City homeless camp | The Kansas City Star

On New Year's Day, Eike, 41, was found dead from exposure, said Nellie Ann McCool with Free Hot Soup. Temperatures were below freezing the night of New Year's Eve, just before the metro endured a sizable storm of snow and ice.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/thomarios-construction-is-dan-horrigan-pillar-of-power-we-must-attack/>
og:title Content: Thomarios Construction Is Dan Horrigan Pillar Of Power We Must Attack - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist
Blog Post Date: January 5, 2021

Blog Post Content: A standard approach of bringing down a dictator like Dan Horrigan is to attack his pillars of power. You go after the people that help him maintain power.

Thomarios is a long-term benefactor of scraping money off of Akron. Not only do they get really juicy contracts, they also got the Cannabis grow house in Akron.

It's just another case of rich white men giving money to rich white men.

Here are some articles featuring all the work they have been given by the city of Akron.

Who won Ohio's big medical marijuana grow licenses? 5 things to know - cleveland.com

Adam Thomarios, owner of Northeast Ohio construction company THOMARIOS, is president of AT-CPT of Ohio, which proposed a site in Akron.

Take an underground look at Akron's \$184 million Ohio Canal Interceptor Tunnel - cleveland.com

Members of the construction team hail from a joint venture representing Welty Building Co., Parsons Construction Group and Thomarios Construction.

Akron opens two new fire stations - cleveland.com

Station 4 was constructed by Thomarios

Klutch Cannabis Announces Strategic Partnership with Kiva Confections

"Saying that Klutch Cannabis is excited to be teamed with Kiva Confections is an understatement," said Klutch Cannabis Founder and CEO, Adam Thomarios.

Akron-based Thomarios Construction and Cleveland-Based Sandvick Architects will work with Weston on the CitiCenter project.

Akron-based Thomarios Construction and Cleveland-Based Sandvick Architects will work with Weston on the CitiCenter project.

Akron City Council expected to approve \$306,000 for moving city employees from CitiCenter building, making way for development project - cleveland.com

In late 2018, Akron hired Thomarios construction's Apostolos Group to move the employees, office furniture and "multiple floors" of filing cabinets, Beckert said.

Akron medical marijuana cultivator, processor AT-CPC of Ohio to showcase operations for local officials - cleveland.com

"The Department of Commerce has done a good job with getting something new off the ground," said AT-CPC President Adam Thomarios. "There are challenges with any new industry, but all in all, the department has done a very good job." Thomarios attributes AT-CPC's high score to the company working to exceed the state's expectations, and to the leadership team's expertise.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/the-generator-experiment-introduction/>
og:title Content: The Generator Experiment - Introduction - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist
Blog Post Date: January 5, 2021

Blog Post Content:
1/5/2021

If I see my friend Ashleigh Hughes as the potential Evangelical Dorothy Day, I see myself as the homeless anthropologist equivalent of Jane Goodall.

The problem with my comparison to Jane Goodall, of course, is that she actually has a Ph.D. in Ethology, the scientific and objective study of animal behavior. Whereas I am just a lowly English literature major.

Jane earned her Ph.D. in ethology from Cambridge University. She was one of only eight people ever to have a doctoral dissertation accepted by Cambridge without first having an undergraduate degree. I have my undergraduate degree and not a Ph.D. So maybe it comes out in the wash somehow. (It definitely does not come out in the wash.)

I consider many homeless people my friends. I am more interested typically in being friends with a homeless person than a middle class wage slave. I just don't understand how a person can live a fearful, timid life

punching a timeclock for 40 years. But I can definitely understand why a person would say "fuck it" and move into the woods and dedicate their life to a good solid addiction. Believe it or not, that makes complete sense to me.

I am endlessly fascinated with learning what makes a homeless person "tick." Some people keep coming back to be with and help the homeless population because they want to "love on them" or bring them food and supplies. While I do regularly bring food to homeless people it is not interesting to me in the least. I keep coming back because homeless people are probably the most interesting people I've ever met. Why anthropologists aren't living in homeless camps to understand them better is a complete mystery to me. Before I go on, I want to be very clear... a homeless person is not, I repeat NOT a chimpanzee or a gorilla or a raccoon. I'm not saying that to be politically correct or to be kind to homeless people. If I thought a homeless person behaved more like a chimpanzee than a human I'd tell you so.

The absolute most important thing to understand about homeless people, no matter how many years they have lived on the streets or in the woods, is that they are 100% human. They are every bit as smart as us. They have exactly the same feelings as us. They think, observe, analyze and educate themselves on their society just as much as any other person... maybe even more than the average human. Whatever makes a human innately human a homeless person is exactly that.

In fact, I often think that in some ways they are more human than us people that live in our little wooden boxes and have never spoken to our neighbors. In many ways we have forgotten what it's like to be community creatures that we truly are at our core. Yet we are completely, entirely reliant on our community. If our life depended on it, most of us couldn't make clothing or dishware or shelter or fire without being supported by supplies made by our community. We couldn't tell you how a metal coffee mug is made, much less our phones on which we obsess over to the point of addiction. We would be as vulnerable as a naked 3 year old if it weren't for our complete indebtedness to our community. But yet we don't know one single thing about the cashier that checks us out repeatedly at the grocery store.

Homeless people know everyone in their community. They know their mental health issues, their addictions, what they like to steal, who they recently ripped off. They know everything about their community members. These relationships are certainly not always healthy or pleasant. But man. When they are good they are good. I just came back from helping two homeless guys move a washer and dryer into a friend's house. We fuck with each other like we were blood brothers. Indeed, many homeless people will tell you who their street mom is or their street brother is.

For many years I believed that homeless people were the anomaly. I considered them "wild humans." I am now at the point where I believe it is us that is the anomaly. And if we have any interest in getting back to our core humanity we would do well to spend more time understanding homeless people and why they live the way they live. We all have more "homelessness" in us than we think we do.

I'm setting this all up to tell you that I'm trying a little experiment.

I have just given a homeless man a generator and 5 gallons of gas.

I've chained the generator to a tree with a pretty substantial chain and lock. He does not have the key for that lock.

And then I chained his gas can, which I left completely full, to another tree. He has the combination to that lock.

I told him that I will not give him any more gas for the generator. I told him that the more energy he uses the faster the gas will run out.

I made a video describing this:

I don't have a hypothesis at this point. I'm just interested in seeing what happens. Some questions I have include:

Will the generator disappear? If he cuts it off the tree, which would be no easy task, he certainly won't admit it. He'll say someone stole it. But if he could get it free it is certainly worth some money. I know that this person smokes pot and uses meth. I do not know how he prefers to use meth... smoking, or injecting. But I'm not sure it matters. What I do know is that he has a drug habit and is quite committed to it.

Will the gas can disappear? He easily could unlock that and sell it. Or will he forget to lock it up? If it disappears it's going to potentially be hard to figure out what happens to it. Invariably he will say someone stole it. (But I know a lot of his friends. I probably can get to the truth.)

How long will the gas last? There are 4 gallons in the generator and another 5 in the gas can. If he uses it full blast 4 gallons will last about 8 hours. I'm hoping I can check in on that from time to time. I find that

many homeless people have a "Smoke 'Em If You Got 'Em" mentality. Mathew Desmond in his incredible book "Evicted" has a powerful observation that poor people aren't poor because they waste money. They waste money because they are poor.

It's not wanton spending that makes Larraine poor, though; according to Desmond, it's poverty that makes her sometimes throw money away. Since there's no point in even trying to achieve financial stability, people like Larraine "tried to survive in color, to season the suffering with pleasure" — to have a drink, for example, or smoke a little weed. From here.

Will he stop using the generator once he runs out of gas? I'm really curious about this. Because if he spends money on gas that means he is not spending money on drugs. I have absolutely no judgement about drug addicts. I know for a proven fact that addiction is a disease that changes the brain. I believe he is a true addict. While I haven't done a brain scan of him to prove this, I'd say he meets many of the criteria of a truly addicted person. So, if he can spend a little money for gas that should say something. I don't know if he spends money currently on anything other than drugs. He has a phone that is on. So I'm assuming he's paying for that. I need to ask him about these things.

I really want to know if I can give him just a little bit of hope that will inspire him to use just a little bit of money for the generator instead of spending most of his money on drugs.

Society knows so little about homeless people that they truly believe that all a homeless person is missing is a house. It's such a shallow and wrong line of thinking.

People are homeless because they have repeatedly crashed through safety net after safety net. They have very good reasons to believe no one loves them or even likes them. So they are in a state of ultimate despair and hopelessness.

To think that the man I gave this generator to is just missing four walls and a roof is embarrassingly ignorant thinking. He'll never move into a house given his current mindset. Even if a home was given to him for free for life, I would be willing to take a bet that he'd leave that house within 6 months. I see homeless people walk away from free houses all the time.

Ultimately, if he takes care of the generator and continues to fill it with gas, what could we layer on next? And also, what is the objective with homeless people? I know most of society thinks that everyone wants to live in a shitty little house just like them. But I'm here to tell you, that's not everyone's fantasy. I'm seeing more and more people choosing to live in their van or to build a log cabin and live off the grid.

I don't know what this man wants from his life. But I do know that his life is currently quite brutal and difficult. I would say he would agree that he would like something different than what he currently has. I'll keep you up to date on this experiment. We'll see if it leads anywhere interesting or not.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/denvers-first-sanctioned-homeless-encampments-offer-a-glimmer-of-hope-stability/>

og:title Content: Denver's first sanctioned homeless encampments offer a glimmer of hope, stability - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: January 6, 2021

Blog Post Content: This is such an obvious need I can't believe we have to fight so hard to make them happen.

Denver's first sanctioned homeless encampments offer a glimmer of hope, stability

Benjamin said the safe outdoor space has given him a spot where he can keep his few belongings and leave his well-behaved dog for the day while he goes out to find work. It's a small, but incredibly important, stepping stone and he encourages others on the streets to try and get in.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/concord-new-hampshire-report-finds-a-tidal-wave-of-homelessness/>

og:title Content: Concord New Hampshire Report finds a 'tidal wave' of homelessness - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: January 7, 2021

Blog Post Content: There are a lot of great statistics in this article about homelessness in New Hampshire. Report finds a 'tidal wave' of homelessness

In January, the point-in-time study found that homelessness had grown by 21% (293 people) over 2019 with

a total of 1,675 unsheltered people. "And that's before the pandemic, which is almost sticker shock," Savard said. "And we know the pandemic escalated that even more."

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/ogden-utah-people-turn-out-en-masse-at-council-meeting-to-protest-homeless-camp-dispersal/>

og:title Content: Ogden, Utah people turn out en masse at council meeting to protest homeless camp dispersal - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: January 7, 2021

Blog Post Content: Ogdenites turn out en masse at council meeting to protest homeless camp dispersal | Local News | standard.net

Castillo and several of the speakers at Tuesday's council meeting noted Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines dealing with homeless camps. According to the CDC, if individual housing options are not available, people who are living unsheltered or in encampments should be allowed to remain where they are. The CDC says clearing encampments can cause people to disperse throughout the community and break connections with service providers, increasing the potential for infectious disease spread. "Leaving our unsheltered citizens the choice between going into a crowded shelter or having to be out somewhere else, not by resources and in the freezing cold, is ... not a great decision for them," said Ogden resident Kevin Lundell.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/what-forms-of-direct-action-are-acceptable/>

og:title Content: What forms of direct action are acceptable? - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: January 9, 2021

Blog Post Content:

The January 6, 2021 siege on Capitol Hill is still very fresh in my mind. Three days later (it feels like 3 months later), as you might imagine, I and the rest of the world have some thoughts on the matter.

At 7:30am the following morning I wrote this on Twitter and Facebook:

Our Trump supporting brothers and sisters have been brainwashed by a maniac. We must not hate them but instead understand their condition and love them.

I still feel the same way.

As a person who is easily consumed by fiery anger, it's interesting that I don't have much anger towards them at all.

It is critical that we all remember that a human's beliefs are probably the most important drivers of all our drivers.

We believe in science. Or we don't. We believe in vaccines. Or we don't. We believe in higher education. Or we don't. We believe in God. Or we don't.

Even if your side is on the side of truth and facts, you still are relying on believing scientists. How many of us have personally done experiments to conclude that the Earth is round? Even though this is factually true, most of us haven't proven it for ourselves. We just believe it.

So when a leader that you trust with all your heart tells you something, you have little choice but to believe it. (I have quite a few highly intelligent friends who believe vaccines are unsafe. They are anti-vaxers. They believe what they read.)

When Neil deGrasse Tyson told us that Pluto was not a planet, I had little choice but to accept that. He is the renowned astrophysicist and planetary scientist. Not me. But apparently it's a debatable topic.

The day Neil told me that Pluto was no longer a planet was the day Pluto just became a rock in my mind.

We all do it. And believing in God is a perfect example. We either believe in God or we don't. There is absolutely no way currently of proving either side. But most of us are quite certain our belief is the only right belief.

While the people who stormed Capitol Hill should certainly be held accountable for their actions, maybe even as insurrectionists or terrorists, they were just doing what all humans do... Believing the leader they chose to believe.

Without a doubt, the most consequential Akronite to ever live was John Brown. His raid on Harper's Ferry is considered by many to be the dress rehearsal to the Civil War.

He is a top 3 hero of mine. He might even be number 1.

But it is undeniable that he was a terrorist. He murdered people and stormed an armory. Him being hanged was an appropriate consequence to his actions.

Have you ever heard of The Milwaukee Fourteen?

The Milwaukee Fourteen were fourteen peace activists who burned Selective Service records to protest the Vietnam War. On 24 September 1968, they entered Milwaukee's Brumder Building, site of nine Wisconsin draft boards, gathered up about 10,000 files, carried them to an open public space, and set them on fire with homemade napalm.

Rightfully, they were found guilty of theft, arson, and burglary.

Direct action must always be a tool for the activist. And we must always have activists. Without them the government will certainly run amok.

But as direct action activists we have a moral responsibility to weigh out actions with our hoped for outcomes.

I am a deontologist when it comes to hurting or murdering human beings. Deontology is the idea that a certain action is not permissible even if on the balance it creates a positive outcome.

What John Brown did at Harpers Ferry is a good example of this. His actions created, I believe, a positive outcome. He was the beginning of the end to slavery in America. So I believe his actions created a net positive outcome. But for me murdering human beings is off the table. I simply refuse to do it because I believe it is fundamentally wrong.

As activists we must have these moral and ethical conversations with ourselves before we begin even holding a sign on the street. What is acceptable for us personally and what is not acceptable.

The more extreme we move up the ladder of direct action the more clear we must be in our own beliefs of acceptable action and the more obligated we must be to strive to be certain our beliefs are based on fact and truth.

The Siege on Capitol Hill is WAY up the evolutionary ladder. But yet I believe many people truly believed they were just on a Fantasy Island surreal tour of the Capitol. (Others appear to certainly have much more clear agendas.)

The more extreme your actions the more you better REALLY think you are correct and the more you REALLY need to think your actions will have a net positive effect on your cause.

Let's go through some of the phases of direct action and their levels of extremism.

Yelling and holding a sign on the street.

This can actually be really powerful. Just ask the Westboro Baptist Church how effective this can be.

Most of the time you are just hoping to raise awareness to your cause. These guys are really good at it. (Of course I think these people are total nuckleheads. But you would be foolish to not learn from their techniques.)

You should always feel justified in making a really good sign and get yelling. If you feel it you should do it.

Blocking traffic

Now is when the reality instructors come out. It doesn't take them long. "But what if you stop an emergency vehicle from saving someone's life?"

Obviously, let emergency vehicles through.

This can bring out the press (and the police). And you will now have detractors that will sound rational to average citizens.

I was part of blocking traffic with Black Lives Matter protestors and it felt more than justified. "Police freely murder innocent black people. You can sit in your car for a few minutes."

These kinds of protests were particularly powerful because they were going on all over the world. That said, I'm not sure how much of a difference all of it made. BLM support seems to be waning for everyone except black people.

Then you move into destruction of property in some sort of way. Graffiti. Tearing down statues. Occupying spaces.

From there you start moving into attacking people. Holding hostages. Taking prisoners. Assassinating people. The more severe the action the more you better be right. Because you will be labeled, often rightfully so, a terrorist.

It's not necessarily absolute that your actions are wrong. It's that you must be absolutely right. We all stand behind the American Revolution after all.

Why are we doing any of this?

If you aren't absolutely clear on why you are doing any direct action, you probably should just stay home.

We must be clear on what we're trying to achieve. The process goes in this order:

Raise awareness. Let people know what is going on. Change the cultural narratives. Make something like slavery or homophobia generally appalling instead of quietly acceptable. Change policy. Create laws that stop

systemic abuse and and oppression.

Let's take this week's seige on Capitol Hill. It's possible that it may inspire some voter reform. But more likely it will result in a global shut down of voices that are deemed "disinformation." Quite likely governments that love to take rights away from people any chance they get will use this as a way of making more speech illegal. This comes from a poorly thought out plan. The Capitol Hill terrorists have likely hurt all our rights as activists because they weren't being actual activists. They were just looting a Target store that happened to be where all the powerul people were located. What do you think is going to happen except a lockdown on activism?

So often I see activists that either have a very muddy desired action or no desired action at all.

I've been thinking about this for several years in my fight for the basic humanitarian rights of American citizens who live houseless.

I've been continually honing my message. "The goal of the Houseless Movement is to get sanctioned tent villages in every city in America that needs them."

I have one goal. It's not the only solution to ending homelessness certainly. But it is my main call to action because I believe it is a critical need.

That's, by far, the most important part of any direct action. "What do you want John Brown?"

His actions would have easily ended in the trash heap of terrorist actions such as those of the unabomber and the Oklahoma City bomber, if he wasn't so clearly focused on ending slavery.

I feel like I've done a decent job of raising awareness of the homeless American nightmare (although that certainly can't end). And I feel like most people feel that homelessness is wrong on many levels.

I am solidly in the policy changing phase. I am still trying to fight for my legal right to shelter homeless people on my private land. But the city's lawyers do nothing than keep the discussion gummed up in the area of logistics and paperwork. I am quite disheartened by how difficult the legal system is to be heard as a private individual. After years of trying, not one single judge has heard a word about why or why not I should be allowed to shelter homeless people on my private land. All we talk about is paperwork.

I hope you could imagine my frustration.

Fortunately, I am still able to keep my wits about me. I'm still able to think rationally and clearly.

That's why my current primary direct action is to dedicate my life to throwing Akron's mayor Dan Horrigan out of office.

He is just a puppet of the Summit County Democratic Party that has held a stranglehold on Akron for decades. They, in conjunction with the Akron Chamber of Commerce pillage all our resources and hand out multi-million dollar contracts to their friends while we sit with a billion dollars in debt.

He is my Slobodan Milošević. I will not rest until I see him in jail or forever expelled as a terrible embarrassment on the Democrats and Akron as a whole.

All that will be my dedication UNLESS he gives me one thing: ONE sanctioned tent village.

If he gives me that I end my attack on him. I'll move to another city. I'm thinking Barberton is next.

I like this plan because no one has a "right" to an elected office. I'm just enacting my right to American democracy. And my hope is that I might inspire people to appreciate the power they have in local politics. Local politics is the best politics.

Please use this time to not just stew in your anger of Trump supporters. Use this as a very valuable lesson about direct action. Think about what you would do as a leader of the Trump movement. How would you do things differently if you were in their shoes? If all you do is bash them you are not learning anything as a true activist.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/st-paul-homeless-camp-sweeps-are-illegal-evictions/>

og:title Content: St Paul Homeless Camp Sweeps are Illegal Evictions - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: January 11, 2021

Blog Post Content: The way we shut down camps is absolutely illegal and cruel and inhumane. It must end NOW.

As St. Paul homeless camps cleared, tough questions emerge | Duluth News Tribune

"How the (expletive) are you going to kick people out in the cold when I'm already out in the cold?" said Lance, who has made the streets of St. Paul his home for the better part of 25 years. "How do you kick me out when I'm already out?"

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/homeless-hate-is-real/>

og:title Content: Homeless Hate Is Real - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist
Blog Post Date: January 11, 2021

Blog Post Content: Vandal damages Portland tiny home village designed for homeless - KTVZ
PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) — Multnomah County officials and police say the opening of a tiny home village for homeless people in North Portland has been delayed after a vandal damaged nearly every sleeping pod in the shelter.

Officer Melissa Newhard, a Portland Police Bureau spokeswoman, told The Oregonian that the vandal entered the St. Johns Village on Dec. 19 and broke out windows in 15 of the shelter's 19 tiny homes.

The vandalism caused about \$8,000 damage in the newly purchased single-occupancy pods. Each of the pods is about 8-by-12 feet, with electricity, heat systems and a built-in bed.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/aurora-colorado-mayor-goes-undercover-as-a-homeless-man/>
og:title Content: Aurora Colorado Mayor Goes Undercover As a Homeless Man - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist
Blog Post Date: January 11, 2021

Blog Post Content: I don't know a lot of details about this situation. But apparently the mayor's conclusion after doing this is that staying at a camp is a lifestyle choice versus going to a shelter. I guess that's true if you are willing to: lose all your belongings. Leave your dog unattended in the freezing cold. Leave your spouse. Often be subjected to someone else's religion. Be humiliated. Be stuffed in a building with tons of other people during a pandemic. Be robbed. Be abused. Then yes. Not going into a shelter is a "lifestyle choice."

Homeless advocates upset with Aurora, Colorado mayor's decision to go undercover as homeless man | NewsNation Now

"When I said it was a choice, people got very offended," Coffman said. "But it is a choice to be in the encampment, and not in the shelter." On Thursday, more than a dozen elected officials and homeless advocates held a virtual press conference, criticizing Coffman's comments. "I think it's immoral and disgusting," said Englewood Council Member John Stone. "I think he should issue a formal, public apology for it."

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/lansing-michigan-throws-away-homeless-peoples-belongings/>
og:title Content: Lansing Michigan Throws Away Homeless People's Belongings - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist
Blog Post Date: January 11, 2021

Blog Post Content: Garbage trucks arrive at Back 40 homeless camp day after death
LANSING — City-funded garbage trucks arrived a homeless encampment Thursday morning, carting away several tents, sleeping bags and trash as residents broke down in tears. We must end this cruel and inhumane form of punishment for being poor. Cities hate homeless people. That's the only reason they are treated so terribly.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/aurora-mayor-mike-coffman-describes-why-he-immersed-himself-in-the-homeless-community/>
og:title Content: Aurora Mayor Mike Coffman describes why he immersed himself in the homeless community - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist
Blog Post Date: January 13, 2021

Blog Post Content: It's unfortunate that the mayor's conclusion ended so simplistically and unnuanced. "Those hippies just want to do drugs" does very little to think rationally about the situation. It also is extremely condescending to people who are addicted to drugs and alcohol and yet again made to look like losers by their mayor instead of what they are: people experiencing actual brain chemistry transformations due to addiction. Just the same, the drama this guy has caused is a good opportunity to continue the

conversation. He's just not a very thoughtful or educated or empathetic individual. Aurora Mayor Mike Coffman describes why he immersed himself in the homeless community. The real reason why the encampment inhabitants refuse to access the shelters is simple — the shelters have rules. One rule, in particular, keeps the encampment inhabitants out of shelters and that rule is that drugs and drug use are prohibited.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/needles-clog-bathroom-in-san-jose/>
og:title Content: Needles Clog Bathroom In San Jose - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist
Blog Post Date: January 14, 2021

Blog Post Content: Bullshit! Needles don't clog toilets. using t-shirts for feminine products does. San Jose cuts water in park with large homeless population, blames needles - San José Spotlight
But the water was turned off on Dec. 14 when drains in one of the bathrooms clogged and the facility flooded. Both of the restrooms were closed for two weeks and while one has since reopened, the other will remain closed.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/a-bodybuilding-pastor-homeless-advocate-scott-wagers-is-unapologetic-about-his-calling-san-jose-spotlight/>
og:title Content: A bodybuilding pastor: Homeless advocate Scott Wagers is unapologetic about his calling - San José Spotlight - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist
Blog Post Date: January 15, 2021

Blog Post Content: A bodybuilding pastor: Homeless advocate Scott Wagers is unapologetic about his calling - San José Spotlight
In 1997, in the middle of a cold El Niño winter, Wagers opened an informal homeless shelter at First Christian Church on South Fifth Street. About 100 people came in to sleep, according to Wagers, so he didn't flinch when San Jose threatened to fine him \$2,500 for keeping the shelter open. "They call me and say, 'You know, Pastor Scott, you can't have a shelter there. It's not legal.' I'm like, 'Well, I'll do what God wants me to do,'" Wagers said. "We're going to do our best because the homeless problem is out of control. We want to make sure that people are taken care of."

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/akron-had-more-killings-than-ever-in-2020/>
og:title Content: Akron had more killings than ever in 2020 - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist
Blog Post Date: January 18, 2021

Blog Post Content:
According to a Beacon Journal analysis of Akron police data, there were 843 gun-related crimes in the city in 2020, up from 473 in 2019. The neighborhoods hardest hit by the increases were East Akron (150), West Akron (137) and Kenmore (92).
I get the opportunity to work with some drug dealers and addicted adults in low income neighborhoods. I once saw a man try to cut another man's leg off with a machete.
My belief is that it all stems from hopelessness. None of these people know any relatives that had one of those good jobs at Goodyear. Today there is a lot of roofing that goes on. You get paid \$100 for the day and you work sun up to sun down. It's not uncommon to get stiffed on a job. Day labor is what most people hope for.
There are some manufacturing jobs. But nothing like the quality jobs we once had.
It's so easy to get discouraged. And then depressed. And then enraged.
I wrote this after reading this article:
After record year for killings, how will Akron respond to increase in violence?

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/small-managed-homeless-encampments-are-part-of-the-answer/>
og:title Content: Small managed homeless encampments are part of the answer - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist
Blog Post Date: January 18, 2021

Blog Post Content: Guest Commentary | Small managed homeless encampments are part of the answer – Santa Cruz Sentinel

We believe that small, managed encampments that have sanitary facilities, some measure of self-governance, security and on-site access to services and case management, including mental health and addiction services, are the reasonable and humane solution. The encampments need to be located on public properties that have been agreed upon, prepared in advance, and considered permanent for the foreseeable future.

This was written by:

AFCSC - Association of Faith Communities of Santa Cruz - Home

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/only-200000-per-bed-to-house-homeless-people-in-this-one-test-project/>
og:title Content: "Only" \$200,000 Per Bed to house homeless people in this one test project. - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist
Blog Post Date: January 19, 2021

Blog Post Content: L.A. project shows homeless housing can be done quickly, cheaply - Los Angeles Times
From start to finish in under five months and at a cost of about \$200,000 per bed, it has shaved years and hundreds of thousands of dollars off a traditional homeless housing project.

ARE YOU FUCKING ME RIGHT NOW?

There is no WAY we are going to house homeless people at \$200,000 per bed.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/fire-at-homeless-camp-during-inauguration-rehearsal/>
og:title Content: Fire At Homeless Camp During Inauguration Rehearsal - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist
Blog Post Date: January 19, 2021

Blog Post Content: It's like a cry for help (that was completely ignored).

Capitol lockdown lifted: Inauguration rehearsal participants briefly evacuated after fire in homeless camp | NewsNation Now

The U.S. Capitol complex temporarily locked down Monday during a rehearsal for President-elect Joe Biden's inauguration after a fire in a homeless encampment about a mile away sent a plume of smoke into the air and caused security concerns.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/police-are-sending-homeless-people-to-places-they-are-clearing-because-there-is-nowhere-else-to-send-them/>
og:title Content: Police Are Sending Homeless People To Places They Are Clearing Because There Is Nowhere Else To Send Them - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist
Blog Post Date: January 19, 2021

Blog Post Content: This is how fucked up homelessness has become.

They close services and then send people to those services because there is no other place to send them. Police OFTEN sent homeless people to our tent village that the city eventually closed.

Body cam footage captures Seattle officers directing homeless person to Cal Anderson Park for services | The Seattle Times

On Aug. 14, Seattle police cleared Cal Anderson Park of a homeless encampment and protesters who were occupying a parks building and distributing food to homeless people there. One week later, officers referred a hungry person living outside to the protesters who had again started distributing food at the park — the only place the officers could think of where that person could get help.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/addiction-in-the-homeless-community/>
og:title Content: Addiction In The Homeless Community - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist
Blog Post Date: January 21, 2021

Blog Post Content:

There is yet again another mean and hurtful conversation going on in the homeless community on facebook here:

I'm being accused of being a piece of shit. It's really nothing new. It comes up from time to time.

The conversation is going on that there are drugs in a transitional house run by the Homeless Charity.

I wrote something about my thoughts on addiction in the homeless community. I wanted to keep the

thoughts so here they are:

OK. Let's talk about drugs. But first, I have NOTHING to do with the Arlington house. I bring food pretty much every week. I drop it off and leave. I will be doing that tomorrow, for example.

Before I start let me make very clear: I AM NOT IN ANY ANY WAY REPRESENTING The Homeless Charity. I have no role there. They probably would not agree with what I'm about to say.

DRUGS DO NOT CAUSE HOMELESSNESS. Let me say it again: Drugs DO NOT cause homelessness.

Homelessness is a whole bunch of circumstances that align with the fact that there are not any safety nets in America. The only safety net in America is your family. If your family is not able to help you, you are totally fucked.

Using drugs is an effect of homelessness. Drugs are the only thing most homeless people can rely on. People always will eventually fail them. But drugs never will.

Because of that, drugs and alcohol become as crucial to an addict as food. In fact, probably more needed than food. Imagine if you were starving and hadn't eaten in a week. What do you think you would do to get food? THAT'S what it's like for someone addicted to drugs or alcohol.

You can never hope to even begin to address addiction until you start to build some form of trust and reliability in the world in addition to drugs. If I told you that you needed to lose weight and you need to stop eating all food to do it, you probably would tell me to go fuck myself. THAT's what we are doing to addicts. "Stop doing drugs." That's it. They are telling these people to stop eating and not providing another option for healthier food.

This is addiction. And this is addiction in the homeless community. Addiction isn't the problem. Building trust and hope and belief that there actually could be something else out there for that person.

That's where we are with homeless people.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/bacons-rebellion/>

og:title Content: Bacon's Rebellion - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: January 22, 2021

Blog Post Content:

Do you know about Bacon's Rebellion? In 1675 he united poor white people and black slaves to fight against rich white people.

This is my dream. To unite Proud Boys with Antifa. To unite QAnon with BLM.

The powerful have always intentionally divided poor people. And we fall for it every time.

United we stand. Divided we fall.

Learn more here.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/hazelnut-grove-homeless-village-to-be-cleared/>

og:title Content: Hazelnut Grove homeless village to be cleared - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: January 25, 2021

Blog Post Content: The truth of homeless camps sweeps is that they are doing exactly what they have always done to people that don't like... they are forcing them to move somewhere else.

Doing this is in our DNA. We did it with Native Americans. We did it with Japanese in World War II and now we're doing it with homeless people. Americans are cruel and inhumane. Period.

Portland vows to clear Hazelnut Grove homeless village | kgw.com

Barbara Weber, who's been living in Hazelnut Grove for about a year, said residents knew this might happen. Still, they're furious. "I've suffered chronic homelessness. I know what that feels like," Weber said in an interview Tuesday. "That's it. And I want to be with this community, and [the city] promised to move this community to land where they could be self-governed together, not ripped apart."

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/san-rafael-homeless-campers-evicted/>

og:title Content: San Rafael homeless campers evicted - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: January 25, 2021

Blog Post Content: This is an unlawful eviction. Only homeless people are given 5 days to evict. And isn't there a moratorium on evictions anyway?

San Rafael homeless campers evicted from site below freeway
Caltrans officials served the campers an eviction notice on Friday, giving them until 8 a.m. on Tuesday to vacate the site, Barclay said.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/sacramento-city-council-approves-rules-allowing-homeless-encampments-on-safe-ground-sites/>
og:title Content: Sacramento City Council Approves Rules Allowing Homeless Encampments On 'Safe Ground' Sites - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist
Blog Post Date: January 25, 2021

Blog Post Content: This is the future! I guarantee it. There is no other way.
Sacramento City Council Approves Rules Allowing Homeless Encampments On 'Safe Ground' Sites - capradio.org
The Sacramento City Council voted 8 to 1 on Tuesday to approve the "safe ground" ordinance, a framework for allowing homeless encampments and tiny homes on properties that meet certain safety requirements.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/save-austin-now-looks-to-put-the-homeless-camping-ban-on-the-may-ballot/>
og:title Content: Save Austin Now looks to put the homeless camping ban on the May ballot - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist
Blog Post Date: January 25, 2021

Blog Post Content: Save Austin Now looks to put the homeless camping ban on the May ballot | KXAN Austin
"Homelessness is not being addressed right now. Telling a homeless person they can sleep in a tent in 30-degree weather, give them no mental health treatment, no drug and alcohol treatment, no food, no real shelter — that's worse for the homeless. We're not anti-homeless, we're anti-camping," said Cofounder of Save Austin Now Matt Mackowiak.
No. You are anti-homeless Matt

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/duluth-is-building-yurts-for-homeless-people/>
og:title Content: Duluth is building yurts for homeless people - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist
Blog Post Date: January 25, 2021

Blog Post Content: This isn't hard. Allowing people to freeze to death unsheltered in immoral, inhumane and cruel. Anyone who thinks withholding shelter from a person with no shelter is evil and cruel.
Duluth advocates push ahead with yurts-for-homeless initiative | Duluth News Tribune
"Indigenous people have lived this way for all of our existence. We know how to make a community together and support each other already, from the bare basics. I've come from wood stoves. I've come from an outhouse life. When I was little, that's how we lived. So, this isn't anything different than that," she said.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/pallet-creating-prefab-tiny-homes-for-the-homeless/>
og:title Content: Pallet creating prefab tiny homes for the homeless - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist
Blog Post Date: January 25, 2021

Blog Post Content: I feel like \$5000 is still too expensive. But I like these. A lot.
Pallet creating prefab tiny homes for the homeless - Business Insider
"What we felt was really missing from the housing spectrum was a dignified shelter option that honored their individuality and allowed them to have autonomy in their rehabilitation process," Amy King, founder and CEO of Pallet, told Insider.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/i-love-fred-hampton/>
og:title Content: I Love Fred Hampton - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist
Blog Post Date: January 25, 2021

Blog Post Content:
"We got to face some facts. That the masses are poor, that the masses belong to what you call the lower

class, and when I talk about the masses, I'm talking about the white masses, I'm talking about the black masses, and the brown masses, and the yellow masses, too....We're gonna fight racism with solidarity... capitalism with socialism."—Fred Hampton, Deputy Chairman, Chicago chapter of the Black Panther Party, 1969 (Hampton 1969).

I believe SO strongly that we need to unite people who hate each other... namely white poor people with black poor people. If we can do that the country is ours. We control the levers of power.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/the-former-super-k-mart-at-winchester-and-riverdale-has-now-become-a-small-homeless-camp/>

og:title Content: The former "Super K-Mart" at Winchester and Riverdale has now become a small homeless camp - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: January 27, 2021

Blog Post Content: "It makes us look really bad as a city." - this is the essence of the entire homeless epidemic. People are embarrassed they have poor people that have nowhere to live.

Hickory Hill residents frustrated with homeless living outside vacant building

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/2-homeless-people-died-during-storm-overnight/>

og:title Content: 2 Homeless People Died During Storm Overnight - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: January 28, 2021

Blog Post Content:

This only happens for one reason: We judge homeless people for their suffering. And so we leave them to freeze to death on the streets of the most Christian, richest country in the world.

2 Homeless People Died During Storm Overnight, Sacramento Mayor Says – CBS Sacramento

"Just confirmed that one unhoused person died last night in my district. I'm beyond grief-stricken... I'm angry. We can and MUST do better for our neighbors."

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/the-african-american-criminal/>

og:title Content: The African American Criminal - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: January 29, 2021

Blog Post Content:

Ibram X. Kendi 's book "Stamped from the Beginning" is SO powerful. While oppression is everywhere in America, there is not a group that comes anywhere near the downward pressure African Americans have been subjected to ever since the early 1600s. Africans in America have always been seen as ignorant criminals. That's how they were portrayed to me every Saturday night on Cops. That's how they are being portrayed by Joe Biden who is another white man telling them that they are wrong to say something as politically "dangerous" as "defund the police."Africans can't kneel in unity. Africans can't suggest defunding the police. Africans are continually told by white people to just shut up and take it. Conservatives have every right to be outraged about how they are being treated as pawns by the Republicans and how they are despised by Democrats.But if Africans were ever to lead a revolt the ONLY response white people should ever have is: WE STAND WITH YOU. Quite honestly, I don't see how Africans in America have been so patient for so long. They have tried marching. They have tried singing. They have tried legislation. And still, by every metric, they are still seen as second class citizens who are mostly criminals. 1619-2021- African Americans are still seen as sex driven, animalistic murderers who are coming to rape our white women and steal our possessions. That's what has always been taught to white people. Always. Homelessness is a humanitarian catastrophe right now. But African American slavery is 400 years of atrocity to one race of people. Oppression is too light a word. We have criminalized an entire race of people. What is that even called?I see why my fellow Akronite John Brown was so committed to the cause.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/the-people-stand-with-their-homeless-brothers-and-sisters-in-bellingham-washington/>

og:title Content: The People Stand With Their Homeless Brothers and Sisters in Bellingham Washington - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist
Blog Post Date: January 29, 2021

Blog Post Content:

If you have learned nothing else in 2020 I hope you learned that you simply can't ask the government nicely to bring justice to its people. There is no other alternative other than fighting for it.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/opinion-how-many-americans-are-homeless-no-one-knows-the-new-york-times/>
og:title Content: Opinion | How Many Americans Are Homeless? No One Knows - The New York Times - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist
Blog Post Date: January 29, 2021

Blog Post Content: We don't count homeless people accurately because we don't want to let on what an incredible nightmare is truly going on in the richest, most Christian country in the world.

Opinion | How Many Americans Are Homeless? No One Knows - The New York Times

The government pretends that the problem is smaller than it actually is. It estimated last year that nearly 568,000 Americans were homeless in January 2019. That figure is not just badly out of date. It was clearly wrong at the time, too.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/rochester-police-handcuff-and-pepper-spray-a-9-year-old-girl/>
og:title Content: Rochester police handcuff and pepper spray a 9-year-old girl - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist
Blog Post Date: February 1, 2021

Blog Post Content:

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/for-the-first-time-sacramento-opens-parking-garage-to-provide-homeless-shelter-from-winter-storms/>
og:title Content: For the first time, Sacramento opens parking garage to provide homeless shelter from winter storms - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist
Blog Post Date: February 1, 2021

Blog Post Content: For the first time, Sacramento opens parking garage to provide homeless shelter from winter storms

"We mobilized that in just a few hours," said Daniel Bowers, director of emergency services for the City of Sacramento. "[There's] onsite security throughout the night, they can park in a protected area and they can get a good night's rest."

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/protesters-for-the-homeless-told-to-leave-vacant-building-in-kalamazoo/>
og:title Content: Protesters for the homeless told to leave vacant building in Kalamazoo - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist
Blog Post Date: February 1, 2021

Blog Post Content: Protesters for the homeless told to leave vacant building in Kalamazoo | WWMT KALAMAZOO, Mich. — A group of activists for the homeless took over a former publishing building in Kalamazoo near a homeless encampment and were vacated by police.

A group calling themselves No One Needs To Sleep Outside entered the former home of the Merchants Publishing Company, 20 Mills St., in Kalamazoo on Friday, Jan. 29, 2021, and hung banners claiming the building was vacant and it should be used to house the homeless.

The protesters were told to leave the building by Kalamazoo police, who took down the banners on the

building.

The group said on Twitter that no one was arrested. Kalamazoo City Manager Jim Ritsema released a statement: "At the request of the property owners, the Kalamazoo Department of Public Safety responded to 20 Mills Street and helped vacate and secure the building. We are working closely with our partners, including the Continuum of Care, to determine short and long-term housing options for our city's vulnerable homeless population."

Homeless: The homeless at the encampment talked about their issues with News Channel 3

The building was located near a homeless encampment, which had an explosion because of propane tanks Jan. 24. The two-story 32,045 square-foot building was built in the 1930s and listed for sale by Jaqua Realtors. It was the former home of the Merchants Publishing Company, which was founded in 1882. The Kalamazoo County Land Bank took over the building from foreclosure in 2015 and have worked with the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy, to clean up contamination at the site.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/save-our-community-neighbors-protest-against-plan-to-house-homeless-people-at-northwest-austin-hotel/>

og:title Content: 'Save our community': Neighbors protest against plan to house homeless people at northwest Austin hotel - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: February 1, 2021

Blog Post Content: 'Save our community': Neighbors protest against plan to house homeless people at northwest Austin hotel | KXAN Austin

AUSTIN (KXAN) — Neighbors of a northwest Austin hotel touted as a potential location to house homeless people voiced their opposition to the plans on Sunday morning.

Dozens of people gathered for a protest by the Candlewood Suites hotel on Pecan Park Boulevard.

This week, Austin City Council will vote on a proposal to buy the property and use it to provide transitional housing for people experiencing homelessness.

During the protest Sunday morning, neighbors of the hotel argued that the plan would not solve Austin's homelessness problem. People protest against a plan to use a hotel to house homeless people

(KXAN/Mariano Garza)

MOST READ: LIST: Which Central Texas providers are getting COVID-19 vaccine doses in Week 8 Some said the location would not help homeless people, while others said it would impact the community, citing safety concerns. On Wednesday, the city council approved the purchase of the Texas Bungalows & Suites on Burnet Road in north Austin for an amount to not exceed \$6.7 million. A vote on Candlewood Suites was also due to take place last week, but the decision was postponed at the request of Council Member Mackenzie Kelly, who requested an additional week to share the plan with the public.

People protest against a plan to use a hotel to house homeless people (KXAN/Mariano Garza) "Yes, we have a homelessness crisis, but treating every proposal as a dire emergency to circumvent dialogue is bad policy," Kelly said in a statement to KXAN.

"The City, in a lot of ways, has lost the trust of the community regarding the homeless situation, particularly since the lifting of the camping ban was pushed through early one Austin morning."

MOST READ: Deadly rear-end crash catches Amazon truck on fire, shuts down SH 71 near Montopolis If the plan is approved, the two properties would add 148 rooms for the city's use. "I think the message we need to be sending to the community is that we're going to move with great urgency to get people out of tents and off our streets," Mayor Steve Adler said. "I think the motel strategy is the most efficient way for us to do that."

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/salt-lake-city-activist-allows-new-homeless-encampment-on-his-front-lawn/>

og:title Content: Salt Lake City activist allows new homeless encampment on his front lawn - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: February 1, 2021

Blog Post Content: If just a few people would be willing to shelter homeless people and they were seen as heroes and not pariahs homelessness would be over tomorrow.

Salt Lake City activist allows new homeless encampment on his front lawn

"I just think that's it's a lot better environment to have somebody open their yard and pretty much their homes up to those that need it," he said, noting that he wished more people would follow suit. "This is like compassion, almost. They are opening up their homes and they're risking their freedom and their security to

help provide us with security and comfort.” Frederick Hidalgo, who said he has been homeless for about seven years, had moved into the camp the week before and said it already felt “like a home.” “This is where the peace is at,” he said, warming his hands against one of several fires burning in pits spaced throughout the camp. “I love it.”

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/large-homeless-encampment-reappears-in-east-oakland-business-owners-neighbors-begging-city-officials-to-take-action/>

og:title Content: Large Homeless Encampment Reappears In East Oakland; Business Owners, Neighbors Begging City Officials To Take Action - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: February 1, 2021

Blog Post Content: STAND STRONG HOUSELESS PEOPLE! You are right. They are wrong.

Large Homeless Encampment Reappears In East Oakland; Business Owners, Neighbors Begging City Officials To Take Action – CBS San Francisco

A police officer and neighbors said the homeless broke down a fence and took over the large lot next to the High Street Home Depot about three months ago. Now, the privately owned lot is packed with RV's, cars, and tents.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/local-churches-house-homeless-from-snow-storm-in-harrisburg-pa/>

og:title Content: Local churches house homeless from snow storm in Harrisburg PA - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: February 1, 2021

Blog Post Content: Doing what is right isn't hard once you wake up to the fact that it is a moral necessity to do so.

Local churches house homeless from snow storm

HARRISBURG, Pa. (WHTM) — The Christian Churches United Men's and Women's winter overnight shelters in Harrisburg are opening earlier Sunday and Monday due to the snow, according to their website.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/activists-take-over-washington-hotel-to-demand-housing-for-homeless-during-pandemic/>

og:title Content: Activists take over Washington hotel to demand housing for homeless during pandemic - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: February 2, 2021

Blog Post Content: If you are new to this fight you need to know that we have asked kindly for YEARS. There is not much left to do other than what these people are doing.

Activists take over Washington hotel to demand housing for homeless during pandemic - ABC News

Members of a housing advocacy group were arrested in Washington state Sunday after they allegedly stormed a hotel in Olympia and occupied it while demanding better care for people living on the streets. Olympia police said around 11 a.m., around 45 members of the group Oly Housing Now, some of whom were reportedly armed with hatchets, batons and knives and had gas masks, helmets and goggles, gathered outside the Red Lion Hotel in Olympia and made their way inside. Oly Housing Now released a statement in which it claimed the members took the hotel for "emergency pandemic housing," and demanded the city pay for rooms using Federal Emergency Management Agency funding.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/new-homeless-camp-appears-after-bellingham-sweep-near-city-hall/>

og:title Content: New homeless camp appears after Bellingham sweep near City Hall - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: February 2, 2021

Blog Post Content: Homeless people have every right in the book to be angry.

New homeless camp appears after Bellingham sweep near City Hall | king5.com

Neighbors fear the camp will increase crime, drive away business and spark clashes similar to what was seen at City Hall.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/council-mayor-to-consider-permanent-homeless-encampment-site-near->

downtown-indianapolis/

og:title Content: Council, mayor to consider permanent homeless encampment site near downtown

Indianapolis - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: February 2, 2021

Blog Post Content: There truly isn't any other morally acceptable solution than this. We need triage emergency shelter for every single American who needs it TONIGHT.

Council, mayor to consider permanent homeless encampment site near downtown Indianapolis | Fox 59

The city would also seek out a piece of property, likely zoned industrial, in the greater downtown area where a homeless encampment site could be established with trash and sanitation provisions, restrooms and showers, on-site management and access to transportation and service providers.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/oregon-could-limit-bans-on-homeless-camping/>

og:title Content: Oregon could limit bans on homeless camping - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: February 3, 2021

Blog Post Content: These kinds of laws are a start to end anti-homeless policy. Everyone must be able to live somewhere in their own city regardless of how much money they have. Safe spaces for tents is a requirement for everyone that needs or wants it.

Oregon could limit bans on homeless camping - OPB

Cities and counties around Oregon would be unable to enact sweeping laws banning homeless people from camping on public land, under a bill introduced by House Speaker Tina Kotek Tuesday. Instead, under House Bill 3115, local governments would be required to adopt policies that are "objectively reasonable" in regulating when, where and how people can live outdoors in the midst of a worsening housing crisis. If cities enforced more restrictive measures, impacted homeless people could sue to stop them.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/san-jose-business-owners-say-they-are-fed-up-with-homeless/>

og:title Content: San Jose business owners say they are fed up with homeless - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: February 3, 2021

Blog Post Content: We live in a country where it is completely acceptable to display homeless hate.

'Do something!' -San Jose business owners say they are fed up with homeless - San José Spotlight

"We will soon see a hero before us to rid the world of these parasites who infect and destroy life and property," Arturo Lionetti, plant manager at Airgas, wrote in an email to Councilmember Raul Perez.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/homeless-people-refuse-to-allow-homeless-woman-to-buy-tacos-before-church/>

og:title Content: Homeless People Refuse To Allow Homeless Woman To Buy Tacos Before Church - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: February 7, 2021

Blog Post Content:

I don't know what the homeless people are against this woman's pre-church taco obsession but they are and SOMETHING MUST BE DONE ABOUT IT.

<https://news4sanantonio.com/news/local/city-crews-to-clear-out-homeless-camp-behind-councilmans-office>

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/nytimes-after-abuse-allegations-2-billion-homeless-shelter-network-faces-scrutiny/>

og:title Content: NYTimes: After Abuse Allegations, \$2 Billion Homeless Shelter Network Faces Scrutiny - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: February 7, 2021

Blog Post Content:

After Abuse Allegations, \$2 Billion Shelter Network Faces Scrutiny <https://nyti.ms/3p2GAKd>

This New York homeless leader abused women, gave plum jobs to his family and got rich. This is extreme. BUT I'M TELLING YOU: Homeless people are nothing other than a paycheck to ALL these agencies that get millions of dollars from the government.
"In 15+ years in govt and housing nonprofit, I can't recall seeing anything as egregious as this-a powerful CEO coercing clients into sex in exchange for helping them," Mr. Levin, the chairman of the committee that oversees the city's social service programs, said on Twitter
Another shelter provider, Childrens Community Services, first came under scrutiny in 2017, when the city noticed irregularities and installed a fiscal monitor to oversee its operations, records show. But the city continued to award money to the group until last year, when, in a lawsuit, it accused the provider of fraud, bid-rigging and other financial misdeeds.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/stillwater-man-adopts-minneapolis-homeless-camps/>
og:title Content: Stillwater man adopts Minneapolis homeless camps - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist
Blog Post Date: February 8, 2021

Blog Post Content:
Ring, who owns Ring Lawn Care in Stillwater, is one of the camp's favorite aid workers, said Prince, who's been living in homeless camps for the past six months.
"He knows what it's like because he lived like this, too," Prince said. "The struggle is real. It's especially hard in winter. And Bryan's a really great help. He volunteers all over the place. He's good people."
<https://www.twincities.com/2021/02/07/stillwater-man-is-godsend-to-people-living-in-minneapolis-homeless-camps/>

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/bellingham-gives-notice-to-clear-homeless-camp-near-citys-civic-athletic-complex-komo/>
og:title Content: Bellingham gives notice to clear homeless camp near city's Civic Athletic Complex | KOMO - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist
Blog Post Date: February 8, 2021

Blog Post Content:
BELLINGHAM, Wash. – Bellingham city officials have given people living at a homeless camp in the parking lot of the city's Civic Athletic Complex until 4 p.m. Friday to pack up and leave.
<https://komonews.com/news/local/bellingham-gives-notice-to-clear-homeless-camp-near-citys-civic-athletic-complex>

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/city-clears-homeless-camp-under-amoskeag-bridge-following-fire-social-issues-unionleader-com/>
og:title Content: City clears homeless camp under Amoskeag Bridge following fire | Social Issues | unionleader.com - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist
Blog Post Date: February 8, 2021

Blog Post Content:
https://www.unionleader.com/news/social_issues/city-clears-homeless-camp-under-amoskeag-bridge-following-fire/article_d85116af-7745-5d39-a9d8-358f6226daf2.html
People who for months had been sleeping in a camp under the Amoskeag Bridge on Canal Street rushed to pack their things late last week after the fire department ordered the camp cleared following a fire there Wednesday night. By Saturday, there was almost no trace of the large camp, with the 20 or so people who had been there taking shelter beds or going to other camps around the city.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/tiny-home-village-for-homeless-people-opens-in-north-hollywood-ktla/>
og:title Content: Tiny home village for homeless people opens in North Hollywood | KTLA - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist
Blog Post Date: February 8, 2021

Blog Post Content:
<https://ktla.com/news/local-news/l-a-s-1st-tiny-home-village-for-homeless-people-opens-in-north-hollywood/>
The village, which has 40 homes and 75 beds for people experiencing homelessness, is one of the first

communities of this kind to open its doors in Los Angeles County. Redondo Beach set up a similar village in 2020.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/comparing-a-homeless-person-to-a-third-grader/>

og:title Content: Comparing a Homeless Person To A Third Grader - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: February 8, 2021

Blog Post Content:

I have been a substitute teacher for the last year or so.

I started in the Akron Public Schools. And now I'm at a private school.

I'm incredibly fortunate in my life right now to be able to experiment with different pursuits. For example, I have an interest in working at McDonald's at some point. I'd like to experience that. I'm also very interested in what it's like working at one of the Amazon warehouses.

I can't tell you exactly why I want to do these things. I can't quite put my finger on it. But I think it has something to do with understanding people. All people fascinate me. And I really love relating one group of people with another group of people.

So I think there was always an aspect of substituting that aimed at understanding young people. I'm also working on a school methodology called Demass Learning.

One curiosity I had was to see if I could find similarities in young people to homeless people. For example, is a homeless person living at a stunted form of development? Could I see similarities in a 10 year old in comparison to a homeless person?

This idea is particularly interesting in a Waldorf School (where I'm currently subbing).

Here is a statement about why the Old Testament is taught to third graders in Waldorf Schools.

"In the third grade the children no longer "swallow" the teacher's words. They are more critical. "Who are you?" they ask. "Are you always correct? Will you always decide over me?" The threshold is not severe, but there is more distance, not only to the teacher but also to everyone else in the child's life. A pseudo-estrangement occurs. The teacher becomes just one of the teachers and the parents become just people among other people."

"The continuous and underlying theme of the Old Testament is a similar estrangement, but it appears between people and God. The people in the Bible lived under the pressure of God who commanded strictly, "You shall and you shall not!" We are aware of an almighty, invisible power as God's fingers write the universal laws!"

It's possible to expect to see similarities in thinking in homeless people as well.

In short, a homeless person is not a third grader.

A homeless person is clearly beyond Piaget's 4th and final Formal Operational stage of cognitive development that occurs at age 12 and up. "Teens begin to think more about moral, philosophical, ethical, social, and political issues that require theoretical and abstract reasoning. "

A homeless person, if nothing else, has highly constructed moral and ethical and philosophical ideas about the world in which they live.

Sharing

Interestingly, in my experience, a homeless person is much more sharing than your average third grader. If I were to give a pack of M&Ms to an average third grader I would expect to see a fair amount of hoarding. They might give a few pieces to a couple close friends. But they certainly wouldn't feel great about giving them all away.

On the other hand, if I give a pack of cigarettes to a homeless person you can expect that pack to be gone within minutes.

It's not that the homeless person is more altruistic than the third grader. They just live in a sharing community. That's the only way you can survive without money. This is a learned behavior.

Eye for an eye

I do see a similarity in the eye for an eye principle. Third graders seem to say "He started it!" just as much as homeless people do. But again, this is a learned trait of a homeless person. Act like a victim and you'll be a victim. Prison culture teaches this too.

I feel like being a third grader can be physically scary. If you are the target of a bully you are living in a very traumatic environment. This is very similar to being homeless. The only thing you can do, besides being abused, is to stand up and fight back. No matter how much an authority figure tells you to be nice and kind, they are not the one being perpetually attacked. This is very reminiscent of homelessness. No one calls the police to protect a third grader and no one calls the police to protect a homeless person.

Though a third grader's trauma may stick with them their entire lives, if they are from a wealthy family they will quickly learn that their money becomes a defensive weapon. They can move or sue or any other variety of things.

A homeless person has no defense like that. They are in an ocean of attack and brutality. They have no choice but to become hard and accepting. You have never met a stronger person than a single homeless woman.

A homeless person is not regressing or stalling out developmentally. They are adapting. We all develop in response to our environment. A homeless person is as developmentally advanced as any other adult human. They just have found that they need to develop in different ways for survival.

I would love to do a study of childhood trauma in the homeless population. My theory is that they have experienced far more trauma throughout their entire lives than the average American. This trauma is profoundly transformative.

Stealing

Homeless people do opportunistic stealing far more than a typical third grader. Again, this has nothing to do with altruism or innate goodness in either group. Most third graders are afraid of the consequences of stealing. Most homeless people are afraid of the consequences of not stealing.

For some homeless people stealing becomes a career.

My instinct is that I would find more similarities in a hunter gathering society or a Romani society that is much more nomadic and itinerant than average.

My purpose in this is to open up the idea of understanding homeless people. We have done almost no research in the behaviors of homeless people. Thanks to people like Jane Goodall, we understand chimpanzees better than we do homeless people. This must change.

I simply cannot see how we are ever going to "solve" homelessness if we don't actually understand homeless people.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/german-city-installs-pods-for-homeless-people-to-sleep-in/>
og:title Content: German City Installs Pods For Homeless People To Sleep In - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: February 8, 2021

Blog Post Content:

German City Installs Pods For Homeless People To Sleep In

We've got homeless people who can't go to shelters, and we don't want them to freeze to death. Can you do something about this?' And our experts selected this as a task for us to work on."

Look how soft Germans have become. "we don't want them to freeze to death". LOSERS! /s

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/preparing-for-the-akron-city-council-and-mayor-primary-in-may-of-2023/>
og:title Content: Preparing for the Akron City Council and Mayor Primary in May of 2023 - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: February 8, 2021

Blog Post Content:

I want you to start thinking about running for Akron City Council or Akron Mayor in 2023. It's SO hard to beat the oppressive Summit County Dems machine. YOU NEED TO START THINKING ABOUT IT NOW.If you run as a Democrat (which you should. Akron only votes for Democrats) then your election is going to be in May of 2023. These are the numbers you need to get to win your primary in your Ward. You need to be looking at "Ballots Cast".

I will do all I can to help you win, if you want to run. I'll get you a web site and we can have meetings to talk about strategy. If this is of interest to you please join my newsletter list here:

<https://sagerock.wufoo.com/forms/q1jply731xr29mq/>

Please remember that the City of Akron will redraw their Ward boundaries at some point over the next 2 years, and these new boundaries will be used for the 2023 candidacy petitions and election. The portion of the Charter that deals with redistricting is found at SECTION 28a. - REDISTRICTING. | Code of Ordinances | Akron, OH | Municode Library.

Section 28 of the Akron Charter addresses your "residential requirements" question. Here is the link.SECTION

28. - COMPOSITION OF COUNCIL, TERMS, SALARIES AND VACANCIES. | Code of Ordinances | Akron, OH | Municode Library

A copy of the 2019 Election Calendar is still available at Microsoft Word - 2019 Demo Election Dates (summitcountyboe.gov) and the portion of Akron's Charter that deals with "Nominations and Elections" is found at NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS | Code of Ordinances | Akron, OH | Municode Library.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/police-let-homeless-camps-grow-while-taking-new-approach-to-combat-problem-in-sparks-krnv/>

og:title Content: Police let homeless camps grow while taking new approach to combat problem in Sparks | KRNv - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: February 9, 2021

Blog Post Content:

<https://mynews4.com/on-your-side/sparks-police-let-homeless-camp-grow-take-different-approach-to-combat-problem>

Instead of clearing out the homeless and throwing away their belongings like many other communities, Sparks has taken a different approach. In fact, police welcome the homeless at Gateway Park at 21st and Greg streets.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/we-got-rules-down-here-east-bay-homeless-camps-are-getting-organized-east-bay-times/>

og:title Content: 'We got rules down here.' East Bay homeless camps are getting organized – East Bay Times - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: February 9, 2021

Blog Post Content:

This group is helping people better organize their homeless camps.

'We got rules down here.' East Bay homeless camps are getting organized

The meeting was part of an experiment started by the tiny grassroots group Safe Organized Spaces Richmond, which tries to organize homeless communities and help them establish leadership structures, rules and codes of conduct. Unhoused members get paid small stipends in exchange for taking on tasks such as security, trash pickup and cleaning the encampment. The goal is to make the camps more habitable for residents and less of a burden on the surrounding community.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/boise-idaho-homeless-people-have-just-won-their-anti-homeless-war/>

og:title Content: Boise Idaho Homeless People Have Just Won Their Anti-Homeless War - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: February 9, 2021

Blog Post Content:

This is a huge step forward for the fundamental and basic human right to be able to live somewhere if you have nowhere else to go.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/oregon-bill-aims-to-largely-ban-sit-lie-laws/>

og:title Content: Oregon bill aims to largely ban 'sit-lie' laws - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: February 9, 2021

Blog Post Content:

This is another major, hopeful turn of events for homeless people in West coast states. People are finally waking up to the idea that homelessness is an emergency situation. It is not a choice. Here's the article: <https://www.kgw.com/article/news/local/homeless/oregon-bill-aims-mostly-ban-sit-lie-laws/283-7f6933c9-5f50-4b35-b9fb-b6067991ff7f>

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/man-is-godsend-to-people-living-in-minneapolis-homeless-camps/>
og:title Content: Man is 'godsend' to people living in Minneapolis homeless camps - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist
Blog Post Date: February 10, 2021

Blog Post Content:
Man is 'godsend' to people living in Minneapolis homeless camps | Grand Forks Herald
Ring, of Stillwater, had driven over for the day with a pickup truck full of supplies. It was 10 degrees and he was prepared. His Ford F-350 pickup truck was packed with sleeping bags, food, hand warmers, propane tanks and winter clothes, neatly labeled in bins. One huge black garbage bag was filled with men's winter coats; another had sweatshirts.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/asheville-leaders-discuss-destruction-of-homeless-camp/>
og:title Content: Asheville leaders discuss destruction of homeless camp - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist
Blog Post Date: February 10, 2021

Blog Post Content:
ASHEVILLE, N.C. (WLOS) — Asheville City Council addressed last week's homeless camp controversy during their meeting Tuesday night. NCDOT crews cleared a homeless camp of seven to 10 people underneath the Lexington bridge below Interstate 240 in downtown Asheville earlier this month.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/propane-tank-heater-for-homeless-people-explodes/>
og:title Content: Propane tank heater for homeless people explodes - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist
Blog Post Date: February 10, 2021

Blog Post Content:
Emergency heat is a serious issue that needs addressed. This video is based on this story.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/we-should-all-be-sick-of-the-homeless-issue-opinion/>
og:title Content: We should all be sick of the 'homeless issue' | Opinion - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist
Blog Post Date: February 11, 2021

Blog Post Content:
This is an opinion piece written by Taylor Biro. I found it here. Taylor is a community activist and social worker. She specializes in working with folks who are living outside and who are at risk of exploitation.
Re: "Neighborhood opposes location of City Walk shelter," Feb. 7, 2021
I am sick of the "homeless issue" on Mahan and Monroe. I cannot believe we have allowed these dangerous people to tarnish our town for this long — and I'm not talking about people experiencing homelessness. I'm talking about the "concerned citizens" and public officials who are spewing anti-homeless propaganda because they are just now having to deal with the "homeless issue."
As somebody who has worked for the past decade with people experiencing homelessness, let me share what I know to be true: The majority of people battling with significant substance misuse are living inside stable housing; over 90% of children who are sexually assaulted know their abuser; and nearly all the people living with a severe mental illness are not homeless, they are living indoors as your neighbors.
The main difference is a lot of folks who are homeless lack adequate support systems. Our community can

either be their temporary support or deepen their problems. The path we choose will come back to us as our community karma.

What did we think was going to happen when the city booted everybody out of Lake Ella and sent in police to slash tents and clear out camps? Where did you think everyone was going to go when all the shelters were full due to the pandemic?

And, this may be an unpopular opinion, but I no longer think we have had a significant increase in homelessness in our community due to COVID. I think folks experiencing homelessness are just no longer hidden inside coffee shops, libraries and day centers. More people are having to open their eyes to what homelessness looks like in our community. And I say, let 'em look.

I want everyone to be inconvenienced by homelessness, because then we can't ignore it. We can't ignore that folks go to bed hungry, that women are exploited each night for a place to lay their head, that children are disappeared into foster care, and that our jails are spilling over because we as a community have failed each other.

We have this idea that people who are living in homeless shelters are mooching off the system for years and years, but the truth is, most of the people staying in our homeless shelters will self-resolve in only a few weeks or a month. Most people just need boost of support and then they are back on their feet.

To be clear, I'm not saying City Walk was right or wrong with how they opened the shelter.

But say City Walk does end up moving. Where would you like them to go? Seems to me nobody wants a homeless shelter near their home, kids or business. Where should we exile these people so they don't affect our property value or sully our view?

Well, maybe they should go into homes — because that is the only way to end the "homeless issue." And lucky for us, that also happens to be the most cost-effective way to end homelessness.

So put down the pitchforks and join us in battling the real homeless issue. Together we can work to increase affordable housing, vote for a livable wage, pass free health care and comprehensive mental health care, abolish prisons, and just sit in right relations with one another.

A brighter future starts when we see value in all our neighbors and stop defining people's worth by their productivity. Just disappearing these folks and telling them they matter less hurts all of us. And this anti-homeless rhetoric on social media and in public meetings is uglier than anything I've ever seen on Mahan or Monroe Street.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/san-pedro-developer-intentionally-tortured-nearby-homeless-people/>
og:title Content: San Pedro Developer Intentionally Tortured Nearby Homeless People - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: February 11, 2021

Blog Post Content: Make no mistake, this man's goal was to hurt and torture local homeless people. But because he did it to homeless people he won't see any consequences of his actions.

Jerico Development Sorry for Blasting Barney Song to Deter Homeless

...the choice of the Barney theme song was highlighted in Twitter posts. It has come to be known as a "torture song," favored by U.S. government agencies like the CIA for the purpose of breaking detainees' resistance. The innocuous lyrics supposedly serve to heighten the sense of "futility" for those subjected to it over an extended period.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/advocates-for-homeless-sue-n-y-c-subway-system-over-covid-rules/>
og:title Content: Advocates for Homeless Sue N.Y.C. Subway System Over Covid Rules - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: February 14, 2021

Blog Post Content:

Advocates for Homeless Sue N.Y.C. Subway System Over Covid Rules - The New York Times

Advocates for homeless people in New York City sued the Metropolitan Transportation Authority on Friday over a series of Covid-19 rules that the suit says unfairly target people who shelter in the city's subways. The rules prohibit people from staying in a subway station for more than an hour or after a train is taken out of service, and ban carts more than 30 inches long or wide. They were enacted on an emergency basis last April and made permanent in September. Because those experiencing homelessness in New York City are disproportionately Black and Latino and people living with disabilities, the rules violate state human and civil rights law, the suit says. It also says that the rules were enacted without proper review.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/homeless-man-freezes-to-death-one-block-away-from-shelter/>
og:title Content: Homeless man freezes to death one block away from shelter - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist
Blog Post Date: February 14, 2021

Blog Post Content:

The question is: what was wrong with the shelter that this man felt that a tent was better than a shelter. And don't say it was because he wanted to do drugs. People do drugs in shelters all the time.
Oklahoma Police: Homeless man freezes to death one block away from shelter
TUSLA, Okla. (CNN) - Police in Oklahoma are concerned about the homeless population as cold weather continues to sweep the area. They say a homeless man froze to death He was found Thursday covered in only a sleeping bag. Police say he was just steps away from the Salvation Army and the Center of Home. One reverend says the man had been homeless for at least 15 years. "For an elder to die in a tent on a sidewalk in Tulsa, Oklahoma is a hard pill to swallow, and it should give us a moment for pause especially with what we are looking at over the next few days," Rev. Steve Whittaker of John 3:16 Mission said. The National Weather Service says Tulsa could see up to 8 inches of snow Sunday into Monday.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/fire-doused-at-kalamazoo-homeless-camp/>
og:title Content: Fire doused at Kalamazoo homeless camp - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist
Blog Post Date: February 14, 2021

Blog Post Content: We must be experimenting with new, safer and inexpensive forms of heating for homeless people.

Fire doused at Kalamazoo homeless camp | WOODTV.com

KALAMAZOO, Mich. (WOOD) — Crews were called Friday to put out another fire at a homeless encampment in Kalamazoo. The fire broke out around 7 p.m. an at a camp in the area of Mills and Oneil streets, along the Kalamazoo River. The Kalamazoo Department of Public Safety says responding officers found several tents on fire. They put the fire out within 10 minutes. No one was hurt. Crews have responded to a few fires at homeless camps in the area in the last few weeks. They have generally been the result of people trying to keep warm amid frigid temperatures. The fire marshal's office is investigating what caused the Friday fire.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/spokane-homeless-shelters-at-capacity-during-coldest-temperatures-of-the-season/>
og:title Content: Spokane homeless shelters at capacity during coldest temperatures of the season - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist
Blog Post Date: February 14, 2021

Blog Post Content: Spokane homeless shelters at capacity during coldest temperatures of the season | krem.com

SPOKANE COUNTY, Wash. — CORRECTION: KREM previously reported three deaths resulted from exposure, according to Jewels Helping Hands director Maurice Smith. It is important that we clarify that the City of Spokane does not corroborate that account. Spokane temperatures fell into single digits Friday, but the wind chill made it feel like -15 degrees. JEWELS Helping Hands warming center says three individuals facing homelessness died because they had nowhere to escape the cold. However the City of Spokane is reporting no exposure-related deaths.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/there-is-a-homeless-serial-killer-in-new-york-city/>
og:title Content: There is a homeless serial killer in New York City - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist
Blog Post Date: February 14, 2021

Blog Post Content: Violent Spree Against Homeless People in Subway Leaves 2 Dead - The New York Times
The first killing was just after 11 p.m. Friday on a subway train in Queens: The police found a man, apparently homeless, dead from stab wounds to the neck and torso, slumped on a seat. The second was two hours later and 25 miles away, but on the same New York City subway line: a 44-year-old woman, also apparently homeless, stabbed throughout her body underneath a seat on a train at a station in Upper Manhattan. There was nearly a third killing at a third subway station, when a 43-year-old homeless man

sleeping on an exit stairwell was awakened by a sharp pain in his back. He, too, had been stabbed. He ran to a bank, collapsed and was in stable condition at a hospital, the police said. All three attacks, the police say, were likely committed by the same person. And they may be linked to an earlier nonfatal attack on Friday morning, in which an assailant yelled, "I'm going to kill you," then stabbed a 67-year-old homeless man in the knee and buttocks as he pushed his walker on a train platform.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/if-the-government-is-going-to-kill-me-id-prefer-they-do-it-when-im-unarmed/>
og:title Content: If the government is going to kill me I'd prefer they do it when I'm unarmed - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist
Blog Post Date: February 15, 2021

Blog Post Content:

Other than a box cutter I carry on me to open boxes of food I give out to homeless people, I have no weapons. No stun gun, no pepper spray, and certainly no guns.

I don't want the government to be able to hide behind the convenient excuse that I was a "dangerous, violent man that needed to be stopped. "

I know that a guy like me makes their head spin. I am the exact person they built the great U.S. of A. for, after all.

LET THE 23ANDME EVIDENCE SHOW that I am 100% European (99.1% Northwestern European with is made up of 64.6% French and German and 33.6% British and Irish)

I am what they call an inconvenient truth. Like my greatest idol and hero, fellow Akronite John Brown, I am a land-owning white European business man. This, I know, makes them twist in their very soul and raison d'etre of their core existence. But they had no problem stringing Brown up by the neck for breaking the greatest sacred law of all European white men: Standing with African people. John and I are race traitors. If it's not bad enough I stand with African people, I also stand with addicts, poor people and criminals. I'm just bad for business.

You see, they don't kill people like me because we are violent dangers to society. Sure. That's what they say. They kill us to shut us the hell up. Putting us in prison like they did to Nelson Mandela for 27 years is almost more dangerous than having us out on the street. We become nagging reminders of a system that lives off the blood and oppression of minorities.

I have solidly landed on the moral ground of determining not to injure or murder another person in my pursuit to reverse the humanitarian crimes of stealing shelter and possessions from people who have no money and no other place to live while being forced to live torturous existences on the streets of the richest most Christian country in the world.

Look at this ordinance in the laws of my city, Akron Ohio:

92.05 - Cruelty to animals.

A. For the purpose of this section, "shelter" shall mean a man-made enclosure, windbreak, or sunshade or a natural wind break or sunshade that is developed from the earth's contour, tree development, or vegetation.

B. No person shall:

1. Torture an animal, deprive one of necessary sustenance, unnecessarily or cruelly beat, needlessly mutilate or kill, or impound or confine an animal without supplying it during such confinement with a sufficient quantity of good wholesome food and water;

2. Impound or confine an animal without affording it, during such confinement, access to shelter from heat, cold, wind, rain, snow or excessive direct sunlight if it can reasonably be expected that the animal would otherwise become sick or in some other way suffer. This subsection does not apply to animals impounded or confined prior to slaughter;

3. Carry or convey an animal in a cruel or inhumane manner; or

4. Keep animals, other than cattle, poultry, or fowl, swine, sheep or goats, in an enclosure without wholesome exercise and change of air, or feed cows on food that produces impure or unwholesome milk.

Penalty, see § 92.99

How can it be that cattle, poultry, or fowl, swine, sheep or goats have more humanitarian rights than poor human beings?

This is wrong at the most fundamental level of morality, ethics and humanity.

There is no act, words or dissent too extreme to fight this duplicitous, hateful crime against humanity in the United States of America.

If I had chosen to fight this sacrilegious holy war with guns and bombs I would be entirely justified in doing

so. I just morally choose to not do so.
I choose to fight this war through Democracy.
I believe that the voting system, while certainly corrupt and exclusionary, is still functioning. Like a Ford Edsel, our voting system is a broken down, overpriced piece of shit. But it can still kind of get you to where you want to go if you try hard enough.
And through social media, we have the possibility of uniting and voting as a block like never before in the history of humanity.
Social media alone is a profound reason to avoid murder to have your voice heard. If the atrocity is bad enough and you want it bad enough, you have the tools to unite people and vote the corporate, aristocratic ruling class out of office.
But voting alone is not enough.
We must also put people on the ballot to vote for. It doesn't matter how many votes you get out if all you have to vote for is a lump of shit and a piece of shit.
We must learn how to get on the ballot and change the system from the inside.
If there is one thing I could ask you to do, it is to join my newsletter:

```
#mc_embed_signup{background:#fff; clear:left; font:14px Helvetica,Arial,sans-serif; width:100%;}
```

```
/* Add your own Mailchimp form style overrides in your site stylesheet or in this style block.
```

```
We recommend moving this block and the preceding CSS link to the HEAD of your HTML file. */
```

Please To Subscribe To My Newsletter

My primary goal is to get anyone and everyone involved in running for public office. I don't care what you believe in, I guarantee you it is better than what the insider politicians believe in.
QAnon, Boogaloo boys, 3 percenters, Antifa, Communists, Anarchists. ALL OF YOU ARE BETTER THAN WHAT WE CURRENTLY HAVE. You are better for one reason: You actually care about people, unlike the power-obsessed career politicians we've been forced to endure.
I will help you learn how to run for political office.
While national politics is sexy, local politics is where the real change happens. Every one of us has a real shot at being a city council member or school board member. EVERY ONE OF US. Do you know what kind of change you can institute in your city once you are in charge? Massive change.
So, if they are going to kill me they are going to have to do it in cold blood as I stand unarmed. But until then I am going to try to do everything in my power to unite ALL THE PEOPLE against the elite powermongers. THEY ARE THE TRUE ENEMY. And then we are going to vote those motherfuckers out!

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/its-cold-roll-the-were-concerned-about-homeless-people-pr-statements/>
og:title Content: It's Cold - Roll the "We're concerned about homeless people" PR Statements - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist
Blog Post Date: February 15, 2021

Blog Post Content: Here are a bunch of articles talking about how "concerned" people are about homeless people freezing to death in America. It's all bullshit. Do you know what happens when a bank looks like it

might fail? Every politician in America jumps to their aid and bails them out. Americans freezing to death doesn't matter the slightest to politicians.

'Likely a Death Sentence': Officials Fear Cold Weather Is Greater Risk for Homeless Than Virus - The New York Times

Cities and community groups are wrestling with how to shelter a vulnerable population without exposing it to an airborne virus that spreads most easily indoors.

Spokane using federal COVID-19 funding to shelter homeless population amid cold snap | krem.com

The City of Spokane is temporarily housing those most susceptible to contracting the coronavirus in hotel rooms.

Dangerously Cold Temperatures Test Homeless Shelters In Twin Cities – WCCO | CBS Minnesota

MINNEAPOLIS (WCCO) — The record-setting cold this weekend makes for extremely dangerous nights for people experiencing homelessness. "The estimate is that there are about 20,000 children, adults and seniors who are homeless on any given night in Minnesota," said Rhonda Otteson, the executive director of the Minnesota Coalition for the Homeless.

Wausau organizations are helping the homeless escape freezing temperatures

WAUSAU (WAOW)- As potentially record breaking cold temperatures move into the North Central Wisconsin area this weekend, many can't even imagine being outside; but the outside is considered home for some.

St. Louis community members help keep the homeless warm during frigid temperatures | FOX 2

ST. LOUIS – Temperatures are dropping to single digits and predicted to feel in the negatives. These kind of conditions are dangerous, and St. Louis City and County are working to get the homeless in shelters or warming centers.

Frigid temperatures draw attention to the homeless | Local News | theoaklandpress.com

For the second weekend in a row, the wind chill factor in much of Oakland County will drop the temperature to around 0 degrees.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/homeless-headlines-for-february-16-2021-vaccines-extreme-cold-photo-op-camp-sweep/>

og:title Content: Homeless Headlines for February 16, 2021 - Vaccines, Extreme Cold, Photo-op Camp Sweep - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: February 16, 2021

Blog Post Content: I'm going to try putting all the homeless headlines I found interesting for the day into one post.

L.A. homeless COVID vaccine distribution is fraught with obstacles - Los Angeles Times

Doctors and nurses had culled a list of nearly 900 homeless people they wanted to vaccinate. Their outreach workers walked the streets of skid row preaching the gospel of Moderna's two-shot salvation. And they sought out people in the community's large shelters to make sure they got pricked. The goal was to offer a lifeline to one of Los Angeles' most vulnerable and hard-to-reach populations. But the effort to vaccinate the homeless population and the skid row community, which is just getting underway, is fraught with obstacles.

ADVERTISEMENT

How people are helping the homeless in the extreme cold | kvue.com

AUSTIN, Texas — Homeless service providers are really stepping up to try to get people to go to shelters.

Solid Ground Ministry, who typically operates out of Texas Oaks Baptist Church in South Austin, turned that church into a 24/7 shelter over the weekend.

"As unfortunate as the situation is and as dangerous as the situation is, it's been a very sweet time that we all get to spend together, which is kind of cool," said Fisher with a smile. "So the volunteers are exhausted. Everybody is kind of worried about any dangerous stuff that's around the area, of course, and accidents and things of that nature. And so everybody's kind of tense and uptight. But at the same time, it's being described as a very big lock-in or sleepover at the at the church."

Activists protest sweep of San Jose homeless camp, call it a photo-op - San José Spotlight

Advocates for the homeless gathered Monday to protest an upcoming sweep this week of an encampment, comparing the action to former President Donald Trump's church photo-op and calling it cruel and out of touch. "We have open buildings, we have the space. There's no need for these people to be on the street in inclement weather or under any other circumstances," said the Rev. Jeff Moore, president of the local NAACP. "I'm here to today to tell you, 'No more sweeps.' We must have some place for them to go, somewhere to take their belongings." The advocates allege the clearing is taking place to make room for a photo-op for Mayor Sam Liccardo at a nearby tiny-home project on Felipe Avenue called Felipe Bridge

Housing Community, which opened Thursday.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/homeless-news-for-february-18-2021-the-war-against-the-homeless-ramps-up-coast-to-coast-but-at-least-berlin-germany-gives-a-fuck/>
og:title Content: Homeless News For February 18, 2021 - The war against the homeless ramps up coast to coast but at least Berlin Germany gives a fuck. - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist
Blog Post Date: February 18, 2021

Blog Post Content: Berlin Germany hotels open their doors to homeless during pandemic | Germany| News and in-depth reporting from Berlin and beyond | DW | 16.02.2021

Berlin's shelters have run out of space during the coronavirus winter. Hotels are empty, so some have decided to let people experiencing homelessness stay for free. This is changing lives.

Officers clear another homeless camp in Chico | KRCR

CHICO, Calif. — The Chico Police Department cleared out another homeless camp with a few dozen tents Tuesday morning.

Sausalito attempts relocate waterfront homeless encampment

A standoff continues Tuesday between residents of a Sausalito homeless encampment and city crews trying to evict them. "Hell no, we won't go," they chanted.

Coalition for the Homeless Statement on Horrific Subway Attacks Against Homeless New Yorkers - Coalition For The Homeless

NEW YORK, NY — The following statement from Giselle Routhier, Policy Director at Coalition for the Homeless was released today in response to the attacks that took place in the NYC subway stations on February 12 and 13, 2021. "These devastating attacks are a reminder that failing to offer the dignity and safety of a real home, or at minimum a safe and private room during this historic pandemic, is literally a matter of life and death. This incredible tragedy could have been prevented. In 2019, didn't our elected leaders commit to never let such vicious crimes like the murders in Chinatown happen again? That it has is unconscionable. Mayor de Blasio and Governor Cuomo need to respond not with more stigmatization and callousness toward people without homes, or heavy-handed police removals, but with real and immediate access to housing for unsheltered New Yorkers."

Helping the homeless: Austin volunteers pay for hotel rooms, deliver food | KXAN Austin

Largely organizing on social media platforms, including Twitter and Instagram, volunteers have worked through their own struggles to put about 400 people in shelters and provide over 500 meals. Austin Mutual Aid founder and volunteer coordinator Bobby Cooper was out picking up people and transporting them to shelters all day Tuesday, despite experiencing difficulties at his own house due to the freezing temperatures.

"It's extremely difficult for not just me, but all the drivers," Cooper said. "A lot of us live in the neighborhoods that are underserved by the city, so we have lost power too."

Mecklenburg Co., community partners help find shelter for homeless after 'Tent City' forced to clear CHARLOTTE, N.C. (WBTV) - Benjamin Blake has lived at what is known as "Tent City" in Charlotte's North End for nearly a year. On Tuesday, Mecklenburg County issued an abatement order, giving the residents in that area 72 hours to vacate the premises, citing a growing rat infestation.

Mercer Island restricts camping on public property in near-unanimous vote | The Seattle Times

The Mercer Island City Council voted Tuesday to approve an ordinance that prohibits camping on public property in the city, a measure that's aimed at restricting people who are experiencing homelessness from staying outside or in their cars overnight on the island.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/homeless-news-february-19-2021-murder-food-and-zoning-makes-an-elderly-woman-homeless/>
og:title Content: Homeless News - February 19 2021 - Murder, food and zoning makes an elderly woman homeless - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist
Blog Post Date: February 19, 2021

Blog Post Content: Helping the homeless: Austin volunteers pay for hotel rooms, deliver food | KXAN Austin AUSTIN (KXAN) — As temperatures reach new lows and snow and ice pile up on the streets, the homeless camps that are usually bustling look abandoned. The relocation of many of Austin's homeless population is partially thanks to citizen volunteer groups, such as Austin Mutual Aid and Austin Community Advancement Brigade. Starting on Saturday, these fully volunteer-run groups have put as many people as possible in hotel rooms.

Mecklenburg Co., community partners help find shelter for homeless after 'Tent City' forced to clear
Blake told WBTV he has spent many other years in and out of a permanent home. Key hasn't had a permanent home in seven years and he's been dealing with grief after losing multiple family members too.
Man charged with killing 3 homeless people near Long Beach • Long Beach Post News
A man accused of killing three homeless people near Long Beach-area homeless encampments was charged Tuesday with murder, prosecutors said. - ADVERTISEMENT - Tracy Walker, 56, also was charged with using a knife in the killings and being a felon in possession of a gun, according to a statement from the Los Angeles County district attorney's office.
Zoning Will Make This Elderly Arizona Woman Homeless
Last summer, in the middle of the pandemic, Amanda and many of her neighbors received letters from Sierra Vista saying that they had 30 days to remove their trailers from the lots. The city insists that the homes must be moved because these lots are not zoned for "recreational vehicles." The city doesn't maintain that Amanda's home or any of the other homes are unsafe. In fact, it is completely legal to live in an RV in some parts of Cloud 9, just not the part Amanda lives in.
Getting homeless off Fresno freeways is top priority | KMPH
Bill Stretch, general manager of Fresno Irrigation District said, "Ensuring that our canals are clean and free of debris and any bio-hazards that sometimes exist in the encampments is hugely important." (Too bad your homeless citizens aren't "hugely important.")

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/sages-weight-loss-journey-day-1/>
og:title Content: Sage's Weight Loss Journey - Day 1 - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist
Blog Post Date: February 22, 2021

Blog Post Content:
This is the 4th time I've been on this "journey." But this time I think I have a clearer way of keeping off the weight. But first I have to get it off.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/i-react-to-the-fred-hampton-interviewed-by-abc-news-october-9th-1969/>
og:title Content: I React To the Fred Hampton interviewed by ABC News - October 9th 1969 - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist
Blog Post Date: February 22, 2021

Blog Post Content:
Fred Hampton is a HUGE hero of mine. He was an incredibly enlightened individual. At 21 years old he knew that we need to unite all the people to focus on the powerful. This is the only way we will ever win the rights of the oppressed. Yet we can't seem to bring ourselves to look beyond our differences and find our commonalities.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/i-love-these-hope-of-the-valley-tiny-homes/>
og:title Content: I LOVE These Hope of the Valley Tiny Homes - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist
Blog Post Date: February 22, 2021

Blog Post Content:
This is SO amazing. Every city in America needs these. Because housing costs are wildly out of whack with income these kinds of tiny home villages will be an inevitable part of all major cities in America. And they are just fine. It's a community-based form of living that is truly wonderful in many ways.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/sages-weight-loss-journey-day-2/>

og:title Content: Sage's Weight Loss Journey - Day 2 - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist
Blog Post Date: February 23, 2021

Blog Post Content:

I feel like my brain and body are getting hip to what I'm doing and they are not happy with me.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/homeless-news-february-23-2021-homeless-people-are-under-attack-in-america-because-they-have-nowhere-to-go-this-is-state-sponsored-murder/>

og:title Content: Homeless News - February 23, 2021 - Homeless People Are Under Attack in America because they have nowhere to go. This is state sponsored murder. - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist
Blog Post Date: February 23, 2021

Blog Post Content: Homeless camp evictions on ODOT property frustrates some Bend residents | Local&State | bendbulletin.com

Several residents in the past week have written emails or spoken to the Bend City Council with the plea to end homeless camp removal efforts along the Bend Parkway. "That motion disconnects them from the services that could help them get them out of their circumstances," Mike Satcher, a Sisters resident who works in Bend, told the council in a virtual meeting Wednesday. "Until we can provide affordable housing...we have to have safe, healthy managed camps where people can experience some level of stability."

DUH! Politicians never can understand this while every other rational human on planet earth gets it.

Opinion: There are better ways for Denver to spend money on homelessness than on sweeps

People experiencing homelessness face a multitude of dilemmas each day, whether it's securing a place to sleep, food to eat, or, for families, managing children and education. People experiencing homelessness in Denver experience stigma and social isolation, as well as political isolation through "anti-homeless" architecture, such as benches with an armrest in the middle to prevent someone from sleeping or spikes on garden blocks. Under Denver Mayor Michael Hancock, homelessness has been further criminalized, and as a result, people experiencing homelessness have to fight for the right to exist in their community.

Sacramento Closes Two Warming Centers For Homeless Residents After Worker Tests Positive For COVID-19 - capradio.org

Mayor Darrell Steinberg wrote in a statement the city was closing the facilities "with great reluctance." The city "will open additional warming centers with more beds, not fewer, with precautions to keep people safe," Steinberg wrote. "My fight is to have somewhere safe and comfortable for people to get out of the elements every night, regardless of the weather." City and county leaders have faced criticism over the time it has taken to open the warming centers. In November, as advocates pleaded for the city and county to open warming centers, Greg Tarola — a man who says he was newly experiencing homelessness — died while living on the streets north of downtown.

Homeless camp empties in uptown Charlotte under health order | Charlotte Observer

Shortly before 5 p.m. Friday, the homeless camp just outside uptown Charlotte mostly was left with deserted tents and debris. Nearly everyone was gone, either into one the county's offered hotel rooms or having slipped away to another unsheltered area.

Community advocates question LMPD action, 'miscommunication' response after clearing homeless camp Friday

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (WAVE) - Following an issued apology by the Louisville Metro Police Department Friday night after a homeless camp at Market and Hancock Streets was cleared by officers, community advocates are questioning the response by police. LMPD Officer Beth Ruoff issued a statement Friday night, stating the camp was cleared due to a "miscommunication,"

Looking to get around court rulings on homelessness, Washington cities may offer shelter, then crack down | The Seattle Times

Last week, Mercer Island passed a law banning people sleeping outside or in vehicles on public property — but included language effectively telling police to first offer to take people to shelter, the closest of which is 5 miles away in Bellevue.

At least six homeless people died during the winter storm in Texas | The Texas Tribune

As temperatures reached 20 degrees Feb. 15, Harris County sheriff deputies found a 60-year-old man dead

in a van under an overpass east of Houston. According to the agency, members of their homeless outreach team had previously tried to convince him to seek shelter, but the man declined. Advocates for people experiencing homelessness suspect he froze to death.

Homeless people face relentless abuse in Lancaster, ACLU alleges - Los Angeles Times

A report released Monday by the American Civil Liberties Union of Southern California alleges widespread abuse of homeless people in the Mojave Desert city of Lancaster.

Sheriff's deputies contracted by the city routinely push homeless people into the inhospitable desert, where they often face additional pressure from county officials, the report contends.

The report, "Banished and Abandoned," describes a "dragnet of criminalization" within the city limits in which deputies and city code enforcement officers "regularly bulldoze encampments of unhoused people and order them to move by threat of citation."

The actions push them out of the city into remote areas where they have to walk long distances for water and food, the report said.

Denver wants police to be less involved in calls about city's homeless encampments

Denver wants to see fewer cops and more social workers and behavioral health specialists showing up to calls about homeless encampments. Over the next few weeks, the city will begin redirecting non-emergency calls made to 911 about unsanctioned encampments in Denver to the city's 311 helpline instead. "The goal is to not have a public safety response to something that is not a public safety issue," said Mike Strott, a spokesman for Mayor Michael Hancock's office. "This is the next step we are taking in a series of steps to create an alternative response."

Do not expand policing and involuntary commitment - Coalition For The Homeless

Governor Cuomo has once again advanced the idea of involuntarily removing homeless people from the streets by force, and taking them to hospitals and other locations against their will

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/sages-weight-loss-journey-day-3/>

og:title Content: Sage's Weight Loss Journey - Day 3 - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: February 24, 2021

Blog Post Content:

I've lost another pound. That's a total of 2.2 pounds in two days. I feel like it's too much. I'm SO tired today. I should be losing 2 pounds a week. But I'm going to keep going at this pace.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/homeless-news-february-24-2021-bureaucracy-changes-nothing/>

og:title Content: Homeless News - February 24, 2021 - bureaucracy changes nothing - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: February 24, 2021

Blog Post Content: Less homeless people had shelter in Maricopa County in 2020 than any other year
In Maricopa County, housing experts say they only expect the homelessness problem to get worse as more people are dealing with the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Here's my video reaction to the above story:

Less homeless people had shelter in Maricopa County in 2020 than any other year - YouTube

Here's my video reaction to this story:

This changes nothing: Denver mayor wants police to be less involved in homeless encampment calls - YouTube

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/sages-weight-loss-journey-day-4/>

og:title Content: Sage's Weight Loss Journey - Day 4 - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: February 25, 2021

Blog Post Content:

Still really hungry in the morning. But I feel better today than yesterday. WAY less tired.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/video-from-the-last-days-of-akrons-tent-city/>

og:title Content: Video From The Last Days Of Akron's Tent City - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: February 25, 2021

Blog Post Content:

This video brought back a TON of memories. This was some of the last footage of our village as we were forced to shut it down by order of the City of Akron.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/sages-weight-loss-journey-day-5/>

og:title Content: Sage's Weight Loss Journey - Day 5 - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: February 26, 2021

Blog Post Content:

I'm less tired and less hungry. But still not great.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/sages-weight-loss-journey-day-8/>

og:title Content: Sage's Weight Loss Journey - Day 8 - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: March 1, 2021

Blog Post Content:

I'm definitely losing weight. But there is nothing exciting about it for me. I've just got over 80 days to go. And then I need to change my entire lifestyle of eating. Blah! But I don't want to die. So that's why I keep doing it.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/what-happens-when-we-die/>

og:title Content: What happens when we die? - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: March 3, 2021

Blog Post Content:

The average 150 lb adult human body contains approximately 7×10^{27} atoms and contains at least detectable traces of 60 chemical elements.

About 29 of these elements are thought to play an active positive role in life and health in humans.

Our Hydrogen was made at the very first instant of the universe in the Big Bang 13.8 billion years ago. All our other elements were manufactured in the cores of stars billions of year ago.

You can argue all day about what happens after death. But we all know what happens. We return to our universe to be reborn again as something else that will live and die and be reborn again into something else. For all eternity.

We are immortal.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/sages-weight-loss-journey-10-day/>

og:title Content: Sage's Weight Loss Journey - 10 Day - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: March 3, 2021

Blog Post Content:

For the first time I feel not hungry and not tired. But I gained .2 pounds since yesterday.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/homeless-news-march-3-2021-individuals-are-the-real-heroes-for-our-houseless-friends/>

og:title Content: Homeless News - March 3, 2021 - Individuals are the real heroes for our houseless friends - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: March 3, 2021

Blog Post Content: Showers for the homeless now available in Downtown Stockton | abc10.com

STOCKTON, Calif. — Those who are experiencing homelessness in Stockton have a new way to shower and be clean. The Downtown Stockton Alliance has purchased a \$65,000 mobile shower unit. The unit offers three showers, a toilet and a sink.

Orange County Quietly Shut Down its Last Walk-In Homeless Shelter Without Any Public Announcement

After four years in operation, Orange County has quietly shut down its only low barrier walk-in shelter without any public announcement. The closure last Friday of the Courtyard shelter in downtown Santa Ana — which once was home to over 400 homeless people — comes as the county opens a new, more restrictive shelter in a different part of the city. The replacement Yale shelter offers more services for homeless people but has more limits on who is eligible — requiring a referral from police or health workers — and does not allow residents to walk in or out.

'COVID has ruined my life': Newly homeless family attacked, traumatizing setback | KOKH

Prior to the attack, the Hood family was recently evicted and left to fend for themselves on the streets.

Activists want accountability for homeless deaths in Sacramento | The Sacramento Bee

Homeless activists participated in a 'die-in' Friday, Feb. 26, 2021, at Sacramento City Hall to demand accountability for homeless deaths over the past year. They then marched to the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors office.

Homeless 'L' riders get Night Ministry care at end of the CTA Blue Line - Chicago Sun-Times

He is here because on Mondays and Wednesdays from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. the Night Ministry, the final strands of Chicago's frayed social service net, runs a sort of field hospital/free commissary/clinic for the homeless, offering services of a social worker, piles of supplies—socks, hats, underwear, combs — paper bags of snacks, pallets of water and a nurse or, tonight, a doctor.

A better use for offices emptied by COVID? Homeless shelters - Los Angeles Times

She runs the ministry alone out of her Mid-City home, with help from a few volunteers and funding from local churches and Price's office. A former employee of the L.A. County Department of Public Social Services, Rios focuses on helping homeless people navigate the bureaucratic maze necessary to get housing, but as she did with Salvador, she often gets more directly involved.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/homeless-news-march-4-2021-camp-sweeps-are-back/>

og:title Content: Homeless News - March 4, 2021 - Camp Sweeps Are Back - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: March 4, 2021

Blog Post Content: I thought maybe the Covid would change the mentality of city governments towards their homeless residents. I was wrong. They still despise them.

At Denny Park, Seattle quietly tries to remove homeless encampment | The Seattle Times

Dozens of police and parks employees descended Wednesday on Denny Park, where only a handful of homeless campers remained after outreach workers have been visiting for the last few months. The clearing of people and their belongings was for the most part quieter than bigger removals last year in Cal Anderson

park or Little Saigon — where demonstrators protested the city removing camps during the COVID-19 pandemic — but a few activists did show up to help homeless campers, and there were loud confrontations with police when they were asked to leave.

"In a society that does not allow for upward social or economic mobility, our city refuses to provide the services and/or resources necessary for, at bottom, clean, safe and stable housing, adequate food and sustenance, and security for all of its residents," the statement said. "Instead of earnestly trying to solve this issue, Seattle is choosing to actively demolish the physical communities our unhoused neighbors have created."

Bend considers safe overnight parking locations for homeless residents - KTVZ

BEND, Ore. (KTVZ) --The Bend City Council was introduced Wednesday to two proposals that would permanently allow safe overnight parking protections in designated areas for people experiencing homelessness. Elizabeth Oshel, associate city attorney, said as of now, the city is allowing cars to park overnight in public areas through Oregon's COVID-19 state of emergency declaration, but that protection is only temporary. The two new proposals would permanently add those protections to the city's municipal code.

N.Y.C. doubled 'cleanups' of homeless encampments last year, despite C.D.C. guidance to let them be. - The New York Times

Clearing encampments, the agency explains, "increases the potential for infectious disease spread" by causing people to "disperse throughout the community and break connections with service providers." But in New York City last year, officials went in the other direction: They nearly doubled the number of "cleanups" of places where homeless people were sleeping, which involved removing and discarding belongings. From March 1 to Dec. 12, the city performed 1,077 cleanups, compared with 543 during the same period in 2019. The statistic was released by the city in response to a Freedom of Information Act request by the Urban Justice Center, a nonprofit whose Safety Net Project helps homeless people.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/sages-weight-loss-journey-day-14/>

og:title Content: Sage's Weight Loss Journey - Day 14 - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: March 8, 2021

Blog Post Content:

I'm down 9.6 pounds. This is the fastest I've ever lost weight. It's also the most strict I've ever been on calorie restriction. Eat less - lose more weight. That's pretty much my entire "plan". But it seems to be working.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/homeless-news-march-9-2021-shipping-containers-and-16-million-tents/>

og:title Content: Homeless News - March 9, 2021 - Shipping Containers and \$16 million Tents - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: March 9, 2021

Blog Post Content: Newark unveils homeless shelter made from converted shipping containers - nj.com

Newark Homelessness Czar Sakinah Hoyte held back tears as she unveiled a lot filled with seven converted shipping containers to house 24 residents without addresses for a 90-day pilot program. "We have been able to do what felt like the impossible in establishing a beautiful, dignified, safe sleeping village rooted in love for our most vulnerable residents," said Hoyte on Monday as she and other officials announced the opening of the site.

Here's when Bellingham homeless tent encampment must move | Bellingham Herald

But Markis Stidham, an appointed member of the Whatcom County Homeless Strategies Workgroup, said that city officials have been disparaging the encampment at Geri Fields through a "disinformation" campaign. "They've demonized the camp and they've demonized the advocates. I've never had a problem going there," Stidham told The Bellingham Herald in an interview. "I've called the Health Department daily, asking — begging — for services," he said. Stidham said that Geri Fields campers and volunteers support each other emotionally and with the tasks of daily life in their tent enclave.

Homeless tent camps under Sacramento CA freeway to be moved | The Sacramento Bee

Downtown Sacramento has seen social and economic upheaval in the last year that has challenged and often overwhelmed city leaders. There's more to come. As many as 300 homeless people living in rows of sidewalk tents under the elevated W-X section of Highway 50 are about to be ordered to pack up and move. Caltrans is launching a highway widening project, and the teeming tent cities between Sixth and 26th streets are directly under the construction zone.

Tiny home inspires San Jose mom to support fellow homeless people - San José Spotlight

When Trinh returns home, she, her two young sons and one-year-old daughter enter a tiny home provided by the county because not too long ago, she was homeless—just like those she helps every day.

Black homeless man shot by deputies in Southern California should not even have been approached, family argues in suit – The Mercury News

Attorneys for the family of Kurt Reinhold — the homeless Black man fatally shot by deputies in September — have amended their lawsuit this week to assert that the deputies had no reason to even approach him. The revision follows the recent release of video and audio of the San Clemente incident. Kurt Andras Reinhold, 42, was killed after being approached by two Orange County Sheriff's deputies whose job it was to do outreach to the homeless. The initial suit against the county stated that Reinhold, who was unarmed, did not pose a danger to them, and they were not trained to deal with mentally ill people.

Neighbors protest plans for northwest Austin homeless hotel | kvue.com

AUSTIN, Texas — Some business owners and neighbors in northwest Austin say they don't want a nearby hotel to house the homeless. They protested at the Candlewood Suites on Pecan Park Boulevard on Saturday afternoon. Last month, the Austin City Council voted to buy the hotel for \$9.5 million. The goal is to house people experiencing homelessness.

For America's swelling ranks of homeless, finding four walls and a roof is just the beginning -

StarTribune.com

My interest piqued by our conversation, I accompanied her on the day she received her keys and saw the apartment for the first time. As we drove away from Skid Row, the lines of tents whirling into a water color of unnamed struggle, Granny sighed. "The nightmare," she said, "is over." But arriving at her new home, we instead found a vacant space. There were no furniture essentials, fridge or stove, and woefully few resources to achieve the items and services she needed to survive even a month in her new accommodations. A roof and four walls, the apartment had. A home, it was not. The nightmare, I realized, wasn't over for Granny. It had simply taken a new form.

San Francisco paying \$16.1 million for homeless tent camps - ABC News

SAN FRANCISCO -- San Francisco is paying \$16.1 million to feed and house people in tent villages as the city struggles with a swelling homeless population. But the cost worries some lawmakers. Six tent sites dubbed "safe sleeping villages" have been set up since the start of the coronavirus pandemic to shelter people who might otherwise sleep on the sidewalks.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/tara-samples-tries-to-end-the-ohio-death-penalty-and-horrigan-goons-stop-her/>
og:title Content: TARA SAMPLES TRIES TO END THE OHIO DEATH PENALTY AND HARRIGAN'S GOONS

STOP HER. - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: March 10, 2021

Blog Post Content:

Thank you Tara L. Samples for shining a light on this middle ages bullshit that is the Ohio Death Penalty.

(Ward 5 Councilwoman Tara Samples introduced a resolution to support a group of bipartisan state lawmakers who again are trying to legislate an end to capital punishment in Ohio.)

Shammas Malik AGAIN! You stand on the right side of the issue. Thank you.

Russel C Neal Jr - You are such a warrior. You take so many punches I don't know how you keep standing. But just know you give me strength to do the right thing.

AND THESE FUCKERS: Eight of the council's 13 members — Ginger Baylor, Sharon Connor, Mike Freeman, Jeff Fusco, Donnie Kammer, Phil Lombardo, Brad McKittrick and Margo Sommerville — defeated Samples' legislation. Just stop pretending you have anything in common with the Democratic party.

That Horrigan Cult of 8 are an existential threat to all the people of Akron. They are a rubber stamp for the Chamber of Commerce. THEY ARE THE PEOPLE'S ENEMY. Read more here:

Akron City Council supports state ballot issue to abolish death penalty

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/jacksonville-florida-sweeps-homeless-camp-and-sends-them-to-a-concentration->

camp/

og:title Content: Jacksonville Florida Sweeps Homeless Camp and Sends Them To A Concentration Camp - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist
Blog Post Date: March 10, 2021

Blog Post Content:

Pastor Kimberley Pullings from FHC Live Church is nothing other than an apologist for Jacksonville government.

"It's scary, we understand it's traumatic. we understand that you're hurt. You're fearful, but at the same time it's a part of the process, but it can be done; it's doable," Pastor Kimberley Pullings of Live Church said. The temporary shelter has no running water or air conditioning. It has one shower and one toilet.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/homeless-news-3-10-2021-jacksonville-cruelly-sweeps-homeless-camp/>

og:title Content: Homeless News - 3-10-2021 - Jacksonville Cruelly Sweeps Homeless Camp - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist
Blog Post Date: March 10, 2021

Blog Post Content: Callowhill park will be built for and designed by homeless people in Philadelphia Though the consulting with homeless people hasn't started yet, some notions of what should be built into the space are percolating, she said. That includes hand-washing stations, access for drinking water, storage space for the belongings of people who are homeless, and comfortable, spike-less spots on which to sit. At the moment, there are no plans for outdoor bathrooms, which foster safety concerns, Levy said.

Mobile shower service provides dignity to the Sacramento homeless

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (KTXL) — Thousands of showers, meals, clothing and toiletries have been provided to those experiencing homelessness in downtown Sacramento, all thanks to a local man and his mobile shower service operated by volunteers.

City of Jacksonville clears out homeless camp

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — On Tuesday, the homeless camp known as "Tent City" in downtown Jacksonville on Jefferson Street was cleared.

Here's my video response to the Jacksonville camp sweep:

Jacksonville Florida Sweeps Homeless Camp and Sends Them To A Concentration Camp - Sage Lewis' Personal Blog

Pastor Kimberley Pullings from FHC Live Church is nothing other than an apologist for Jacksonville government.

Santa Cruz approves, pauses homeless ordinance – Santa Cruz Sentinel

Existing language bans daytime camping and limits public sleeping in limited zones to overnight hours between an hour before sunset and 7 a.m., expected to be pushed back to an hour after sunrise but no later than 8 a.m. after coming amendments. Other pending amendments include removing encampment allowances along Swanton Boulevard and in open spaces within Delaveaga Park, Pogonip, Arana Gulch and Moore Creek. Narrowly allowed private residential property, faith institution and private business parking lots and sidewalks in city commercial corridors and industrial areas in the far Westside, Harvey West and Seabright neighborhoods would remain available, however.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/please-follow-and-be-aware-of-the-work-the-united-front-against-displacement-is-doing/>

og:title Content: PLEASE follow and be aware of the work The United Front Against Displacement is doing. - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist
Blog Post Date: March 11, 2021

Blog Post Content:

"We are an anti-gentrification organization that was founded to unite the struggles of working class people against gentrification, displacement and criminalization."

They were in the news yesterday for stopping a homeless camp sweep in Oakland California.

Here are their online properties:

The United Front Against Displacement | Facebook
The United Front Against Displacement - Website
the United Front Against Displacement (@TheUfad) / Twitter
The UFAD (@theufad) • Instagram photos and videos
I found out about them from this (firewalled) article:

These homeless Oaklanders refused to move. Now, they're pioneers

The successfully stopped a homeless camp sweep. Here's the main details:

"But Union Point residents decided to put up a fight. Backed by activists from the anti-gentrification group United Front Against Displacement, they piled trash, furniture and other items into barricades at the park's entrances, preventing city vehicles from getting through. Matt Long, who residents call the camp president, sat on a barricade and refused to move, while protesters lined up behind him. The effort worked, and city workers left without clearing the camp. The conservation and development commission granted Oakland an extension, and Oakland officials continued negotiating with Union Point residents. About a dozen were left — down from about 50 months before."

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/hey-sex-craved-men-lets-talk/>

og:title Content: Hey Sex Craved Men! Let's Talk. - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: March 12, 2021

Blog Post Content:

I am so attracted to women.

And if it weren't bad enough, the older I get the more into women I get.

When I was a teenager the kind of girl I was into was very narrow and specific. As I look back at yearbooks and Facebook pictures I am completely astounded at all the beautiful young women that surrounded me that I was totally clueless about.

As a late forties guy, I now am still not only attracted to every woman I was attracted to when I was 16, I'm attracted to women well into their 50s. I'm also now way more open to women of different sizes and races. I'm quite sure by the time I'm 75 every woman on planet earth is going to be drop dead gorgeous.

I tell you this so that you know where I'm coming from. I'm a guy that is totally into women. I can't speak for you, but I suspect there are many of you that get where I'm coming from.

You need to stop.

Just because your mind and sex chemicals are firing on all cylinders when you see a random woman on the street or in a bar or at a wedding does NOT make it cool for you to start engaging with her in a way that has to do with her physical appearance.

On Telling Her How Great She Looks

You need to assume that she does not want to hear about how beautiful she is or how pretty her eyes are or, god-help-you, how great her body looks. It's uncomfortable and completely invasive of her space.

"But why did she get so dressed up and put on all that makeup if she didn't want to be told how great she looks?" She did it for herself. It makes her feel good about herself. And if you see her girlfriends telling her how great she looks it's completely different if you tell her how great she looks. It's a line that is different. A random man that tells a woman how great she looks is coming from a place of sex and desire.

The ONLY person you can and should tell how beautiful she is is your wife and your girlfriend. Not your niece. Not a coworker. Not the bartender. NO OTHER WOMAN. (I don't know what the appropriate response is for daughters. I don't have a daughter so I'm not going to speculate on that.)

Do you get it? Do you understand the line?

As a general rule, if you wouldn't say it to a guy friend, don't say it to a woman. I'm hesitant to even write that line because I know some guys will be like, "Well I'd totally tell Bob how great he looks." Just no. Don't talk about a woman's looks AT ALL.

On Making Physical Contact

No. No. No.

Do not touch her shoulder. Do not come in for some creepy ass hug. Do not even put your hand out for a handshake.

If a woman wants to shake your hand she will extend HER hand. That's standard protocol.

If she wants to hug you she will initiate that. NOT YOU. And if she does initiate a hug keep it professional.

Am I making myself clear? NO PHYSICAL CONTACT. Your wife and your girlfriend and your mom are the only women in your life that you are permitted to touch in any way whatsoever. (Again, I don't know the protocol for daughters. So, I'm not wading into that water.)

Now Let's Talk About Sex

Let's say you are in a relationship with a woman. Maybe you two have had sex before. Maybe you have never had sex.

And by sex I mean anything sexual. Blowjobs. Handjobs. All forms of sexual contact.

You are not expected to be a total mind reader. But you ARE expected to listen to and watch for signals.

If she feels or looks uncomfortable JUST STOP.

If she says things like "I'm not sure." "I don't think this is a good idea." "Maybe we should wait." JUST STOP.

If she doesn't say anything but she pushes away or she shakes her head no or any other physical signal, JUST STOP.

That song "Baby it's cold outside" is a rape song. Pull that shit and get what you get.

Drinking is such a complicated aspect of this entire process. You aren't able to pick up on nuanced communication AND you are more sex crazed than normal. On top of that, she might be more open to things she wouldn't normally be.

I'm certainly not telling you to not have fun. But I AM telling you to keep this little conversation you and I are having in the back of your mind. If she says anything remotely like she isn't sure or she isn't feeling it JUST STOP. If she pushes away in any way JUST STOP.

If a woman who has had some drinks is telling you she "maybe" doesn't want to do this, that means she TOTALLY doesn't want to do this. Just wait till tomorrow. Honestly, it will probably go way better for you anyway because you were sensitive to her feelings.

Conclusion

Is any of this not clear?

If you encounter a situation that I haven't covered here just default to not saying anything and CERTAINLY not engaging in any physical contact. Even a handshake (unless she initiates it).

We are bigger and stronger, most of the time.

Every time a woman trusts us by being alone with us or spending time with us it is a risk for her. It's always a potential life or death situation for her. You are probably stronger than her and more aggressive than her.

All men and women interactions come with that fundamental understanding for every woman on planet earth. (I know there are situations where the physical differences are reversed. But stop being cute. Most of the time it's what I'm talking about here.)

You need to get with the program and stop being a dick. I thought you would have learned some things from the #metoo movement. But by the looks of things you don't seem to have picked up most of what has been put down for you.

If you have any questions about any of this please let me know. But I don't really know what could be unclear or confusing about any of this for you.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/sages-weight-loss-journey-day-21-only-lost-2-pounds-this-week/>

og:title Content: Sage's Weight Loss Journey - Day 21 - Only lost .2 pounds this week - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: March 15, 2021

Blog Post Content:

These kinds of weeks can be discouraging. But it's important to keep in mind that this is a marathon. Trust the plan / Work the plan.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/homeless-people-getting-kicked-out-of-lions-park-in-fort-meyers/>

og:title Content: Homeless People Getting Kicked Out of Lions Park in Fort Meyers - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: March 15, 2021

Blog Post Content:

Yet again, these fucking homeless service providers blame homeless people for not "accepting help." That's just propaganda bullshit so that we don't wake up to the fact that these homeless service providers can't do

their job.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/more-people-living-in-homeless-camps-in-savannah/>
og:title Content: More people living in homeless camps in Savannah - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist
Blog Post Date: March 15, 2021

Blog Post Content:

This is from this article: 'I think it's going to get worse': More people living in homeless camps in Savannah Savannah looks like they are addressing their homeless crisis with intelligence and strategy... not fear and hate like most other cities in America.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/homeless-news-march-15-2021-savannah-is-getting-it-fort-meyers-is-not-getting-it/>
og:title Content: Homeless News - March 15 2021 - Savannah is getting it. Fort Meyers Is NOT getting it. - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist
Blog Post Date: March 15, 2021

Blog Post Content: Homeless set up tents next to City Hall to push for solutions. Four days later, Dallas roused them again.

Camp Rhonda, a homeless encampment of about 30 tents, was moving Friday for the second time in five days. Dallas police showed up at Pioneer Plaza in the morning and told residents that the park needed to be clear by 1 p.m. It was unclear where the group would go. Organizers couldn't be reached for comment. Stanfield, Peters ask for community support for sleep out for homeless - Insider NJ
LUMBERTON – Assemblywoman Jean Stanfield and Assemblyman Ryan Peters will be spending a night in their office parking lot along Route 541 in Lumberton to raise money and awareness for homeless youth. Everett could ban homeless street camps through 'no sit, no lie' ordinance
EVERETT, Wash. — Everett's City Council is looking to pass a law that could ban homeless encampments in a part of the city.

Homeless People Getting Kicked Out of Lions Park in Fort Meyers - Sage Lewis' Personal Blog
Yet again, these fucking homeless service providers blame homeless people for not "accepting help." That's just propaganda bullshit so that we don't wake up to the fact that these homeless service providers can't do their job.

More people living in homeless camps in Savannah - Sage Lewis' Personal Blog
Savannah looks like they are addressing their homeless crisis with intelligence and strategy... not fear and hate like most other cities in America.

Homeless People Getting Kicked Out of Lions Park in Fort Meyers - Sage Lewis' Personal Blog
undefined

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/homeless-news-march-16-2021-man-plows-into-homeless-camp-killing-3/>
og:title Content: Homeless News - March 16, 2021 - Man Plows Into Homeless Camp Killing 3 - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist
Blog Post Date: March 16, 2021

Blog Post Content:

3 die when car hits 9 people in San Diego homeless camp – 104.5 WOKV
SAN DIEGO — (AP) — A driver plowed through a sidewalk homeless encampment Monday in downtown San Diego, killing three people and injuring six others, authorities said. Craig Voss, 71, was heading through a tunnel underneath a community college campus when he drove his Volvo station wagon up on the sidewalk shortly after 9 a.m., San Diego Police Chief David Nisleit. Voss was arrested at the scene. He faces three counts of vehicular manslaughter, five counts of causing great bodily harm and a felony DUI, Nisleit said, adding that Voss did a field sobriety test by a drug recognition expert. He did not elaborate or identify

whether Voss was under the influence of alcohol or other substance. He said additional charges may be coming.

Corvallis adds homeless funds, loses camp plan | Homeless | gazettetimes.com

The council appropriated \$125,000 in coronavirus CARES Act funding to get the project off the ground, and the fencing, platforms and warming hut all are in place. But the facility never opened because of insurance issues.

Federal judge: Consider relocating Santa Cruz homeless camp – Santa Cruz Sentinel

SANTA CRUZ — A federal district court has ordered the City of Santa Cruz and a group of homeless-rights advocates to discuss a proposal to relocate a large encampment inside a city park. The court order comes in the midst of a civil rights lawsuit filed on behalf of the Santa Cruz Homeless Union and several citizens reportedly living unsheltered in San Lorenzo Park. In January, Northern District U.S. District Court Magistrate Judge Susan van Keulen ordered the city to temporarily hold off on its plans to displace the homeless encampment, largely due to concerns about distributing the large population during the coronavirus pandemic, she wrote.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/homeless-news-march-17-2021-organization-lets-people-camp-on-their-personal-property-and-city-threatens-to-sue-them/>

og:title Content: Homeless News - March 17, 2021 - Organization lets people camp on their personal property and city threatens to sue them. - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: March 17, 2021

Blog Post Content: Homeless camping outside a Santa Ana non-profit at center of dispute – Orange County Register

What began as a few people sleeping outside El Centro Cultural de Mexico in downtown Santa Ana has, in recent months, grown to more than 40 homeless living in tents in the non-profit's parking lot, pitting center operators against the city and neighborhood residents who complain of filthy conditons. The people who run the cultural center said they don't feel right kicking the homeless off the property and they will not call police and risk criminalizing homelessness. Instead, they want city officials to find those living on their property some shelter and services. But Santa Ana officials said they are frustrated that El Centro, which owns the property, is allowing the unpermitted campers, and they've threatened legal action if the camp is not dispersed.

Bellingham city crews remove Geri Fields homeless camp | Bellingham Herald

Bellingham officials began removing tents and belongings of about two dozen people camped at the Frank Geri Softball Fields in the lower Puget neighborhood early Tuesday, March 16.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/what-sleeping-outside-on-christmas-eve-did-to-me/>

og:title Content: What Sleeping Outside on Christmas Eve Did to Me - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: December 26, 2020

Blog Post Content:

My wife loves when my actions take the moral high ground.

That's why she supported our homeless tent village. And that why she supported me spending Christmas Eve night sleeping outside in solidarity with homeless pregnant women. That's exactly what Mary was, after all. Many of my current rants are vindictive and sometimes down right mean to the mayor, churches, and homeless service providers. But in my defense, I don't know what else to do. Homelessness in the richest country in the history of humanity shouldn't even be a thing, much less such the massive battle it currently is.

So when I told my wife that I was thinking about spending the night outside in support of homeless pregnant women, she was all for it.

The Akron Beacon Journal did a nice feature of the shelter I made out of pallets, fencing and tarps.

I woke up to it being 16 degrees on Christmas morning.

It wasn't much better when I went to bed. I don't think it ever reached above 23 degrees.

That and the relentless snow made the experience dramatic and powerful. I don't have snow clothes and hats and gloves. So eventually the snow would sit on my clothing, melt and then soak through everything. I know enough that wet clothes in freezing weather are a death sentence. And cotton holds moisture better than any fabric I can think of.

My t-shirt, sweater, underwear and jeans were all made out of cotton. After I had built everything the sweat and the snow had me soaked. I started getting cold. Like really cold.

I went to bed at about 10:30 on Christmas Eve night.

I took off all my clothes and got in my sleeping bag. I had bought a zero degree Coleman sleeping bag this fall. It cost \$50. We go camping in mid October with some friends every year. I wanted to try a new sleeping bag. I liked the bag in October and I liked it on Christmas Eve.

This sleeping bag worked!

I was not cold all night long.

But let me say this about the cold... It's relentless. It surrounds you like a shadow of death. It sits on your sleeping bag silently, patiently waiting for you. It has nothing more important to do than wait for you to emerge. If the smallest piece of skin came uncovered, the cold was instantly there to attack it. That's the way it feels. It will silently kill you if you don't prepare for it's wrath.

And the wind and the snow and the rain. That's why you build a waterproof shelter. Your sleeping bag is no match for those brutal forces.

The only reason I was not cold was because I had shelter and a decent sleeping bag.

I am absolutely committed to creating sanctioned emergency tent villages. I am not saying this is the be all end all solution. But what I am saying is that as I write this article I have multiple people texting me, begging me for propane and tents and sleeping bags.

We absolutely cannot wait another minute debating shelter for human beings. I don't care if you think they are lazy, drug addicts. By not giving these people sanctioned places to shelter we are torturing and murdering them as a society.

While I wasn't freezing, I was scared.

With shelter and proper sleeping gear, the weather quickly becomes a secondary player.

I probably got only 3 or 4 hours of sleep because I was scared of my surroundings.

I was afraid the police were going to come knocking on my shelter telling me to leave. But I was even more afraid of the other people on the street.

At about 3am a man started singing a song about how he needed a cigarette. It was an alright song. But I was quickly worried he was going to come to me looking for a cigarette and who knows what else.

Every SINGLE time the wind rustled my tarp I jolted awake afraid someone was at my camp.

You are completely vulnerable out in the open like that.

If "all" I had to be worried about was the cold I would have slept fine. But the true fear for me was the people.

Nothing happened. No one bothered me. Nothing was taken from my camp.

But then it got interesting.

After I packed up all my things I headed home. As I walked upstairs to my second floor apartment, my little dog Claribelle started barking for me. I was maybe more happy to hear her bark than I ever have been.

I was so truly happy to be home.

I didn't expect that. I've gone on countless business trips in my life. Sometimes I'd be gone all week. But I never came home feeling this way. I felt DEEPLY grateful to have a home and a family that loves me.

Even though I wasn't actually homeless, I was able to better empathize with the homeless experience. Being cold and alone and vulnerable and afraid is a terrible feeling.

On Christmas Day I took my dogs outside. The cold hit me in a completely different way than it ever had before. It felt more like an enemy. It felt evil. It triggered me from the night before. It brought back not just the cold, but also the fear. I truly believe I experienced a slight bit of trauma just in that one night.

It's now the day after Christmas. I went outside this morning to blow snow off my driveway. That ominous cold feeling had disappeared. My thinking is that the love and warmth of my home was able to heal that trauma I was feeling.

But I will say this: everything about being homeless is trauma inducing. The elements. The aloneness. The police. The predators. Every night. Relentless trauma. I feel like I can slightly sense that trauma.

In a way, I actually was thankful it was so cold. I believe it kept a lot of people off the streets. I would have been way more terrified camping so exposed in nicer weather. I'd be much more inclined to go hide in the woods in warmer seasons.

That's why we need sanctioned camps that are safe.

Today I can much more deeply understand what I've always believed. Being a human requires 3 levels of protection.

You need a form of insulation and/or heat. A good sleeping bag will go a long way. You need some form of shelter to protect you from rain, snow and wind. And you need a community that will look out for you.

Those three items are ABSOLUTELY critical for the survival of a human being. Every animal has specific needs for survival that are unique to them. These 3 items are absolute must haves for human beings. And we as a society systematically steal all 3 items from homeless people over and over again. I can't think of a more fundamental form of terrorism and torture than how we treat homeless people. And why do we do it? Because they embarrass us. They make us look bad. Like we can't take care of the people that need the most care. So we sweep camps and lie to the public that we have places these people can go. And we just force them deeper underground and hidden. That's all society wants. Just sweep them under the rug. "Problem solved."

I would not describe my experience as fun or even an exhilarating adventure. I was mostly afraid for many reasons. But I'm very thankful I did it. I feel slightly more connected to my homeless friends. And if it's possible I am even angrier at the churches and the government that allow this brutal, torturous system to exist and propagate. While individual people are overwhelmingly kind and giving, we as a society are cruel and hateful.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/city-of-akron-salaries-for-the-mayor-and-his-cabinet/>
og:title Content: City of Akron Salaries for the Mayor and his Cabinet - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist
Blog Post Date: March 18, 2021

Blog Post Content:

As of March 11, 2021, the average annual pay for a Mayor in Akron is \$171,265 an year. City council members make \$34,694. The council president makes \$44,616 These are 2015 Numbers: Chief of staff: James Hardy: Annual salary: \$106,454. Deputy chief of staff: Annie McFadden: Salary: \$95,000. Law director: Eve Belfance: Salary: \$127,837. Deputy mayor for public safety: Charles Brown: Salary: \$127,837. Director of finance: Diane Miller-Dawson. Salary: \$127,837. Deputy director of finance: Steve Fricker. Salary: \$116,896. Deputy mayor of economic development: Sam DeShazor: Salary: \$127,837. Planning director: Jason Segedy: Salary: \$127,837. Deputy planning director: Adele Roth: Salary: \$116,896. Deputy mayor for intergovernmental affairs/senior adviser: Marco Sommerville: Salary: \$127,837. Public service director: John Moore: Salary: \$127,837. Deputy public service director: Chris Ludle: Salary: \$106,454. Deputy mayor of labor relations: Randy Briggs: Salary: \$106,454. Director of neighborhood assistance: John Valle: Salary: \$127,837. Director of communications: Christine Curry: Salary: \$106,454. Chief information officer: Phil Montgomery: Salary: \$106,454. Assistant to the mayor for education, health and families: Terry Albanese: Salary: \$106,545. Assistant to the mayor for community relations: Billy Soule: Salary: \$74,518 (working part-time). Akron City Debt: \$975 million Annual Debt Service that is charged to us for holding that debt: \$43,860,438 Akron Median Household Income: \$38,739 People in poverty: 23.5%

This information was pulled from these resources:

Akron's debt approaching \$1 billion: What does that mean? (Q&A) - cleveland.com

Debt service payments peak for Akron this year and next - News - Akron Beacon Journal - Akron, OH

U.S. Census Bureau QuickFacts: Akron city, Ohio

Dan Horrigan's cabinet includes new and not-so-new faces - News - Akron Beacon Journal - Akron, OH

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/the-point-in-time-pit-count-is-complete-and-total-bullshit/>
og:title Content: The Point-in-Time (PIT) Count is Complete and Total Bullshit! - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist
Blog Post Date: January 3, 2020

Blog Post Content: If ever there was a more appropriate use of the word "bullshit" in describing something I've never seen it. The HUD mandated homeless Point-in-Time (PIT) count is complete and total bullshit. The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) requires communities to complete the count in order to receive federal funding for homeless programs.

Some "experts" say it under counts homeless people by half or more.

In 2018 the Summit County Ohio Continuum of Care used our tent village and day center as a center for counting homeless people.

Their homeless numbers increased by 71% that year. Duh! Some homeless people finally came out of hiding and stayed at our village. It's not shocking. It's just common sense.

But here's the thing. They didn't say our village helped them more accurately count homeless people. They BLAMED us for the homeless increase.

Here's the quote from the op-ed they published in the Akron Beacon Journal.

This past year we have seen an increase in homelessness. In exploring the cause of this increase, it appears the growth and development of the Second Chance Village is a primary factor. Since the opening of the village, our unsheltered homeless population grew by 71 percent in one year.

It wasn't that we just never could count homeless people accurately before. No. They were saying people loved living in a tent in January in Northeast Ohio SO much that we increased homelessness.

The reason they were so upset was because they were cooking the books of homeless numbers for the previous 5 years and we called them on it. They wrote:

For the past five years, the county has seen a reduction in the number of people living homeless, culminating in the declaration of functional zero for veteran homelessness.

"Functional zero" for veteran homelessness is a total, blatant, dangerous lie. Ask anyone who actually helps homeless veterans on the streets how there are zero homeless veterans and they'll laugh you out of the room.

And here's another lie:

As stated above, the community has the beds available, the community has the financial support available, and the community has the support services in place and available for every resident of the Second Chance Village.

They never were able to house "every resident" and when they couldn't they just blamed the homeless people and not themselves. The Continuum of Care never does anything wrong. Just ask them.

So, if our village wasn't actually the CAUSE of an increase in homelessness but instead a mildly more accurate measure of homelessness that means we have been undercounting by 71%. But we always had a waiting list. So that means that they weren't off by 71%. They were off by MUCH more.

I truly believe we could fill up a 50 person homeless village in every one of our 10 wards in Akron.

In 2017 we counted 78 unsheltered homeless. With our village that number surged to 137 in 2018. (That's from here.)

What I'm telling you is that a more accurate unsheltered number isn't 137. It's closer to 500! And really...

That number feels low to me. (Don't forget, Akron has the highest eviction rate in Ohio and the 24th highest in the country. We are churning out new homeless people every single day.)

But this year, because we no longer have our village or day center the number will likely go back to around 78.

That is the dictionary definition of BULLSHIT!

It infuriates me because we are talking about American citizens. Walking, talking human beings that have every right to live in this country and we are intentionally burying the truth on the backs of our most in need citizens. We are torturing American citizens by abandoning them on the violent, freezing streets of America to make our numbers look good.

My wife asked me why, if I'm so upset about these numbers, I don't go out and set the record straight.

I'll tell you why: I have no idea where these people are. There is no way on Earth I possibly could find these people. They are terrified of authority figures. They don't trust anyone. Everyone is a threat. So they are in deep hiding. And even if I could find 50 people, which I might be able to do, most of them wouldn't answer my questions. They aren't going to tell me shit.

At any given time I'd say 20-30% of the homeless people I know are pissed off at me for any number of reasons. So there's 3 out of 10 that I could find that wouldn't give me the time of day.

On top of all this, everything has to do with the turnout of the volunteers. I mean, if no one volunteered then we'd record zero homeless people. So then we could say we solved homelessness in Akron Ohio. Just like that we would have "functional zero homelessness" of ALL homeless people in Akron. Our CoC loves lying so much I don't know why they don't just commit and go all in on the Big Kahuna.

To make it worse, everyone that does this count knows it's bullshit. But they do it because their HUD overlord told them to do it. They will just hit the number that they think makes them look like they are doing their job. Then HUD will give them the same amount of money they gave them last year and nothing actually gets better. It's just bullshit. Everybody knows it. And it does nothing to actually help homeless people. It just pays another year's salaries for overpaid executives.

I will NOT be participating in this year's point-in-time count to help social worker executives get richer while further oppressing our houseless brothers and sisters.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/akron-city-councilman-mike-freeman-bashing-me-for-having-the-audacity-of-speaking-at-city-council/>

og:title Content: Akron City Councilman Mike Freeman Bashing Me For Having The Audacity Of Speaking at

City Council - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist
Blog Post Date: March 19, 2021

Blog Post Content:

This was at the December 3, 2018 Akron City Council Meeting as the city destroys our tent village while not housing 14 of our 50+ Residents They Promised To House.

The original full council video is here:
<https://youtu.be/JV2-4vDxMp0>

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/why-i-act-the-way-i-act/>
og:title Content: Why I Act The Way I Act - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist
Blog Post Date: March 20, 2021

Blog Post Content:

Some people cringe at my outbursts.

They tell me that my anger and attacks on politicians is childish and hurtful to my overall cause.

I am nothing if not intentional in my actions.

Some may think that I'm just some madman yelling into the wind further isolating myself and spiralling out of control.

I do indeed allow my emotions to be free. What you see from me is nothing if not authentic.

But I don't show you everything. I work a regular job at my marketing agency about 30 hours a week. You don't hear much of anything about that. That's just because I see no point in sharing that with you. It's a job. I enjoy it. That's pretty much the end of it.

Most of what I share is based on an agenda. I am outraged by the cruelty of the American power players towards the oppressed and low income Americans. I also see myself as an eccentric creator. I love thinking about education, religion and government. I like sharing those ideas with you.

But the question at hand here is: is my anger and intense rhetoric helpful or hurtful?

I think a lot about this because I only want one thing: for every single American to have safe shelter TONIGHT, not in some fantasy future where every American gets a free house and lives happily ever after. I want emergency, triage sanctioned tent villages for every single American that needs them NOW.

My actions and words all stem from creating the fastest path towards making that a reality.

Do you know about this:

The Haymarket massacre (also known as the Haymarket affair, Haymarket riot, or Haymarket Square riot) was the aftermath of a bombing that took place at a labor demonstration on May 4, 1886, at Haymarket Square in Chicago.[2] It began as a peaceful rally in support of workers striking for an eight-hour work day, the day after police killed one and injured several workers.[3] An unknown person threw a dynamite bomb at the police as they acted to disperse the meeting, and the bomb blast and ensuing gunfire resulted in the deaths of seven police officers and at least four civilians; dozens of others were wounded.

According to labor historian William J. Adelman:No single event has influenced the history of labor in Illinois, the United States, and even the world, more than the Chicago Haymarket Affair. It began with a rally on May 4, 1886, but the consequences are still being felt today. Although the rally is included in American history textbooks, very few present the event accurately or point out its significance.

Show me a major humanitarian right and I'll show you violence that made it happen.

My primary heros, John Brown and Fred Hampton, were nothing if not brutally violent. Sitting Bull brutally cut down Kuster by uniting the Native American tribes at The Battle of the Little Bighorn.

I truly believe that Martin Luther King Jr was only as successful as he was because Malcolm X was waiting in the wings for his time to shine.

My heros are brutal.

And look what King spoke less than a year before his assassination in front of primarily white doctors and academics in September of 1967 at the American Psychology Association's annual convention in Washington, DC.

"Urban riots must now be recognized as durable social phenomena," he told the assembled crowd of mostly white doctors and academics. "They may be deplored, but they are there and should be understood. Urban riots are a special form of violence. They are not insurrections. The rioters are not seeking to seize territory

or to attain control of institutions. They are mainly intended to shock the white community. They are a distorted form of social protest. The looting which is their principal feature serves many functions. It enables the most enraged and deprived Negro to take hold of consumer goods with the ease the white man does by using his purse. Often the Negro does not even want what he takes; he wants the experience of taking." Nonviolence suggests that your oppressor has a moral compass and will be gently nudged awake to see the errors in his ways. I have never seen that to be the case.

But there is one problem with my love affair with these violent people. I refuse to hurt or kill another human. I "believe in deontological constraints, that is, that there are some things that are wrong to do to people even if the consequences of doing so are on balance positive – indeed, even if the consequences are on balance the best that can be attained by any alternative act or policy."

I refuse to hurt people even though everywhere I look it appears that violence is the quickest, most effective form of direct action.

The humanitarian crimes of American homelessness, African American oppression, Native American genocide and now the hardening overall class war we are finding ourselves in all justify the use of any words or actions to end them.

While I have made a moral pact with myself to not hurt or murder people in the name of a righteous cause, I also believe my nonviolent choices have strategic benefits.

First and most importantly, a revolutionary that is walking and talking is always more powerful than a revolutionary buried in a Wikipedia article. So much force comes from a living revolutionary.

If the American government can declare you too dangerous to stay alive they will kill you. It's what they do over and over again. Your power drastically fades after your death. Your murder will be covered up in the name of public safety. Fred Hampton's assassination by the government would have most certainly been covered up if it hadn't been for his supporters showing the truth. I highly recommend the documentary "The Murder of Fred Hampton."

They may still kill you if you don't have any guns or bombs. But it's a lot more politically difficult. You will almost certainly be elevated to martyr status by a much larger population. Your message will ring louder longer.

It is far better for the government to murder you in cold blood with you holding no weapon.

But blood isn't the only form of violence.

To my amusement and fascination, I have found that many people are still easily shocked by sharp words. I have found that moderates find some of my words frightening. This is wonderful news.

If I can effect meaningful change merely with strong words what a wonderful thing that would be.

But I am not naive enough to think that those in charge would be as easily persuaded.

No. I use my words to wake up the revolutionaries. I use my words to inspire other patriots and comrades to join me in the fight against the rotten post-capitalist bourgeoisie power player slave holders we all are forced to bend our backs to.

To think you can inspire meaningful change through polite, intellectual dialog is counter to every example of how meaningful change actually came about throughout history.

Moderates don't want real change. They like things just the way they are. They say they are on your side as long as your side seeks change slowly and incrementally. That's easy for them to say living in their comfortable houses going to their well paying comfortable jobs. Meanwhile, you are literally starving and freezing unsheltered on the streets of the richest most Christian country in the world.

Change must happen brutally and instantly. It must happen now at any cost. If the entire American system falls in the process that's fine. It was rotten to the core anyway.

Moderates are not our friends in the revolution. A black communist will find a more loyal friend in a KKK member than they will with an intellectual Democrat moderate.

WE MUST UNITE. ALL POWER TO ALL THE PEOPLE.

My plan is simple for Akron. It's 6 parts.

1. Unite people in places like the Akron Uprising Signal group we've started. Or join the Akron Uprising Facebook group. We have tools like never before to unite people. We must use them.
 2. Activate the people. Concerts. Graffiti. Stickers. Voter registration. Protests. Turn them into an empowered, united group of revolutionaries.
 3. Put compelling populist candidates on the ballot.
 4. Create the largest voter turnout in the history of Akron.
 5. Pressure our new politicians to be true to the people.
 6. Start the process over again throwing out the inevitable bad actor politicians that betrayed our trust.
- Every step of this "simple" process is monumental. But this is how it's done. Hope and belief is a hell of a

thing. It changes the world.

Violent revolution will make the change. But it's anyone's guess where that change will land. Often you find yourself in a worse predicament than the one you were trying to overthrow.

My plan is harder but more likely to lead to the change we want.

This is my Letter from Birmingham Jail. This is my one time I make the effort to explain myself to the moderate detractors that love to tell me how unthoughtful and counter productive I am.

I have a plan. I am strategic. Every word that comes out of my mouth is meant to do one thing: activate and unite the people who actually are ready for change. My audience isn't moderate liberals. Moderate liberals (usually white) have always been the biggest hurdles to every meaningful activist in the history of America.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/sunday-morning-with-sage-the-corrupt-akron-government-and-sex-and-the-church/>

og:title Content: Sunday Morning With Sage - The Corrupt Akron Government AND Sex and The Church - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: March 21, 2021

Blog Post Content:

Let's talk about this: The man accused of killing eight people, including six women of Asian descent, blamed "sexual addiction," a disputed term used in parts of evangelical culture.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2021/03/20/us/evangelical-sex-addiction-atlanta-suspect.html>

We also spent a lot of time talking about corruption in Akron politics and how to organize to make real change for our city.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/sages-weight-loss-journey-down-12-pounds-since-february-22/>

og:title Content: Sage's Weight Loss Journey - Down 12 Pounds Since February 22 - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: March 22, 2021

Blog Post Content:

This was a strange week. I was actually gaining weight during the middle of the week even though my calories were on point. But then all of a sudden I lost 2 pound seemingly instantly this past weekend.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/homeless-news-march-22-2021-camp-sweeps-and-massive-homeless-increase/>

og:title Content: Homeless News - March 22, 2021 - Camp sweeps and massive homeless increase - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: March 22, 2021

Blog Post Content: City of San Jose Removing Homeless Camp to Make Way for Coyote Creek Trail Renovations – NBC Bay Area

Renovations for San Jose's Coyote Creek Trail may result in the largest homeless camp removals since the city swept the infamous Jungle encampments in 2014. On Monday, the city began breaking down dozens of tents, treehouses and other makeshift homes, and removing homeless individuals living along the Coyote Creek Trail, a nearly mile-long stretch starting at Olinder Dog Park to where The Jungle homeless encampment officially starts near Story Road. The Jungle was San Jose's, and arguably the nation's, largest homeless encampment. About 300 people who took shelter along 68 acres of the Coyote Creek Trail were 'swept', or forcibly removed, in 2014 in an effort to find housing for individuals and reduce to pollution in the creek and environment.

Days Inn closure leaves some long-time residents homeless with only 2 days notice

MIDDLEBURG HEIGHTS, Ohio (WOIO) - Several residents are out of their homes now that a Days Inn is shutting down. Richard Oliver, 72, said, he's one of them. "There's no answer. They just made up their mind. You have to be off the property and if you're not off the property, we're gonna call the police," he said.

Shaw: No one chooses to be homeless in Silicon Valley - San José Spotlight

The problem of homelessness isn't going away anytime soon, in fact, it's apparent that it is increasing, which causes a tremendous amount of angst, because of the visibility. Homelessness can be seen just about everywhere, but there's so much more that is not seen. And that's why advocacy for the homeless is needed more than ever and it will continue whether it is liked or not. It's often easier to look down on those who have less, to avoid looking up to see how many actually have more than you do. There are many more closer to the bottom than top. Jerome Shaw is homeless and living at a HomeFirst shelter in Sunnyvale. He's a leader in the Sunnyvale Clients Collaborative — a union of homeless shelter residents in the region — and is part of a group of homeless columnists writing for San José Spotlight's In Your Backyard column to shine a light on the homeless experience in Silicon Valley.

Turlock CA police sweep homeless camp in emergency response | Modesto Bee

Turlock Police began clearing a homeless encampment on West Main Street on Thursday morning, ordering about 50 people to vacate the area. The sweep marks the first enforcement action in the city's 120-day homeless emergency plan, and comes nine days after officers first gave residents a trespassing notice. Unsheltered people living near 1400 West Main St., located between Planet Fitness and Evergreen Packaging, gathered their belongings while contractors cleaned up items left behind, such as tarps and water jugs.

UPDATE: Hamilton County homeless population grows 81 percent in - WRCBtv.com | Chattanooga News, Weather & Sports

The Chattanooga Regional Homeless Coalition is reporting a startling jump in homelessness. An annual count revealed the unsheltered homeless population has risen by 81 percent in Hamilton County in the last year. People facing homelessness are an already vulnerable population made even more vulnerable by COVID-19. "The increase we saw here is not unique, it's across the nation," CRHC Executive Director Wendy Winters said.

HUD: Growth Of Homelessness During 2020 Was 'Devastating,' Even Before The Pandemic | WYPR

The nation's homeless population grew last year for the fourth year in a row. On a single night in January 2020, there were more than 580,000 individuals who were homeless in the United States, a 2% increase from the year before. The numbers, released by the Department of Housing and Urban Development Thursday, do not reflect the impact of the pandemic. "And we know the pandemic has only made the homelessness crisis worse," HUD Secretary Marcia Fudge

City's attempt to clear Mpls. homeless camp leads to scuffles between police, camp defenders - StarTribune.com

An attempt by the city of Minneapolis to clear a homeless encampment Thursday morning led to a violent clash between police and civilians guarding the camp. Five people were arrested and five officers suffered minor injuries, according to police. More than 100 people showed up at the encampment at 205 N. Girard Av. in response to several activists' social media accounts warning that the city of Minneapolis planned to clear the empty lot where about 20 people live in tents.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/homeless-news-march-24-2021-homeless-camp-sweeps-are-everywhere/>
og:title Content: Homeless News - March 24, 2021 - Homeless Camp Sweeps Are Everywhere - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: March 24, 2021

Blog Post Content:

Growing homeless camp on Seattle's Capitol Hill underscores citywide issue | king5.com

A mile away from Miller Playfield, the Low Income Housing Institute (LIHI) held a ribbon-cutting to mark the opening of a new apartment building offering affordable housing to the homeless. According to LIHI, each unit cost \$240,000, with the City of Seattle's Office of Housing providing \$11 million in funding for the project. "Today, 76 people of all races and nationalities begin the next step toward becoming productive members of our society in their own homes," said Stephen LeBerth, a formerly homeless veteran.

Housing Boss Who Was Accused of Sexual Abuse Now Faces Bribery Charges - The New York Times

The former head of one of the largest homeless shelter networks in New York — who was already under investigation after several women accused him of sexual abuse — was arrested Wednesday on federal charges that he took hundreds of thousands of dollars in kickbacks from contractors.

The Echo Park Lake Homeless Community Is Bracing For The City To Clear The Park

Homeless residents and advocates are bracing for the city of Los Angeles to close Echo Park Lake and clear a tent community that has become a flashpoint in the debate about the city's policies towards homeless

encampments. The coalition of community organizations, Services Not Sweeps, and people who live at the park say they have heard from sources at the city that the announcement to shut the park down will come later Wednesday and will presumably include a timeline for evictions. "They're doing it all in secret," said Ayman Ahmed, who added that he has lived at the lake for more than a year.
Bellingham homeless camp remains in neighborhood park despite removal efforts | king5.com
for more than a week, it has been taken over by a homeless camp, and it doesn't appear it is going anywhere anytime soon.

San Jose to vote on sweeping homeless camps, creating sanctioned encampments - San José Spotlight
Some San Jose leaders want to clear homeless encampments immediately — despite health regulations cautioning not to do so during a pandemic — and move homeless residents to a government-approved camping site.

City Council approves motion to build prefab shelters for the homeless in NELA

A motion by CD 14 City Councilmember Kevin de León to build small, prefabricated shelter units for the homeless in Eagle Rock and Highland Park was unanimously approved on Wednesday by the Los Angeles City Council. Pallet shelter units for the homeless, like these in N. Hollywood, are 8' x 8' or 10' x 10' | Photo in LAist.com, courtesy of Fonda Rosing/Hope of the Valley In Eagle Rock, the units — known as "pallet housing" — are slated for the parking lot on N. Figueroa St. across from the Eagle Rock Recreation Center near the 134 Freeway ramps. In Highland Park, the pallet housing is slated for an unused section of Arroyo Dr. near S. Avenue 64 and the 110 Freeway. The shelters, generally 8' by 8' or 10' by 10', are intended as "bridge" housing for people as they transition to permanent housing.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/homeless-news-march-25-2021-more-sweeps/>

og:title Content: Homeless News - March 25, 2021 - More Sweeps - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: March 25, 2021

Blog Post Content: San Jose to resume clearing homeless camps, focusing near schools

The healthcare the county has been able to offer unhoused people has improved dramatically over the past year, because people have stayed in one place rather than being shuffled around as the city clears their camps, said Dr. Mudit Gilotra, medical director of Santa Clara County's Valley Homeless Healthcare Program. And as the county vaccinates encampment residents against COVID, healthcare workers need to know where their patients are. "I can't imagine how difficult it will be to find people again for their second dose if abatements are happening," Gilotra said.

LAPD Declares Unlawful Assembly As Protesters, Police Face Off At Echo Park Lake Over Homeless Encampment Removal – CBS Los Angeles

LOS ANGELES (CBSLA) — The Los Angeles Police Department Wednesday night ordered a citywide tactical alert after protesters and officers faced off at Echo Park Lake over the city's plan to close the park and remove the homeless encampment.

Homeless camp broken up

Unfortunately, housing services wasn't available for most of the people they contacted. Many of the people from the camp probably moved to a more out of sight place to sleep.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/all-possible-paths-exist/>

og:title Content: All Possible Paths Exist - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: March 27, 2021

Blog Post Content:

If it is possible by the laws of physics, it has happened. All of it.

This isn't some woowoo mumbo jumbo. This is the theory of the multiverse.

Anything I say after this point is belief and not science.

I believe we have free will.

You could spend the entire day standing up and sitting down at random intervals and occasionally spinning around in circles. I don't believe that is pre ordained by some preconceived master plan.

BUT, I don't believe you can channel a "good" path in life. You can't ask for goodness and expect to have goodness flow into your life. You don't know what will be the outcome of your actions.

I've known people who spent their entire adult lives addicted and homeless. It seems like a tragedy. But then their children become highly thoughtful, resilient and empathetic people. Who knows what our actions will result in.

I will say this on that topic, however. When I think of negative things I feel angry and hateful. I send out anger and hate into the world. When I think of positive things I am hopeful and optimistic. I put out love into the world.

I don't know which view is "right."

If I just put out positivity I am lying about reality. If I put out negativity I am spreading hurt and pain. Sometimes I'm enraged by the cruelty of man. Sometimes I'm beaming with the love of God. What are you going to do?

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/life-is-contradiction/>

og:title Content: Life is contradiction. - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: March 29, 2021

Blog Post Content:

The ultimate contradiction is that life is both creation and destruction. Poverty will always exist and that is why we must always work to destroy poverty. Corruption will always exist and that is why we must always fight to destroy corruption. Evil will always exist and that is why we must always fight to destroy evil.

This is both peace and war. Simultaneously. Acceptance of the dark truths while fighting against these truths with everything we have.

This is life. There is no end for us. Therefore we must find both acceptance and vigilance.

Peace and war. Love and hate. All at the same time.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/march-30-2021-homeless-news-its-all-about-camps/>

og:title Content: March 30, 2021 Homeless News - It's all about camps - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: March 30, 2021

Blog Post Content: Los Angeles park closed after protest to save homeless camp - Santa Monica Daily Press
A newly installed fence surrounded a Los Angeles park Thursday after a late-night confrontation between police and vocal demonstrators who oppose the city's effort to remove a large homeless encampment and perform extensive repairs of the site.

Homelessness escalates in numbers and intensity throughout the pandemic - The Daily Cardinal

According to The Department of Housing and Urban Development, Dane County homeless services assisted approximately 3,465 local residents from October 2019 to September 2020. Black people made up 46% of this number despite representing only 14% of the county's total population, while Whites and Latinos represented 41% and 5% respectively. Seventy percent of Dane County's homeless population is made up of men.

LAPD cracks down on Echo Park homeless encampment - CNN

Los Angeles officials moved ahead Thursday with the shut down of a homeless encampment in Echo Park following a night of confrontations between police and demonstrators. LAPD Chief Michel Moore tweeted late Wednesday that homeless people remaining in the park had 24 hours to leave. At least 40 tents used by the homeless could still be seen in the park Thursday behind fencing erected by city contractors, LA news station KTLA reported.

Los Angeles police clash with protesters in fight to evict major homeless encampment | US news | The Guardian

Los Angeles officials have moved to evict a large homeless encampment from a major city park, sending police in riot gear to face off with unhoused residents and protesters supporting them. Late Wednesday night, hundreds of demonstrators gathered at Echo Park Lake, a public park in central LA, to denounce the planned expulsion of hundreds of people who have been camping out there. The park has become a major battleground in the city's worsening housing and homelessness crisis during the pandemic. A growing number of homeless residents have sought refuge at the park over the last year, with more than 170 tents and makeshift structures set up as of this month.

"We were definitely outnumbered by the police," said Samantha Curley, a member of Street Watch LA, a group supporting the residents. "The city doesn't care about vulnerable populations. It cares more about wealthy donors and housed folks who are inconvenienced by people living on public property. I don't think you can overstate the amount of fear and stress and anxiety that this causes for folks living at the park." As of January 2020, there were more than 66,000 homeless people in LA county, a 12% increase from the previous year. The pandemic and economic downturn have exacerbated the housing crisis, with tens of thousands of people behind on rent and nearly four people dying on the streets every day.

Trash bin arrives at Capital Blvd. homeless camp in Raleigh | Durham Herald Sun
NCDOT says it has no plans to remove the camp, as long as it doesn't pose a safety risk to the public or the people living there. The department says it is following guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, which says clearing homeless camps during the COVID-19 pandemic risks spreading the virus.
Homeless man in Texas first person ever to live in 3D-printed house - pennlive.com
A homeless man has become the first person ever to live in a 3D-printed house. Well, formerly homeless, as 70-year-old Tim Shea now has the 400-square-foot abode located near Austin, Texas to call his own.
Sacramento site for homeless displaced by Caltrans project | The Sacramento Bee
For years, dismayed Sacramento city officials watched as unhoused people set up disheveled tent cities under downtown freeways. Now, in a strategy shift, the city is inviting some homeless to do just that — but now in a controlled fashion. Saturday, under a newly bolted a "Safe Ground" sign on a pole in a parking lot at 6th and W streets, crews setup up a row of port-a-potties and cleaning stations, and city officials put out the word: "This is a place where not only you can stay without being asked to move every day, but we can ramp up case management and make this a full-service triage center," Councilwoman Katie Valenzuela, who represents downtown, said.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/amber-evans-deserves-to-be-remembered-here-in-akron/>
og:title Content: Amber Evans Deserves To Be Remembered Here In Akron - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist
Blog Post Date: March 31, 2021

Blog Post Content:

Amber Evans deserves to be remembered for many reasons particularly with her connections to Akron, Summit County, Kent State and Ohio State.
She killed herself because she was exhausted from The Fight.
I know the feeling. Maybe you do too.
We must remember: the war never ends. Here on Earth, love and hate are in an eternal dance that we get swept up in. Ebbing and flowing. Back and forth For those that love it is the great heartbreak. We will never fully win while we are alive here on Earth.
But the universe was created and all creation is love. It is the great love that encompasses all other things. We who are in the great war of fighting oppression and man's cruelty to seemingly everything it touches must remember: love won 13.8 billion years ago when the entire universe was created.
We must love and fight while knowing that everything, even man's hate and evilness, are all just small threads in a massive tapestry of love.
We must fight against evil while knowing we have already won. Don't let the evil consume you. It will destroy you.
Fight the war from a place outside the war. Keep your heart and mind in the universal all consuming love while you stand in the midst of the valley of the shadow of death. Fear no evil. It cannot touch you.
This is a wonderful article on the life of Amber Evans.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/homeless-news-for-3-31-2021-a-skating-rink-becomes-a-homeless-shelter/>
og:title Content: Homeless News for 3/31/2021 - A Skating Rink becomes a homeless shelter. - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist
Blog Post Date: March 31, 2021

Blog Post Content: Tents Needed for Homeless - Fox21Online

DULUTH, Minn. – CHUM is in need of tents to provide for those who are homeless. The warming shelter will be closing on March 31st and while the shelter may be open in April due to possible cold weather, the shelter is seasonal. Those from the street outreach team at CHUM are looking for tents so people don't have to sleep on the ground.

Gloria Hopes Changes Inject Compassion Into Homeless Camp Clean-Ups

Gloria said Monday that he had directed city staff to establish a regular clean-up and sidewalk sanitization schedule that offers more advanced notice than the three hours typically provided, to better clarify how homeless San Diegans whose belongings are confiscated can retrieve those items and to decrease the visibility of police officers aiding sanitation workers. He also reiterated orders he gave weeks ago barring

clean-ups at night or during inclement weather.

A closed skating rink will be converted into a homeless shelter - WRCBtv.com | Chattanooga News, Weather & Sports

A skating rink in Los Angeles set to be converted into a homeless shelter will bear the name of the late Alex Trebek, the famed host of "Jeopardy!" Trebek, who hosted the popular game show for more than three decades, made a donation to the California-based Hope of the Valley Rescue Mission back in November, when the organization was attempting to purchase the closed Skateland rink, CNN affiliate KCAL reported.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/homeless-news-april-1-2021-camp-sweeps-and-yurts/>

og:title Content: Homeless News April 1, 2021 - Camp Sweeps and Yurts - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: April 1, 2021

Blog Post Content: Yurt program offers new solutions to housing for the homeless

In the future, groups like AIM would like to see more yurts on private and city property as a solution to the area's growing housing problem. "When you're homeless, sometimes the thing you need to live is a safe space to be. Sometimes the thing you need to improve your life is a first step," said Helgersen. "This is the first step." Right now, there are just three Duluth property owners who've allowed construction of a yurt for the program, one in the Endion neighborhood, as well as one in East Hillside and another near the mall. The people selected to live in the yurts are required to complete community service during their stay. As it stands now, yurts are not allowed to be built on city property in Duluth.

Homeless advocates say last weekend's deaths were avoidable | News | wsmv.com

NASHVILLE, TN (WSMV) - Along Sevenmile Creek in South Nashville is what's left of a homeless encampment and all the belongings its residents had. Two people lost their lives there Saturday night and advocates say it could have been prevented.

Resources offered to Salt Lake homeless ahead of two camp closures | KJZZ

Past encampment closures have been controversial and have attracted protesters. The city told 2News last week the two camps set for closure have grown too large and are unsafe.

CHP and Caltrans clear out homeless camp along Highway 32 and 99

CHICO, Calif. - The California Highway Patrol (CHP) and Caltrans cleared out a homeless camp Tuesday along Highway 32 and Highway 99. Some of the homeless expressed they were scared to leave the area.

"We have to be out of here and vacate immediately," a Chico community member who did not want to be identified said. After receiving a 72-hour notice last Thursday, those living in this area were expected to be packed up and moved out by 8 a.m. Tuesday morning.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/lack-of-understanding-consequences-for-your-actions/>

og:title Content: Lack of understanding Consequences for your actions - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: April 7, 2021

Blog Post Content:

Some homeless people have difficulty processing consequences for their actions.

"If you don't clean up this space I'm going to make you move off my land."

They can see that there are benefits for living on my land. Like security and access to electricity. They don't want to move back to the woods.

They then deflect responsibility for their actions. Sage is being unfair.

Their response isn't to clean up the space. It's to yell and plead and pout with all their energy to hope they can change my mind.

They will lose what they want because they can't process that it is THEIR actions causing negative consequences.

It feels like a short circuit in their early childhood development. They either didn't learn this skill or they have developed a disorder.

Oppositional Defiant Disorder is not quite it. But it's the right area of thinking.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/homeless-news-april-7-2021-homeless-camps-are-more-common/>

og:title Content: Homeless News - April 7, 2021 - Homeless Camps Are More Common - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: April 7, 2021

Blog Post Content: As a person who watches the news about homelessness every day, I can tell you without a doubt... homeless camps are becoming more common and homeless people are standing up for their rights more.

Covid is the common denominator. It has made America more difficult to live in as a low income person.

Salt Lake City homeless camp closed and cleaned up, but what's changed? | KJZZ

The closure and abatement of the Rio Grande Street camp took place Thursday morning. Salt Lake County Health Department crews took away "15 dump trucks worth of abandoned items and debris" Thursday morning, a spokesman said. But just a few hours after that operation took place, the street was once again lined with people, supplies, and garbage.

State homeless camp catches fire early Friday where 100 people live | KXAN Austin

AUSTIN (KXAN) — The state-sponsored homeless camp in southeast Austin caught fire early Friday morning. The Austin Fire Department says four of 11 units there suffered damage but no one was hurt. AFD said the fire started around 4:20 a.m. Friday. They have not yet determined a cause, but the occupant of the area where the fire started said it was some sort of electrical fire.

Officials taking different approach to homeless encampment cleanups | Politics | tulsaworld.com

The people who spent hours in homeless encampments along Riverside Drive south of the River Spirit Casino on Thursday were there to clean up, not clean out. There is a big difference between the two. Becky Gligo, executive director of Housing Solutions, said the city, River Parks Authority and local social service agencies are taking a different approach to how they address homeless encampments. "I think what's been great is that, in the past it's been kind of like, they get reports, you clear it out," Gligo said. "And now I think what folks are seeing is, you clear out an encampment, you are just leaving them a clean camp to come back to.

Avivo Village takes in the unsheltered homeless

In an effort to reduce the number of homeless in Minneapolis the temporary housing project Avivo Village, in partnership with the North Loop Association, opened its doors last month to nearly one hundred people experiencing homelessness. "We're calling them tiny homes. They really are rooms," said Emily Bastian, Avivo's vice president of ending homelessness. "Something COVID-safe, something that they could know that their belongings are going to be secured."

Deaths Among America's Homeless Are Soaring in the Pandemic | Time

Ordered to shelter in place, people without shelter died at an alarming rate. In a bad year here, according to social workers from three charity organizations, two to four of the unhoused die. Over the past year, they have tallied 22 deaths, a sevenfold increase.

San Jose homeless sweeps create a revolving door - San José Spotlight

"We've been back here for over a year now," Martinez told San José Spotlight. "I didn't get homeless because of drugs or nothing. I got homeless because I messed up my back at my job."

SLC mayor responds to concerns over ineffective homeless camp cleanup | KJZZ

"There are now 12 tents in place," Hill wrote, asking why more police officers weren't in the area enforcing the closure. "Basically less than 24 hours later we are in many ways back to where we started."

Here's what happened to homeless people cleared from Echo Park - Los Angeles Times

She ended up in a hotel room in Century City, expecting to stay for months. But now, with travel restrictions easing as COVID-19 cases continue to decline, the hotel is reopening, and homeless people, there under the government-funded program Project Roomkey, must leave.

"We ate better at Echo Park than we do at the hotel," Wic added. "And I'm not even gonna lie."

Brenda, another homeless resident of the park, said she was scared of the police, too. But instead of accepting an offer for a hotel or motel room, she decided to camp out in front of O'Farrell's office for a few days. Since then, she said, she's gone back to sleeping on other sidewalks, most of them not far from Echo Park.

But she and many of the others newly housed in hotels also spoke of the very real fear of being kicked out once again. They know Project Roomkey won't last forever, and living in a room for a few weeks or months doesn't feel like, as Bonin declared it, a "major achievement."

Letter: The inside story of the homeless campground | Letters | theworldlink.com

I would like to clear up what I feel are misconceptions expressed in The World newspaper article of Tuesday, March 9, about the "Homeless Campground at Methodist Church." It was an area where those who could not afford or find other housing could stay at and would be semi-safe. Each resident was interviewed by the minister – they were asked what their plan was to transition out of the camp. Rules were outlined and it was emphasized that if rules were broken, they would meet with the minister or the police or both, and, if necessary, they would have to leave – not to return.

Homeless camped outside city hall say they won't leave

Dozens of people camping at city hall say they are not moving, despite receiving notice from security to leave the property. The front lawn of city hall is now surrounded by a plastic fence, which was installed by the campers Monday morning to prevent themselves from being removed.

Video shows California officer shoot homeless Black man - ABC News

DANVILLE, Calif. -- A lawyer for the family of a homeless Black man who was fatally shot last month by a San Francisco Bay Area police officer said Tuesday that a video serves as evidence that the shooting was unjustified — a claim disputed by the police officer's lawyer.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/why-we-are-here/>

og:title Content: Why we are here - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: April 9, 2021

Blog Post Content:

I am more and more convinced the energy of the universe has been channeled into our human form and consciousness to go on a mission. The mission is to alleviate suffering in others which ultimately alleviates the suffering in ourselves. There is no end. Suffering is eternal. There is no winning the game. The game is a constant universe for everyone to experience. All we can do is level up our own character in a universe of constant suffering.

The goal is to find joy and peace while holding the suffering at the same time.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/homeless-news-april-15-2021-people-still-hate-homeless-people/>

og:title Content: Homeless News - April 15, 2021 - People still hate homeless people... - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: April 15, 2021

Blog Post Content:

Cuyahoga County Is Using Alternative Methods For Housing The Homeless

"We're seeing that mass warehousing of people experiencing homelessness is not a safe nor dignified way to practice emergency shelter," says Chris Knestrick, executive director of the Northeast Ohio Coalition for the Homeless.

15,000 People Sign Petition To Prevent Homeless Beach Relocation Plan In California | KABC-AM

Nearly 15-thousand people have already signed a petition opposing a new plan that calls for relocating homeless people to Los Angeles' beaches. Earlier this week, L.A. City Councilman Mike Bonin proposed building tiny homes in beach parking lots in cities like Pacific Palisades and Marina Del Rey. If the proposal passes, beach parking lots would also be zoned for temporary RV camps. The full L.A. City Council is expected to cast its votes on the matter in a few weeks.

Elk Grove is paying its homeless residents to clean their encampment sites

The number one complaint surrounding homelessness was the amount of trash.

City issues 7-day removal notices to homeless camps, citing 'escalating safety issues' | | kctv5.com

ASHEVILLE, N.C. (WLOS) -- Asheville city officials are taking steps to remove two homeless encampments due to growing safety concerns.

Dozens of people living in a homeless encampment in Oceanside are getting more time to relocate before the city forces them out. This comes after Oceanside city councilmembers passed an anti-camping ordinance and emergency motel voucher program, earlier this week. City leaders say the goal is to help transition the community into permanent housing.

Dozens of people living in a homeless encampment in Oceanside are getting more time to relocate before the city forces them out. This comes after Oceanside city councilmembers passed an anti-camping ordinance and emergency motel voucher program, earlier this week. City leaders say the goal is to help transition the community into permanent housing.

Philadelphia Officials Begin Clearing Homeless Encampment Near Reading Terminal Market – CBS Philly

Over the past 30 days, they have been working with the occupants to close it down.

Homeless encampments, crime creep up in far West side neighborhood | WOAI

SAN ANTONIO (KABB/WOAI) - One man says he and his neighbors are growing frustrated with the growing number of homeless people camping in and around their neighborhood.

Oregon bill to stop homeless sweeps gets hearing | KPIC

Lawmakers hosted a hearing Tuesday on the Right to Rest Act, which would end homeless sweeps in

Oregon. The testimony was overwhelmingly positive. House Bill 2367 would prevent the homeless from being criminalized for sitting or lying down in a non-obstructive manner.

Increased shelter access for homeless youth shut down in committee

HELENA — House lawmakers on the Human Services Committee tabled a bill on Tuesday that would allow minors to stay in emergency shelters and receive services without the consent of a parent or guardian, a measure proponents have said is crucial for the protection of vulnerable youth seeking safe harbor from dangerous living situations.

Homeless Army veteran pulls man from burning vehicle | Lexington Herald Leader

A homeless Army veteran is being called a hero for pulling a man to safety when his car caught fire after a head-on crash in Florida's Panhandle.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/homeless-news-april-22-2021-all-skid-row-unhoused-residents-must-be-housed-in-180-days/>

og:title Content: Homeless News - April 22, 2021 - All Skid Row Unhoused Residents MUST Be Housed in 180 Days - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: April 22, 2021

Blog Post Content: Auburn council OKs 'tough love' ordinance for homeless who repeatedly refuse help offers | KATU

AUBURN, Wash. — Auburn City Council members voted Monday evening to adopt a so-called “tough love” ordinance that would allow police to issue criminal trespass citations and impose fines on homeless people who repeatedly refuse offers of shelter or services from the city that could help get them off the streets.

Oregon lawmakers approve measure to increase notice before sweeping homeless camps - OPB

Oregon lawmakers in the House approved a measure Monday to increase the amount of time people who are unhoused receive before being forced to move. The measure, House Bill 3124, would require notice be posted at the entrance and exit of a homeless encampment for 72 hours before sweeping the area.

Lived Experience Coalition Says No One Asked Them About Homelessness Initiative | South Seattle Emerald
LEC members said they don't support the initiative because it focuses too much on removing encampments and not enough on actually funding and building the housing that would enable people to move inside.

Judge orders LA to offer shelter for homeless on Skid Row | MyWabashValley.com

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A federal judge overseeing a sweeping lawsuit about homelessness in Los Angeles on Tuesday ordered the city and county to find shelter for all unhoused residents of Skid Row within 180 days and audit any spending related to the out-of-control crisis of people living on the streets.

“Carter is able to put together a history of racist and discriminatory policies and connect them to the policy failures of today. It shows the culpability of the city and county of LA for decades. Now they have to make it right,” Conway said Tuesday.

The Alarming Absence of Accountability in the Homelessness System

Welcome to the world of homelessness, where accountability no longer exists and is now considered a barrier to helping the homeless. A lack of accountability in a system often has a snowball effect, spilling over into other parts. In this case, it certainly has.

Salvation Army receives 'MASH' unit, tool for homeless community outreach

The tricycle carries a temperature controlled box, making it easy to ride through the city distributing food and other items to the homeless. The Salvation Army says using this will make the homeless more comfortable, as oftentimes approaching them in a car or large vehicle is very intimidating. “It’s really about meeting them where they are,” explained Major Ernst Hull, Salvation Army of Amarillo’s commanding officer. “This is a critical piece of the puzzle. I think it will be definitely less intimidating than coming in a big vehicle. We’re coming to them in a personal way...can’t get much more personal than riding up on a bicycle.”

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/learning-true-compassion-and-empathy/>

og:title Content: Learning True Compassion and Empathy - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: April 26, 2021

Blog Post Content:

It is currently popular for white liberals to learn and repeat words of solidarity with black people and people of color. Meanwhile, their actions change very little. Our organizations are still lead by mostly white people. And furthermore, we haven't learned the deeper message. That ALL people outside our in-group deserve our respect and empathy. Just ask them how they feel about rural conservative Christians. "Well, THEY are

different. THEY are bad people. THEY don't deserve our respect."

And worst of all, solidarity with black people is just a fad. It's just what you do right now. Black people have been getting murdered by police since the beginning of America. It took the largest protests in the history of America to get white liberals of the 21st century to take notice. I know it did for me.

You don't learn transformative empathy and compassion and love by following the masses into politically correct zoom webinars. You learn real transformation by following your own heart and head to the dark places within yourself. Find who YOU hate, who YOU judge and practice compassion and understanding with them. That's how you transform yourself which is what the real learning opportunity here is all about.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/homeless-news-april-26-2021-formerly-homeless-man-runs-for-ohio-governor/>
og:title Content: Homeless News - April 26, 2021 - Formerly Homeless Man Runs For Ohio Governor - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist
Blog Post Date: April 26, 2021

Blog Post Content: COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — A once-homeless Ohio man whose smooth radio voice made him an Internet sensation a decade ago says he's running for governor as a Democrat.

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — A once-homeless Ohio man whose smooth radio voice made him an Internet sensation a decade ago says he's running for governor as a Democrat.

Homeless encampment on North Seattle school property draws concern from neighbors | king5.com

SEATTLE — Some residents in North Seattle are frustrated by the impasse over how to handle a growing homeless camp on school property, and are now asking elected leaders to come up with a plan. It's not hard to spot it on Bitter Lake. If you were to look just beyond the sign which says, "No Camping," you'll see nearly four dozen tents.

Biden Administration Kills Trump-Era Move To Let Homeless Shelters Bar Transgender People

The Department of Housing and Urban Development on Thursday rescinded a Trump-era rule that would have allowed homeless shelters to turn away transgender people, a victory for LGBTQ advocates as state lawmakers introduce a record-number of anti-transgender bills across the country.

Ramada Inn Homeless Shelter Appeal Denied in Unanimous Vote - SM Mirror

A unanimous vote by The Board of Public Works denied an appeal filed on behalf of 400 local residents and businesses opposed to The Ramada Inn Homeless shelter project,

Homeless services audit finds Oakland is not prepared to deal with crisis | KRON4

The audit found that nearly 79 percent of homeless people were unsheltered because of a lack of permanent affordable housing options and limited emergency and temporary housing options.

Salvation Army expects 'massive wave' of homeless families when eviction moratorium ends | KXAN Austin

"We expect to see a massive wave of people when the moratorium is lifted, and it is going to force a bunch of people out of their stable housing and it is going to be a huge problem here in Central Texas," Whaley said.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/this-is-what-akron-racism-looks-like/>
og:title Content: This is what Akron RacISM Looks Like - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist
Blog Post Date: April 27, 2021

Blog Post Content:

If you are an Akronite, this article should be required reading to understand your history:

<https://www.clevescene.com/cleveland/a-road-to-nowhere-how-the-construction-of-akrons-innerbelt-displaced-thousands/Content?oid=27096491>

This is what African-American racISM looks like. It's policies that undermine black people. And now we are doing it again by giving people 15 years of tax free living if they build a new house in Akron. This incredible gift will disproportionately benefit wealthy white people. It will increase cost of living in Akron which will make things harder for poor people in general.

(All these policies increase homelessness.)

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/homeless-news-april-29-2021-overseers-are-getting-sick-of-it/>
og:title Content: Homeless News - April 29, 2021 - Overseers are getting sick of it. - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist
Blog Post Date: April 29, 2021

Blog Post Content: Homeless People Pitch Tent on 86th and Broadway - iLovetheUpperWestSide.com
Three homeless people have set up a tent on the Broadway median at 86th Street, the NY Post reports.
Santa Cruz homeless camp begins relocation – Santa Cruz Sentinel
SANTA CRUZ — The City of Santa Cruz began the process of shifting a large court-protected homeless encampment from the upper region of San Lorenzo Park down into its new temporary riverside benchlands site this week.
Auditor says Oakland not equipped to handle growth in homeless encampments
OAKLAND, Calif. - An audit of homeless services in Oakland found that a team charged with closing and cleaning homeless encampments was not adequately prepared to deal with the problem and lacked an efficient strategy for dealing with the growth of the camps, according to City Auditor Courtney Ruby.
StateofThe-Homeless2021_Apr28-1.pdf
In February 2021, the number of single adults sleeping each night in DHS shelters was at a new all-time record of 20,822.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/you-fully-funded-the-kickstarter-for-my-new-book/>
og:title Content: You Fully Funded The Kickstarter for My New Book! - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist
Blog Post Date: April 29, 2021

Blog Post Content:

The support you show me and our homeless neighbors is so overwhelming. I am continually shocked and amazed by how much goodness there is in the world.

I'm currently on the second edit of the book. I'm using Grammarly for this pass. This is the first time I've ever used Grammarly. But I've become a big fan. It has collected over 3000 recommendations for making the book tighter and more clear. It's a lot. But it's also a really beneficial process.

The whole point of this book is to continue to raise awareness that there are over 500,000 Americans that don't have access to shelter. Every single American must always have access to emergency shelter. Even if it is just a tent. Withholding shelter because you don't happen to like the way it looks is one of the cruelest and classist acts a person can make. "You shouldn't live in a tent. So we are going to take your tent away from you."

We would rather people not have any shelter than have shelter that makes us feel uncomfortable.

This is madness.

I'm not asking for a single dime of money from the government. All I'm asking is for the right to shelter American citizens that need shelter. That's all I've ever wanted.

My hope is that this book will continue to make that point. Maybe it will inspire others to take the radical, activist position of sheltering a few people who are shelterless. We cannot sit by as men, women, children, senior citizens and veterans freeze to death on our streets because we think something like a tent is unsightly. Our moral and ethical compass is completely screwed up on this topic.

All Americans must always have access to some form of shelter whenever they need it.

That's what this book is about. That's what you all so kindly and generously supported and continue to support.

I'm incredibly thankful for you.

Here's a video I made as I watched the countdown of the end of this Kickstarter.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/richard-grass-akron-humanitarian-rights-fighter/>
og:title Content: Richard Grass. Akron Humanitarian Rights Fighter - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist
Blog Post Date: May 1, 2021

Blog Post Content:

This is Richard Grass. He's an important person in the humanitarian fight for homeless rights in Akron Ohio. He is seen here wearing his tent because the city came and stole every single other item of his. He finally cut a hole in his tent, and put his head through it and told them that the tent was his clothing.

He was camping on city property here. He had nowhere else to live. They charged him with trespassing. This was his third trespassing violation. He was looking at 6 months in jail.

I don't know where he currently stands on that charge. But I do know that I personally took him to 6

hearings he was scheduled for. Each time the judge was not there. They made him reschedule each time.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/issues-i-would-focus-on-if-i-were-to-run-for-akron-mayor-in-2023/>
og:title Content: Issues I Would Focus on If I Were to Run For Akron Mayor in 2023 - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist
Blog Post Date: May 1, 2021

Blog Post Content:

I am not saying I will run for Akron Mayor in 2023. But SOMEONE needs to run and I don't get a sense of anyone thinking about it at this point. (It's getting close to the time when a person has to decide if they are going to run or not if they have any hope of being a serious player.) Democracy only works if we have some sort of choice when we are voting. As of today, these are the initiatives I would focus on if I were mayor. What do you think of these and what would you focus on if you were mayor of Akron?

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/homeless-news-may-2-2021-sometimes-i-barely-can-take-reading-these-headlines/>
og:title Content: Homeless News - May 2, 2021 - Sometimes I barely can take reading these headlines. - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist
Blog Post Date: May 2, 2021

Blog Post Content: Tiny home village to be built for Salt Lake City's homeless population | Texomashomepage.com

SALT LAKE CITY (ABC4) — Salt Lake City Mayor Erin Mendenhall announced progress on the build of tiny homes for homeless Utahns as part of her goal to have a tiny home village in place this winter.

Seattle prepares to sweep homeless camp at Ballard playground | KOMO

Tomorrow's encampment removal will be the fifth park the city has cleared in 2021.

Homeless encampment near Petaluma's Steamer Landing Park cleared

More than a dozen residents who had been living for weeks near Petaluma's Steamer Landing Park were roused from the encampment Friday morning as a city-operated front end loader and excavator cleared campsites.

Austin voters to decide on restoring rules criminalizing homeless activities | Austin | The Guardian

A proposition on Saturday's ballot would impose fines for behavior such as camping, panhandling and sleeping outdoors

Video: Homeless man refuses to drop crowbar, is fatally shot by police

Police said they were familiar with the man, who had a nearly two-decade history of arrests and several failed attempts to get him mental health services

Escondido police release bodycam footage of homeless man fatally shot by officer - The Coast News Group

ESCONDIDO — Escondido police on Thursday, April 29, released bodycam video footage of the fatal shooting of a homeless man who was shot by an officer last week. The officer was responding to 911 calls of a man reportedly hitting cars with a "metal pole."

South Los Angeles parents upset over homeless encampment near elementary school - ABC7 Los Angeles
SOUTH LOS ANGELES (KABC) -- South Los Angeles residents are calling on the city to remove a homeless encampment that has grown across the street from an elementary school.

Communities in the US Struggle to Cope with Growing Homelessness During Pandemic | Voice of America - English

"I was forced to live on the streets," Doss told VOA. He's among nearly 600,000 Americans living without adequate shelter. "I lost my bartending job, then my apartment, and things kind of spiral downhill from there," said the 33-year-old African American D.C. native. Doss points to a section of the park where he's seen this tent encampment grow in the last few months. "We have a lot of military veterans, immigrants and minorities living here. I've been out here for more than a year," he said. Nearly 10 out of every 1,000 D.C. residents are homeless, two times the national average. Minorities are especially impacted with Blacks, Native Americans and Hispanics far more likely to be homeless than white Americans.

Eviction date for homeless encampment at Madison's Reindahl Park set for May 9

MADISON, Wis. — The dozens of homeless people living in an encampment at Madison's Reindahl Park will be ordered to move by Sunday May 9, according to the city.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/the-terrible-gift-of-addicts/>
og:title Content: The Terrible Gift of Addicts - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist
Blog Post Date: May 3, 2021

Blog Post Content:

Drug addicts, like all those who suffer, are the terrible gift.

An addict gives you the gift of recognizing your own addictions. Of seeing yourself in the life of an opiate addict. To understand that we are all addicts of dogmatic thoughts and actions that ultimately hurt ourselves and those around us. To recognize actions and thoughts that seem helpful and beneficial, yet are actually hurtful and limiting. (I'm talking about judgement and negativity and gossip and disrespect and critiquing and anxiety and over working and unbalanced living and anything that pulls you away from the people and things you once loved or maybe never gave yourself the chance to love.)

And then, of course, you are also given a gift of understanding the other. Of practicing compassion and deep understanding of those who are not you.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/homeless-news-may-5-2021-austin-brings-back-camping-ban/>
og:title Content: Homeless News - May 5, 2021 - Austin brings back camping ban - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist
Blog Post Date: May 5, 2021

Blog Post Content: Prop B Austin results: Voters bring back homeless camping ban

After all votes were counted in Austin, Proposition B soared to victory in a race many thought would be tighter than it ended up. In a hotly contested debate involving the city's homelessness crisis, 57% of voters said they were in favor of reinstating criminal penalties for camping in public spaces and 42% said they were not.

State efforts to crack down on homeless camps draws concern in Waco | Local Govt. and Politics | wacotrib.com

"I like to be out of sight, out of mind to others. I am not trying to disrespect anybody with my homelessness but I am homeless," Wager said.

House Bill 1925, filed in February, and Senate Bill 987, introduced in March, would make camping in an unapproved public place a Class C misdemeanor, punishable by a fine of up to \$500.

City Offers Homeless One-Way Travel Ticket to Europe if They Sign Contract to Never Return

The city of Basel in Switzerland has offered its homeless community a free one-way ticket to any other European destination if they agree to sign a contract vowing never to return.

Portland nonprofit's innovative plastic tents to be distributed to homeless people | kgw.com

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/homeless-news-may-6-2021-people-dont-like-homeless-people/>
og:title Content: Homeless news - May 6, 2021 - People don't like homeless people - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist
Blog Post Date: May 6, 2021

Blog Post Content: Austin group protests converting NW Austin hotel into housing for the homeless
AUSTIN (KXAN) — People against converting a hotel in northwest Austin into housing for the homeless brought their concerns to Austin City Hall on Tuesday.

Prop B passes: What happens now to the homeless in downtown Austin?

AUSTIN, Texas - The Monday after the Proposition B vote found Michelle Joseph doing what she does every Monday. Joseph, with a group called Drive By Howdy, helped at an Austin homeless camp under I-35, providing food and basic hygiene supplies. "I'm here because they are still here," she said.

Madison City Council fails to pass proposal for homeless men's shelter near East Towne Mall | Local Government | madison.com

A proposal to buy a vacant big box store near East Towne Mall for a long-sought permanent homeless men's shelter narrowly failed to pass the Madison City Council early Wednesday morning. Council members voted 14-5 in favor of purchasing a 31,500-square-foot building at 2002 Zeier Road for \$2.6 million to convert it into an overnight shelter for men experiencing homelessness

Seattle tells homeless campers to clear out after double shooting, fire at Lake City park – KIRO 7 News Seattle

SEATTLE — It's been a troubling past week at Albert Davis Park in Seattle's Lake City neighborhood. Two

people were shot at a homeless encampment on Thursday. Then Friday, a series of propane explosions led to a fire at the park, burning up a tree and several tents.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/homeless-news-its-all-about-shelter/>

og:title Content: Homeless News - It's all about shelter - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: May 13, 2021

Blog Post Content: HUD: Growth Of Homelessness During 2020 Was 'Devastating,' Even Before The Pandemic : NPR

For the first time since the government began doing the annual count, the number of single adults living outside — 209,413 — exceeded the number of individuals living in shelters — 199,478.

Homeless in Austin: City shelter, housing plans amid camping ban

By July 11, Phase 3 will start. It will include the possibility for arrests and encampment clearances in areas not meeting compliance after citations have been issued may be conducted by law enforcement.

Caitlyn Jenner says her friends are fleeing California because of homeless people - CBS News

"My friends are leaving California," she said. "Actually, my hangar — the guy right across, he was packing up his hangar and I said, 'Where are you going?' And he says, 'I'm moving to Sedona, Arizona. I can't take it anymore. I can't walk down the streets and see the homeless.'"

Homeless camp, activists remain at Laurelhurst Park, six months after city vowed to clear it | kgw.com

PORTLAND, Ore. — Six months after the city cleared campers from the streets lining Laurelhurst Park, reps for all five Portland city commissioners Friday met with activists protesting the idea of another sweep. Those activists say they're protecting the dozens of people who returned to the park months ago, making the Southeast Portland neighborhood look like the city had never intervened.

Park Hill residents sue to stop legal homeless site from opening at a church

Park Hill residents sued a nonprofit, a church and its pastor and the city of Denver to try and prevent a legal homeless encampment from opening in their neighborhood.

Texas House advances bill that would ban homeless encampments in public - ABC13 Houston

AUSTIN, Texas -- The Texas House on Wednesday moved to advance a bill that would ban homeless encampments in public places statewide, a move that comes less than a week after voters in Austin reinstated a similar ban that was removed two years ago.

Another Oceanside Homeless Encampment Covered With Rocks | KPBS

Protesters gathered on Roymar Road in Oceanside on Friday as rocks were being bulldozed onto a former homeless encampment by city workers.

Tiny homes bring hope to the homeless – Pasadena Star News

None of this daunted Redondo Beach Mayor Bill Brand, who championed installing 15 of the pallet shelters at an underutilized public works yard. "We've had an increasing problem and we needed a solution," Brand said. "We didn't want to just wait and see what happens, we wanted to take a proactive approach."

Homeless man shot during confrontation with Riverside police

RIVERSIDE, Calif. - Police fatally shot a homeless man who allegedly pulled a gun on officers south of downtown Riverside Saturday morning.

Santa Cruz City Council Approves Ordinance on Homeless Camping

The Santa Cruz City Council on Tuesday approved a homeless ordinance that restricts camping in most parts of the city, but requires a safe sleeping program and daytime storage before the rules can take effect.

Ask The Homeless What They Need – Eugene Weekly

From my experience, getting housing right then would not have been helpful. There were numerous things I needed to do before I was in the right place to be ready for housing. I had numerous obstacles to overcome.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/the-10-steps-of-treating-the-homeless-condition/>

og:title Content: The 10 Steps Of Treating The Homeless Condition - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: May 24, 2021

Blog Post Content:

Here are the steps and order in which to help homeless people move out of homelessness.

1. Create emergency, triage shelter that is safe. 2. Provide access to food and clean water.

These two steps are based on Maslow's hierarchy of needs.

#1: Physiological Needs Physiological needs are the lowest level of Maslow's hierarchy of needs. They are the most essential things a person needs to survive. They include the need for shelter, water, food, warmth,

rest, and health. A person's motivation at this level derives from their instinct to survive.

#2: Safety Needs The second level of Maslow's hierarchy of needs consists of safety needs. Safety, or security needs, relate to a person's need to feel safe and secure in their life and surroundings. Motivation comes from the need for law, order, and protection from unpredictable and dangerous conditions. We must understand that we cannot move up Maslow's hierarchy of needs until the level we are currently on has been satisfied.

3. Begin a consistent and reliable form of community building for the person. We must show them that they are loved and are a valuable part of a community.

4. Get birth certificate. 5. Get state ID. 6. Get social security card.

Access to housing, food stamps, healthcare all require these three forms of identification. This is the order in which you must get them.

7. Begin a mental health program to treat PTSD, current trauma and any other mental health issues. Living on the street has the same level of trauma as being in an active war zone.

8. Help them apply for social security or disability.

9. Help them begin the process of applying for housing.

10. Repeat any steps that need repeating.

This process takes a minimum of 3 months. But 6 months to 1.5 years is more common. And it is likely longer as people slip back and forth between steps.

The housing step can take years just by itself.

(Drug treatment and traditional work are not part of the process of treating the homeless condition.)

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/city-of-akron-official-knows-about-my-tents/>

og:title Content: City of Akron Official Knows About My Tents - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: May 24, 2021

Blog Post Content:

I want to document this process. This is the first document that says the city of Akron is aware of the two tents I currently have on the land owned by the Houseless Movement.

I have a friend who truly hates me and hates homeless people. He has been reporting the two tents on my land to the city of Akron. He just got a response, which is the attached image below.

I want to be very clear about what I'm doing here. I am occupying my own land. It is a human rights crime to not allow human beings to have shelter if they can't find somewhere to go.

American homelessness is the great humanitarian crime of our time.

As much as I am sheltering 2 chronically homeless men because they need it, I am also protesting the cruel and unusual punishment of forcing American citizens to not have a legal place to shelter. Tent sweeps and no sleeping laws are a direct violation of the 8th Amendment.

I am not backing down.

This is what the space currently looks like today:

The Houseless Movement has 1 house, 1 tiny house and 2 tents. That is the size it is going to stay for the foreseeable future. No more tents are allowed on the land.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/homelessness-is-the-desert/>

og:title Content: Homelessness is the desert - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: May 26, 2021

Blog Post Content:

These people have a rare opportunity to transcend beyond normal human living.

Stealing, bickering, hating, addiction... They get those characteristics from us, their fellow humans.

Giving their last dollar, their last cigarette. That is the profound connection to God we non-homeless cannot even begin to imagine, much less experience. Yet it is the way of life for all homeless people.

The worst traits of being homeless are learned from their human teachers. The best traits of being homeless are learned from God.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/luther-ayers/>

og:title Content: Luther Ayers - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: June 1, 2021

Blog Post Content:

Do you remember Luther? He was the 90+ year old World War II veteran who many of you helped pay his house taxes so he wouldn't lose it?
I've been told Luther has passed away.
Luther illegally sheltered sex offenders, drug addicts and every imaginable criminal. He sheltered them in his house and on his property in tents. He did much of this work even when he couldn't afford to pay his water bill and electric bill. He rarely had all his utilities turned on at the same time. But that never stopped him from taking care of his neighbors that everyone else hated and cast out.
This is the only message that matters from Jesus. Love those that everyone else hates.
I am dedicating my upcoming book to Luther. He is the kind of person I strive to be.
You were loved by many, many people, Luther. We all have so much for which to thank you.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/study-reveals-prevalence-of-multimorbidity-among-people-using-methamphetamine/>

og:title Content: Study reveals prevalence of multimorbidity among people using methamphetamine - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: June 14, 2021

Blog Post Content: Study reveals prevalence of multimorbidity among people using methamphetamine
Compared to adults who do not use the drug, people who use methamphetamine were nearly twice as likely to have medical multimorbidity (two or more chronic medical conditions), more than three times as likely to have mental illness, and more than four times as likely to have a substance use disorder. Many have a combination of medical, mental, and substance use issues, including all three concurrently.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/ricky-waiting-for-the-city-coming-to-take-all-his-belongings/>

og:title Content: Ricky waiting for the city coming to take all his belongings - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: June 21, 2021

Blog Post Content:

This is Ricky. He and 4 other homeless people (all black) have been overlooked by Community Support Services for hotel vouchers. They were all told to go to The Haven.
Ricky won't go because he does not agree with the religious requirements in order to eat each meal and sleep. He also needs to keep in contact with his family and they force him to store his phone in an unsecured bin from when lights out happens at 8pm to 6am (lights out at Summit County Jail is 10pm).
The city is scheduled to sweep his camp today. They are not here yet. He's incredibly afraid of not knowing when the inevitable eradication will happen.
This is cruel and inhumane punishment placed on African Americans that have done nothing wrong other than fallen on hard times.
Homelessness is a highly traumatic experience. The city of Akron and the homeless service providers are compounding that trauma. We treat dogs better than we treat these American citizens.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/nick-cacioppo-speaking-to-akron-city-council-on-june-21-2021-about-the-brutal-homeless-camp-sweeps/>

og:title Content: Nick Cacioppo Speaking to Akron City Council on June 21, 2021 about the brutal homeless camp sweeps. - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: June 22, 2021

Blog Post Content:

I would like to take a minute to thank my friend Nick Cacioppo for telling truth to power last night at the Akron City Council meeting. He is eloquent, and more importantly, he is right. This is the segment of his speech regarding the cruel, inhumane and torturous treatment of Akron houseless citizens at the hands of City of Akron, Ohio - Mayor's Office while Akron city council sits by and says or does nothing. He correctly references Tara L. Samples and Shammas Malik for being the only two council people who have stood with our houseless citizens.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/september-6-2016-akron-ohio-homeless-consent-decree/>
og:title Content: September 6, 2016 Akron Ohio Homeless CONSENT DECREE - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist
Blog Post Date: June 23, 2021

Blog Post Content:

Here is the link to the full consent decree.

Here is the first paragraph. It's important because these homeless people and their attorney Rebecca Sremack gave us these protections.

This SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT AND RELEASE (the "Agreement") is made and entered into this 21st day of September, 2016, by and among WILLIAMBUKER, NICOLE GOULD, CARL LYNCH, PATRICK MOE, MELVIN THOMPSON, and CODY USNER (collectively, the "Plaintiffs"), whose address for purposes of this agreement is c/o Rebecca J. Sremack, Sremack Law Firm LLC, 2745 South Arlington Road, Akron, Ohio 44312, and CITY OF AKRON (the "Defendant" or "City"), whose address is 161 South High Street #202, Akron, Ohio 44308 (collectively, the "Parties").

Then I want to copy Section 12 here because it outlines the rights homeless people have in Akron Ohio.

The City's obligations concerning notice, storage, and affording homeless individuals an opportunity to reclaim personal property vary based on whether the homeless campsite is located on real public property or real private property. A. Real Public Property. The City and anyone acting on its behalf shall not immediately dispose of any personal property located on real public property. The personal property to which this provision applies includes, but is not limited to, tents, tarps, children's toys, suitcases, laundry basket, crates, backpacks, electronic equipment like phones and computers, bicycles, clothing, bedding, sleeping bags, household goods, jewelry, eyeglasses, photographs, government identification and documents, and furniture. The City shall not remove the above personal items unless it provides written notice of no less than 48 hours. Any personal property that is removed by the City will be stored for no less than 30 days.

Notice. The City shall attach written notice to all personal property or post written notice in a conspicuous location, within the general vicinity (no more than 20 feet) of the campsite for a period of no less than 48 hours before removal. The City will also provide oral and written notice to a local homeless advocacy organization ("Homeless Group") agreed upon by the Parties, with the contact information of the organization provided to the City, at least 48 hours prior to removal.

Form of notice. The written notice shall be laminated or weather resistant and measure at least 6 in. x 9 in.

Content of notice. The written and oral notice will indicate (i) the reasons the personal property will be removed; (ii) the date and time of the removal; (iii) that any removed personal property will be stored for 30 days from the date of removal; (iv) that the personal property may be reclaimed at a specific address, and that arrangements may be made by calling a specific phone number; (v) that a person must provide a description of the items removed and of where the items were last located; and (vi) that after 30 days in storage the City may destroy or dispose of the personal items. C. Exceptions to notice. The City will follow the procedures set forth above for removal of personal property, except as set forth in this section. The City will not be required to provide notice of removal if: (i) it reasonably concludes that the property is abandoned; (ii) presents an immediate threat to public health or safety; (iii) is evidence of a crime; or (iv) that exigent circumstances exist. For purposes of this Agreement, "abandoned property" means "unattended to personal property that is in a condition clearly demonstrating that the owner has no intention of returning to claim it."

Exigent circumstances. Exigent circumstances requiring the City's removal of personal property will permit the City's noncompliance with the 48-hours-notice requirement. However, the City shall provide oral notice to the Homeless Group and post written notice of the fact of removal in as close proximity to the location where the property was maintained and shall follow all other procedures concerning storage and affording an opportunity to reclaim items. The following examples of exigent circumstances are intended to be illustrative: an item is preventing access to the site of an emergency; the area is being flooded; the area's infrastructure has become unsafe; the area must be secured for a special event where it is not feasible to provide advance notice. Prior to such removal, the City will afford each homeless person who is present the opportunity to remove his or her items, to the extent that such removal is feasible and that the items are not the cause of the exigent circumstance. Removal of items. In the event that homeless individuals do not remove their items

after the 48 hours of notice, all personal property will be removed and stored with an identifying sticker. The sticker shall include the date of removal and location from which the items were removed. Tents, tent poles, and other large items may be disassembled for storage. Reasonable care shall be used to store the items in a manner that avoids damages to those items. To the extent reasonably practicable, the City will store each homeless campsite's items together.

Removal and storage notification. Notification will be left at the place from which the property was removed. This notice will specifically identify where the removed property is stored.

Documentation. Prior to the removal of personal property, the City will document the condition of the items through such means as photographs and/or video. The City will also document the condition of any items deemed suitable for immediate disposal. b. **Immediate disposal of items.** The City may immediately dispose of or confiscate personal property in the following categories: (i) perishable items requiring refrigeration; (ii) flammable or otherwise hazardous items, or similarly dangerous items that, if stored, could cause fire, explosion, identifiable disease, or pose a threat to life, health, or property; (iii) property that is wet, soiled, dirty, sharp or odorous only if such items are hazardous or are contaminated by mold or infested with insects, roaches, bedbugs, etc.; or (iv) property that the City reasonably concludes is abandoned, as defined in (XII)(A)(I)(c).

Storage. The City shall store all personal property removed from homeless campsites on public property in a manner that is likely to protect the items from harm, in a location that is reasonably secure, and in a location that is reasonably accessible to the location where the property was found.

Reclaiming property. The City shall develop procedures by which people may retrieve their items. The City may require that persons seeking return of personal property call in advance and make an appointment to retrieve their items. The City may require a person to identify the property and/or describe the location, approximate cleanup date, and the removed items in reasonable detail to assure ownership. The City shall document the items returned; the name of the claiming party; and the form of identification (if available) confirming the identity of the claiming party. 6. **Unclaimed property.** The City may dispose of all unclaimed property after the 30-day period elapses. At the City's option, the City may elect to release unclaimed property to the Homeless Group or a social services agency or other homeless advocate organization, if that entity releases the City from liability.

Real Private Property. The City and anyone acting on its behalf shall not immediately dispose of any personal property located on real private property in compliance with Ohio and Akron municipal law, including, but not limited to Ohio Rev. Code § 737.29 and Akron Code Ord. §§ 94.19; 94.31; 95.12; 95.13; 95.17; and 131.08. The personal property to which this provision applies includes, but is not limited to, tents, tarps, children's toys, suitcases, laundry basket, crates, backpacks, electronic equipment like phones and computers, bicycles, clothing, bedding, sleeping bags, household goods, jewelry, eyeglasses, photographs, government identification and documents, and furniture.

Trespass. In the event that a homeless person's campsite constitutes a trespass on real private property, the City's obligations concerning the homeless person's belongings are subject, but not limited, to Ohio Rev. Code § 737.29 and Akron Code Ord. § 131.08, and are not limited by the terms of this Agreement. To the extent practicable, the City will provide oral and written notice to the Homeless Group that it plans to remove a homeless person's belongings. In the event that a private landowner does not request that the trespasser's personal property be removed, and the personal property does not constitute litter or a nuisance, the City will not remove it. 2. **Litter and Nuisance.** In its enforcement of litter and nuisance abatement ordinances, the City's obligations concerning the personal property at a homeless encampment site are subject, but not limited, to Akron Code Ord. §§ 94.19; 94.31; 95.12; 95.13; and 95.17.

Notice and Order to Comply. Akron Code Ord. §§ 94.31 and 95.17 require that the City provide written notice via personal service, or if personal service is not accomplished, then by posting in a conspicuous location at the property affected and mailing, by regular mail to both to the real property owner and the occupant, that the litter or nuisance must be removed or corrected ("Order to Comply"). The notice will inform the recipient of the right to appeal the Order to Comply. b **Additional Notice.** The City will provide written and oral notice of the Order to Comply to the Homeless Group. The City also will make reasonable efforts to notify the homeless individuals by posting a notice of the Order to Comply in a conspicuous location near the homeless encampment site. The City will provide the notice contemporaneously, or as soon as practicable, with the issuance of the Order to Comply.

Right to Appeal the Order to Comply. Akron Code Ord. §§ 94.31 and 95.17 require that the City afford real property owners and "anyone else affected" the right to appeal the Order to Comply within seven days. The City will hear the appeal of any real property owner or personal property owner. If there is no appeal, and the items constituting litter or a nuisance remain, the City may remove the items. d. **Notice of Removal.** The

City will post notice of the planned removal of personal property in a conspicuous location near the homeless encampment site no less than 24 hours in advance of the removal. The City also will provide oral and written notice to the Homeless Group no less than 24 hours in advance of the removal.

Training and Procedure. The City will provide instruction on all new procedures contained in this Agreement, as appropriate.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/its-time-for-you-to-learn-more-about-the-people-we-call-chronically-homeless/>
og:title Content: It's time for you to learn more about the people we call Chronically Homeless - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist
Blog Post Date: June 26, 2021

Blog Post Content:

I need you to understand my friends who live in the woods, under bridges, in abandoned properties. My friend Randy is a perfect example of this kind of person.

The only way you are getting them into a shelter is in handcuffs. They are too independent, too free. They are like the frontiers people who laid the groundwork for much of America.

The women are not going to battered women's shelters. And the men are not going to a place where they have to go to church 3 times a day and must shower in gang showers and be forced to go to bed at 8pm every night.

We call them chronically homeless. But that's a negative description.

They live off the land. They move around regularly. They rarely want anything to do with government programs (they do often use Medicaid because this lifestyle comes with significant injuries).

If you want to help them, the only way you are going to do it is if you come to them. They are not going to wait in your waiting rooms, fill out your paperwork and show up at 10am on Tuesday for a check-in. It's just not going to happen.

We must understand that all humans are not one-size-fits-all automatons. We are complicated, filled with free will and extreme forces of nature. I hope you can see those characteristics in yourself and then can try to understand that all of us have these innate human characteristics.

If anything, chronically homeless people are American to their core. They left behind a system that told them how they had to pray and act. They are making their way in the world on their own terms. They won't hurt you. But they wish we would stop hurting them.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/i-want-you-to-run-for-akron-political-office/>
og:title Content: I want YOU to run for Akron Political Office - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist
Blog Post Date: July 5, 2021

Blog Post Content:

The ONLY way we are going to make our city better is if we do it ourselves.

I have just set up a political committee to begin my process of running for Mayor of Akron in 2023.

I have a lot of ideas about how I would make things better. But the NUMBER ONE thing I want to do to make things better is to get you to care about local politics.

National politics is sexy. But local politics is your bread and butter. Local politics changes your life WAY more than national politics does.

I feel like there is a deep apathy in Akron. "That's just the way it is."

So, getting people to care about local politics is not going to be easy, AT ALL.

Look at these voting numbers:

These are the Primary voting numbers for the last for Mayoral elections in Akron.

This is the first thing I need you to understand: PRIMARIES ARE ALL THAT MATTER IN AKRON!!!

Republicans and independents don't win in Akron. ONLY DEMOCRATS win in Akron. If you win the primary you win the general election. So, if you didn't vote in the primary you already gave up your vote.

Now... look at this number:

That's how many voters there are in Akron.

122,238 registered voters. And usually only about 12,000 of them or so decide who our next mayor is going to be.

We MUST give a shit about local politics. Otherwise, the corporations are just going to use us as their personal bank to make themselves rich. They don't care what happens to us. They just want to make themselves rich.

The first step is to join the movement. Together we can change the world. Join Akron Uprising on Discord

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/rents-are-skyrocketing-in-akron/>

og:title Content: Rents are skyrocketing in Akron - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: July 8, 2021

Blog Post Content:

I just saw this article come over:

Rising rents and lots of competition as pandemic eases in Akron

In Greater Akron, where the cost of living is about 10% lower than the U.S. average, median rent in March 2021 was \$960, up 6.1% from 12 months earlier, Stessa said.

We already have the highest eviction rate in Ohio. Homelessness is going to be a major catastrophe this fall and winter.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/the-attack-on-homeless-people-in-akron-ohio/>

og:title Content: The Attack On Homeless People In Akron Ohio - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: July 29, 2021

Blog Post Content:

I put this information together in a post on Facebook but thought I'd organize it all here for future reference. First, I posted this document showing the housing code violations the Houseless Movement house has recently acquired.

That's July 2021

For the record, we received this notice earlier.

That was sent on June 10, 2021.

My official response on social media was:

Dear City of Akron, Ohio - Mayor's Office and I'm copying my attorneys who you described as the "recently transplanted, slick, out-of-town lawyers from the Institute for Justice" Please let this serve as my official response to your letter demanding that I "remove all tents." I will happily remove all tents when no more Akronites need tents. Until then, I will continue to offer emergency shelter to those who need it on my property owned by Houseless Movement. Sincerely, Sage Lewis

I then showed this picture saying: "This is the "Garbage/rubbish/refuse" they are referring to."

Then I started showing some pictures of the property we own and what is owned around us.

"And if you are wondering what neighbors I'm offending with my broken trim here is a picture of the house in question. The house is boxed in blue and the red lines represent either property I or the Houseless Movement (the charity I am the executive director of) own."

And here it is zoomed out a little more. Our house again is in blue and there is one house you can't see around the corner from us. The city repeatedly comes down our street to impound cars from our neighbor who can't afford tags all the time and to antagonize our camp. YOU COULD NOT BE MORE ISOLATED.

And of all our neighbors, the one who hates us the most is the Catholic church on the corner. They fought us the hardest in court. I've circled them in red.

Here I've circled in red what the church owns (who hates us), Vulcan Machinery (who also hates us) is in yellow. And what I own is in blue. Annunciation and Vulcan both have super tall fences around all of their properties. But it doesn't matter. They don't like homeless people even being near their property.

And here is one last picture. This is Kent Court circled in red. This street is filled with drug dealers and murderers. AND it's right behind the church's elementary school. I have a lot of friends on Kent Court and there are good people on that street. But if the city actually gave a shit about our neighborhood they would be less focused on my 2 tents and focused on Kent Court and ALL the other dealers around the neighborhood.

Here's the testimony of the manager of Annunciation Terrace speaking out against our village. This is from the documentary "Inside Akron's Tent City."

On August 24, 2020 (our camp closed in January 2019) the church sold the building to "Wallick Companies" aka Annunciation Terrace Limited Partnership as seen here. But the church clearly owned the property during the fight with us.

I think it's worth documenting all of this simply because of the human rights atrocities all of this amounts to. Land and land rights matter absolutely more than the fact that fellow Americans are living unsheltered in the richest most Christian country in the world. And it is the CHURCH who fought us the hardest.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/akron-mayor-finance-contribution-limits/>

og:title Content: Akron Mayor Finance Contribution Limits - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: July 30, 2021

Blog Post Content:

These are the finance summaries that I think pertain to running for Akron mayor.

Seriously consider running for Akron mayor. I'm running and so should you. The election is in 2023.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/my-letter-to-akron-city-councilwoman-margo-sommerville/>

og:title Content: My Letter to Akron City Councilwoman Margo Sommerville - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: August 3, 2021

Blog Post Content:

Akron City Councilwoman Margo Sommerville asked me to call her today because she felt I was being too negative. I tried to reach out to her but I couldn't get her. This is what I wrote to her:

Hi Councilwoman. I tried you a couple times this morning. But your mailbox is full.

I really only have one issue: we need alternative shelter solutions for all homeless people in Akron and particularly men. As you know, the Haven is the only shelter for men here. One size fits all solutions don't work for any humans, much less, homeless humans. The Haven is good. But the requirement of 3 Christian church services a day, no curtains on the toilets and showers, and intense congregate living don't make it possible for all people to live there... not to mention all the people who are banned from there.

Sanctioned tent villages and tiny house villages are going up all over America because homelessness is increasing. And now with the moratorium ending on evictions, we are going to see a significant increase in homelessness.

I want to shelter people at zero cost to the city in tiny houses and tents. But now I'm facing administrative penalties by the City of Akron for doing so. The way we treat homeless people in Akron and America is a crime against humanity.

I am not going to go through the process of requesting a conditional use permit again. I did that and you voted against it. I don't trust that the Akron government has any interest in actually dealing with our homeless crisis. If you are genuinely interested in working on this issue I need to see real action on the part of the government to help the Akron citizens living on our streets year-round.

Until then I will be doing my direct action protests by sheltering a few people on the Houseless Movement property and other direct action activities.

Thank you for your time.

Sage

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/sage-against-the-machine-podcast-episode-43/>

og:title Content: Sage Against The Machine Podcast - Episode 43 - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: August 18, 2021

Blog Post Content:

Is it all just hopeless and pointless?

Here it is in audio:

<https://radiofree-rss.streamguys1.com/player/player2108180913195.html>

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/sage-against-the-machine-podcast-episode-44/>

og:title Content: Sage Against The Machine Podcast - Episode 44 - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: August 26, 2021

Blog Post Content:

People hate other people and it's ok.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/sage-against-the-machine-podcast-episode-45/>

og:title Content: Sage Against The Machine Podcast - Episode 45 - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: September 2, 2021

Blog Post Content:

We talk about the Afghan refugees coming to Akron:

You can listen to the audio here:

If you have missed any shows they are now archived in a podcast. You can check them out on my blog. Or you can get them on your favorite podcasting platform.

Sage Against The Machine on Spotify

Sage Against The Machine on Stitcher

Sage Against The Machine Podcast on Amazon Music

Sage Against The Machine on TuneIn

Sage Against The Machine on Apple Podcasts

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/sage-against-the-machine-podcast/>

og:title Content: Sage Against The Machine Podcast - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date:

Blog Post Content:

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/how-i-became-a-homeless-activist/>

og:title Content: How I became a homeless activist - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: September 5, 2021

Blog Post Content:

My son, who is currently 16, asked me why I no longer run a marketing firm with a bunch of employees. At our peak we had about 16 employees and, as Wikipedia reports accurately, we were generating about \$1.5 million in sales. (please keep in mind that top line revenue has nothing to do with how much money I was actually bringing home. But at our high water mark we were paying taxes on about \$250,000 in profit. Again, not all of that came to me. But I also was living VERY comfortably.)

He wanted to know why I run a much smaller firm. My wife and I are the only significant employees. And we have a couple very part time people. We own a building (15 Broad Street) that we bought for our firm. But now I just rent most of it out and usually work from home.

The first thing that came to my mind when he asked me that was that I valued my freedom more than money. And I said to him that I saw a similar trait in him. He said he really wants to work from home in his career.

This was extremely disheartening to him. He likes nice things and, I could see in his eyes that he was worried he was going to end up living in a duplex with his parents always buying used cars.

As I thought a little more about it all, valuing freedom was not the full story.

How it really went down was that I got decimated in the Great Recession. Every client except for 2 left. It wasn't just that other companies were suffering and they had to cut back. Some companies were actually growing. They just left to leave. And not only that, there were some companies that left that swore we were their highly valued partner and we really mattered to them. They left too. The real reason I switched gears was because I was heartbroken. On top of all this I had to layoff all these people in the middle of a huge recession. It all just broke me spiritually. I saw the truth of capitalism. It's ALL about money and nothing else truly matters. Even though people will lie to your face and say otherwise. So in 2015 I ran for mayor. And then I found out that people were living in tents in Akron Ohio. I would have never believed it if I hadn't seen it with my own eyes. And as they said... The rest is history. Why a Private Landowner Is Fighting to Keep the Homeless on His Property - New York Times. (The fact of the matter is, a 16 year old doesn't always understand how wealth actually works behind the scenes. I have never actually left business. I still am drawn to the thrill of the chase. I just am doing it in a different way these days. Entrepreneurship is in my blood. I'm much more interested in social welfare organizations these days.) I have made a personal commitment to myself that I'm never going to lie to you or bullshit you. I may not be the most polished person you'll ever meet. But I'm trying to be the most honest. This is how I remember the transition happening from being a straight business man to being an activist. It happened very gradually starting in 2008 and continues to this day.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/sage-against-the-machine-podcast-episode-46/>
og:title Content: Sage Against The Machine Podcast - Episode 46 - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist
Blog Post Date: September 9, 2021

Blog Post Content:
We talked about who deserves to be helped by public services.

You can listen to the audio here:

If you have missed any shows they are now archived in a podcast. You can check them out on my blog. Or you can get them on your favorite podcasting platform.
Sage Against The Machine on Spotify
Sage Against The Machine on Stitcher
Sage Against The Machine Podcast on Amazon Music
Sage Against The Machine on TuneIn
Sage Against The Machine on Apple Podcasts

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/sages-birthday-only-special-offers-for-his-new-book/>
og:title Content: Sage's Birthday Only Special Offers For His New Book - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist
Blog Post Date: September 15, 2021

Blog Post Content:
My newest book, "The Homeless Activist" is coming out on my birthday, September 28. I'll be 50 years old. The whole lead-up to this day has been very strange for me. Life feels like an unstoppable freight train. There really isn't anything you can do other than just keep riding it. Doing activist work has made me both incredibly pessimistic and incredibly optimistic. I'm existentially pessimistic because I don't believe there is much of any hope in changing the system. The system has always been run by the few elites who do pretty much whatever they want, whenever they want. And then I'm blissfully optimistic because the world has YOU. And countless people like you. You might think I'm just blowing smoke up your ass to sell books. But I'm not. This is how I truly feel. No matter how bleak things look, all I have to do is look up for one moment and there YOU are. Believing. Hoping. Smiling. It's

just mind-blowing.

If the people ever actually get control of running things I truly believe we will live in a world of compassion, love, kindness, and common-fucking-sense. I don't really see that happening, like ever. But that's also ok. Because you are out there picking up the pieces that the system repeatedly creates by killing, torturing, and destroying our natural resources. You just keep on doing good, in spite of it all.

My latest book is specifically for you. While it certainly calls out the atrocities created at the hands of the government, churches, and homeless service providers, it's not really about that. It's about giving you solid ways to help our homeless friends.

Whether you want to hand out some bags with granola bars and toiletries or you want to run your own illegal drug den, I've pretty much done it all and I'll tell you how to do it.

My point of writing this post is to let you know that the book is coming out on my birthday, September 28, 2021. I am going to give my biggest and best discounts and offers on that day... and that day only.

And the primary way I'm going to let you know about the offers is through my email signup. So, if you are thinking about getting this book, PLEASE be sure you are signed up for my email list. I think you'll be glad you did.

```
#mc_embed_signup{background:#fff; clear:left; font:14px Helvetica,Arial,sans-serif; width:100%;}
```

```
/* Add your own Mailchimp form style overrides in your site stylesheet or in this style block.
```

```
We recommend moving this block and the preceding CSS link to the HEAD of your HTML file. */
```

Please To Subscribe To My Newsletter

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/chairman-bobby-seale/>

og:title Content: Chairman Bobby Seale - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: March 11, 2021

Blog Post Content:

WAKE UP AMERICA! This is what happens when video comes on the scene and white people can't white wash our activists any more.

LISTEN TO THIS TRUTH.

Chairman Bobby Seale: Power is the ability to define phenomenon and make it act in a desired manner. The social phenomenon is that in fact US, racist, decadent, capitalist imperialist America is a police state. That a police state exists here.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/sage-against-the-machine-podcast-episode-47/>

og:title Content: Sage Against The Machine Podcast - Episode 47 - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: September 16, 2021

Blog Post Content:
We can't change the system.

You can listen to the audio here:

If you have missed any shows they are now archived in a podcast. You can check them out on my blog. Or you can get them on your favorite podcasting platform.

Sage Against The Machine on Spotify
Sage Against The Machine on Stitcher
Sage Against The Machine Podcast on Amazon Music
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URL: <https://sagelewis.com/why-i-wrote-the-homeless-activist/>
og:title Content: Why I Wrote The Homeless Activist - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist
Blog Post Date: September 21, 2021

Blog Post Content:

I have become incredibly drawn to the mystical and magical forces of the universes these days. The incredible flatness of our universe, quantum wave theory, whether or not we are living in a simulation. These ideas, and so many others, fill my mind with endless exciting possibilities. Then throw in ideas of God and reincarnation and wondering why the hell we are here and I just can't take it anymore. It's all too amazing. But then on the other side of the coin, we have the reality of our day-to-day existence. It's tedious and boring and hard and cruel. Why do we continually treat each other and everything else on our planet so poorly? It's like whiplash for me. I bounce from one side of the coin to the next. Back and forth. Faster and faster. Until finally I see them both simultaneously. The horror and the beauty living side by side. And for me, the extremes become greater and greater every single day. Homelessness on the scale and cruelty existing in the richest most Christian country in the world is a truth that decimates my soul. All while my understanding of our universe and it's amazingsness become more and more clear to me. How does a universe this perfect in size and weight manifest itself out of nothing without an intelligent design? How do we manage to live in something so incredible and yet behave so terribly? Why? Why any of it? I believe Why = X. "X" can be anything and everything. The human mind is simply too constrained and too small to possibly begin to understand it all in any meaningful way. If you can imagine it then it is one of the infinite answers to "Why." Purpose, no purpose. Meaning, no meaning. Designed, not designed. It's all true. It all exists. You know what I'm talking about here. I'm not telling you anything new that you don't understand in your core. Maybe I'm saying it in a way that is different than ways you have heard or thought before. But the ideas are baked into us. You know what I am saying is the truth. You've felt it and believed it your whole life. I wrote the book because of you. Individual people are the most incredible force I have ever experienced or could possibly imagine in my entire life. Every single time I witness suffering on a level greater and more terrible than I thought was even possible... there you are to pick up the pieces. EVERY. SINGLE. TIME. For every terrible tragedy I've seen, you have been there to show me love and compassion equally as powerful.

It's all so unbelievable. Horror and beauty. Horror and beauty. Spinning like a coin on a table. You are the beauty of the world. You may be the most beautiful thing in the universe. I don't know for certain. But it wouldn't surprise me in the least.

I wrote the book for you. As you stand with me helping people in the most awe-inspiring ways, your question is always the same: What more can I do?

I can't even take it. I see you giving everything and then you ask me: I want to do more. What more can I do?

It's your number one question. You ask me that question more than any other question. What more can I do?

This book will show you what more you can do.

I have tried to compile as many ways you could possibly help our homeless neighbors as I could think of. And I've also discussed ways it all could go terribly wrong. Not having the right expectations often can lead to some difficult experiences.

This book is raw and down and dirty. I lay it all out for you.

I hope you find it interesting and insightful. I've seen some crazy things helping homeless people. I talk about as many as I could think of.

Thank you for being you. It's always been you that keeps me moving forward. You are my inspiration.

The book comes out on my birthday, September 28, 2021. I'm going to try to make it as fun and rewarding for you as I can. I'll have a bunch of giveaways and discounts and special offers.

Thank you so much for everything you do.

Sage

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/where-akrons-new-police-chief-stephen-l-mylett-came-from/>
og:title Content: Where Akron's New Police Chief, Stephen L. Mylett, Came From: - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist
Blog Post Date: September 21, 2021

Blog Post Content:

Where Akron's New Police Chief, Stephen L. Mylett, Came From:
BELLEVUE WASHINGTON

In 2006, Bellevue was rated one of the 25 safest cities in America, based on the per-capita incidence of violent crime.

According to a 2018 estimate, the median income for a household in the city was \$113,698.

The racial makeup of the city was 62.6% White, 2.2% African American, 0.4% Native American, 27.6% Asian, 0.2% Pacific Islander, 3.1% from other races, and 3.9% from two or more races.

Where Akron's New Police Chief is now:
AKRON OHIO

The racial makeup of the city was 62.2% White, 31.5% African American, 0.2% Native American, 2.1% Asian, 0.8% from other races, and 3.2% from two or more races.

According to census data from 2010 to 2014, the median income for a household in the city was \$34,139.

You ain't in Kansas anymore, Dorothy.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/sage-against-the-machine-podcast-episode-48/>
og:title Content: Sage Against The Machine Podcast - Episode 48 - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist
Blog Post Date: September 23, 2021

Blog Post Content:

America loves wealthy, young white women most of all.

You can listen to the audio here:

If you have missed any shows they are now archived in a podcast. You can check them out on my blog. Or

you can get them on your favorite podcasting platform.

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URL: <https://sagelewis.com/dc-homeless-person-is-bulldozed-in-his-tent-during-a-camp-sweep/>

og:title Content: DC Homeless Person Is Bulldozed In His Tent During A Camp Sweep - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: October 6, 2021

Blog Post Content:

They are now bulldozing human beings.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/sage-against-the-machine-podcast-episode-49/>

og:title Content: Sage Against The Machine Podcast - Episode 49 - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: September 30, 2021

Blog Post Content:

You're such a loser.

You can listen to the audio here:

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URL: <https://sagelewis.com/sage-against-the-machine-podcast-episode-50/>

og:title Content: Sage Against The Machine Podcast - Episode 50 - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: October 7, 2021

Blog Post Content:

Overthrow the government.

You can listen to the audio here:

If you have missed any shows they are now archived in a podcast. You can check them out on my blog. Or you can get them on your favorite podcasting platform.

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Sage Against The Machine on TuneIn
Sage Against The Machine on Apple Podcasts

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/the-shadow-of-death/>
og:title Content: The Shadow Of Death - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist
Blog Post Date: October 6, 2021

Blog Post Content:

I am walking in hell. You see me on your Earth. But I am not there. I am in the Other. The place I am standing today is the shadow of your world. You would call it the anti-world. I call it Reality. It's a place of anti-hope. Anti-humanity. It's not just hopelessness. That's a place of ambivalence. I am in a place where hope is the enemy. Where the machines live and the people die. Yet the people are not permitted to actually die. Only their soul dies. Their bodies churn the machine. It's all I can see. That's all there is before me. It's not even a place of death. Death is peace. The place I reside is anti-life. It steals life and forces it to work to serve the machine. The machine rules the anti-world. We have been taught to serve the machine. The machine produces nothing more than more parts for the machine. Of the machine. For machine. By the machine. The machine has become our God. The machine rules every moment of our existence. We are its servant. We are its slave. And we thank it for its slavery. We are grateful for its bondage. We thank it for keeping our backs bent and our heads tilted to the dirt. You live in a world of make-believe. And to keep the dream alive you fill your life with more make-believe. TV, movies, Facebook. You believe there is hope because you won't allow yourself to see the Real. To live in the Real. You live a lie because the truth is a black sun too dark to even acknowledge. When did you become such a believer in the machine? Your parents knew the machine was evil. But you forgot. Or worse. You chose to forget. You cling to your political party like it's some sort of savior. Yet in reality, it is your destroyer. It is the destroyer of worlds. It brainwashes you into believing the enemy is that black man over there. That meth head over there. That prostitute over there. That rich man over there. You've never met them. But you are certain you know them. They are the evil you must kill. They are the insidious disease that is rotting your life. Or so the serpent tells you so. The serpent is the machine. The machine is the ruling class. The machine is your enemy. It must be destroyed.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/sage-against-the-machine-podcast-episode-51/>
og:title Content: Sage Against The Machine Podcast - Episode 51 - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist
Blog Post Date: October 14, 2021

Blog Post Content:

They are coming for us activists.

You can listen to the audio here:

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I reference this video from Ak Nation News: An Oakland Race Equality Activist is brutally murdered by goons during a targeted home invasion. https://youtu.be/pkXan_EBCPg

On Saturday, October 2, 2021, Dirk Tillotson, an education activist in Oakland California was murdered in a home invasion.

You can learn more about Dirk here: <https://www.gofundme.com/f/support-dirk-tillotsons-family>

Here's my post I wrote about Tara Mosley whose house has been shot twice:

My friend Tara L. Mosley has not only had her house shot up twice, she is now being accused of harboring a murderer at her house.

Go fill your gossipy little brains with all the salacious details. You can find them out there. I'm not giving them to you. This is the fact and truth of the matter:

"Following Edison's death, police looked for Lewis at his grandmother's house on Seventh Avenue, where Akron Councilwoman Tara Samples also lives. Officers tried to enter the home but didn't have a search warrant and say they couldn't get permission to come inside.

Attorney Eddie Sipplen told the Beacon Journal that Samples called him after she located her nephew. Sipplen arranged for Lewis to peacefully turn himself over to police on July 6, one day after the killing." Her house was shot on July 5 and October 5, 2021.

WHAT WE DON'T KNOW: We don't know why her house has been targeted. We know that she is very outspoken about gun violence in her neighborhood. (Drug dealers are brutal terrorists and would easily do this with no remorse.)

But here is what we do know:

As a middle-class white man, if I said, "Hey, my nephew is in my house, I need some time to convince him to turn himself in," I would have been given all the time in the world to do so.

As a black woman, Tara is being accused of harboring a murderer in her house WITH ABSOLUTELY NO PROOF. I'm telling you: there are different rules in America for black people and white people.

So, now she not only has to deal with the severe trauma of being a target by murderers, she has to deal with being found guilty in the court of public opinion for harboring a murderer WHICH WE HAVE ABSOLUTELY NO PROOF OF.

And, let me add... where ever her nephew was for one night, TARA WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR CONVINCING HIM TO TURN HIMSELF IN.

Stop being so cruel and little. Tara is a neighbor of ours. For God's Sake, find some love and compassion in your heart.

She is the victim here. Stop convicting her of something you have no proof of.

Here are the lyrics to Johnny Cash's song The Ballad of Ira Hayes -Lyrics
Ira Hayes
Ira Hayes
Call him drunken
Ira Hayes
He won't answer anymore
Not the whiskey drinking Indian
Or the marine that went to war
Gather 'round me people
There's a story I would tell
Bout a brave young Indian
You should remember well
From the land of the Pima Indian
A proud and noble band
Who farmed the Phoenix Valley
In Arizona land
Down the ditches a thousand years
The waters grew Ira's peoples' crops
Til the white man stole their water rights
And the sparkling water stopped
Now, Ira's folks were hungry
And their land grew crops of weeds
When war came, Ira volunteered
And forgot the white man's greed
Call him drunken Ira Hayes
He won't answer anymore
Not the whiskey drinking Indian
Or the marine that went to war
There they battled up Iwo Jima hill
Two hundred and fifty men
But only twenty-seven lived
To walk back down again
And when the fight was over
And Old Glory raised
Among the men who held it high
Was the Indian, Ira Hayes
Call him drunken Ira Hayes
He won't answer anymore
Not the whiskey drinking Indian
Or the marine that went to war
Ira Hayes returned a hero
Celebrated

through the landHe was wine and speech and honoredEverybody shook his handBut he was just a Pima IndianNo water, no home, no chanceAt home nobody cared what Ira'd doneAnd when did the Indians danceCall him drunken Ira HayesHe won't answer anymoreNot the whiskey drinking IndianOr the marine that went to warThen Ira started drinking hardJail was often his homeThey let him raise the flag and lower itLike you'd throw a dog a boneHe died drunk early one morningAlone in the land he fought to saveTwo inches of water and a lonely ditchWas a grave for Ira HayesCall him drunken Ira HayesHe won't answer anymoreNot the whiskey drinking IndianOr the marine that went to warYeah, call him drunken Ira HayesBut his land is just as dryAnd his ghost is lying thirstyIn the ditch where Ira diedHere's the video of the song:<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oEwSwQtSmDQ&t=0s>

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/sage-against-the-machine-podcast-episode-52/>

og:title Content: Sage Against The Machine Podcast - Episode 52 - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: October 21, 2021

Blog Post Content:

Free Will Versus Determinism

You can listen to the audio here:

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URL: <https://sagelewis.com/mass-and-cass-homeless-encampment-is-being-swept/>

og:title Content: Mass And Cass' Homeless Encampment is being Swept - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: October 27, 2021

Blog Post Content:

This is how we "deal" with homelessness... just chasing homeless people around town.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/me-reacting-to-russell-brand-reacting-to-jon-stewart-on-cnn/>

og:title Content: Me Reacting to Russell Brand Reacting to Jon Stewart on CNN - Sage Lewis - Libertarian

Humanist

Blog Post Date: October 27, 2021

Blog Post Content:

The only way we are going to have meaningful change in this country and the world is if we can talk about nuanced topics for what they truly are.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/please-support-building-a-bathroom-for-homeless-akronites/>

og:title Content: Please Support Building A Bathroom for Homeless Akronites - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: October 27, 2021

Blog Post Content:

We at the Houseless Movement are trying to build a bathroom in the basement of our house for the local homeless community. We could REALLY use your help.

PLEASE CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THIS PROJECT AND HOW YOU CAN HELP.

CLICK HERE

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/sage-against-the-machine-podcast-episode-53/>

og:title Content: Sage Against The Machine Podcast - Episode 53 - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: October 28, 2021

Blog Post Content:

Cancel cancel culture

You can listen to the audio here:

If you have missed any shows they are now archived in a podcast. You can check them out on my blog. Or you can get them on your favorite podcasting platform.

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URL: <https://sagelewis.com/miami-commissioners-pass-ordinance-banning-homeless-encampments/>
og:title Content: Miami Commissioners Pass Ordinance Banning Homeless Encampments - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist
Blog Post Date: November 1, 2021

Blog Post Content:
I'm commenting on the video from here: <https://miami.cbslocal.com/2021/11/01/miami-commissioners-pass-ordinance-banning-homeless-encampments/>

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/sage-against-the-machine-podcast-episode-54/>
og:title Content: Sage Against The Machine Podcast - Episode 54 - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist
Blog Post Date: November 4, 2021

Blog Post Content:
Dan Horrigan Is Fucking You

You can listen to the audio here:

If you have missed any shows they are now archived in a podcast. You can check them out on my blog. Or you can get them on your favorite podcasting platform.

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URL: <https://sagelewis.com/the-akron-uprising-is-coming/>
og:title Content: The Akron Uprising Is Coming - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist
Blog Post Date: November 8, 2021

Blog Post Content: A Print Newspaper For The People Of Akron
The truth of Akron is that for decades it has been run by puppets of the corporations that use Akron tax dollars to make themselves incredibly rich.
We can end this.
Revolutions are won through the dissemination of information. People have been killed by cruel governments

for lesser things than this paper. The Akron Uprising will set us free from the chains of oppression that keep our backs bent and our heads facing the dirt.

WE MUST STAND UP!

This paper is meant for one thing: to empower the people of Akron.

This is how it works:

1. You fund the printing costs. (We can get 1000 full-color copies of The Akron Uprising for \$899.) No money goes to salaries or rent or overhead of any kind. **ALL THE MONEY GOES TO PRINT COSTS.**

2. We give the paper to Akron homeless people to sell for \$1. They keep the entire dollar.

You are welcome to print it and disseminate it yourself. Here is the pdf that you can download and print. You can print it and sell it or give it away. You are free to do anything you want with it. Just get it out there.

But if you are lucky enough to have a little extra money to spare then please consider contributing to the printing costs of the newspaper.

WE CAN TAKE AKRON BACK FROM THE CORPORATIONS. It happens all the time in history. It can **AND WILL** happen in Akron too.

CLICK HERE TO DONATE AND LEARN MORE.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/meth-is-driving-me-insane/>

og:title Content: Meth is driving me insane - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: November 8, 2021

Blog Post Content: I wish I could say that at least I'm benefiting from the euphoria and great sex meth produces. But I'm not. I don't do meth. I'm just surrounded by people who use meth... like A LOT of meth. Let me fill you in on the methscapades of the last week.

Here's a picture of the ethernet cable that provided free internet to homeless people in the Houseless Movement Garden:

I hung that cable up as high in a tree as I possibly could because I knew it was going to be a target for the meth brain.

This weekend, a guy put together a long pipe, about 15 feet tall and tore down the cable.

He admitted to doing it. He said it was a mistake. But I know he's paranoid people are listening to him. So the more likely story is that he thought that cable was listening to all his super-secret plans.

And then there is this:

That's a Blessing Box that some amazing people put up. Then people would come by and put all sorts of really great items and food in it.

I've asked around and no one knows what happened to it. (I believe them. This is the kind of thing they'd tell me if they knew. Many homeless people were super pissed this happened.)

I'm not sure what happened to this. Options could be:

Someone who hates me and homeless people. (I definitely have haters. Just read the comments on these posts.)

Just kids being dicks. They could have thought that was fun.

A homeless person fucked up on meth that thought that box was some sort of surveillance device monitoring their every move.

My vote is on 2 or 3. And honestly, #3 is my personal favorite for being the truth of it all.

I am now paying a homeless person to put the electric back together in HIS OWN TINY HOUSE. (He is very capable of doing this work.) He believed that the electric was run incorrectly. He believed it was a 220 line going into a 110 outlet. That is absolutely not the case. But there is nothing I can do to convince him otherwise. But the promise of a laptop (which he probably will eventually end up trading for meth) is inspiring him to put it back together.

I pay a guy to clean his own room because he just throws all his trash on the floor. I've had to clean out his room twice before with a snow shovel. I also regularly provide him with expanding foam and blankets to cover up all the holes in his room because he thinks there are cameras and people are blowing pubic hair into his room.

Make no mistake. I'm not some soft, squishy liberal that just wants to love and cuddle the meth right out of these people. This shit pisses me the fuck off!

I get so mad at these people.

Some of these people are so fucked up on meth, other meth users are over them. They will often say, "I do meth every single day, but that guy is taking too much!" It's true. Most people are responsible meth users. (Although, the paranoia often seeps through even the most systematic meth user.)

I fantasize about just throwing all their asses out and starting over. Nothing would bring me more joy. But I rarely do that. (If you try to chew off someone's ear [because you took too much meth] or burn down someone's tent, including your own, [because you took too much meth] I'm sorry, I'm going to make you leave.)

When I tell a person they can stay in the Houseless Movement Garden I have just made a personal pact with myself. I've made a covenant to be responsible for that person for as long as they want to stay with us. If we took the most evil pedophile or serial killer and treated them like we treat homeless people, the entire international community would be in a global outrage. There would likely be sanctions against the United States.

Withholding basic shelter, water and toilets is nothing we would do with terrorists, murderers or sex abusers. Yet we do it with our most poor every single day in the United States, the richest most Christian country in the world.

On 2 separate occasions, by 2 separate homeless service providers:

Keith Stahl, MSW, LISW Director of Operations and Residential Services at Community Support Services
Fred Berry - President/CEO Humility of Mary Housing, Inc.

told me that "the streets are motivating."

What they mean by that is if we are too soft on homeless people then they won't want to get into the housing these guys provide (and make money offering).

So, they don't want "do-gooders" providing tents and food and general human kindness to these people. Because then they'll just "want" to stay on the streets forever.

This is a cornerstone of what the entire Summit County Continuum of Care believes. Here is an excerpt from the Op-ed the C0C submitted to the Akron Beacon Journal. It was published on July 11, 2018:

As a community, we have paid much attention and directed significant energy to the Second Chance Village with the best intentions. This attention comes from local politicians, reporters, faith-based groups, students, well-wishers, and service providers. In our community, we pride ourselves on making a difference and lifting people up in duntimes.

Our best intentions of delivering a meal or other resources meet the moment's needs but do not provide a long-term solution. Long-term solutions encourage people to lift themselves up while providing other critical support. It is important to focus on the root cause or the issue that has led to the homelessness episode.

The title of the piece lists its authors:

"Mar-Quetta Boddie, Rebecca Callahan, Keith Stahl and Fred Berry: Second Chance Village is not a solution to homelessness" That is no longer available on the ABJ site but I have published it in its entirety on this blog post.

A tent and a toilet are not luxuries. They are fundamental requirements to live as a human being. Our evolution has made it so. Additionally, what kind of savages are we that we somehow have rationalized the practice of withholding (and repeatedly stealing with camp sweeps) the thin fabric tents people use to protect themselves from wind and rain?

Who are we? What have we become?

Yes. Meth heads (I know that's not politically correct, but hopefully you can understand my frustration) are SO FUCKING ANNOYING.

But being annoying is no excuse to push a person further and further away from society by taking their tents and withholding water.

I will not stand by as homeless service providers and government officials use these barbaric, cruel and torturous techniques to push away someone because they find them annoying.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/my-reaction-to-los-angeles-homeless-veterans-move-tents-onto-va-property/>
og:title Content: My Reaction to Los Angeles Homeless Veterans Move Tents Onto VA Property - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: November 8, 2021

Blog Post Content: My Reaction to Los Angeles Homeless Veterans Move Tents Onto VA Property

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/10-of-city-school-kids-are-homeless/>

og:title Content: 10% of City School Kids Are Homeless - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: November 9, 2021

Blog Post Content: This article just came out:

Over 100,000 New York City public school students were homeless last year, data show. - The New York Times

About - Akron Public Schools reports that they have more than 21,000 students.

NYC city schools, DOE Data at a Glance reports that there are 1,094,138 students in the NYC school system.

Project Rise, in Akron, typically reports that about 2000 kids are homeless each year in Akron.

So:

NYC has 100,000 homeless students.

Akron has 2,000 homeless students.

So, these are the percentages:

NYC: 10% of its students are homeless.

Akron: 9.5% of its students are homeless.

There is only one reason this is happening: Our government is allowing it to happen. Poor people were never part of the American plan. It was always for rich landowners. And you have been tricked into believing that's the fact of the matter.

You live in a Democracy. Yet you allow the ruling class to let your kids freeze and starve. Sooner or later, it all becomes your fault for letting it happen to you. I'm sorry to victim blame. But you are an abused sheep. In my less than ideal moments I sometimes just feel like you deserve what you get because you don't fight for much of anything.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/how-i-feel-about-some-political-issues/>

og:title Content: How I feel about some political issues - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: November 9, 2021

Blog Post Content: I just filled out a form that asked me a bunch of political questions. I thought they were interesting. I've posted my answers here if you are interested in knowing where I stand on certain things:

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/sage-against-the-machine-podcast-episode-55/>

og:title Content: Sage Against The Machine Podcast - Episode 55 - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: November 11, 2021

Blog Post Content:

We are all just rats in a cage.

You can listen to the audio here:

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URL: <https://sagelewis.com/it-makes-you-lose-faith-in-the-system/>

og:title Content: "It makes you lose faith in the system" - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: November 15, 2021

Blog Post Content: Did you read this incredible story of the massive civilian deaths that are continually being covered up by the US military:

How the U.S. Hid an Airstrike That Killed Dozens of Civilians in Syria - The New York Times

I pulled some quotes out of the article that seemed profound to me. But the point of this isn't that the US military system is cruel and corrupt and meets all the definitions of "evil." It's that ALL systems are this way. Look at what this 22-year-old climate activist, Clover Hogan, recently said:

You can learn more about her here: Clover Hogan | Climate activist, founder Force of Nature

The leaders of our systems fail us time and time again. And the reason is simple: they care more about the system than they do anything else. "Protect the system at all costs."

I see this fact everywhere in the world. Cover-up after cover-up after cover-up.

But Clover is right. The people in the streets are no joke. They are waking up and change is coming. You must realize that the "leaders" are a tiny group of people that have created an illusion of false power. They can't stop the people when the people stand up.

Here are the quotes from the NYT article referenced above:

"It makes you lose faith in the system when people are trying to do what's right but no one in positions of leadership wants to hear it."

In the last days of the battle against the Islamic State in Syria, when members of the once-fierce caliphate were cornered in a dirt field next to a town called Baghuz, a U.S. military drone circled high overhead, hunting for military targets. But it saw only a large crowd of women and children huddled against a river bank.

Without warning, an American F-15E attack jet streaked across the drone's high-definition field of vision and dropped a 500-pound bomb on the crowd, swallowing it in a shuddering blast. As the smoke cleared, a few people stumbled away in search of cover. Then a jet tracking them dropped one 2,000-pound bomb, then another, killing most of the survivors.

"We just dropped on 50 women and children."

An initial battle damage assessment quickly found that the number of dead was actually about 70.

The Times investigation found that the bombing had been called in by a classified American special operations unit, Task Force 9, which was in charge of ground operations in Syria.

This week, after The New York Times sent its findings to U.S. Central Command, which oversaw the air war in Syria, the command acknowledged the strikes for the first time, saying 80 people were killed but the airstrikes were justified. It said the bombs killed 16 fighters and four civilians. As for the other 60 people killed, the statement said it was not clear that they were civilians, in part because women and children in the Islamic State sometimes took up arms.

The United States portrayed the air war against the Islamic State as the most precise and humane bombing campaign in its history.

Even in the extraordinary case of Baghuz — which would rank third on the military's worst civilian casualty events in Syria if 64 civilian deaths were acknowledged — regulations for reporting and investigating the potential crime were not followed, and no one was held accountable.

But there was a quick and easy way to skip much of that oversight: claiming imminent danger.

The law of armed conflict — the rule book that lays out the military's legal conduct in war — allows troops in life-threatening situations to sidestep the strike team lawyers, analysts and other bureaucracy and call in strikes directly from aircraft under what military regulations call an "inherent right of self-defense."

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/this-week-at-the-houseless-movement-house-and-garden-november-15-2021/>

og:title Content: This Week At The Houseless Movement House and Garden - November 15, 2021 - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: November 17, 2021

Blog Post Content: I've started a Patreon where I talk about all the most insane things going on at the Houseless Movement house and Garden. If you want to truly get a front-row seat to the truth of working with homeless people this is the place to do it.

You have to pay to read this stuff. But it's as raw and real as I can possibly make it.

This Week At The Houseless Movement House and Garden - November 15, 2021 | Houseless Movement on Patreon

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/i-react-to-the-sheltersuit-and-shelterbag-for-homeless-people/>
og:title Content: I react to the Sheltersuit and Shelterbag for homeless people. - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist
Blog Post Date: November 15, 2021

Blog Post Content: This is their website: <https://sheltersuit.com/>
This is the video I reacted to: <https://www.nbclosangeles.com/news/local/sheltersuit-homeless-los-angeles-waterproof-bed/2757442/>

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/my-stalker/>
og:title Content: My Stalker - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist
Blog Post Date: November 15, 2021

Blog Post Content: I don't really know how dangerous this person is. But I know one thing: He is obsessed with me. He comments on virtually every blog post here. He will text me with anonymous texts repeatedly. He will create new user accounts on Facebook after I block him. It's clearly the same person because the posts all sound the same. At any rate, I know this person has mental health issues. He has experience with loved ones dying because of an overdose. He's just mentally not well. So, I wanted to post some information about him in case anything happens to me. If a homeless person hurts me, you'll know it's a homeless person. I will likely be stabbed on my property with a bunch of people standing around. This guy might try to do something more covert. I've reported him to the police and the only thing they tell me to do is block him. I've decided to unblock him altogether at this point. He's clearly insane and will stop at nothing with his obsession over me. It is what it is. I've recorded his IP addresses when he comments on this blog. Here's that information as well as the lookup information for those IP addresses: (You can click on them to see the full sizes):

He goes between Cuyahoga Falls, Medina and Cleveland. He's a Verizon customer. I know who he is on Facebook. But I don't think it's necessary to post that here. You will likely see who he is when he starts commenting on my stuff again now that I've unblocked him. The information I've posted here is enough for authorities to go off of if it's needed.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/sage-against-the-machine-podcast-episode-56/>
og:title Content: Sage Against The Machine Podcast - Episode 56 - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist
Blog Post Date: November 18, 2021

Blog Post Content: This episode is supporting the Lee family. It's 6 kids and a mom who just had a massive house fire and lost everything. Please support them here: [Lee Family Support After House Fire](#)

You can listen to the audio here:
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If you have missed any shows they are now archived in a podcast. You can check them out on my blog. Or you can get them on your favorite podcasting platform.
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URL: <https://sagelewis.com/man-sleeps-in-lansing-michigan-streets-for-a-week-to-raise-funds-for-homeless/>
og:title Content: Man sleeps in Lansing Michigan streets for a week to raise funds for homeless - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist
Blog Post Date: November 18, 2021

Blog Post Content: You can support Cardboard Prophets here:
<https://cardboardprophets.org/>

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/this-is-why-no-one-is-going-to-jail-these-days/>
og:title Content: This is why no one is going to jail these days - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist
Blog Post Date: November 19, 2021

Blog Post Content:
I've had some friends that I was sure were going to jail. The cops show up, they are taken away on warrants. And the next thing you know... They are back.
Well, it turns out there is no room at the inn.

These are what each level felony is:

FELONY OF THE FIRST DEGREE

First degree felonies, called F-1 violations, are the most serious according to law. They include murder, rape, and kidnapping, among others. An F-1 violation calls for a prison sentence between 3 and 11 years, plus five years of post release control (PRC). If the offender is a repeat offender, the sentence may be adjusted for up to an additional ten years behind bars. Violations such as aggravated murder or involuntary manslaughter may call for an additional ten years. In addition, offenders can be expected to pay up to a \$20,000 fine.

FELONY OF THE SECOND DEGREE

F-2 violations are similar to F-1's in that they typically involve violence. These crimes can include criminal gang participation or felonious assault. The maximum fine for an F-2 is \$15,000, and the sentencing guidelines are between 2 and 8 years. Offenders are subject to five years of PRC. Repeat violent offenders may receive up to an additional ten years.

FELONY OF THE THIRD DEGREE

F-3 violations typically carry 9 to 36 months of imprisonment, in addition to a possible \$10,000 fine. The court may impose three years of PRC, but offenses of a sexual nature automatically carry five, plus sex offender registration. These crimes are less serious than F-1's and F-2's, but they are no laughing matter—perjury and bribery are examples of F-3 violations.

So, it appears if you don't meet these requirements, nothing happens to you.

I don't know the details of all this. But of you don't go to jail for things like drug use or sex work, isn't that basically decriminalizing these things?

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/terri-heckman-and-sage-lewis-discussion-on-december-18-2017/>
og:title Content: Terri Heckman and Sage Lewis Discussion on December 18, 2017 - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist
Blog Post Date: November 23, 2021

Blog Post Content: This is an article the Beacon Journal did with Terri and me. I would often go along with things like this because people would chastise me for not working with the authorities and whatnot. But now I just believe these things were nothing more than a publicity stunt to make these people look like they cared and were kind and "warm-hearted" (a phrase the mayor loves to use for them). But in reality, all these people really care about is protecting their little kingdoms and making sure no outsider messes up the system where they all make really good salaries for maintaining the status quo...

Tent city for Akron homeless addresses same problem as parking garage did 26 years ago

By Doug Livingston
December 18, 2017
Publication: Akron Beacon Journal: Web Edition Articles (OH)
Word Count: 1535

Listen to Doug Livingston's interview with Sage Lewis and Terri Heckman

https://www.ohio.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/sage_terri.mp3

(this link no longer works and I can't find the interview anywhere else.)-----

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/my-thoughts-on-terri-heckmans-retirement-as-ceo-of-the-battered-womens-shelter/>

og:title Content: My Thoughts On Terri Heckman's Retirement as CEO of the Battered Women's Shelter. - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: November 23, 2021

Blog Post Content: Terri has an article in the Akron Beacon Journal on her retirement entitled "'How do you replace her?' Terri Heckman retiring as leader of two victim agencies."

You will find that the Beacon often writes fluff pieces about corporate insiders. If the Beacon is still around when I die I guarantee their coverage will not be so lopsided (and it shouldn't be). Terri has done a lot of good work. But that's not the only side of Terri that I know. This is the perspective I can share about her: Terri Heckman is retiring as the CEO of the Battered Women's Shelter. There is a really good write-up of her in the Beacon Journal.

In it, she says, "In the early years, Heckman said it was difficult convincing people that domestic violence was actually an issue in the Akron area. "In every single movement there has ever been in this country, the initial cases can be lost, and that is where the pioneers are," Heckman told the Beacon Journal in October 1995.

I will never forget Terri sitting behind me in city council chambers exclaiming "YES!" when Akron City Council voted to shut down our tent city.

I will never forget when she had a feel-good peace done with me and her in the Beacon Journal just so she could look like she was on the side of homeless people when all she wanted to do was destroy our community... which she did.

I will never forget when she tore down the first shelter she was given FOR FREE after she and mayor publicly accused me of not accepting the shelter for homeless people. She never offered that shelter to us. It was all a lie.

I will never forget the op-ed in the Beacon Journal she co-authored with the entire Summit County Continuum of Care telling people that what we created at the Homeless Charity was hurting homeless people. So, they shut us down... the tent village AND the day center.

You can feel good about the work Terri has done. But don't forget you need to also include in her biography how hard she worked on destroying the community and center the homeless people of Akron created.

Yes, Terri. It IS difficult to convince people that things like domestic violence and homelessness are actually an issue in the Akron area. But you were a major force in hurting homeless people in Akron because you didn't like what they created for themselves.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/so-thanksgiving/>

og:title Content: So... Thanksgiving - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: November 25, 2021

Blog Post Content:

If, by now, you aren't aware that this holiday is challenging you either are living in another universe than the rest of us, or you are exhibiting selective ignorance racism.

Did we inflict genocide on the original owners of this land? Yes. Did we steal the land that was never ours to begin with? Yes. Are Native Americans suffering and mostly forgotten while the rest of us stuff our faces with FAR too much food. Yes.

But I'm a believer in reform. I think nearly everything can be reformed.

It's not too late to change the path we're on. (and no, acknowledging the land you are the benefactor of due to a bloody, violent theft does not suffice at all.)

We are being screamed at by the universe to wake up and fix this cruel heartless system some of us benefit

from so much while MANY others starve and freeze.

Be thankful AND change the system. It falls to YOU. Stop looking around. YOU have to fix the system.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/like-rats-off-a-sinking-ship-dan-horrigan-sinking-administration/>
og:title Content: Like Rats Off A Sinking Ship - Dan Horrigan's Sinking Administration - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist
Blog Post Date: December 1, 2021

Blog Post Content:

What is going on with the city of Akron Mayor Dan Horrigan's administration? They are jumping overboard like rats off a sinking ship.

These people have left so far:

Police Chief Kenneth Ball
Director of Neighborhood Assistance John Valle
Deputy Mayor for Integrated Development James Hardy

and yesterday, 2 people left with no other job plans:

The youngest female cabinet member in Akron's history Press Secretary/Senior Strategic Counsel Ellen Lander Nisch
Chief of Staff/Deputy Mayor of Administration Annie McFadden

Those are all \$100,000+ plus jobs. The only person to leave for another job was James Hardy. Everybody else... just left.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/sage-against-the-machine-podcast-episode-57/>
og:title Content: Sage Against The Machine Podcast - Episode 57 - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist
Blog Post Date: November 26, 2021

Blog Post Content: We need the right to live in alternative living spaces.

You can listen to the audio here:

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URL: <https://sagelewis.com/sage-against-the-machine-podcast-episode-58/>
og:title Content: Sage Against The Machine Podcast - Episode 58 - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist
Blog Post Date: December 2, 2021

Blog Post Content: Who wins: individual rights or collective rights?

You can listen to the audio here:

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URL: <https://sagelewis.com/sage-against-the-machine-podcast-episode-59/>

og:title Content: Sage Against The Machine Podcast - Episode 59 - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: December 9, 2021

Blog Post Content: The most unproductive hour you will ever spend.

You can listen to the audio here:

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URL: <https://sagelewis.com/sage-against-the-machine-podcast-episode-60/>

og:title Content: Sage Against The Machine Podcast - Episode 60 - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: December 16, 2021

Blog Post Content: The most unproductive hour you will ever spend.

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URL: <https://sagelewis.com/sage-against-the-machine-podcast-episode-61/>

og:title Content: Sage Against The Machine Podcast - Episode 61 - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: December 23, 2021

Blog Post Content: My Christmas Special

You can listen to the audio here:

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URL: <https://sagelewis.com/my-message-from-my-annual-christmas-eve-sleep-out-in-support-of-homeless-pregnant-moms/>

og:title Content: My Message From My Annual Christmas Eve Sleep Out in Support of Homeless Pregnant Moms - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: December 26, 2021

Blog Post Content:

This is just under \$1000 that was brought to me by people that came out on Christmas Eve night to say hello on my annual sleep out to raise awareness for homeless pregnant moms, just like Mary was when she gave birth to whom Christians believe was God himself.

(If you think this money is cool, wait till I gather all the blankets and tents and sleeping bags and food and hats and gloves that people brought and take a picture of those. My truck absolutely cannot hold one more glove because it is so full with the things you brought. And the Reverend and my friend Gary Mikes cars are packed too. (they stayed the night with me, which is its own kind of beautiful generosity. Reverend John Beatty is 83 years old and stayed the night.))

GOD HAD TO BE BIRTHED IN A BARN IN A ANIMAL FOOD TROUGH because there was "no room at the inn." 2021 years later there is still no room at the inn for homeless pregnant moms, homeless veterans, homeless senior citizens, homeless kids and SO many more.

BUT I NEED YOU TO KNOW THIS...

The more horrendous tragedy I see the more absolutely humbling kindness and generosity I see.

While I continue to fight for the right to shelter homeless people on my own land I have one single solitary message I must get out. YOU MUST KNOW that humanity is overwhelmingly kind and good and generous.

Evil is powerful. But it is small and few. Goodness is massive and many.

I love you. I love you. I love you.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/you-transformed-me-on-christmas-eve-night/>

og:title Content: You Transformed Me On Christmas Eve Night - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: December 27, 2021

Blog Post Content:

Here is a small sampling of the items people dropped off to me on Christmas Eve night when I and a couple friends slept out on the corner of West Market and Portage Path.

What you did that night changed me. You imprinted upon me the realization of the ultimate truth of the world. That goodness and kindness abound. Goodness is everywhere. YOU are everywhere. You have always been the energy that keeps me moving forward. And the energy you gave me on Christmas Eve night was so profound and so powerful that I feel like I have transcended into a new understanding of the world.

I see the world now for what it truly is: A place of boundless, immeasurable goodness and kindness and generosity that is being controlled by a few powerful, selfish people.

YOU are the "meek" that shall inherit the earth. YOU are the lamb of God. YOU are the body of Christ. I see it all so clearly now.

This is what's going to happen from here on out...

Every Sunday morning around 10am, we are going to meet in The Garden behind 85 Kent Place in Akron

Ohio. Rain, snow, searing heat. We will come together. ALL OF US. Rich, poor, black, white, Hispanic, conservative, liberal. We will all come together. We will leave our differences at home and look for what connects us all.

Sunday Morning in The Garden will be a time where if you have something to give, you bring it. If you have something you need, you take it.

I'll bring 40 cups of coffee and about 2 dozen pastries. But if this grows we will likely need more. But we'll see how it goes. We'll see a need and fill it.

ALL ARE INVITED.

I can't promise you what it will be like from one Sunday to the next. It could be some kind of work. It SHOULD be visiting and making friends. Community is the answer to the question of life. Friendship is the most important thing you can ever give.

The secret to making a difference is Showing Up. Just show up and all will make sense from there.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/sage-against-the-machine-podcast-episode-62/>
og:title Content: Sage Against The Machine Podcast - Episode 62 - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist
Blog Post Date: December 30, 2021

Blog Post Content: I had a spiritual conversion on Christmas Eve night.

You can listen to the audio here:
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URL: <https://sagelewis.com/my-christmas-eve-spiritual-conversion/>
og:title Content: My Christmas Eve Spiritual Conversion - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist
Blog Post Date: January 3, 2022

Blog Post Content:
I had a spiritual conversion on Christmas Eve night. I truly feel changed. And it was because of YOU. You and your outpouring of goodness and kindness. All of you that came to see me on Christmas Eve night as I slept out to raise awareness for homeless pregnant women, just like Mary was, CHANGED ME.

I'll be sharing with you what this change looks like. It created a really big shift in my thinking towards my hatred for "the system".

Today I want to share this idea with you:

Homelessness, apartheid, genocide... these are all acts caused by a careless and cruel system based on hatred for a specific group of people. It's bigotry and stereotyping in its worst form... and it is done at the hands of your government.

But all those things are just small. They are just small symbols of the massive truth of suffering. There are 7 billion people alive right now. Easily 2 billion are suffering incredible pain due to poverty. And of the other 5 billion, imagine how many billions of them are suffering incredibly due to illness, accidents, addiction, and mental illness. These are incomprehensible numbers of people suffering greatly, right this minute.

We have one job: reduce suffering. Every day our job is to attempt to reduce suffering in some way. In any way. And if we can't reduce suffering then we must try not to create more suffering.

There is so much suffering that I can only believe one thing: The suffering is a tool to help us practice compassion and understanding of "the other." This is our purpose on Earth. To seek to understand. To forgive.

And for this effort we will be given the ultimate gift: happiness and joy. These are the rewards for practicing compassion. And these are the true satisfactions that mean the most to us at our core.

Food, money, sex, drugs. These are temporary fixes that fade quickly. Compassion is a satisfaction that resonates deeply and for a long period of time.

And for this, we must give thanks to our oppressors for allowing us to practice our spiritual journey of giving thanks, of practicing compassion.

I'm sorry to say: suffering will never change. It will always exist.

But I'm happy to say: the kindness and goodness and love of people will also never change. It's boundless and endless and amazing.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/the-third-anniversary-of-the-end-of-akrons-tent-city-january-6-2019/>
og:title Content: The third anniversary of the end of Akron's tent city. January 6, 2019 - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist
Blog Post Date: January 6, 2022

Blog Post Content:

January 6, 2019 was the final day of Akron's tent city. It began on January 7, 2017 when the Metroparks kicked out a small group of people to make way for the Freedom Trail.

Cruel destruction after cruel destruction.

I've been thinking a lot about China's destruction of Tibet and how the Dalai Lama and Buddhists now live in exile in India. I feel a little bit like India. I continue to give a small number of homeless people a home because they have nowhere else to go. Some of the people I currently shelter are people that were never housed in the destruction of our tent village in 2019.

I continue to do this work under the threat of some sort of legal action. I simply cannot stop this work knowing that we shun and turn our backs on people with no money, no resources and significant issues like mental health, physical health and addiction.

I'm not here to tell you a story of tragedy. This is a story of hope.

Over the years I have grown unafraid of the cruel hand of a thoughtless system. I have learned that the system is much more delicate and fragile than it wants you to know. It has very little ability to truly control the people. Once we become unafraid of it, its power is gone.

I will not stop. The harder they pressure me the stronger I become. This is how metal is made. This is how diamonds are made. People are made the same way.

Today I welcome the system's cruelty. In fact, I've become thankful for it. I cannot be destroyed. I only become stronger.

The truth is that the people have all the power. We always have and we always will. The system is an illusion meant to control us. We know what is right and what is wrong. Homelessness in the richest country in the world is wrong. It is 16° as I write this message. And there are men women and children living on the streets of Akron Ohio all while there are private citizens who are willing to shelter these people entirely on private land with private money. We want nothing from the government other than to leave us alone and allow us to do this work.

This inhumanity and torture of American citizens at the hands of a heartless system must end.

This is the notice I received as reported by the Beacon Journal in December 2018.

Akron sent out a notice of violation/order to comply on Thursday, giving Sage Lewis LLC 30 days to close and remove the homeless tent city on Broad Street in the Middlebury neighborhood. The notice from the city's Department of Planning & Urban Development, dated Dec. 6, says campgrounds are not allowed to operate in a residential use district.

"Discontinue the illegal use(s) and/or violations(s) of this property within 30 days of the date of this letter," the notice says in part. "Cease all use of the premises as a campground and permanently remove all tents,

equipment, and miscellaneous material related to the illegal use of the premises as a campground.” Failure to comply with the notice will result in further legal action by Akron, the city said in a news release.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/sage-against-the-machine-podcast-episode-63/>

og:title Content: Sage Against The Machine Podcast - Episode 63 - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: January 6, 2022

Blog Post Content: Do the right thing.

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URL: <https://sagelewis.com/sage-against-the-machine-podcast-episode-64/>

og:title Content: Sage Against The Machine Podcast - Episode 64 - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: January 13, 2022

Blog Post Content: What is happiness?

You can listen to the audio here:

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URL: <https://sagelewis.com/a-picture-of-our-little-houseless-camp/>

og:title Content: A picture of our little Houseless camp - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: January 17, 2022

Blog Post Content:

Here's a picture of two tents and two tiny houses on the Houseless Movement property. I just took this today. This is now the 6th winter I've either sheltered people on my land or supported camps hidden in the woods.

Over the years my feelings about all this has evolved. When I first started my main feeling was that I was disappointed that this was all I was able to provide.

6 years later I understand that the greatest tragedy here is not that humans are living in tents. We've done that for 200,000 years. The great tragedy is the scorn and hatred and judgement these people face by their city, by their politicians and by society as a whole.

There is a small camp that went up in an upscale town outside of Akron. The neighbors are freaking out. They say things like they are worried for their kids. It's a suggestion that all houseless people are crazed pedophiles.

The truth is, it's the houseless people that are at great risk. They are vulnerable in every possible way.

There is nothing wrong with living in a tent or a car or a shed. It's better than having nothing. It's fine. But

the homeless hate is so savage and basic. We have a long way to go as a society. Sometimes I think we haven't learned one single thing about our fellow humans.

On this Martin Luther King Jr. Day I plead with you to remember these words: "I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character."

We still haven't done it for black kids. And we certainly haven't done it for our Houseless neighbors.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/tucker-carlson-on-homelessness/>

og:title Content: Tucker Carlson on Homelessness - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: January 19, 2022

Blog Post Content:

Tucker Carlson just did a piece entitled: "The homeless crisis is a symptom of our society collapsing in real time."

He is a jerk. And I really wish that conservative Christians would not find comfort in his cruel and hateful words.

But, if you can look past his basic mean-ness, there are some points that are true: Mentally ill people that self-medicate with alcohol and drugs are wandering around our cities and there is nothing to do with them other than let them do so.

Tucker's solution is this: "Pull up your pants and get the hell out of here. Go somewhere with lower standards."

I don't know where that is. But I guess because Tucker is rich it's where rich people are not. That's not a solution. It's just more mean-ness and cruelty.

HERE'S MY SOLUTION: Designate highly experienced people in the community that are then trained on dangerous mental illness signs to work with police with these people. If these people determine the person is a risk to themselves and/or others, they must go in for a 3 day evaluation. If then they are still deemed to be dangerous, those doctors can keep them for 10 days. And then it goes from there. We must bring back forced incarceration of mentally ill people that are a danger to themselves or others.

(You might say we already have that. WE DON'T. The vast majority of the time these people pass the verbal test of the initial evaluator. The questions are too obvious and easy to lie about. The person who is determined to make this call needs to get to know these people and then they need to be given a lot of power to make the call based on their overall evaluation of the situation.)

I truly enjoy working with these kinds of people. But I can't keep them around our community.

RIGHT NOW, I'm dealing with a situation where I think a homeless person is poisoning the coffee at our house with rat poison. This person is a repeated violent threat to all those around him. I REALLY need this guy to be evaluated by a mental health person. I REALLY need him on medication. But it's nearly impossible to do so. So what am I going to do? I'm going to probably end up throwing him out onto the streets where he then will become even worse. He'll become more violent and more dangerous to the entire city.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/do-the-right-thing-3/>
og:title Content: Do the right thing. - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist
Blog Post Date: January 20, 2022

Blog Post Content:

My friend Kenny Boldt always preaches to me that wisdom.

I've never met an organization or system that fully stays true to that commitment.

Just yesterday I was at the health department getting needles. I was trying to pull a fast one on them. You are allowed to use fake information. So this week I tried to be another person so that I could get another 100 needles. (you are only allowed 100 every 2 weeks.) Our house had run out days ago.

She recognized me and said I couldn't do that. She said I needed to bring my friends. I told her I had brought 5 people with me that day.

She was the gatekeeper of the system. She could have "not recognized". But she did.

This is not a slam on her or the health department. They are both amazing. All the health department cares about is keeping people safe. No judgement. Just safe.

But even this amazing institution has protocol that you simply do not buck.

This is merely a story about how even the most amazing, uncorrupted system I've ever worked with has limits to staying true to it's mission.

But in actuality it's a juxtaposition to systems and to people. Kenny ALWAYS ALWAYS ALWAYS taught me the truth of Do The Right Thing.

A pregnant couple came to our house and garden desperately needing shelter. Josh Imler knew I had a rule about not accepting new people. Do you know what he did: he took care of them and gave them a tent. He was right. I was wrong.

The people are always showing me the path. Always showing me the right way.

Your community is the greatest "institution" you will ever be part of. My great wish for you is that you have as good a community as I do with my houseless friends and their supporters.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/sage-against-the-machine-podcast-episode-65/>
og:title Content: Sage Against The Machine Podcast - Episode 65 - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist
Blog Post Date: January 20, 2022

Blog Post Content: The key is learning to understand other people.

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URL: <https://sagelewis.com/practicing-non-judgment/>

og:title Content: PRACTICING NON-JUDGMENT - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: January 22, 2022

Blog Post Content:

I am now of the belief that this entire thing. This earth. This universe. It's all a construct built for us each to individually practice becoming better. And better means finding understanding and compassion for all other things.

The very first step in our practice is letting go of judging. Judgment is the creation of suffering. When you judge other people you are hurting them. We are not here to fix other people. We are here only to fix ourselves.

The first step of this first step is to realize when you are judging people. I just had this awakening that I was doing this, this morning.

I am very much a libertarian. Your body. Your choice.

So when it comes to drugs, I could not care less what you do. Boof. Shoot. Snort. Smoke. Enjoy yourself.

And I'll even help you when your drug fun turns into an addiction that starts to ruin your life. (I was right there with you.)

But I just realized that I'm a judger of hoarding. Hoarding really bothers me. I have homeless friends that are obsessed with their personal belongings. And they have a ton of them scattered all over the city. I couldn't understand why they are so obsessed with all this junk when they have much bigger issues.

And there it was. WHO AM I TO JUDGE? This is an area where I need to practice compassion and forgiving. I don't have to help them with their belongings, if I don't want. But at least I can not lecture them and chastise them.

We ALL have work to do. That's why I am in such belief that this is nothing more than a massive opportunity to grow and evolve as individuals.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/sage-against-the-machine-podcast-episode-66/>

og:title Content: Sage Against The Machine Podcast - Episode 66 - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: January 27, 2022

Blog Post Content: You are all the hope I need.

You can listen to the audio here:

Sage Against The Machine Podcast Archive

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URL: <https://sagelewis.com/saturday-january-29-2022-negative-7-degrees/>

og:title Content: Saturday, January 29, 2022 - Negative 7 Degrees. - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: January 29, 2022

Blog Post Content:

I took this picture this morning. It's of the Houseless Movement House and Garden. I love this picture because I think it makes people feel certain ways. It was -7 degrees when I took this picture.

The outdoor shelters currently house 4 women and 5 men. There are more people pleading for a space. 2 more tents will probably go up today. The colder it gets the more people that are desperate for shelter.

I used to be sad when I sheltered people like this. I was disheartened that was all I could offer. I think a lot of people feel sad when they see this scene.

Today this picture fills me with joy.

I love it because the weather forces these people to think about something bigger than themselves - which, ironically, is keeping themselves alive. You don't have time to feel depressed and sorry for yourself when you have no choice other than staying alive.

I am also filled with joy because this is only possible because of so many people coming together to make it happen. You are looking at easily \$5000 worth of material and countless hours of work by rich people, poor people, housed people and houseless people. And of course, conservatives and progressives. Communists and capitalists. It's possibly the most diverse collaboration of people ever assembled. Even if they don't physically all come together at once, they are clearly together in spirit.

Almost every tent has electricity and heaters and electric blankets. But no one is going to put these tools to work for you other than you. If you want to be warm you have to make it happen yourself.

They are all doing wonderfully and rising to the occasion.

There is a lot to be learned in this environment. (and they also are able to come in the basement of the house for warmth and the full bathroom.)

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/my-failing-of-this-man/>

og:title Content: My Failing Of This Man - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: January 30, 2022

Blog Post Content: This is a man I have tried to shelter off and on for years. Today he asked to leave the Houseless Movement house because he was afraid if he didn't he'd kill someone. (He has gone to prison before for attempted murder, so he's not exaggerating.)

This is a man who has serious mental illness. I begged, yelled and pleaded to get him to go to a psychiatrist. He refused to go. (We must learn to understand people who refuse change from addiction, mental illness, physical illness, eating disorders, smoking, hoarding, etc.)

In the end, he chose to walk out into the winter snow. I gave him \$200 and a tent. He has a trash bag of

belongings.

As so often is the case in this work, I have simultaneous and opposite emotions. I feel the grief of loss of failing this man. And I feel relief that we escaped this chapter without serious physical harm. I believe we must return to forced mental health treatment facilities that is evolved with our learning from past work. This man will likely either end up in jail (after probably seriously hurting someone) or dead because we don't have any other options for him. If this story touches you I encourage you to think about a career in mental health. We need new, fresh ideas. We need you.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/roaches-mice-and-rats/>

og:title Content: Roaches, Mice and Rats - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: February 1, 2022

Blog Post Content:

There are some powerful conversations going on at Akron City Council about inhumane living conditions at many apartment buildings in Akron. Roaches, mice and rats are a common complaint. As is always the case, the full story is incredibly complicated. The Houseless Movement house currently has roaches.

IN NO WAY, am I making excuses. We've also had rats in the past.

This picture is of a man using a snow shovel to clean out a room of a person who has just left our house. The man who moved out refused to use a trash can. He threw all his trash on the floor. (I literally could not even pay him to clean his room. And he LOVES making money.) He also often didn't use the bathroom. He peed in bottles and didn't throw them out.

My belief is that there are people who are not a good fit for a traditional house or apartment building. A tiny house or tent is a better fit. A tiny house can be broomed out in about 10 minutes. And a tent turns into a garbage bag that can all just be thrown away.

AND MOST IMPORTANTLY, a tent or tiny house keeps people physically separated so that bugs and rodents can't infect an entire building.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/stoney-pointe-commons-in-akron-ohio-has-rats/>

og:title Content: Stoney Pointe Commons in Akron Ohio Has Rats - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: February 1, 2022

Blog Post Content:

Funny story...

City of Akron, Ohio - Mayor, Dan Horrigan, and Keith Stahl, Director of Operations and Residential Services at Community Support Services, fought tooth and nail to close down our tent village (which they did).

One reason was that they had just built Stoney Pointe Commons - an \$11.3 million for the 68-unit complex built in 2018 for housing homeless and disabled people. (They wouldn't want people to choose to live in tents when they just built a super fancy complex where each unit cost \$166,176 to build when houses were averaging \$80,000 at the time.)

Well... it turns out Stoney Pointe Commons is infested with rodents and people are moving back into their cars and the woods because the rodent shit is making them sick.

Tiny houses and tents eliminate the congregate issue of rats, mice, rodents and bed bugs.

Additionally, based on a review at Apartments.com they are also assholes:

The Akron Beacon Journal has an in-depth article on Stoney Pointe Commons here:
Tenant confronts Akron housing complex over rodents, illness

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/help-my-daughter-is-homeless/>

og:title Content: Help. My daughter is homeless - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: February 2, 2022

Blog Post Content:

A dad just asked me how he can help his homeless daughter. If you know anyone going through this, you

might share this with them. He told me his daughter was trying to get on disability.
Hi. It's nice to hear from you. I'm sorry you are going through this. Your daughter is lucky to have you. The wheels of the system move very slow, if at all. So, if you or a group of people are able to help, the situation needs triaged. You want to try to get her safe while keeping you and the rest of your family safe. Safety for her is going to include shelter and warmth. And there is a spectrum of these things. The best situation is a dry structure with electricity. A garage or shed is excellent. But a cheap tent from Walmart covered with a tarp and a bunch of blankets or a good sleeping bag will be fine.
From there then you can work on getting her birth certificate, id and social security, the disability money, and then housing through the programs in your area.
The balance is always keeping yourself emotionally and physically safe while helping keep her safe. If it becomes too much you absolutely have the right to back off and take a break. You can come back to help her if you feel up for it later.
The longer she is homeless, the longer this process typically takes. There will likely be setback and frustrations. I'm sure you've already experienced many already.
Thank you for reaching out and asking how to help your daughter. That's wonderful.
Take care.Sage

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/how-do-i-help-my-bipolar-homeless-niece/>
og:title Content: How do I help my bipolar homeless niece? - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist
Blog Post Date: February 2, 2022

Blog Post Content:

It's humbling and a little shocking for me to have people ask me how to help their homeless family members. I often think to myself, "isn't there someone more qualified to answer these requests other than me?" But what I've learned in life is that leaders are always unprepared and unqualified for the job set before them. They just do the best they can and hope it's good enough.
Here is a response to a woman who is trying to help her homeless niece who has bipolar and won't go to therapy or stay on her meds. Her niece is currently staying with her, but will probably move on soon. That's the pattern for her...
Hi. It's nice to hear from you.
Thank you for helping your niece. She's incredibly lucky to have you.
I've found that being nomadic is part of this process for many people. The tension of one location grows and grows and then the person feels like they must leave.
This kind of person is very challenging. I've seen people get back on their meds. But they often don't like how they feel on them.
I wonder if you have a shed or space in a garage that she could feel like she always could come to.
I think there comes a point where just offering love and non-judgement is sometimes about the best you can do.
It's like homeless palliative care. Keep yourself emotionally and physically safe and then try to keep them emotionally and physically safe.
Thank you so much for the work you are doing. It's making a huge difference in your niece's life, I promise you. And she is deeply thankful that you care, even if she doesn't show it.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/my-submission-for-a-beta-test-of-5-tiny-houses-in-akron-for-the-american-rescue-plan-act-akron-submission/>
og:title Content: My Submission for a Beta Test of 5 Tiny Houses in Akron for The American Rescue Plan Act Akron Submission - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist
Blog Post Date: February 2, 2022

Blog Post Content:

The city of Akron has a form where you can submit ideas to them for The American Rescue Plan Act money here:
City of Akron Public Input Form

The form states this:

The American Rescue Plan Act provides State and Local Fiscal Recovery funding to directly address the negative impacts of the COVID-19 public health emergency. The purpose of this form is to collect public ideas to be considered as the City of Akron identifies areas of need for those who have been impacted. The City of Akron will be evaluating needs and ideas that will enable the City to make strategic investments that will benefit future generations while improving services for all Akron residents today. State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds are recovery funds, specific to addressing the impact of the COVID-19 public health emergency. *American Rescue Plan funds are not entitlement funds for discretionary use. *

The picture above is the area that we own that we would propose putting these 5 tiny houses. We want no money from the government. We only want to be permitted to do the work.

Here are my answers to their questions:

Please provide details on your program or project idea. You should include the intended location of service and the intended audience.

We would like to create a beta test of 5 tiny houses on my charity's land behind 85 Kent Place in Ward 10. We want to experiment with a concept that is being tested in other cities all over America. Kalamazoo, Detroit, Syracuse, Nashville, Los Angeles, Austin, Seattle, Dallas, Portland. The list grows every single day. We will build 5 tiny houses on the property of our charity which also includes our house. The house will provide 24-hour access to a full bathroom and laundry.

There will be security and 24-hour surveillance.

All residents will be required to take a psychiatric evaluation and then follow through with what the psychiatrist prescribes.

They will also be required to go to 3 to 5 drug and alcohol treatment meetings each week.

Additionally, they will be required to contribute 1 hour of time to the facility every day. If they have a job and cannot do their volunteer time they can contribute \$5 every day they can't do the work.

They will also be required to register with 211 and follow through with their housing program.

Not adhering to these requirements will make them ineligible for the program. They will be required to leave.

How does your program/project address the needs of under-resourced communities and populations? *

Tiny houses address needs that cannot be handled in traditional shelters. Social anxiety, pets, couples, belongings, privacy. These are all things that are not accessible in traditional shelter environments.

Additionally, as we learned with Covid-19, congregate shelters increase the transmission of a variety of diseases. They also increase things like bedbugs, rats, lice, and roaches.

We know through experience and interaction with the homeless community that many people prefer tiny houses and tents to congregate shelters for all the reasons mentioned above.

When this particular group of homeless people are unsheltered or living in the woods where they are continually not allowed to stay, it creates an unsafe environment for them and the surrounding community. It also makes it very difficult for service providers to meet with them.

This also gives the police department additional resources where to take people. We learned that the police brought a mom and her 3-year-old daughter to the emergency warming shelter this winter because they had nowhere else to take her.

We are learning that we need additional alternatives to sheltering homeless people.

Stoney Pointe Commons, an \$11.3 million for 68-unit complex built in 2018 for housing homeless and disabled people is now plagued with rats. Formerly homeless people that moved into Stoney Pointe are now having to return to the streets because they are getting sick from the rat feces.

Haven of Rest, while a great resource, oftentimes has to ban people from living at their facility for various reasons. These people need additional places to find shelter. Other people find that their civil liberties are violated at the Haven because Christian church services are required before every meal, every bedtime, and receiving any clothing.

The other women's shelters are often full at peak times.

People roaming the streets of Akron who are not invited or able to go to other shelters are not only a distressing sight for people coming to work downtown, they are also a source of violent danger... to themselves and others.

We want to legally be permitted to shelter people that other people cannot shelter.

What is the projected cost of your program?

\$1. All other money will be raised by private individuals.

Please provide examples or references of this type of program's or project's success. *

Community First! Village is the gold standard of tiny house villages.

<https://mlf.org/community-first/>

LA's First Tiny Home Village to House Homeless

<https://youtu.be/pHccdInYCgM>

Seattle's Practical Village Model: Tiny Homes for Homeless

<https://youtu.be/FCViuEdmSr4>

Stories From A Tiny Home Village: Madison

<https://youtu.be/C4QAb61aqAs>

Tiny homes village for the homeless people in echo park downtown Los Angeles

<https://youtu.be/zn-FZbSgSeo>

This Tiny Home Community Gives Homeless Veterans A Chance - Working To End Veteran Homelessness - Kansas City

<https://youtu.be/Gfk3F28u7GQ>

San Jose Opens Tiny-House Community to Shelter the Homeless

<https://youtu.be/iYjjGU7qYjE>

Denver: Tiny Homes Help With Growing Homeless Population

<https://youtu.be/6xwJvrWRRxg>

OPPORTUNITY VILLAGE: Tiny Houses as Homeless Shelters in Eugene, OR

<https://youtu.be/f8hBBm7hRqw>

EMERALD VILLAGE: a Dream of an Affordable Tiny House Community

https://youtu.be/KX2_Q5ejUpc

City of Bellingham, Washington: Gardenview Tiny House Village

<https://youtu.be/pcOFgek5CL4>

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/sage-against-the-machine-podcast-episode-67/>

og:title Content: Sage Against The Machine Podcast - Episode 67 - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: February 3, 2022

Blog Post Content: Clown dick.

You can listen to the audio here:

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URL: <https://sagelewis.com/studying-forgiveness/>

og:title Content: Studying Forgiveness - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: February 8, 2022

Blog Post Content:

I am currently studying Forgiveness.

Forgiveness is an advanced placement course because it can seem like Acceptance.

Forgiveness is not acceptance of injustice. Forgiveness is not giving up and allowing oppression.

Forgiveness is letting go of hatred and anger. Forgiveness is standing against what is wrong while having love and compassion for the wrong doer.

I am in a unique position to show love and forgiveness while standing up for justice.

I hope to write more about this later.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/sage-against-the-machine-podcast-episode-68/>
og:title Content: Sage Against The Machine Podcast - Episode 68 - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist
Blog Post Date: February 10, 2022

Blog Post Content: Wealthy white men will kill you to stay wealthy.

You can listen to the audio here:

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URL: <https://sagelewis.com/todd-tober-the-president-to-tober-building-company-responds-to-me-about-stoney-pointe-commons-rodents/>
og:title Content: Todd Tober the president to Tober Building Company responds to me about Stoney Pointe Commons Rodents - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist
Blog Post Date: February 13, 2022

Blog Post Content: Todd Tober is a Facebook friend of mine. He is the president of Tober Building Company. His company built Stoney Pointe Commons, a 68-unit development for homeless people and people with disabilities.

There is now a second article in the Beacon Journal talking about the rodents at Stoney Pointe Commons. Teneeka Hamilton had to move back into her car because she was getting extremely sick because of the rodent feces. She said she contracted histoplasmosis, an infection caused by breathing in spores of bird, bat and rodent feces.

Teneeka said mice scurried across her bed as she tried to sleep, and she found droppings nearly everywhere in her apartment, including where she prepared food.

Todd replied to a Facebook post with some replies to my post. I have screen captured those comments and pasted them in this post so you can see his replies.

I also received private messages from the wife of a man who worked on this project. She said that she believed Teneeka was lying. And then she also pointed out that she has been a financial supporter of mine with the homeless community and another charity I am indirectly involved with. Her comments sounded economically threatening to me... that I owed her to not speak my mind because she paid me money. I WILL NEVER STOP SPEAKING TRUTH TO POWER BECAUSE OF MONEY... NO MATTER HOW DIFFICULT A POSITION IT PUTS ME IN.

The point of the woman and Todd is that they feel like their side of the story is not being represented. And they also are suggesting that the Beacon and Taneeka are lying. I want their opinion to be known.

I don't believe either Taneeka or the Beacon are lying. I believe they are both telling the truth because I currently have roaches in my house where I shelter homeless people. And last year we were over-run by rats. I haven't seen rats this year.

The truth is that the homeless community is incredibly complicated... primarily with mental illness. These significant issues often lead to significant hoarding and not keeping their spaces clean. (I will also include a new picture of a tent we just cleaned out on Friday. I'd like to say that it was an uncommon occurrence. But it's not. I see unimaginable trash and rot in tents, tiny houses and in our house.)

I'd like to suggest that Todd try to hold back the incredible temptation to become defensive. The more money involved and the higher a person is in an organization the more likely it is that they will become defensive... to protect the organization at all costs.

Let's have the complicated conversation. That, yes, they have rats and rodents. And yes, the situation is complicated. And yes, the powers that be need to grow and continue to work harder. And yes, we have to grow as an entire community.

These are the Beacon Journal articles:

Tenant confronts Akron housing complex over rodents, illness

'I lost everything': Rodent misery, illness drive tenant from Akron housing complex

Tenants across Akron fighting to combat 'unlivable' conditions
The tale of four complexes: How will Akron address 'widespread, systemic' housing issues?

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/thinking-about-taking-3-homeless-people-to-florida-tomorrow/>
og:title Content: Thinking about taking 3 homeless people to Florida tomorrow - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist
Blog Post Date: February 14, 2022

Blog Post Content: I wanted to seek a little clarity in this idea that I have. I find that writing sometimes helps with that process.

While we were at Sunday Morning in the Garden yesterday 3 people living in the Garden asked me to take them to Florida... this week. 2 women and 1 man.

When I said yes, they became extremely excited. One woman, Anastasia said, "I feel like I'm pressing the play button on my life."

But I have really mixed feelings about it all. I'm going to lay out a pros and cons list here and see if that helps make sense of it all.

Pros of taking them to Florida

This would be an interesting experiment to see how surroundings affect a person. Would a new venue give any of them an opportunity to try something new in their life?

It would be nice to drive to Florida in February.

It's going to be 70 degrees and sunny where we're headed.

I know we'd have fun on our drive.

I get stuck in the rut of my life just like homeless people. Forcing myself out of my comfort zone would be good for me.

What if one of them used the opportunity to do something really different in their life? (I don't believe a life of drugs and tent living is a bad life. It's only bad if it's not what you really want. And truthfully, if it REALLY wasn't what you wanted you'd probably change.)

There is a tent city where we are headed. Maybe I could talk to some people there and learn about it a bit.

It adds to my overall experiences in the homeless work.

Getting to spend 17 hours in a car with 3 homeless people is likely going to help me learn some new things about them.

Cons of taking them to Florida

Chances are very good that they will find other homeless people in Florida and end up with the same issues they have here but just down there.

I have always really disliked just giving away big things. I once gave a car to a young man that lived next to me. I think it ultimately became a tool to do more crime and caused him to go right back to jail.

I'll miss my family while I'm gone. I feel guilty about leaving them.

I feel guilty about not working at least while I'm driving.

Why do they get this thing and other people don't?

It's extra money that I don't need to spend personally.

I just feel more comfortable staying at home and not making the effort.

Other ideas

Make them work for it: Get their birth certificates and IDs and then help them get on a plane to fly to Florida. Or get on a bus.

(This didn't really help me much at all. I think it just comes down to not really wanting to make the effort. But maybe that's an instinct that I need to listen to.)

My feeling is: I'm not super excited about this journey. But I AM excited about helping them get on an

airplane. Maybe that's the route I need to go. It's kind of like a "teach them how to fish" sort of mentality.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/stealing/>
og:title Content: Stealing - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist
Blog Post Date: February 15, 2022

Blog Post Content: Stealing in the homeless community is so annoying, so frustrating, so ever-present... that it becomes fascinating.

How is it that people who absolutely HATE getting stolen from are the very people doing the stealing? A friend of mine had her wallet stolen yesterday. She's not a homeless person, but a person who has dedicated her life to helping homeless people. Someone stole her wallet and immediately went to Amazon and bought things. This is probably particularly painful for her because she said that she has never had something stolen from her before.

Here's a list of things that have been stolen from me just off the top of my head:

iMac Pro

At least 3 Chromebooks

My cherished Nikon DSLR camera and favorite lens.

A welder and multiple welding helmets and welding supplies

A high-powered electric drill (this, however, was returned to me for a finders fee of \$30.)

Endless hand tools.

I've seen people just grab my Polar Pop off a table and walk off with it.

I really could probably make that list all day.

I read about a homeless guy in California who just stopped wearing shoes because people were constantly stealing them right off his feet.

Talking to people about this becomes very interesting.

I find that in the street community stealing is a multi-layered topic... like snow is to Eskimos.

There is a street culture that says, if I take something from you while you are watching me do it, that's not stealing. You are a bitch.

There is also a feeling that if something is laying around it is probably up for grabs.

And there is also the idea of "borrowing." That the person wouldn't mind if I just used this thing for a while (and never returned it).

But the biggest topic of all of this is Opportunism. "If you see something that you want then take it."

For the first time in doing this work I actually caught someone stealing a phone on camera a couple weeks ago. You can see it plain as day that he picks the phone up, looks at it for a few seconds while directly in sight of the camera and then walks off with it.

I found the footage a few days later and confronted him about it. He said that he was just keeping the phone for the person for safe keeping because, you know, there are a lot of thieves around. I am very open to plausible deniability. But 2-3 days later with no word from him to anyone sounds pretty fishy to me.

Another young man stole a person's bike. He admitted to it... except he said that he thought it was just up for grabs even though it had 2 bags on it and a can of pop.

The guy who stole the phone has been banned from the property until future notice. And the bike stealer will have to hold a sign on a street corner during rush hour admitting that he stole a bike.

Thou shalt not steal is #7 on the all-time naughty list of God... the 10 Commandments. I'm sure it is because this has been a huge problem since the beginning of time.

In gang culture I've been told that the punishment for stealing from another gang member is to be jumped for 3 minutes. So, they have gone the torture route.

The problem we have right now in society is that our jails are so full that even a car thief is going to be let out on bail. We have no room anymore for non-violent criminals.

I have absolutely no idea how to solve this problem. But I wanted to share it with you. Let me know if you have any ideas.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/why-do-people-not-stay-at-the-haven-of-rest-in-akron-ohio/>
og:title Content: Why do people not stay at the Haven of Rest in Akron Ohio? - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: February 16, 2022

Blog Post Content:

I was just asked this question on Nextdoor. And so I thought I would paste my answer here. I rail hard against pretty much every form of authority. That's simply because with great power comes great responsibility. Everyone in power needs to do better. The Haven of Rest is no exception. That said, I am much more of a reformer than I am an anarchist. Maybe it's because I am older now. But I just don't see the point of burning everything down just to rebuild it into probably something that's not much different than what currently exists.

From the KKK to the Catholic Church, I believe in reform. And if you think the KKK is worse than the Catholic Church you have not been paying attention for the last 2,000 years.

The same goes with all of these congregate homeless shelters in the world. They are all run like jails and many of them force you to go to church multiple times a day. There could be nothing more anti-American and unconstitutional than a homeless shelter. But since no one really cares in authority about homeless people they just all let it slide.

If we really want to solve homelessness we must stop having a one-size-fits-all solution for a very diverse group of people that we all lump into one word called "homeless".

Housing First is not going to work because there is simply not enough housing. It's a pipe dream. It is not going to happen. Get over it.

That's not to say that we can't reform Housing First. We just have to be honest about the expectations of how much housing there truly is in America to house all the extremely low-income people that live here. Akron Ohio is giving out all of these vouchers for section 8 housing. But no one's taking them. So they are just expiring.

We need innovation and creativity and diversity in how we think about all of our problems in the world. Homelessness is no exception.

But I digress. Back to the question at hand. Why do people not stay at the homeless shelter in Akron Ohio? Why do people not stay at the Haven of Rest? Here are a few reasons.

There are a variety of reasons a person might not stay at the Haven. But let's start with the one reason it's not: drugs.

Grace Park is drug central and is right across the street from the Haven. You can easily smoke or inject your drug of choice over there and be back in plenty of time for dinner. Drinking is much easier to detect. But if Haven drug tested their clients they'd be mostly empty.

Then there are people who have been banned from the Haven. They have MANY rules. I have friends who have been banned because they wore shorts and because they missed a church service.

Then there are people who have social anxiety and can't handle the congregate setting.

There are people that can't handle the group showers and doorless bathroom stalls.

And there are people who feel like it's too much like prison.

So there are a lot of reasons.

The question isn't why aren't people staying at the Haven of Rest. The question we have to ask is why do we only have one option for sheltering homeless men in Akron Ohio when there are private citizens willing to do the work in new and innovative ways with private money?

The question, of course, is rhetorical. The answer is because there have always been people in society that society hates. Native Americans, African-Americans, Jews, LGBTQIA, old people, mentally disabled people, physically disabled people. And of course, homeless people (particularly homeless men). Nothing has changed in society. Homeless people just happened to be the people society currently hates, and as always hated, but now they've pitched a tent on the sidewalk and we are forced to stare our bigotry in the face. It makes civilized people feel icky.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/3857-2/>

og:title Content: Akron Councilman Russ Neal at City Council Being Accused of Creating an Unsafe Workplace. - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: February 16, 2022

Blog Post Content: The photo is a quote from Pastor Gregory Harrison on the accusations that Councilman Russel C Neal Jr created an unsafe workplace (while only ever meeting on Zoom) for 6 women. Councilman Neal doesn't even know who these women are.

I've linked to all of public comments from this Akron City Council meeting below. I don't know what

happened. But I know this: Russ Neal consistently stands up, very respectfully, against the administration. I also know that the accusations were leaked to the Beacon Journal by someone in City Hall. So, while I certainly want to hear the accusations. I also think it's a pretty big coincidence that it is Russ Neal who is the person being accused of this. I have heard a lot of racist and misogynist stories come out of city hall. But I've never heard anything about Russ Neal.

Reverend Beaty:

<https://youtu.be/2Ep8q0Q-z5Q?t=1806>

On Russ Neal.

Erika Amika - Redwood apartments.

<https://youtu.be/2Ep8q0Q-z5Q?t=1999>

Pastor Harrison:

<https://youtu.be/2Ep8q0Q-z5Q?t=2118>

Russ Neal.

Textbook Lynching.

"Every black man that speaks out should be afraid."

Dee McCall:

<https://youtu.be/2Ep8q0Q-z5Q?t=2316>

Community Organizer with Freedom Bloc.

Grassroots organizing.

"Councilman Neal is a great man."

Councilwoman Omobien:

<https://youtu.be/2Ep8q0Q-z5Q?t=2591>

Innerbelt fiasco.

Rehab houses at Douglas and Bishop. Those individuals cannot afford to move. Come up with a certain amount of money to help them rehab those houses.

There are people in Akron that can't afford a new home.

Councilwoman Mosley:

<https://youtu.be/2Ep8q0Q-z5Q?t=2746>

"We have a housing shortage here in the city of Akron."

"Rent is skyhigh". \$1600/month that were \$800 2 years ago.

"Concerned about the mass evictions that are coming because of the high rent."

"You can get a voucher but you can't find anywhere to live."

"I support Russ."

"We should not be the tone police."

"How has Russ created a hostile work environment even though we haven't met in person since July"

Councilman Neal:

<https://youtu.be/2Ep8q0Q-z5Q?t=3027>

"I still don't know who my accusers are."

"I have never harrassed a woman."

Mayor Horrigan:

<https://youtu.be/2Ep8q0Q-z5Q?t=3307>

"Some of you are on a victim shaming tour."

Councilman Kamer:

<https://youtu.be/2Ep8q0Q-z5Q?t=3429>

Animal control.

Councilman Fusco:

<https://youtu.be/2Ep8q0Q-z5Q?t=3535>

Have an investigation.

We have rules that we have to follow.

Councilman Neal:

<https://youtu.be/2Ep8q0Q-z5Q?t=3664>

"I don't even know who the 6 people that are accusing me."

"Nothing was brought before me."

Councilwoman Omobien:

<https://youtu.be/2Ep8q0Q-z5Q?t=3777>

What happens when his staff is disrespectful to council.

Councilwoman Mosley:

<https://youtu.be/2Ep8q0Q-z5Q?t=3839>

I only found out about this issue because the Beacon called her. They were sitting on this story.

"I respect leadership. But we were all elected the same."

Councilman Freeman:

<https://youtu.be/2Ep8q0Q-z5Q?t=4033>

Councilman Neal:

<https://youtu.be/2Ep8q0Q-z5Q?t=4152>

Council President Sommerville:

<https://youtu.be/2Ep8q0Q-z5Q?t=4230>

A safe work environment.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/3861-2/>

og:title Content: Getting Birth Certificates For People Living in the Houseless Movement Garden - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: February 17, 2022

Blog Post Content:

I sometimes get accused of being a country-wide magnet for homeless people. That the tents and acceptance we offer at the Houseless Movement is SO good, that people will come from all over the country to live with us. (It has happened once or twice, but it's EXTREMELY rare.)

I'm going on a birth certificate run for some of the people living with us right now. Here are their month, year, and city where they were born:

Woman: Born February 1972 in Akron Ohio

Woman: Born September 1989 in Akron Ohio

Man: Born August 2000 in Akron Ohio

Woman: Born January 1984 in Akron Ohio

Man: Born March 1970 in Barberton Ohio

Woman: Born March 1984 in Barberton Ohio

Man: Born November 1957 in Canton Ohio

Man: Born April 1981 in Ravenna Ohio

These are OUR people, OUR children, OUR fathers, OUR brothers and sisters. If we can't take care of them then, really, what CAN we do?

Birth certificates cost \$22 each and then IDs which come next are about \$12 each. If you want to help support this work, please consider donating at the Houseless Movement by clicking here:

<https://houselessmovement.org/Donate>

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/sage-against-the-machine-podcast-episode-69/>

og:title Content: Sage Against The Machine Podcast - Episode 69 - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: February 17, 2022

Blog Post Content: Quit your job.

Sage Against The Machine Podcast - Episode 69

Quit your job.

You can listen to the audio here:

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URL: <https://sagelewis.com/sage-against-the-machine-podcast-episode-70/>

og:title Content: Sage Against The Machine Podcast - Episode 70 - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: February 24, 2022

Blog Post Content: Sage Against The Machine Podcast - Episode 69

White Trash

You can listen to the audio here:

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URL: <https://sagelewis.com/heres-to-hoping-aubrey-makes-it-to-her-birth-family-this-week/>

og:title Content: Here's to hoping Aubrey makes it to her birth family this week. - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: March 1, 2022

Blog Post Content:

I'm going to be talking about my run for mayor of Akron more consistently soon. There is going to be one theme: TOGETHER WE CAN DO ANYTHING.

Take Aubrey, pictured here.

She is seen here going through a room full of clothes and supplies that YOU brought to her. She is pregnant and due in April.

I'm talking about a ROOM full of clothes and supplies. Over and over again you humble me with your kindness and generosity. You are always my inspiration to keep helping. (This was so needed and helpful

because Aubrey couldn't possibly use all these items so she was able to share them with the rest of the people living in our Garden in tents. It was particularly cold and miserable that week. It couldn't have been more wonderful and beautiful.)

I don't want any physical items from you for Aubrey right now. What I want is your prayers, hopes and positive thoughts.

There is a mom and son who are going to drive her and her boyfriend over 12 hours to take her to her birth family in another state. That should happen late this week. (think about that... people Aubrey has just met in the last month are going to driver her 12 HOURS to get her to her family).

I want you to know one thing: Human beings are good. AMAZINGLY GOOD. (it's when we clump up into factions and gangs and religions and political parties that we lose sight of who we truly are as beings.) YOU. ARE. GOOD!

So, let's push some of that goodness into the ether and hope and pray Aubrey and Cole get their soon-to-be-born baby to her family so she will get to keep it and love it and raise it.

Thank you!

Sage

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/sage-against-the-machine-podcast-episode-71/>
og:title Content: Sage Against The Machine Podcast - Episode 71 - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist
Blog Post Date: March 3, 2022

Blog Post Content: Stereotypes, racism, classism and many other politically incorrect things.

You can listen to the audio here:

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URL: <https://sagelewis.com/why-do-you-keep-helping-sage-this-is-why/>
og:title Content: Why do you keep helping, Sage? THIS is why. - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist
Blog Post Date: March 4, 2022

Blog Post Content:
MANY people ask me "why do you do it, Sage? Why do you shelter these people and give so much to them?"

THIS IS WHY!!

The 2 people in the front are Alicia and Jozef. They are taking the 2 people in the back, Aubrey and Cole nearly 800 miles to Aubrey's family so she can have a place to live and have her baby. Aubrey and Cole lived with us (up until today) in a tent at the Houseless Movement Garden. Aubrey's baby is due in April.

You maybe have never heard of Alicia and Jozef. They haven't made big pleas on social media, they haven't started any GofundMe's. They just show up week after week after week building doors, helping with our furnace, coming up with new ideas and concepts to help homeless people.

And this is the truth of it all. For every guy like me on social media there is a massive iceberg of good people under the radar doing the most profoundly amazing things. They don't want any glory. They don't want any recognition. They just like doing the work.

And the work they do is truly monumental.

The only question I ever ask myself is: "With people like Alicia and Jozef doing the most amazing work, HOW CAN I NOT keep helping?"

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/dustin-standing-next-to-his-burned-down-tent/>
og:title Content: Dustin Standing Next To His Burned Down Tent - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: March 9, 2022

Blog Post Content: This is my friend Dustin standing next to what remained of his tent that burned to the ground 2 nights ago.

Dustin is a young man who has been homeless for years. He has very significant mental health issues compounded by drug addiction.

I one time found Dustin in the middle of Dave's Supermarket parking lot pulling off all his clothes and yelling into the wind that he would kill anyone who came near him.

Dustin was the person who a drug dealer and his enforcers tried to cut off his leg with a machete on my property.

Dustin scares people. And that makes Dustin a target.

I couldn't get a clear picture of what happened that caused the fire. It could have been an accident. It could have been intentional. Dustin has enemies.

But I got another picture that was VERY clear. When you are homeless and your tent burns down, homeless service providers don't show up to help you, the Red Cross doesn't come with supplies and gift cards, mental health providers don't show up. THE ONLY PERSON that showed up bright and early the next day was the inspector to take pictures of the scene so he can continue to build a case against me.

Now Dustin is in the wind. His mom lives in the apartment building beside us and would come visit him.

Dustin and I have a very good relationship. I've been able to get him to a mental health professional before.

I could have tried again. I could have worked on getting his identification, getting food stamps, getting disability income. But now he's gone.

I asked him where he was going to stay. He said, "here and there."

He was clearly depressed and defeated. He had just moved into that tent.

Why can't a guy like me be able to care for a guy like Dustin? Why am I the enemy for daring to care for a person that clearly needs so much help?

I just watched him walk away as I thought about how that inspector probably was so excited to report back about the deplorable mess at the Houseless Movement Garden.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/focusing-on-black-akronites-will-be-at-the-cornerstone-of-my-administration-as-mayor-of-akron/>

og:title Content: Focusing on Black Akronites will be at the cornerstone of my administration as Mayor of Akron. - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: March 9, 2022

Blog Post Content:

This video is in response to this Akron City Council video: <https://youtu.be/PAH28HQr10U?t=2292>

Together we can make Akron a just and equitable city for ALL Akronites. You must vote in the Akron Mayoral Primary in May 2023.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/sage-against-the-machine-podcast-episode-72/>

og:title Content: Sage Against The Machine Podcast - Episode 72 - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: March 10, 2022

Blog Post Content: Akron is and always has been a racist city. It has to be our primary focus.

You can listen to the audio here:

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URL: <https://sagelewis.com/truth-to-power-is-as-american-as-it-gets/>
og:title Content: Truth To Power Is As American As It Gets - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist
Blog Post Date: March 11, 2022

Blog Post Content:

There is a good article today in the Beacon Journal about working at the Romig Road Amazon warehouse. I personally know several people that work there. They all have said they like it. They all said they like the 3 12 hour shifts they work a week. That allows them to work another job. They all said it's a lot of exercise (some see that as good and some see that as difficult). And they all said that there are good perks and people are treated well. 5000 people work there. And I think the people I know are making about \$18/hour, or more. Overtime is paid really well. But here's the thing... that doesn't mean we should stop applying pressure on Amazon to continue to do even better for their employees. ALL our businesses and governments and organizations are here to serve US. Not the other way around. For example, I am thankful we have the Beacon Journal. And I consider Phil who took this picture, a friend. I also feel close to several reporters. But that doesn't mean I am going to stop saying that ALL people on Food Stamps should get a free subscription to the digital version of the paper. It used to be that someone would buy a newspaper and then throw it in the trash. Then someone else, who couldn't afford the paper, could pick it up and read it. Not any more. If you want access to the news you need a credit card and disposable income. How many people working at Amazon can afford to read the article their employer is featured in? Can Misty afford the newspaper? THE AKRON BEACON JOURNAL IS ONLY LETTING RICH PEOPLE BE EDUCATED ABOUT CURRENT EVENTS IN OUR CITY. WE MUST STOP CANCELING PEOPLE who call out the CDC, the police, our politicians, Amazon, the Catholic Church... on and on. There is nothing more American than being able to yell and shout and protest against corrupt and oppressive power players in our country (which is pretty much every single organization I can possibly think of). Take Shammass Malik (watch, he'll untag this). The only thing Shammass ever talks to me about is that I'm rude, loud and not polite. FUCK YOU SHAMMAS. (You see what I did there. He's a politician who I think is too uppity for his own good. I'm being a good American by calling out Shammass. Yes, it is hurtful to a fairly gentle and shy man. But he's in power and likely will climb the political ladder.) The fact the matter is, Shammass is one of the very few politicians in Akron that isn't afraid of the mayor. I mostly love the way he votes. And honestly, I kinda like the guy. We have to stop this childish game we're playing right now where we have to show complete loyalty to the powerful people and organizations that we support. Calling out the weaknesses in your political party, in your church, in your city, in your country makes them stronger and better. And ultimately, who is in a better position to call out a group than the people in the group?

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/blake-more-and-his-company-cne-electrical-contractors-just-installed-at-brand-new-electrical-panel-at-the-houseless-movement-house/>
og:title Content: Blake More and his company: CNE Electrical Contractors Just Installed at Brand New Electrical Panel at the Houseless Movement House. - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist
Blog Post Date: March 15, 2022

Blog Post Content:

This right here, ladies and gentlemen, 2 electricians who came to the Houseless Movement house to install a BRAND NEW 200 AMP electrical panel so that we can keep the people who stay with us in tents and tiny houses warm. This is ALL thanks to Blake More and his company: CNE Electrical Contractors. They supplied all the labor AND the materials totally for free. All winter long we fought with keeping electric heaters running in our tents. At one point we had so much electric running that a breaker sparked 7 INCHES STRAIGHT UP! It was getting REALLY scary. This summer we are going to put outdoor, CFCI outlets on the side of the house. Each tent will get a dedicated 20 amp breaker. We will charge \$10/week per tent. (it won't totally cover the cost. This month's electric bill just came in: \$582.41. But it will definitely help.) Thank you Blake! Thank you CNE. You have dramatically changed our lives. We now have: A new furnace. A new electrical panel. A Shower and toilet anyone can use 24/7. A house phone

(we just got a wireless handset).And Wi-Fi throughout the house and garden.
I feel like we are getting to a point now where we are almost at ground level of basic human functioning in 21st century America. Until that happens, I really don't believe we can even BEGIN to have a conversation about drugs, or jobs or where you want to go next. You are simply too obsessed with survival to think about anything else.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/city-of-akrons-budget-was-8-5-million-short/>
og:title Content: City of Akron's Budget Was \$8.5 million SHORT! - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist
Blog Post Date: March 16, 2022

Blog Post Content:

The City of Akron can't even balance their budget without the bailout of the ARPA funds.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/dan-horrigan-believes-democrats-that-care-about-things-are-communists/>
og:title Content: Dan Horrigan Believes Democrats that Care About Things Are Communists. - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist
Blog Post Date: March 16, 2022

Blog Post Content:

This is what City of Akron, Ohio - Mayor's Office thinks of Democrats that care about things like fresh air, equity and justice, livable wages and affordable housing. COMMUNISTS!!!

That's from this article:<https://www.beaconjournal.com/story/news/politics/elections/2022/03/16/ohio-big-city-mayors-kept-active-text-message-commentary/9441788002/>

This election is mine to lose. That's all I have to say. This guy should be SO easy to beat. But because he has the backing of the big corporations they are going to do everything to keep him in office because they love the paychecks.

If I can get you to believe in yourself... to believe that you have the power to change the world with a single vote, then we can radically change our city. YOU MUST VOTE IN THE AKRON MAYORAL PRIMARY IN MAY OF 2023.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/i-will-enact-affirmative-action-as-mayor-of-akron-ohio/>
og:title Content: I Will Enact Affirmative Action As Mayor of Akron Ohio - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist
Blog Post Date: March 17, 2022

Blog Post Content:

The systemic, flagrant, crushing racism SPECIFICALLY against Black people in Akron Ohio is baked into our very DNA. We've been racist since the beginning. Because of that, we have a HUGE amount of unwinding and healing to do to help our Black Akron neighbors even begin to start in a place of equality with everyone else. This existential damage will not be undone by a few platitudes and holidays. WE HAVE SERIOUS WORK TO DO.

In my administration, if a Black owned business or a Black job candidate is as good as another candidate THE BLACK CANDIDATE WILL GET THE JOB.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/sage-against-the-machine-podcast-episode-73/>
og:title Content: Sage Against The Machine Podcast - Episode 73 - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist
Blog Post Date: March 17, 2022

Blog Post Content: I made this video an hour ago and I have no idea what we talked about.

You can listen to the audio here:

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URL: <https://sagelewis.com/i-need-you-to-believe/>
og:title Content: I Need You To Believe - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist
Blog Post Date: March 17, 2022

Blog Post Content:

Do you ever think that maybe it wasn't God who made us in his image, maybe it was US that made God in OUR image?

As I run for mayor over the next year I have made a pact with myself to try to be as positive and hopeful as I can possibly be. At the end of the campaign I want you to say: "I'm glad Sage ran for mayor because he inspired me to try to be a better person and to think better of my fellow humans."

You have transformed me. You have shown me that the human race is mind-blowingly good and kind and generous and compassionate. It's only when we clump up into tribes and churches and political parties that we become our lesser selves.

Take these 2 men. The man on the right is the Pastor of his church. The man on the left is the Deacon of his church. They came by several weeks ago to bring our homeless neighbors blankets. They declared right then and there that they were adopting our little village.

I was so overwhelmed by their kindness and goodness. I'm short of breath right now thinking about it. But here's the thing... this isn't unique. It's not like these two men were the first people to stop by ever. People come by constantly. People constantly bring food and items and supplies. I couldn't possibly keep track of them all. They often come when I'm not there.

More than anything, the work I do, I do it for you. You deserve more heroes in your life that are as good and kind as you.

But, as you likely know, I'm not perfect. I'm as least as flawed as the average human... I'm probably MORE flawed than average. So I get angry at a cold and callous system that clearly does not care whether fellow Akron citizens starve, freeze or overdose on their streets. If anything, I think they are glad to see them go so they can back to the work of making a bizarre dystopian urban bedroom community that feels a little too much like the Capitol in the Hunger Games. (See, there I go again.)

But because you are who you are, I know you will forgive me. You always forgive me. You always just bring kindness and patience. You forgive me even when I don't forgive myself. And that, my friends, is why I think more and more that it was US that created God in OUR own image. Our goodness and love and kindness is so beautiful and wonderful. Sometimes it's so overwhelming that I can't even look it straight in the eye.

I want you, more than anything, to know this about yourself. I need you to believe in your goodness and kindness. When you believe the truth in yourself you will then be able to believe it in your fellow humans. And then all becomes possible. TOGETHER WE CAN CHANGE THE WORLD.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/trying-to-give-you-a-glimpse-into-the-mind-of-a-homeless-person/>
og:title Content: Trying To Give You A Glimpse Into The Mind Of A Homeless Person - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist
Blog Post Date: March 22, 2022

Blog Post Content:

This is a wonderful article about the homeless men that were recently murdered by another homeless man:<https://www.nytimes.com/2022/03/21/nyregion/homeless-men-killed.html>

I am an ok writer. But I wish I was a great writer so I could better express to you the swirling life of confusion, ghosts, depression, anxiety, trauma, fear of many homeless people. It's like a thick, dark molasses of what some might relate to as demonic possession. You can't escape. And in fact, you are so deep in the mix that you feel like you SHOULD'N'T escape. That you are fighting a grand battle between good and evil. In a way, you are.

From the outside it looks like trash and insanity and thrashing from here to there. But on the inside it's Don

Quixote fighting to save the universe from windmills, unable to separate reality from fiction.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/sage-against-the-machine-podcast-episode-74/>

og:title Content: Sage Against The Machine Podcast - Episode 74 - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: March 24, 2022

Blog Post Content: Broken systems and are you addicted?

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URL: <https://sagelewis.com/im-a-trouble-spot/>

og:title Content: I'm a "Trouble" Spot - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: March 25, 2022

Blog Post Content:

My wife is donating her older mace to a homeless woman. It's still good. But she decided to get a fresh one. Violence is absolutely on an upswing right now with my homeless friends. Both men and women are being attacked. We had 5 outside men roll through our camp this past week. They attacked several people. One man has several broken ribs. Another man was drug outside of his home. And a woman was hit because she refused to come out of her tent to pay proper respects to one particular man.

Did I call the police? I sure did. What was their response? There was nothing they could do. And I was told that if I called the police on these men who I Trespassed it was likely I wasn't necessarily going to get much help because I'm a "trouble" spot. See how that works: "you should stop getting yourself beat up. You're making it worse for yourself."

If you have any mace you aren't using please consider donating it to a homeless person. They are living incredibly vulnerable and violent existences.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/we-were-at-the-9th-circuit-court-of-appeals-yesterday/>

og:title Content: We Were At The 9th Circuit Court of Appeals Yesterday - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: April 1, 2022

Blog Post Content:

YOU NEED TO KNOW that I will NEVER quit fighting for the fundamental human rights of American homeless citizens. They are experiencing a humanitarian torture, cruelty and murder on par with the bloody nightmare of African American slavery and Native American genocide.

YOU NEED TO KNOW that America has a barbaric side that will gladly destroy and kill its own citizens in order to pave roads and clear "green spaces" for the pleasure of wealthy whites.

YOU NEED TO KNOW that the only reason I continue fighting (I was with the attorneys from Institute for Justice yesterday at the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals continuing our years-long fight for my right to shelter those most critically in need of shelter) is because of YOU. I have seen goodness and kindness and compassion that was previously unimaginable to me before this work. Humanity, in all it's glaring sins, is fundamentally good. I've seen it. I know it to be absolutely true.

I endlessly fight this battle because you deserve more warriors to stand up and fight for the goodness that lives within all of us.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/nyc-mayor-eric-adams-has-leveled-239-of-the-244-homeless-encampments-identified-in-the-city/>

og:title Content: NYC Mayor Eric Adams has leveled 239 of the 244 homeless encampments identified in the city. - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: April 1, 2022

Blog Post Content: Here's a picture of a homeless man (Michael Rodriguez, who has been living under a raised section of the Brooklyn-Queens Expressway for the past two years) desperately grabbing a few more of his belongings as the City of New York enacts their inhumane Nazi-esque sweep of 239 encampments in their city.

So far, Mayor Eric Adams leveled 239 of the 244 homeless encampments identified in the city.

Of all the people's lives they have destroyed, 5 chose to go into the shelter system.

Reasons for not going into a shelter include but are not limited to:

- * Violence in the shelter.
- * Drug use in the shelter.
- * Extreme mental illness in the shelter.
- * No doors on bathroom stalls.
- * Gang showers
- * Not able to live with pets.
- * Not able to live with human partners.
- * Not able to keep most belongings.
- * Being thrown out each and every morning with nowhere to go the rest of the day.

THE WAR ON HOMELESS PEOPLE IN AMERICA WOULD BE CONSIDERED A CRIME AGAINST HUMANITY IN ANY OTHER CONTEXT. But because we all hate "dirty, no good, lazy, addicted homeless people who piss and shit on the sidewalk (because they have nowhere else to go), it's completely acceptable.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/bureaucrats-will-never-solve-homelessness/>

og:title Content: Bureaucrats will never solve homelessness - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: April 4, 2022

Blog Post Content:

The main problem with addressing the growing tragedy of homelessness due to extreme evictions and exploding rent prices is that it is bureaucrats, and social workers who are being tasked with solving the problem.

Business people have their own problems. But some of their strengths are innovation and radical transformation.

The business world needs to be involved in these solutions. Otherwise it's going to just be more shelters that homeless people hate and building housing that is unsustainably expensive.

Bureaucrats are conservatives that just want to see more of the same. Business people are liberals that focus on new ideas that are cheaper, better and faster.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/i-will-not-stop/>

og:title Content: I. WILL. NOT. STOP. - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: April 5, 2022

Blog Post Content: This photo was taken on April 2, 2021.

That's just over a year ago.

That means that our Garden Tent Village has been up and running for 1 full year. Our first village ran for 2 full years. So we'll see if we can beat that record until the City of Akron shuts us down again.

Homelessness in America is a humanitarian disaster. If we treated prisoners of war the way we treat our own citizens we would be facing international crimes against humanity.

I. WILL. NOT. STOP.

Until every American has a place to safely sleep in their own country, I WILL NOT STOP.

The man standing there is Andrew. He was one of the people who never got housed by January 2019 after the city forced us to close. He moved into the woods that day and has been homeless ever since. That's abhorrently wrong.

Today, Andrew lives in one of our 2 tiny houses. He has electricity and access to our Internet and indoor toilet and shower. I would not say he would say he's happy with his living situation. (He's always wanted an apartment.) But he's doing OK. And I love having him around.

I'm not sure who lived in the second tent. Was it Rob? I'll have to go find out.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/sage-against-the-machine-podcast-episode-75/>
og:title Content: Sage Against The Machine Podcast - Episode 75 - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist
Blog Post Date: April 7, 2022

Blog Post Content: American Homelessness is a Humanitarian Crisis Covered Up by the Government and HUD and local Continuums of Care.

You can listen to the audio here:

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If you have missed any shows they are now archived in a podcast. You can check them out on my blog. Or you can get them on your favorite podcasting platform.

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URL: <https://sagelewis.com/sage-against-the-machine-podcast-episode-76/>
og:title Content: Sage Against The Machine Podcast - Episode 76 - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist
Blog Post Date: April 7, 2022

Blog Post Content: Every Single System is Evil and Corrupt

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URL: <https://sagelewis.com/my-son-increased-his-act-score-from-17-to-22/>
og:title Content: My son increased his ACT score from 17 to 22 - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist
Blog Post Date: April 10, 2022

Blog Post Content:

My son increased his ACT score from 17 to 22.

He's a junior. I think if he can get it to 24 he'll qualify for a free ride to University of Akron. (but my wife always makes a point that cost is not the priority for where our son goes to college.)

We probably spent nearly \$1000 on a high end calculator (he lost it so we'll have to buy another one), half a dozen books and online courses.

For about 3 months we would all gather around our 86 inch TV each night as I streamed courses from my iPad to our TV.

You see, not only do I have spare time and money to help homeless people and run for mayor, I also have free time to be my son's personal ACT and Algebra II tutor.

I'm rich. I have generational wealth and I have personal wealth. I just get richer and richer.

And when my son gets out of college I'm sure we'll offer him a free house to move into. We've got a few. He probably won't want any of them. So we'll probably help him buy one that he does want.

THE NUMBER ONE FACTOR IN STANDARDIZED TEST SCORES IS INCOME.

The richer you are the better you will do on these tests. And so then these kids go to better schools, get better scholarships. And they start their lives ahead of the game when they already were miles ahead to begin with.

THE WORKING CLASS MUST UNITE AND EVEN THE PLAYING FIELD. This is not just or fair.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/my-current-thinking-on-hateful-commentors/>

og:title Content: MY CURRENT THINKING ON HATEFUL COMMENTORS - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist
Blog Post Date: April 14, 2022

Blog Post Content: (I posted this on Facebook. But it applies here. I've turned off commenting altogether because people create fake accounts and comment here.)

I've always wanted people to have their say on what I discuss. I understand that the actions and ideas I present are controversial in some circles. And clearly the entire topic of homelessness and drug use are debatable. But I'm changing on that thinking.

I love the First Amendment and the philosophy it represents. Words will not kill anyone directly. But they certainly can change the tide of things. I understand that this is my private account. But I like that we can discuss issues together.

Even if I don't like what someone has said to me, I often can find something helpful in their anger that helps me grow a little.

My primary hater is back coming at me again with multiple accounts and texting me and messaging me. I know a little about this person. And what I know is that he lost someone very dear to him to drugs. And I know that he has serious mental health issues.

My thinking today is that by letting him talk, it works him up. The more he talks the more he talks. So I've taken to deleting and blocking all his accounts.

I think it is not healthy for him to keep churning up this anger he has for me.

And I know that it also hurts my friends to see his hateful comments. It scares them for my safety.

So, these days I'm deleting comments and accounts that hate me and homeless people and poor people and Black people.

It's not that I don't want to hear their thoughts. But it's that I don't think it's healthy for them or you to have to be exposed to them.

This is how I'm going to proceed:

If I feel like you are coming from a place of rational discussion (and I know that's going to be a huge judgement call) then you are welcome to say anything you want.

But if you start going off about how homeless people are losers that should get a job (or some variation of that) I'm probably going to delete your comments and block you.

I understand you think that all these people need to do is walk down the street and stop in at any machine shop or fast food place and get a job. I KNOW THAT'S WHAT YOU THINK. I've heard it and I understand that's your position. But I don't need to hear it any more. I get it. These are complicated situations. If you tell me some ham-fisted "solution" to homelessness like this, I'm probably going to delete your comment and I probably will just block you.

Same goes with telling me that people just need to quit drugs. Same goes with telling me that Black women need to get a man in their life because Black communities are terrible because of single moms.

I feel a little sad that I'm doing this. But ultimately I'm doing it because I feel like the hate hurts you and hurts others.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/sage-against-the-machine-podcast-episode-77/>

og:title Content: Sage Against The Machine Podcast - Episode 77 - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: April 15, 2022

Blog Post Content: Addiction and Risk Taking

You can listen to the audio here:

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URL: <https://sagelewis.com/comparing-josiah-ingalls-camp-haven-sanctuary-to-the-church-of-the-nomadic-spirit-garden/>

og:title Content: Comparing Josiah Ingalls' Camp Haven Sanctuary to the Church of the Nomadic Spirit Garden - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist
Blog Post Date: April 15, 2022

Blog Post Content: I saw this article about Josiah Ingalls' Camp Haven. I had never heard of him before. But I was SO excited to hear that he's doing this work.

This video is a comparison of his camp to my camp.

Here's the article for reference: <https://www.vice.com/en/article/jgm3qx/texas-banned-homeless-encampments-so-a-guy-made-one-on-his-property>

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/i-have-now-evicted-at-least-5-homeless-people-from-housing/>

og:title Content: I have now evicted at least 5 homeless people from housing - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: April 18, 2022

Blog Post Content: I am in the process of evicting yet another homeless person (this time a homeless woman) from housing that we offer specifically for homeless people.

I wanted to talk about this because I'm continually hearing about how housing is the answer to ending homelessness. That's what the advocates say. Get more housing and we'll end homelessness.

It's not that easy.

I'm about as open-minded and progressive as it comes.

I am absolutely against the war on drugs. I believe all drugs should be legal. So, I don't care if you use drugs.

I believe sex work is an honorable profession. Men just love to control women. Nothing brings a man greater joy than telling a woman what she can and can't do with her body. I don't care if you are a sex worker.

I believe sex offenders deserve to be allowed to live in their own country. If they aren't locked up then they have a right to live somewhere. If you aren't hurting anyone else, I don't care if you are a sex offender.

I don't even really care if you pay your rent. As long as I can figure out how to pay the utilities I'll probably just let you live in our house rent-free.

Yet here I am evicting yet another homeless person... sending them back on the street. It's the exact opposite of what I'm trying to accomplish.

Here are the situations with each person.

One man I've let move in on two different occasions. Both times we had to evict him because he believed people were trying to kill him and so he started attacking other people. I've replaced numerous windows and doors and light fixtures he has broken. And both times we've evicted him we've had to use a snow shovel to clean out his room. He eventually stops using a trash can (or a toilet).

Another couple got evicted because they never took their dog outside to go the bathroom for an entire month.

An alcoholic man just out of prison violently threatened everyone in the house repeatedly. (I was afraid they were going to kill him.)

And now I have a sex worker whose men terrorize everyone in the community they don't like. They accuse men of looking at their woman. They accuse women of owing them money.

That's 5 people and 2 dogs.

That doesn't count all the people that just walked away from the housing. Some of them I didn't want to leave at all. But staying indoors was too much for them. One woman walked out in the middle of the night in the middle of the winter and moved back into the woods. She's there to this day. She feels more comfortable outside than inside.

It's probably another half a dozen people that have just walked away from housing.

"Well then stop housing drug addicts and sex workers, Sage."

My haters oftentimes accuse me of enabling "losers" that need to quit doing drugs and get a job. That's their answer to everything.

If you think you can just "quit" doing drugs or quit drinking you don't know the first thing about addiction.

I've had grown men cry in front of me because they want to quit doing fentanyl so bad. But it's too hard. They can't do it. They especially can't do it while they are living shelterless in the middle of winter. Between the freezing cold, the starvation and the severe withdrawal symptoms of quitting a super powerful opiate, that is not going to happen.

And are you telling me you want me to tell a woman to stop selling sex? That I'll house her once she stops selling sex? Then how the hell do you think she's going to pay her rent? She barely makes enough to cover rent as it is. I thought you told me that these people should "get a job." But now you're going to tell me which jobs they are allowed to get?

If we are only housing the easiest cases then we aren't not solving homelessness. We are pretending these people don't exist.

Akron's housing authority, AMHA, has 20,000 people on its waiting list for housing.

Here's an excerpt from The National Low Income Coalition 2020 study of housing availability for extremely low income households.

Over 10.9 million of the nation's 43.7 million renter households have extremely low incomes. Only 7.3 million rental homes are affordable to extremely low-income renters, assuming households should spend no more than 30% of their incomes on housing. This supply leaves an absolute shortage of 3.6 million affordable rental homes.

And this doesn't even include homeless people. You needed an address to be included in this study.

So we can't house people that are currently housed but can't afford their housing. These people are extremely over-burdened by their housing costs. HOW THE HELL DO YOU THINK WE'RE GOING TO HOUSE PEOPLE THAT DON'T HAVE HOUSING?

Housing First is a fantasy that is impossible to implement in a structure where the free market determines housing prices. We rely on landlords to be surrogate social workers to solve our housing crisis. It's madness. Even if every single homeless person was a perfect tenant: drug free, traditional job or social security payments, mentally stable: We are million and millions of houses short of housing them.

So that's never going to happen.

And then there are my people. The hardest cases.

A homeless woman who lives with us said to me, "I call this place Sage's Outdoor Psych Ward."

I wish it actually was that. But the number of seriously mentally ill people I've had to throw out is uncountable. I can't even guess how many people I've had to throw out because of mental illness. I have to throw them out for 2 reasons: Either I think they are going to kill someone in the camp. Or, more often, I'm afraid someone in the camp is going to kill them.

A person with a serious psychosis is often racist and down-right spooky. They say freaky stuff that just unnerves people. I often have to get them out of the community before someone does something bad to them.

I had a woman who lived with us at our first village. She got housing in a really nice facility specifically for homeless people. They had to kick her out because she was telling everyone that she was being repeatedly raped in the building. (I'm quite sure that was not happening.)

I could end this article right now and just be yet another whiner that offers no solutions. But I'm going to offer a solution. THAT SAID, keep in mind that I honestly don't think this is the be-all, end-all solution. Parts of it are going to totally fail. They will need to be continually innovated and modified. Governments and bureaucracies are TERRIBLE at innovation and experimentation. They create reams and reams of paperwork over years of endless meetings for one idea. Once that one idea is finally enacted, that's all there will be for decades. That's why Housing First is the only thing they ever talk about. They have one idea that will never actually be implemented and so they'll just chant that for the next 50 years.

First of all, different cities have different strengths and weaknesses. Some places have plenty of land. Some places have no land. Some places have semi-affordable housing (although that is currently eroding almost everywhere now). Some places have extremely expensive housing.

Let's start with California.

I believe we need to experiment with houseless villages in the dessert.

There would be a daily bus that goes back and forth from LA. So you could always go back to the city if you wanted.

These dessert villages would be completely voluntary. You would not be forced to live there. But you would be extremely free out there. You would be encouraged to build your life any way you wanted to as long as it didn't infringe on someone else's way of living. Kind of like Burning Man for homeless people.

We would need financial help with water and electricity and Internet. But then I believe between supporters and the ingenuity of homeless people, we could take it from there. We'd create our own rules and our own

security. We'd also have to be able to evict people from the village. We'd need to be able to send people back to the city and they would not be able to return to our dessert village.
I have a lot more details of this plan sketched out. I'd LOVE to try to set one of these up in the next several years.

New York

Everyone knows that the shelters in New York are hell on earth. They are violent, insane places. So, while we should still keep the shelters, they need serious reform and restructure.
A very cool thing about New York is that is not illegal to sleep on the street. That's all we need in my opinion. I would like to see storage lockers that line alley streets and other places. Anyone that needs a storage locker would be given one. Each storage locker should be the size of a deck box, like this:

They would need to be metal and very secure. Homeless people lose keys all the time so they would have to be able to go to someone and get a spare key any time they needed a replacement. You might try experimenting with combination locks.

And then each homeless person would get a zero degree rated sleeping bag and a bivy sack:

So, each night the person would go to their storage box, pull out their sleeping gear, set it up and go to bed. Then in the morning they'd pack up and go on their way.

There is not enough room in New York for full sized tents on the street. Plus, tents are terrible security issues. People have their items stolen all the time from tents.

I believe the California Plan and the New York Plan could work in combination in places like Austin and Seattle.

But where it gets really interesting is in the middle states of America. Like where I'm from: Ohio.

I can still buy land in Akron Ohio for about \$3000-\$5000. In fact, we have a "side-lot" program where the city will GIVE you the land next door if you mow it. (I'm not allowed to participate in this program. They've denied my application. Because, you know. I shelter homeless people.)

I believe because we have such affordable land within cities we could be a huge resource for the entire country.

There are many cities that are suffering in the Midwest. Akron is one of them.

Why aren't we offering to shelter and house low income people and homeless people from places like LA, San Diego, Seattle, Austin? Why don't they send us their homeless people with a check? We'll shelter homeless people using our resources and our land. Then the national government and the cities from where these people came would send us money to do this work.

This is my area of experience. If I were actually allowed to do this work I could move so much faster and get so much more done. But instead I have to endlessly fight the city to shelter people on my own land.

I have so many ideas I'd like to try and experiment with. But instead I'm enemy number one in my city. You watch: pretty soon the city will come forward with violations of smoke and smells and trash. They'll say neighbors are complaining to have to live next door to a homeless person. And then I'll have to have another legal battle. They'll tear down my village on my PRIVATE LAND and I'll have to rebuild over and over again. Imagine what we could have done if instead of rebuilding from nothing we had been able to evolve from our initial village and day center that the city destroyed.

My plan is for multiple villages serving different people with different needs. And then we'd have micro-villages on the outskirts that sheltered people that couldn't live in the community but still wanted to be near us. I like a village no larger than 75 people. 5 of these in Akron would make a huge difference in serving our homeless community. But instead of experimenting with these ideas they just put up yellow signs telling people they need to leave and then they sweep the camps. That's their solution. It's so tedious.

I'm telling you: if all we ever talk about is getting every homeless person a free house then we will never solve homelessness. It won't happen because it's impossibly expensive. And it won't happen because not everyone can be housed.

We need better ideas.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/look-at-that-little-baby/>

og:title Content: LOOK AT THAT LITTLE BABY! - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: April 20, 2022

Blog Post Content:

I only know 2 things: That's our friend Aubrey. And that's her new baby.

Aubrey is the first homeless person I've worked with that decided to choose adoption. So I've never really thought about the process much until now.

But what a beautiful gift adoption is. It's the ultimate form of giving.

A mom is giving her child an opportunity for a better life than she can give right now. And she's giving a family the opportunity to have a baby that they likely weren't able to have any other way.

And of course, it's heartbreaking to give your baby to another family.

So it becomes this grand love story.

Thank you all SO much for caring for Aubrey during this journey. And thank you Aubrey for being so mature and brave and strong.

I love you all.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/sage-against-the-machine-podcast-episode-78/>
og:title Content: Sage Against The Machine Podcast - Episode 78 - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist
Blog Post Date: April 21, 2022

Blog Post Content: What Margo Summerville did to Russ Neal on Akron City Council is a modern day lynching. They politically lynched Russ Neal.

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URL: <https://sagelewis.com/a-reason-im-thankful-dan-horrigan-shut-down-our-tent-village/>
og:title Content: A Reason I'm Thankful Dan Horrigan Shut Down Our Tent Village - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist
Blog Post Date: April 25, 2022

Blog Post Content:

Having the mayor of the 5th largest city in Ohio write an op-ed condemning you for trying to help his homeless situation with private land and private funds would be comical if it weren't actually short-sighted,

ignorant and a huge missed opportunity.

That said, there are several reasons I'm thankful Dan Horrigan shut down our homeless tent village and day center.

One reason is because it allowed me to rebuild a homeless village from the ground up for the 2nd time. It has made me experienced in a very niche, unique skill: civilization building. I mean, how many people can say they have taken a group of people with no friends, family, or any social support system whatsoever and helped them build a completely new community?

Doing this twice has given me the opportunity to see what patterns naturally form in creating a village.

This is so interesting that it might be my next book.

There are requirements in building a civilization that must be present in order for it to form and progress. The absolutely number 1 requirement is that you MUST have a physical security force. If you don't have a couple physically strong people that exude authority, stealing and violence will run unchecked every time. And stealing is the absolute worst of it all.

I can't tell you how many times I've heard countless homeless people say: "Why can't people just be decent human beings?" While I believe people are innately good, I also believe they are innately opportunistic. We are natural born thieves. We love to steal. But it undercuts society. We can't move forward with all the stealing. So it has to be stopped. And it will only be stopped if a person is afraid of the people looking for thieves.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/a-new-police-officer-in-town/>
og:title Content: A New Police Officer In Town - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist
Blog Post Date: April 26, 2022

Blog Post Content:

Since the beginning of creating homeless tent villages I've been very open to working with the police. We often want the same things: Less violence on the streets. We aren't a place to hide anyone from the law...

especially people that burn down buildings and try to outright kill people.

There are a few REALLY dangerous people out there. And it's not the drug dealers typically. It's usually seriously mentally ill people.

But anyway... there is a newer Akron Police officer that is making AMAZING connections with me and several of our homeless neighbors. He's a great communicator, highly ethical and a really hard worker.

He came up on the Eastside of Akron. He was a lower income kid that took a different path.

He knows how to use relationships in powerful ways. He's always looking for the win-win. He'll help keep us safe if we help him track down violent people. It's extremely cool.

I'm trying to get him to let me talk about him specifically. But he hasn't wanted to let me do that yet.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/difficult-truths/>
og:title Content: Difficult Truths - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist
Blog Post Date: April 27, 2022

Blog Post Content: My Communist friends will be sad to know this truth: most homeless people are very conservative... both black and white. They often exhibit racist and homophobic characteristics... and sex offenders, forget about it. They ALL hate sex offenders.
My Conservative friends will be sad to know this truth: Most homeless people want to be just like you: gun carrying capitalists. They get an unlimited supply of guns from the Hartville Flea Market (No background check required.) Drug dealers are nothing more than perfect Capitalists. No regulations. No government oversight. Free to collect money the old fashioned way... through violence. Just tax-free money. And when the liberal government picks up one drug dealer it's a huge opportunity for a man or woman just waiting for their opportunity to step into the spot.
Poverty and homelessness challenge us all in very unique and difficult ways.
As individuals, we can't make systemic changes to any of these foundational issues. We can only do one thing: Practice unconditional love. It's not our place to hate or judge. It does no good. It just grows toxic energy in your body and mind. Let go. Just love and forget all the rest.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/sage-against-the-machine-podcast-episode-79/>
og:title Content: Sage Against The Machine Podcast - Episode 79 - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist
Blog Post Date: April 28, 2022

Blog Post Content: Murderous violence

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URL: <https://sagelewis.com/street-rules-reform/>

og:title Content: Street Rules Reform - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: April 29, 2022

Blog Post Content:

I like working on the street. I like the people. I like the excitement. I like being street smart.

But this "no snitching ever" policy is beginning to infuriate me.

When your boyfriend abducts you while holding 2 guns after repeatedly, severely beating you and then goes on to shoot another person in the head and then sets all your belongings on fire in the truck he just stole, **YOU AND YOUR FRIENDS SHOULD HAVE THE RIGHT TO ASK FOR HELP.**

It's not like The Street will protect you. NO. The Street protects the murdering arsonist madman. It's EXACTLY like the Police Union.

Now I have to work on protecting multiple people that The Street suspects called the police. They don't know who called the police. But they know someone did and they're pissed.

What a bunch of fucking bullshit.

You want to make a no snitching policy on drugs? Fine. You want to make a no snitching policy on theft?

Fine. (the police won't help with that anyway.)

BUT WE HAVE THE RIGHT TO PROTECT OURSELVES FROM YOUR ASSHOLE THUGS.

(I can't believe I have to call for Street Rules reform. There are literally ZERO organizations in the world that put the people first.)

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/my-position-on-eliminating-the-need-for-a-concealed-carry-permit-in-ohio/>

og:title Content: My position on eliminating the need for a concealed carry permit in Ohio - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: April 30, 2022

Blog Post Content:

I think I'm a fan of removing the requirement for needing a permit to carry a concealed gun that is coming to Ohio in June. It gives low income people access to this ability. They still have to pass the background check.

THAT SAID, I believe a lot of people deeply misunderstand what "stand your ground" means.

The goal of self-defense is to break contact, and when it can be done safely, "retreating," for lack of a better word, is a perfectly acceptable way to break contact.

Tom Givens, founder of Tac-Con, actually does have a better word for "retreat." Tom prefers to talk about "preclusion," which is the act of preventing something from happening. "I give people a double-your-money-back guarantee that you're going to survive every single violent confrontation you don't get in," Tom says.

"Even in the hardest of stand-your-ground states, if a jury is presented with evidence that an armed defender had a clear opportunity to safely withdraw from a potentially violent confrontation and chose to engage regardless, that jury may conclude the defender's choice was not reasonable. If an armed defender is given the opportunity to fight or safely flee, and there is no one else in danger, the choice to stay and fight is a critical mistake. In such a case, Tom Given says, "You're turning it into mutual combat rather than self-defense."

If people can't afford to take the time or money to go to a CCW class we have to help educate people on the right way and the wrong way of handling these situations.

YOU ABSOLUTELY CAN AND WILL GO TO JAIL AND GET SUED BY THE FAMILY IF YOU DON'T HANDLE A CONFRONTATION CORRECTLY.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/we-currently-have-21-tents-up-at-the-church-of-the-nomadic-spirit/>
og:title Content: We currently have 21 tents up at the Church of the Nomadic Spirit. - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist
Blog Post Date: May 5, 2022

Blog Post Content:
We currently have 21 tents up at the Church of the Nomadic Spirit.

I was watching a news video out of Seattle. It was of a community of housed people living next to unhoused people. The housed people actually sounded really understanding. One man said that he was willing to share the space but the trash had taken over everything.

Another person said unhoused people were stealing minor things from cars and whatnot.

UNSTRUCTURED CAMPS ARE HELL ON EARTH.

You MUST have someone who has the authority to kick people out and demand basic things like keeping your space clean and not stealing from neighbors.

Here is a woman spreading straw around her tent at our camp to keep mud from getting tracked into her tent:

Here is a picture of my friend Rob looking in disbelief of what had become of this unstructured camp:

THE TRASH ALONE should be reason enough to let me shelter people on my own land. I pay for an 8 yard dumpster to be picked up twice a week.

If the city closes down my camp they are just going to send people back into the woods with no bathrooms, no trash service, no electricity, no running water.

I've said it before and I'll say it again: YOU CAN HATE HOMELESS PEOPLE AND STILL WANT ME TO DO THIS WORK. I am helping the entire community by bringing even a basic form of structure to homeless people's lives.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/sage-against-the-machine-podcast-episode-80/>

og:title Content: Sage Against The Machine Podcast - Episode 80 - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: May 5, 2022

Blog Post Content: I have Covid and Abortion Rights

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URL: <https://sagelewis.com/dr-anonymous/>

og:title Content: Dr. Anonymous - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: May 6, 2022

Blog Post Content:

In 1972, Dr. John Fryer (right) gave a speech in this mask stating that homosexuality was not a mental disorder.

Dr. Fryer was a psychiatrist and gay. Admitting that he was gay would have admitted that he had a mental disorder and therefore would have lost his license.

May 2 was the 50th anniversary of the Dr. Anonymous speech. Philadelphia has declared May 2 John Fryer Day.

What makes this so powerful to me is how terrified he was to do this. He had so much to lose. BUT HE DID IT ANYWAY.

I'm always in awe of people that take stands that are at great risks to themselves. All the people who protected Jews in Nazi Germany, for example.

Without these people the wrongs of society would never be corrected.

I am often confronted by people who try to terrify me into stopping the work I do with homeless people.

They are the reality instructors who use fear and logic to attempt to convince me to sit down and stop making waves.

There is no scenario where leaving hundreds of thousands of Americans on the streets of our cities with no access to toilets, running water or trash service makes any sense morally, philosophically or systematically. Yet homeless service providers tell me I am enabling them by giving them those services. And the reality

instructors are telling me I'm risking too much by taking care of these people. (I'm not doing it the right way, they both like to tell me.)

Just as Dr. Fryer was considered mentally ill for being gay, some homeless people are considered criminals for having a brain disease we call addiction. We are not allowed to help anyone who doesn't first solve their addiction.

It is madness to think being gay is a mental illness. It is madness to think that addiction is considered a moral failing so terrible that we must not give a homeless person something as basic as a toilet, because doing so is just enabling them to continue their weak-minded, amoral, lazy lifestyle of a no-good drug addict. Which mind you, while this is the belief of homeless service providers and the government, it is nowhere near the reality of the situation. Drug addition DOES NOT cause homelessness. And no. Not all homeless people are drug addicts.

My only regret is that I cannot do more and that I cannot bring emergency change to these hated Americans faster.

I'm thankful for people like Dr. Fryer who risked so much. Our world would be so much more cruel and backwards without people like him.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/my-dark-side/>

og:title Content: My Dark Side - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: May 10, 2022

Blog Post Content:

My very enlightened friend, Holly White, likes to say that I look like Emperor Palpatine from Star Wars when I wear my hood like this. She always says it with a small smile.

There is no doubt, the Dark Side is within me and it's strong. In fact, I can feel it grow as I develop the Light Side of my force. Balancing the forces is a real thing. Taoism and Zoroastrianism are 2 beliefs that work in this practice.

I have spent most of my adult life fighting the power of darkness. Alcoholism, obesity, obsession, passion, desire, anger, hatred. (It probably manifests itself the most right now in wanting to overeat. Eating calms me. It's a drug that levels my emotions.)

I have found that I can channel these dark emotions into good. Like I sometimes furiously throw trash in my truck.

I see zero evidence that darkness will ever disappear. It lives in the heart of life. If darkness is a given then I can't see how we are just supposed to treat it like an unwanted enemy. Because truthfully, darkness has power and strength and value. For me, it has become a friend that I see coming. I watch it rise and fall within myself and the world. And instead of trying to just stand in it's way and yell it into submission, I go tell it to clean up trash (which is sometimes actual trash and sometimes it's corrupt, grotesque systems that love to destroy weak individuals in the name of "The Greater Good.")

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/jesus-or-the-inspector/>

og:title Content: Jesus? Or The Inspector? - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: May 10, 2022

Blog Post Content:

The Inspector Is Taking Pictures Of Our Village right now.

I guess my question is: WHEN IS IT EVER APPROPRIATE TO CARE FOR THOSE IN NEED?

Immigrants?

Asylum Seekers?

Addicts?

Homeless people?

I mean was that story all us Christians learned about the Good Samaritan just a feel-good kid's story? Was Jesus caring for lepers (people who were deemed "unclean" and considered cursed from God because of

profound impurity) just something only a God is allowed to do?

WHAT THE FUCK ARE WE SUPPOSED TO DO??

Who's right?
Jesus? Or The Inspector?

Because our Catholic mayor sure as hell seems to be on the side of The Inspector.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/gun-deaths-reached-the-highest-level-ever-recorded-in-the-united-states-in-2020/>
og:title Content: Gun deaths reached the highest level ever recorded in the United States in 2020 - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist
Blog Post Date: May 10, 2022

Blog Post Content:
I can tell you without a doubt, that there are more guns in the homeless community now than any other time I've done this work.

What's interesting is that Covid had a very minimal effect on homeless people. In fact, it might have been a net positive because camp sweeps were way down during Covid.

So, I don't think the traditional theories of mental trauma due to life in a Covid world can apply to the homeless population.

My belief is that it's just a murderous time. People are getting guns because other people have guns. "Don't bring a knife to a gun fight" is pretty standard street wisdom.

A homeless dog recently got shot in the leg by a homeless man with a gun. (He can indeed be a violent dog.)

I do, however, think that gun possession is coming down in the homeless community. Why? Because they use the knowledge that they own a gun as the first form of defense. But then that leads to the gun getting stolen because the person doesn't have a good way of securing the gun. (The guy who shot the dog recently had his gun stolen.)

I believe the guns are going to pool towards drug dealers because drug dealers want guns and they will trade drugs for things they want. So, a lot of guns will be with a few people. This is going to happen throughout the low income community.

I truly believe we are seeing a decrease in gun violence, not because people are any more or less emotionally stressed. A gun loses it's luster and money and/or drugs are more desirable.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/sage-against-the-machine-podcast-episode-81/>
og:title Content: Sage Against The Machine Podcast - Episode 81 - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist
Blog Post Date: May 12, 2022

Blog Post Content: The Black Hole In The Center of our Galaxy

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URL: <https://sagelewis.com/one-good-cop-one-good-drug-dealer/>
og:title Content: One good cop. One good drug dealer. - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist
Blog Post Date: May 14, 2022

Blog Post Content:

On the street everyone needs one good cop and one good drug dealer.

Both can be challenging to come by. But they exist.

A good cop will look past small issues like possession to stay focused on things like arson, grand theft auto and violent crime. They also won't run every name in a car or tent just because they can. They stay focused on serious crimes.

A good drug dealer will not trap you in debt, will make a serious effort to sell clean drugs, will work on trade and will not bully you because the power went to their head.

These are basic bonds of trust that need to be developed in order to weave a community back together.

If you are terrified of every authority figure around you the entire world feels like an insane war zone.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/the-next-couple-days/>
og:title Content: The next couple days - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist
Blog Post Date: May 18, 2022

Blog Post Content:

In the next couple days, an article will come out in the Akron Beacon Journal about our tent village. This was inspired by our loss of another lawsuit pushing for my right to shelter a very small group of people for a very limited time in the most extreme cases. (I am never allowed to shelter anyone ever in a tent on my personal property. It is not permitted by zoning.)

The city is meeting today to make a statement for this article.

It is important for you to know that I am creating a direct action, civil disobedience, occupy Movement on my own land. My entire point is that what is happening in America with homelessness is abhorrently wrong. It, in fact, is a crime against humanity. The fact that they won't let me shelter anyone ever on my own land speaks volumes of how they feel about homeless people. They don't care.

My energy is a little low this morning as I don't expect any good news to come out of Akron City Hall.

Unfortunately, I expect the exact same outcome as last time. "Everything is fine. Sage is wrong. He will be prosecuted if he doesn't stop." In fact, I think it could be worse than last time because they might now realize that I'm not going to stop. So a stronger attack on me could be likely.

This is what I would ask from you. If you believe in some kind of cosmic force, I would love if you would send some loving and kind and compassionate thoughts into the universe. For our homeless brothers and sisters. For our politicians. For the people in our mayor's administration. For Mayor Horrigan.

They're just afraid. They are afraid that if I am allowed to "enable" people with a bathroom, heat, electricity, a shower and Internet access then every homeless person in a 1000 mile radius will come flocking to Akron. They will be overrun by drug addicts and lazy losers.

They are doing the best they can, just as I am doing the best I can.

Ironically, we all want the same thing: a safe place to live peacefully and quietly. We are just going at it from different ways.

I can tell you this, and you've heard it from much greater people than me: love is the only force that will solve these problems. Yes, my anger will get the best of me from time to time. But it's love that will be the true savior of humanity.

Please send love and hope and faith into the world today.

I love you for all you have done and all you will continue to do. Sage

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/yesterdays-mental-health-story/>

og:title Content: Yesterday's Mental Health Story - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: May 19, 2022

Blog Post Content:

The mental health issues in the inner city don't always culminate in physical violence. Here's yesterday's story...2 large checks were stolen from the mailbox of my building. They then attempted to cash one of the checks. These checks weren't stolen just for straight crime. That would make sense. These checks were stolen because the person believes I have stolen his business, stolen his social security payments. He believes I am stealing his entire identity and somehow making vast sums of money off of him. (his entire life has become a fantasy of epic proportions as he lives in a tent in my back yard.) Needless to say, I am installing a very secure mailbox so he can't easily get the mail. I'd be tempted to call the police on him. But I don't have video footage of him taking the checks and then it all becomes a difficult case that no one has time for. This isn't about justice served anyway. I recovered the checks through the help of several other homeless people who live with us. This is, yet again, a story of untreated mental illness. I'd LOVE to be able to call someone and tell this story to them. Then they would send a caseworker out who would make this man a priority. They would create a case for him and would follow up with him over time. They'd build a relationship with him. He'd start to trust them and then would eventually get the help he needs. But that is just another fantasyland story that doesn't exist. The inner city becomes an insane asylum. People yelling into the wind. People creating worlds that don't exist. All we can do is live with the people who don't hurt us and build various forms of protection barriers for people that believe we are attacking them in various ways.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/sage-against-the-machine-podcast-episode-82/>

og:title Content: Sage Against The Machine Podcast - Episode 82 - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: May 19, 2022

Blog Post Content: God, the psychopathic genocidal murderer.

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URL: <https://sagelewis.com/my-jobs-idea/>

og:title Content: My jobs idea - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: May 26, 2022

Blog Post Content:

In low-income communities in a city, IN GENERAL, women boost (they steal from stores) and men scrap metal. Copper wire is the ultimate prize. They burn off the outer coating of the wire so that it pays more. They are all making about \$10-\$40 a day. Most people refuse to fly a sign for money. They find it too degrading. Those people make about \$20-\$40 a day. As we continue to stabilize our tent community (we had a really good week this past week. We just need to keep stringing good weeks together) my idea is to create piecework jobs where a person gets paid per thing they make. I'm thinking like jewelry and t-shirts. If I can get to a point where I'm offering a job that pays \$20-\$40 a day whenever a person needs it I could stop the stealing, scrapping (which is often stealing) and panhandling.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/sage-against-the-machine-podcast-episode-83/>

og:title Content: Sage Against The Machine Podcast - Episode 83 - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: May 26, 2022

Blog Post Content: Talking about the Church of the Nomadic Spirit Tent Village

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URL: <https://sagelewis.com/its-the-handguns-dummy/>

og:title Content: It's The Handguns, Dummy - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: June 2, 2022

Blog Post Content:

Most of these shootings that happen in Akron and the rest of American cities don't happen with AR-type weapons. THEY HAPPEN WITH HANDGUNS.

Most gun crimes are committed with handguns.

You'll notice that Democrats never mention handguns. And that's how you know that they don't actually care about gun violence. They just care about political talking points.

I'M GOING TO TELL IT TO YOU STRAIGHT:

Your government isn't going to do one damn thing to help gun crime in America. They won't fund mental health initiatives. And even if they outlaw AR rifles, it's the handguns that kill the most people. (A handgun would be a better weapon for close-quarters killing in a school anyway. These kids just think an AR is cool. The standard magazine for the Glock 19 holds 15 rounds. Do you know how fast you can change a mag? You can also get magazines with 17, 19 and 33 rounds for the Glock 19.)

YOUR COMMUNITY MUST STEP UP.

Stop looking to the police and government to solve your problems. Create community watch groups. Learn self-defense. Take the CCW course even though you don't need to.
The Democrats have promised you that they will take care of everything for you. You can see very clearly how that's working out.
You have to take care of the problems in your community yourself.
(this post is in reference to a shooting in Akron at a vigil on June 1, 2022.)

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/sage-against-the-machine-podcast-episode-84/>
og:title Content: Sage Against The Machine Podcast - Episode 84 - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist
Blog Post Date: June 2, 2022

Blog Post Content: How to make meth

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URL: <https://sagelewis.com/another-mass-shooting/>
og:title Content: Another mass shooting - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist
Blog Post Date: June 5, 2022

Blog Post Content:
I'm just going to use these mass murderers as a time to remind you that this isn't about guns (although I'd like to see some tightening of gun laws). It's not even about mental health, which is my great interest of opportunity in America. America is a cauldron of centuries of unaddressed systemic rot. Of course slavery that leads to extreme oppression of Black Americans is there. But so is the fact that we work everyone in this county to death with no healthcare and wages that don't keep up with housing costs. We've given all our good jobs to other countries and the robots. We don't do one fucking thing when our kids are gunned down in our schools. WHAT THE HELL DO YOU THINK IS GOING TO HAPPEN? Just ignore this mass shooting. You know your leaders certainly will. They like it exactly like it is right now. You or your kid could be next. No one will protect you in America.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/my-new-june-2022-lawsuit/>
og:title Content: My new June 2022 lawsuit - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist
Blog Post Date: June 6, 2022

Blog Post Content:
The city of Akron has just filed yet another lawsuit against me for sheltering homeless people. Our attorneys are so kind to me. Consoling me for this action.
I didn't expect anything different. In an America where unlimited children can be murdered in cold blood and NOTHING CHANGES why would I expect Dan Horrigan to do anything different than what he's always done: treat his homeless residents as vermin. The lawsuit is because we are a "Nuisance." Human beings. American citizens... They are now relegated to the same level as diseased rats.
And do you know who's doing it? DEMOCRATS!
I publicly show the sheltering of people who have absolutely nowhere else to go for one reason: to show the cruel, hateful nature of a proud Catholic Democrat mayor. What a bunch of complete and total bullshit. And it's YOU DEMOCRATS that stand with these lying, duplicitous, evil leaders... From New York, to Akron to San Francisco... They ALL are complete liars.
Until you vote for someone better than the likes of moderate Democrats like Dan Horrigan, Joe Biden, the Clintons and Barrack Obama... THIS IS YOUR FAULT. YOU are putting more Black men in jail. YOU are criminalizing people with a brain disease that you love to sneeringly call aDdICtS. YOU are torturing

Americans who can't afford to live in this overpriced nightmare of a country by repeatedly voting in Democrats that create these torturous crimes against humanity of not letting these Americans live anywhere in their own country including my private land.
THIS IS ON YOU!

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/ive-never-told-anyone-this-before/>
og:title Content: I've Never Told Anyone This Before - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist
Blog Post Date: June 9, 2022

Blog Post Content:

I've never admitted this to anyone other than my wife. But I carry a gun.
Every time I go from the West side of Akron to the East side of Akron I put on my holster and my handgun. It's an 8 round clip plus 1 in the chamber. I have my conceal carry permit. (I'm also a licensed gun dealer.) I would like more background checks. Like, why can't anyone voluntarily do a background check on someone to make sure the person they are selling a gun to can legally have a gun? We don't have to make it required, but it sure would be nice as an option. And I have a bone to pick with Hartville Flea Market. They are the biggest arms dealer for moving illegal guns into Akron. They should be required to do background checks. But I don't like limiting rounds in clips. Here's why: I work with drug addicts and drug dealers nearly every single day. And I don't have a great relationship with all of them. I've called the police on a couple. That's grounds for a death sentence in some cases.
It's a gun game in all the cities of America right now. When you limit rounds in a clip you are only hurting me. The guy who lives in Akron but is from Chicago, has a violent gun charge on his record, and everyone knows he has zero emotions... He's just a machine. THAT guy is going to bring who the hell knows what to the scene. Cops have very explicitly told me he's extremely dangerous. (Yeah. That's the guy I called the cops on.)
I also carry mace. I've never pulled my gun. But I've pulled my mace (I've never used it) multiple times. Just last Friday I pulled it twice. A guy freaking out in my car started hitting me because he didn't think I was driving him fast enough to the hospital for what he was convinced was a drug overdose. (I think it was just a total psychotic break.)
And then later in the day a guy started hitting me because someone stole his TV out of our house. I know never to pull a gun on a guy who's just throwing hands. Shoot, I didn't pull a gun on the guy swinging a sledgehammer at me. But guns are prolific out here.
Please don't limit my mags.
(And I'd also like to keep an AR on hand for my government. I don't trust them as far as I can throw them. There is a line on how far they go with taking away women's rights. I'm just not going to stand for it. I'm a Don't Tread on Me guy for women's rights.)

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/sage-against-the-machine-podcast-episode-85/>
og:title Content: Sage Against The Machine Podcast - Episode 85 - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist
Blog Post Date: June 9, 2022

Blog Post Content: Coming to you from Ocean City, MD.

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URL: <https://sagelewis.com/we-are-ready/>
og:title Content: We are ready. - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist
Blog Post Date: June 19, 2022

Blog Post Content: I believe there is a reason that we are all waking up to the reality that all our systems are failures.

Your church won't take you in when you're homeless.

Your police won't rush in to save you when you are being murdered.

Your hospital won't take away your pain when you're suffering.

Your judges won't uphold the law when it means going against their political interests.

Your politicians won't do anything other than save their own skin.

WE ALL NOW KNOW THIS TO BE TRUE.

Why now? Why is all of this coming crashing in on us?

It's because we are ready.

I'm not saying the systems should go away. Far from it. And we much always push them in whatever way necessary to be better.

WHAT I AM SAYING IS: stop looking around when you see a problem.

Stop waiting for someone else to take care of the homeless.

Stop waiting for someone else to protect your neighborhoods.

Stop waiting for someone else to feed the elderly and children.

STOP WAITING for a knight in shining armor to ride up on a white horse to save the day. He's not coming.

YOU the savior.

And don't expect to be thanked for it or appreciated for it. Expect the opposite. Expect the people you serve to take advantage of you. Expect the system to try to crush you. "No good deed goes unpunished" is cosmic truth. You are disrupting the natural order of things. Nature wants to go back to disorder and chaos. (It's the second law of thermodynamics dynamics.) HUMANS ARE THE CONSCIOUS WARRIORS AGAINST UNIVERSAL CHAOS.

You are ready. You are our savior. You are the hero we need.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/sage-against-the-machine-podcast-episode-86/>

og:title Content: Sage Against The Machine Podcast - Episode 86 - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: June 16, 2022

Blog Post Content: Talking about the sex trafficking at our homeless camp.

You can listen to the audio here:

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URL: <https://sagelewis.com/sage-against-the-machine-podcast-episode-87/>

og:title Content: Sage Against The Machine Podcast - Episode 87 - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: June 23, 2022

Blog Post Content: I'm still not in jail

You can listen to the audio here:

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URL: <https://sagelewis.com/andrew/>
og:title Content: Andrew - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist
Blog Post Date: June 24, 2022

Blog Post Content: Isn't it funny how emotions wash over you like a rising tide for no apparent reason whatsoever?

I woke up this morning feeling deep sorrow and sadness for our friend, Andrew.

Andrew died of a fentanyl overdose.

That alone is sad because we all know Andrew didn't take fentanyl. He took meth.

So it will forever be a mystery as to what happened in those last moments. We all have our theories. But it hardly matters now. Andrew is dead and he is now just a number added to the pile of 100,000 people that will die this year from a fentanyl overdose.

I had the opportunity to speak with someone who knew Andrew growing up. His mother died in 2015. His father died when he was young. Andrew's biological family was gone. That's a very common theme in the homeless community. There was no one to call for help. And, as is the case in these situations, he burned bridges of other people through stealing and drug use.

He was in and out of juvenile detention centers starting at 13. And then in and out of jail and prison once he became an adult.

He had dreams and hopes. They were always dashed.

Was it the drugs that caused him to see and hear things that weren't really there? Was it mental illness? Or was it both? This is as much of a mystery as his death.

Andrew was in our first tent city. He didn't get housed as he watched all of his friends get housed. I carried his belongings out into the woods that day.

I then opened this most recent camp. He and Rob were the first two people in that camp. I thought for a long time that maybe I'd just keep it those two people. Maybe I should have. Maybe Andrew would still be alive. But I now also have people who are thankful I let them move in. It's an impossible situation. Every move is just another bad move in a nightmare situation.

Andrew was most certainly not alone. Though his biological family was gone, his street family was strong. Andrew was deeply loved by many, many people. He was passionate. He was funny. He was endlessly generous. I don't know anyone who didn't love Andrew.

Andrew now is dead. All his friends deeply feel this loss. It's just so sad.

We always tell ourselves in situations like these, "I should have done more." This is a universal response that I hear over and over again from myself and others. "I should have done more."

That is always such a beautiful thing to hear. Tragically beautiful. It represents hope, and care, and eternal love.

I loved Andrew. I considered him my son. Just as I consider all these people under my care to be my sons and daughters. They desperately need a loving father figure. Not someone to judge them and push them. Just someone to love them and encourage them. A strong man with a strong sense between right and wrong. Someone to tell them that they can do this. That they are amazing people who will do amazing things with their lives.

I'm so sorry Andrew. I miss you so much. I had so many hopes and dreams for you. But at least you are at peace now. I'm happy for that.

I love you Andrew.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/i-talked-with-brian-simcox-today/>
og:title Content: I talked with Brian Simcox today - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist
Blog Post Date: June 24, 2022

Blog Post Content: I had a very good conversation with Brian Simcox today.

I know my leftist friends are likely going to be angry for me saying this.

I don't need to get into the controversy of Brian. It has been talked about extensively. Particularly by me. Let me just say that he is a controversial figure. I would say many people would think the same of me.

As I drove back to the west side from Middleberry this afternoon I felt like I was leaving Joseph Conrad's Heart of Darkness. It is chaos and insanity. The deeper I dig into it the more I can feel my own sanity shifting. Those people live in a pressure cooker. They are being pressed from every possible angle. Drug dealers, cops, parole officers, slumlords. There is no escape from the terror and pressure. It is true horror. You can say whatever you want about Brian Simcox. But I'll tell you one thing, he's right about dealing with

mental illness and addiction. I'm not going to state his beliefs. He did not give me permission to share them and so I won't.

Let it just be said that what we are doing right now is not going to fix the problem.

Earlier this week I had a police officer tell me to not talk to him. I live in a position where no one in authority will talk to me. They may not like what I'm doing. But the experiences I've had doing this work has created a unique perspective on the situation of homelessness and addiction and mental health. I don't know how you could disagree with that fact.

I will gladly work with anyone that wants to work with me on thinking about homelessness. I'm talking gangs, police, neighbors, clergy. Anyone that wants to talk about homelessness from any perspective is cool in my book.

Police are stuck in the middle. They can't talk about leadership in politics, they can't talk about anything. All they can do is their job.

Without a shadow of a doubt I can tell you that the problems we have in Akron are not the police. The heart of our problems reside in the leadership in the administration and city Council. No one else can be blamed for the nightmare that Akron citizens have to live with every single day.

I was deeply thankful that Brian came and talked to me today. I imagine that must've been difficult for him because he knows what I have said about him in the past. If Brian Simcox wants to talk to me about homelessness and addiction I will gladly talk to him any day of the week.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/here-is-heather-telling-her-story-about-living-at-our-homeless-tent-village-for-two-months/>

og:title Content: Here is Heather telling her story about living at our homeless tent village for two months. - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: June 30, 2022

Blog Post Content:

She was one of the people that got picked up during the raid where they accused us of sex trafficking.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/sage-against-the-machine-podcast-episode-88/>

og:title Content: Sage Against The Machine Podcast - Episode 88 - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: July 7, 2022

Blog Post Content: There is SO much going on in Akron right now.

You can listen to the audio here:

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URL: <https://sagelewis.com/akron-townhall-with-mayoral-candidate-sage-lewis-july-14-2022-podcast-episode-89/>

og:title Content: Akron Townhall with Mayoral Candidate Sage Lewis - July 14, 2022 - Podcast Episode 89 - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: July 14, 2022

Blog Post Content: Akron Townhall with Mayoral Candidate Sage Lewis - July 14, 2022

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URL: <https://sagelewis.com/rage-pride-dignity-deadly-characteristics/>

og:title Content: Rage. Pride. Dignity. Deadly characteristics. - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: July 20, 2022

Blog Post Content:

I get to work with some very serious people on the street.

A 55 year-old man was shot dead in a parking lot in the 900 block of Copley Road in Akron this past Sunday.

I absolutely work with people who are capable of this kind of killing.

There is an interesting psychology of a person who could kill someone over a seemingly little thing.

It's rage. It's a demand for dignity and respect.

Humans are funny.

I once saw a man in the middle of the winter come to our, now closed, day center wearing just a t-shirt and shorts. He was freezing. But he was mentally strong.

I've also seen a man who felt like no one cared at all about him who lost all will to live even though he was warm and dry.

Our psychological state of mind is critically important to a human being.

And then there is a lack of fear. I often tell people my fear switch is broken. I'm just not afraid of things that other people are afraid of. I see that in these fight-to-the-death men as well.

I can tell you with 100% certainty that you can't escalate something enough to win a battle with these kinds of people. Escalation will turn to physical force every time. The ONLY hope you have of not going to something physical is de-escalation.

And then we need to talk about the kind of person that becomes a police officer. Some of them have very similar qualities to a person who is willing to go all-in on a fight. They are not going to lose a fight. "Don't walk away from me," is something I hear police say to people all the time. That's pride and dignity talking. I see my homeless friends use amazing de-escalation techniques all the time with violently angry, insane people. It works every time.

I need to work on my de-escalation techniques. My pride and dignity and lack of fear often make me raise the tensions of a situation. In a fight or flight situation, I instinctively fight. It's something I need to work on. As mayor, we are definitely going to provide more de-escalation training for our police. It's not a tool that's right for every situation. But it's a tool that is right for quite a few situations, I think.

I suspect many of our police are already doing this. But we really need to think about what happened in the Jayland Walker case. And if that happened, where else is it happening on less extreme situations? That's why we need much more police oversight in our city. We aren't trying to punish police. We are all just trying to get better. We must look at the difficult things and think about them open and honestly.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/my-sister-in-law/>

og:title Content: My sister-in-law - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: July 27, 2022

Blog Post Content:

My sister-in-law lives in North Canton and works in Cleveland. She drives that every day and has done so for decades.

She now stops off at least once a week to make dinner and visit with her mother-in-law. Last night she grilled out for her.

I often hear you say such kind and nice things about the work I do with homeless people. But here's the thing: I only do exactly what I want to do. If I don't want to go I don't go. Sure. I find it to be meaningful work. But even that is just a selfish motivation for a seemingly gracious act.

YOU ARE MY INSPIRATION.

I don't think I would make the effort to stop by my mother-in-law's after a long day's work to make dinner for her. I'm just so in awe of the effort my sister-in-law is making to help her mother-in-law who lives alone. I am in love with the new images from the James Webb space telescope. They are spectacular. But here's the thing: It's a human being that took those pictures. Without those humans doing this incredible work it's like the universe wouldn't even exist.

I now believe we are the eyes and ears and awareness of the entire universe. The universe never got to experience itself until we came along.

WE ARE THE UNIVERSE. We literally are made from the hearts of stars. And I see it everyday within you. I see the kindness of Jesus. I see the evil of Hitler. I see the love of a dog. I see the hate of a black hole. I see the sadness of a Holocaust survivor. I see the happiness of a child on Christmas morning.

I SEE ALL THAT AND MORE EVERY SINGLE DAY IN YOU.

I see the entire universe in you constantly.

I just am so in love with you. I can't get enough of you.

What little I do to help my community I do in the name of you. I do it for you because you are as magnificent as 13.8 billion years of light and life.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/stop-in-the-name-of-the-law/>

og:title Content: "Stop in the name of the law." - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: July 28, 2022

Blog Post Content:

The city is furious with me (again). They want to have an emergency meeting with the magistrate because "Sage is putting tents back on his land."

I'm not doing shit. This is what Akron policies look like.

They wanted me to get rid of all the tents on my land. So I did. Then people moved somewhere else and they bulldozed all those tents.

Now the human being in the tent shown here has just gotten out of jail. He hadn't heard about the great human eradication program that occurred while he was away and so he put a tent up on my land.

And so now they're back taking pictures accusing me of "not following the law."

WHAT THE FUCK DO YOU THINK IS GOING TO HAPPEN?

So now I'm going to start putting up my own signs.

In this twisted city I have now become the arm of humanitarian evil. But that's how the "Law" works. They can fine me endlessly, incarcerate me, steal my land. They can do anything they want. They have a piece of paper that says "no tents."

I one plan. Plan A.

I somehow against all odds am going to win the mayoral primary. And we are going to start turning this godforsaken city around. We're going to start at the bottom and dig our way out of this mess.

Making me remove tents off of my land in the name of the law isn't doing ONE GODDAMN THING to fix homelessness. Yet that's their entire homeless solution (as they spend \$25 million of ARPA money on parks.)

PLEASE VOTE FOR ME IN THE AKRON MAYORAL PRIMARY IN MAY 2023.

A very real campaign slogan might be: "Anything is better than this."

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/i-am-a-democrat/>

og:title Content: I am a Democrat - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: August 3, 2022

Blog Post Content:

In America you are either a Republican or a Democrat. You could be a Tea Party Republican or a Socialist Democrat. But you are still either an R or a D.

The number 1 biggest determination if you will win an election is if you have aligned with one of those 2 parties.

I am a Democrat. I don't think I've ever voted for a Republican.

THAT SAID... I'm sick and tired of Democrats caring more about immigrants and windmills than the low-income people and Black people that they just assume will get their vote.

I also don't like the name "Socialist Democrat" because it in no way represents actual Socialism which is an

economic philosophy that gives all the means of production to the people and eliminates private property. I'm not that either.

I am a small business owner / entrepreneur. I like to find problems and fix problems. My passion is fixing racism and classism. I don't much care about money, personally. I just like creating things and building things. I want to be allowed to work on the problems I care about.

The government (Democrats) SO CLEARLY does not want me to work on the issue of homelessness. That's because they make a shit ton of money off of homelessness with their ridiculous fantasy that everyone in America is going to get a free house that needs one. And they're going to make business owners run those houses with all the mental illness and addiction issues that come with a large percentage of this population (It could be 75% of the homeless population that has both an addiction and mental health issue.)

I rail hard on my party, the Democratic party. But it's my party. I am trying to push it Left. But at it's core I believe it is the party that cares about things like animals and the environment and PEOPLE. I am the Democrat that is fighting for the people... the people of Akron and the people of the United States. American people have A LOT of problems. These people are my passion.

The closest definition I can think to call me is: POPULIST DEMOCRAT.

I put the people above everything else. Above the environment and above the animals. Yes. The environment is a real issue which makes life more difficult for The People. But here's the thing... if you see a 350 pound person with a gun shot wound you don't look at him and tell him to eat less and exercise more. YOU FIX THE FUCKING GUN SHOT WOUND.

People are being brutally tortured RIGHT NOW by unaffordable, shitty housing, by criminalizing the brain disease we call addiction, by criminalizing homelessness, by letting us murder each other in the streets while we gentrify neighborhoods. MY PARTY IS DOING THAT right along with the Republicans.

If you are rich and "LOVE" the environment, get rid of your car, stop using your air conditioning, stop eating meat and never get on an airplane ever again. Oh wait, that would be inconvenient for you? Well I have friends who are being "inconvenienced" by Democrat leaders ALL OVER AMERICA that won't let them take shelter ANYWHERE. I have friends who are being "inconvenienced" by law enforcement run by Democrat leaders who shoot them in cold blood because of the color of their skin.

So, I'm going to work on that while you pretend to care about the environment.

GO LEFT, DEMOCRATS. CARE ABOUT THE PEOPLE.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/what-do-they-spend-their-money-on/>

og:title Content: WHAT DO THEY SPEND THEIR MONEY ON? - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: August 8, 2022

Blog Post Content:

Now that our Church of the Nomadic Spirit is focusing on helping people find ways to make money through making things and offering services like car cleaning and mowing in the neighborhood, I've gotten several people asking me what homeless people spend their money on.

Let me start by saying: IT'S NONE OF YOUR DAMN BUSINESS.

The question comes from a place of judgement all while 40% of Americans are obese from eating junk food and carry \$6,194 in credit card debt at 19.2% interest, on average.

But I actually enjoy talking about it. The homeless community is quite different than traditional society in the way it navigates commerce. I find it SUPER fascinating.

Let's just get it right out on the table: YES. Most homeless people that I know buy drugs and alcohol.

(Interestingly, I'm seeing an increase in drinking these days.) In fact, it's probably all of them that I know buy at least some drugs and alcohol.

But there is only one group that spends ALL their money on drugs: it's some of the opiate users.

Fentanyl is a brutal master. It demands your entire existence. The pain and LENGTH of pain of not using fentanyl is excruciating. And a lot of times people are using fentanyl because they are trying to cover up some original excruciating pain. It's a mess.

But everyone else that I can think of is much more balanced than that.

I bought 2 day old newspapers from a man recently. \$2 for 2 papers. He left and came back with a half gallon of lemon aid.

Keeping your phone on is a huge priority for people that still have their phones.

People love Polar Pops and cigarettes or cigars.

Those huge buckets of ice cream are a big hit this time of year.

Some people like to buy a gun. The streets are SO dangerous right now.

A man bought some chicken and spices and oil to make fried chicken yesterday.

They like pizza and the dinner box at McDonald's.

But all of that is to say: most homeless people have little to no money. So, the primary form of currency is trade.

They dumpster dive for scrap metal and things they can sell or trade for other things they want... a lot of times it's drugs. The dope boy in low income neighborhoods often takes trade for drugs. He often likes sex and jewelry and sun glasses. Though some like tools too.

I think there is a fair amount of stealing food that goes on. That's why bringing food to the community is so helpful. It drastically reduces food theft. You can trade food for drugs.

I think theft in general is a big source of revenue and trade in the homeless community and low income community. That's why I'm trying to educate people on entrepreneurship. Capitalism is just legalized stealing. You are convincing people to give you money for something they don't really need. I mean, just look at the cost of housing and tell me that's not the biggest con job in America right now.

I'm just trying to show my homeless friends how capitalists steal from us every day. All they have to do is turn their attention in a slightly different direction and all the skills they learned on the street can be applied to sources of income that are totally legal and, in fact, celebrated.

So, that's pretty much everything I can tell you about what homeless people spend their money on. Most of them are so far away from living in a traditional house it's not even on their radar. For some it is. But it's a pretty small percentage at any given time.

Oh... needles from the needle exchange sell for \$1 each. Most

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/men/>

og:title Content: Men - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: August 10, 2022

Blog Post Content:

I was speaking with a powerful/super-smart/highly-educated woman yesterday who said something along the lines that men are natural-born colonizing murderers and we need to figure out a way to help them use those tendencies in a positive way.

I see this murderous, colonizing instinct in inner-city Black drug dealers as much as I see it in a guy like Donald Trump. I don't believe this "conquer-drive" is just relegated to White men. I think it's within Men in general.

But what I loved about her statement was how advanced and enlightened it was. It wasn't coming from a place of disdain and hate. It was coming from a place of understanding. "How can we work with men to find a place in society for them so that their skills are celebrated and utilized in a way that is good for all of society?"

I'm seeing this desire for understanding with many types of people these days in the more progressive thinking areas of society: LGBTQIA people, addicted people, homeless people, and even now with Christian people, and conservative people.

This is where we all need to be heading in our spiritual journey. You don't have to condone anti-social behavior. But you do have to understand it. It's what Jesus was going on and on about with "Love your enemies." I think the word Love might be confusing for us. But maybe the word Understand or Empathize might be more accessible for our small human minds.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/i-support-camping-bans-if/>

og:title Content: I Support Camping Bans, IF... - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: August 11, 2022

Blog Post Content:

There was a major homeless law change in Los Angeles yesterday where over 66,000 people live without a home.

You can now not put a tent within 500 feet of a school anywhere in LA. Overall, this will make about 20% of the land not accessible to tents. And in some areas it could be close to 50%.

I need to be clear: MY OPINIONS ARE JUST ONE ASPECT OF ALL THIS. But as a person who has "illegally" (according to the law department of Akron) sheltered 100s of homeless people over the years, I feel like I have a certain perspective on this that's interesting.

I am the triage shelter guy. I don't really care where a person can take shelter as long as they can take

shelter somewhere. A drain pipe is fine with me if they are actually allowed to shelter in it. Do we need more affordable housing. FUCK YES! There are millions of people on disability and social security who get a little over \$800/month. They need housing that costs about \$300/month that includes all utilities. I see no plan in place to make that meaningfully available at the scale needed in any city anywhere in America.

My focus is where a person is going to sleep tonight. We need both activists. Long-term strategies and short-term strategies.

ALL THIS IS TO SAY: I'm fine with making certain places off limits to sleep IF IF IF there is someplace else nearby to go where a person can bring their pets and their partners and a "reasonable" amount of belongings (I don't know what "reasonable" is exactly. But hoarding is a real issue in the homeless community. So it needs to be a topic that is discussed. I usually only let people have one 8 man tent and everything has to fit inside it except for a couple chairs and a bicycle.)

I don't like this whole free-range camping idea. It's chaos on so many levels. I am a huge advocate for designated camping areas. Then, sure, make every place else off limits.

But even this is going to be problematic. There are going to be people that get kicked out of one camp and then they need another camp to go to. Eventually, if a person is so problematic they need to either go to jail because they are too violent and dangerous or, ideally, they would go to a psych hospital (that no longer exists) where they could be treated for their severe mental illness.

Extremely dangerous, mentally ill people absolutely exist and need a plan in this ecosystem. But the bigger day-to-day problem is theft. There is constant theft in the homeless community by other homeless people. These people destroy an already delicate fabric of community for homeless people. Personally, my idea is to give them a 10x10 dog kennel on the outside of the fenced-in homeless camp so they can still get services and they can keep their own possessions locked up. But they are no longer easily stealing from the rest of the community. The seriously mentally ill homeless people would end up in these "units" as well because we have nothing else for them in society until they commit of very serious violent crime.

I know there are people in the homeless advocacy world that probably think this is just going to make it so cities don't actually have to provide real housing for these people. So, instead, we should do nothing until every single human gets a free house.

This plan is just not realistic. And these idealists are then using homeless people as their pawns who suffering needlessly on the streets in hopes that it will inspire politicians to act. Well guess what: they don't give a shit if people are freezing to death on their streets. They simply demonize homeless people as dangerous drug addicts (like how they do to every subset of society they hate) and the general population just takes their word for it.

Am I creating slums with my plans? For sure. But you should meet people in a tent community that is well run. They have leadership roles and they are surrounded by people who understand them and treat them respectfully. These "slums" become some of the most beautiful communities I've ever had the blessing to be part of.

We need something now. My idea can happen TONIGHT. It gives people shelter and safety immediately. And how fucking dare you liberal-elitist-snobs tell poor people how they should and shouldn't live.

People usually get tired of living in a tent community and they move on. And then they go through all the complicated hoops of housing authorities to make it happen. Until then, let people make their own communities in tent villages and rebuild their lives on their own terms.

I haven't plugged my book in a while. I detail a lot of my ideas on how to help homeless people. And it's been pretty well reviewed.

Here's one:

"Sage's book dives into the issue of homelessness from an unexpected angle. It makes us consider the unhoused in a different way. I appreciate his writing style, in this easy to read book. I've read and written about homelessness, and believe there is much to learn from this book."

The kindle version is only \$0.99.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/we-are/>

og:title Content: We Are Asking the Ohio Supreme Court To Let Us Shelter Those Most In Need - Sage Lewis
- Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: August 12, 2022

Blog Post Content:

Here's an article from our attorneys at Institute for Justice. We are trying to get the Ohio Supreme Court to hear our case to allow us to shelter people that have absolutely nowhere else to take shelter. I try not to talk much about lawsuits simply because I'm not a lawyer and it's truly a different world of communication. (For example, I'm currently being sued by the city in a different case for sheltering homeless people. They are trying to make it so that I, or anyone related to me, would be held in contempt of court if we ever give a tent to anyone on residential property. But that's all I'm going to say about it right now because I need to make sure my attorney and I in that case are in agreement about what we say.) WE KNOW FOR A FACT that there are people who have no place to take shelter in Akron Ohio. (I helped a woman get into the battered women's shelter. She was thrown out within 2 days and is now back in a tent.) Our only men's shelter (an extremist Christian facility) regularly bans men from using any of their services. Not only does it seem unconstitutional to outsource our only shelter for men to religious zealots, but there are MANY men who aren't allowed in the place. So, what do all the people that legitimately have nowhere else to sleep go to sleep? It is utter madness how hard I have to fight to shelter these people on my own private land with ZERO money from the government. Imagine if you were being sued by the city for wanting to clean up trash on your own time and money. It's EXACTLY the same thing except we are talking about human-fucking-beings, American citizens. All they ever tell me is "NO!" They don't meet with me to discuss different ideas. They don't brainstorm how else we could service these humans. Nothing. Just "NO!" The longer I do this the more resolved I become in this fight. It's complete and total madness. They have a guy that wants to help (for free) and all they do is sue me. So I refuse to stop. This is wrong in every possible way. It's a humanitarian crime. It's morally repugnant. It's philosophically incoherent. It's just plain wrong. I. WILL. NOT. STOP!

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/the-sister-ignatia-heritage-center-and-chapel-at-summa-healths-st-thomas-hospital-in-akron-is-closing/>

og:title Content: The Sister Ignatia Heritage Center and Chapel at Summa Health's St. Thomas Hospital in Akron is closing. - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: August 16, 2022

Blog Post Content:

The Sister Ignatia Heritage Center and Chapel at Summa Health's St. Thomas Hospital in Akron is closing. St. Thomas Hospital opened in 1928. Eleven years later, the late Sister Ignatia and the late Dr. Robert H. Smith, known as Dr. Bob and the co-founder of Alcoholics Anonymous, together created the first hospital-based unit in the country devoted to the treatment of alcoholism. In its first decade, the detox ward at St. Thomas Hospital treated more than 5,000 individuals. Akron loves to tear down its history. I don't really get it. But we do it all the time. Maybe the highest point in Akron's history is this right here. AA. Though I suffer from alcohol addiction, I did not recover using AA. I personally used Smart Recovery. (I love it so much I became a trained facilitator) But I always love a good AA meeting. I've been alcohol free for 19 years. I am a diehard believer in living your life any way you damn well please as long as you aren't hurting someone else. But getting out of the alcohol trap was the best thing that happened to me (don't get me wrong, I had MANY awesome drunken experiences. But it eventually became a rut that controlled my life.) Drugs and alcohol start off as a path to mental and psychological freedom. But then for some people they become a new prison that becomes worse than the original emotional prison you originally were trying to free yourself from. And maybe what's worst is that drugs and alcohol never really teach you anything. Sooner or later, you end up right back to where you started years ago having to figure out your shit the hard way. I see so many addicted people in Akron. It's because their trap is Akron and the generational poverty and trauma that comes along with being raised in this city. But the trap isn't ultimately Akron. A trap is actually only ever in your head. Akron creates an environment that leads easily to addiction. But you can find peace and mental freedom even in Akron. AA helps you do it. If you are feeling exhausted from your addiction travels, consider going to an AA meeting. We have a bunch

of them in Akron. And what's nice is, you get to remember that it ALL started right here in your city, Akron Ohio. I think understanding that helps with the spiritual journey of it all.

Two stained-glass windows from the chapel that have to do with health care, entitled "To visit the sick" and "To feed the hungry," have already been removed from the chapel and are undergoing restoration before they will be installed in the new Summa center.

It's nice they are saving some relics from this chapel. And really, something like AA isn't about a place or things. It's about connecting to something bigger than ourselves. Something beyond the space and time of earthly things. AA is about letting go and trusting in a power greater than anything we have within ourselves. That power is like a river that can take you wonderful places if you stop fighting the current and let it take you where you are truly meant to go.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/announcing-market-middlebury-sundays-noon-3pm/>

og:title Content: Announcing MARKET MIDDLEBURY - Sundays noon - 3pm. - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: August 17, 2022

Blog Post Content:

I just read an article about how Countryside Farmers Market is having a tough time financially:

No more farmers markets? Countryside facing money woes

It's possible they may not be able to survive.

I went to their market for the first time last week. It's a beautiful thing.

But apparently, it costs \$250,000 a year to run. They have a campaign right now to raise \$250,000 here:

<https://givebutter.com/HarvestCampaign>

There was a discussion on Facebook where someone asked why it cost \$250,000 to let vendors put some tables in a field each week. Supporters of the market really bristled at that question. But I think it's fair to ask. Why does it cost so much?

The answer is that they have full-time employees that market the events, collect money from vendors, and all that stuff.

I love innovating things. I like to think about ways to take one idea and make it something else. I hope it is better. Sometimes it is. Sometimes it's not. Sometimes I just get bored and move on. I am a builder of things. I just like making things.

So, I'm trying something new. I'm starting "Market Middlebury.":

<https://fb.me/e/1SJRMI0fK>

The idea is that anyone can come and put up a table or blanket or tarp to sell anything (except booze, drugs, guns, or people) from noon to 3 on Sundays. It's free to set up. There is no cost whatsoever for the vendors.

I did this as a way for homeless people to have a place to sell items they have collected. But anyone is welcome. I'd hope that other residents of Middlebury will want to come and sell some items. I'd love for it to be successful. Maybe it will. Maybe it won't.

But I'll tell you one thing that is a fact: It's innovating the farmers' market space. It eliminates the friction that costs \$250,000 to run a farmers' market. I don't know if it will work. But it's fun to try.

It's undoubtedly not going to be as cute and charming as what goes on at Countryside Farmers Market (One of the reasons I put it on Sunday afternoon was to not compete with them. But that probably is not going to matter after this year.) But what it lacks in cuteness it hopefully makes up in innovation.

So, if you have something to sell, please come and set up a table. Space is first come, first serve. The gate opens at 11 am on Sundays to set up. The market starts at noon and goes till 3 pm.

I may ask for donated items to give to homeless people to sell down the road. But I think we have enough for this week.

Thank you for being open to experimenting with all my ideas. And come on down and see what is for sale at Market Middlebury on Sundays at noon at 15 Broad Street in Akron Ohio.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/sage-lewis-state-of-the-city-address-for-akron-ohio-2022/>

og:title Content: Sage Lewis' State of the City Address for Akron Ohio, 2022. - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: August 18, 2022

Blog Post Content:

Our mayor did not do his State of the City address this year. So I did one for him.

Here is the full transcript if you prefer to read it:

100:00:01,833 --> 00:00:02,399Hi, everybody.
200:00:02,399 --> 00:00:08,499My name is Sage Lewisand I am running for mayor of Akron in the
300:00:09,999 --> 00:00:13,399primary in May of 2023 and
400:00:15,733 --> 00:00:17,933our mayor postponed
500:00:17,933 --> 00:00:20,533his State of the City address this year.
600:00:21,933 --> 00:00:26,233It was supposed to happenon August 17th of 2022,
700:00:26,966 --> 00:00:32,099and he said that he didn't feelit was now the appropriate time.
800:00:32,099 --> 00:00:35,333And then he went on to say,I believe what our city needs in
900:00:35,333 --> 00:00:39,466this moment is to embrace the discomfortwe feel and not shy away
1000:00:39,799 --> 00:00:42,166from difficult conversations.
1100:00:43,233 --> 00:00:45,599I felt that that was
1200:00:45,599 --> 00:00:48,899a confusing and ironic statement
1300:00:49,466 --> 00:00:54,966for a mayor who shied awayfrom a difficult conversation.
1400:00:54,966 --> 00:00:58,533So in light of that,I wanted to put together my own State
1500:00:58,533 --> 00:01:01,699of the City address and give you
1600:01:01,699 --> 00:01:05,433my take on how I think things are going.
1700:01:06,933 --> 00:01:09,033In a nutshell, I believe this.
1800:01:09,033 --> 00:01:13,999Dan Horrigan, our mayor, does not careabout the people of Akron
1900:01:13,999 --> 00:01:17,199and how he spends the city'smoney proves it.
2000:01:17,833 --> 00:01:23,133So I want to go througha variety of slides here
2100:01:23,466 --> 00:01:27,466and make this casethat Dan Horrigan does not
2200:01:28,533 --> 00:01:32,266care about the people of Akron.
2300:01:32,666 --> 00:01:36,933Now, what you should know iswe have been given a once
2400:01:37,233 --> 00:01:40,366in a lifetime
2500:01:41,633 --> 00:01:43,166hydrant full
2600:01:43,166 --> 00:01:47,933fire hydrant full of moneyfrom the federal government in the form
2700:01:47,933 --> 00:01:53,599of ARPA money, one of the most amountsgiven to any city in America.
2800:01:53,599 --> 00:01:57,133We were like in the top receivers of that
2900:01:57,666 --> 00:02:01,266and so far we've gotten \$72 million.
3000:02:01,599 --> 00:02:04,433And this is how our mayor
3100:02:04,766 --> 00:02:07,366is allocating that money.
3200:02:08,133 --> 00:02:11,099\$72 million. Okay.
3300:02:11,099 --> 00:02:15,999The number one thing he is spendinghis money on is parks
3400:02:15,999 --> 00:02:19,366and public spaces, \$25 million.
3500:02:19,833 --> 00:02:22,366The next largest
3600:02:22,366 --> 00:02:26,433allocation is city budget stabilization.
3700:02:27,133 --> 00:02:28,599That's it's over.
3800:02:28,599 --> 00:02:29,533I don't even know.
3900:02:29,533 --> 00:02:32,299It's like 17, \$16 million.
4000:02:32,599 --> 00:02:38,46610 million of that is going to the factthat we did not balance our budget.
4100:02:38,466 --> 00:02:38,899Right.
4200:02:38,899 --> 00:02:41,699And they're making it up on ARPA money.
4300:02:42,166 --> 00:02:45,866How would we have balanced a \$10 million
4400:02:46,833 --> 00:02:49,599mistake in balancing our budget
4500:02:49,599 --> 00:02:52,466if we didn't get this free moneyfrom the government?
4600:02:52,699 --> 00:02:54,866And then it's also like weird.
4700:02:55,999 --> 00:02:59,266They're given money to two
4800:02:59,899 --> 00:03:02,866bonusesand premiums to people in the city.
4900:03:04,099 --> 00:03:05,966Housing is next.
5000:03:05,966 --> 00:03:06,799Okay.
5100:03:06,799 --> 00:03:10,999There's a \$3 millionwithin this allocation
5200:03:10,999 --> 00:03:14,433for repairs to homeowners.

5300:03:14,533 --> 00:03:17,133Okay.
5400:03:17,133 --> 00:03:19,933So houses is next.
5500:03:19,933 --> 00:03:21,499Repairing houses.
5600:03:21,499 --> 00:03:22,099All right.
5700:03:22,099 --> 00:03:27,633For people that own houses,not renters, people that own houses, then
5800:03:27,633 --> 00:03:31,366public utilities, incidentally,nothing on the Internet.
5900:03:32,299 --> 00:03:34,566Fairlawn is getting
6000:03:34,566 --> 00:03:39,266fiber optics for Internetand we're not getting anything like that.
6100:03:39,566 --> 00:03:42,199Then small business growth,
6200:03:43,566 --> 00:03:47,333then access to health careand social services.
6300:03:47,333 --> 00:03:51,299And then down here, violence prevention.
6400:03:51,499 --> 00:03:54,333Okay, this is the graph of how
6500:03:54,333 --> 00:03:56,666that \$72 million
6600:03:58,433 --> 00:04:00,266is being spent.
6700:04:00,266 --> 00:04:03,399Now, in light of that,I would like to show you this article.
6800:04:03,399 --> 00:04:06,933It came out in August, August 9th, 2022
6900:04:07,299 --> 00:04:10,466violent deaths in Akronnearing record pace.
7000:04:10,799 --> 00:04:11,566Okay.
7100:04:11,566 --> 00:04:14,733Now, in 2020, we had our
7200:04:14,733 --> 00:04:18,199deadliest year since 1974
7300:04:19,299 --> 00:04:22,166with 48 murders in
7400:04:22,633 --> 00:04:27,0992020, we beat that by two extra murderswith 50 murders.
7500:04:28,733 --> 00:04:32,299This year, we are on record.
7600:04:32,299 --> 00:04:35,999We are on the pathto get to those numbers again.
7700:04:35,999 --> 00:04:37,299We have
7800:04:37,699 --> 00:04:40,933more than 30 deaths on recordthrough the end of July
7900:04:40,933 --> 00:04:43,699and nearly half a year to go.
8000:04:45,066 --> 00:04:47,499Half a year to go.
8100:04:47,499 --> 00:04:48,533Okay.
8200:04:48,533 --> 00:04:52,799And I just want to come back to this graph
8300:04:54,399 --> 00:04:56,233all time record
8400:04:56,233 --> 00:04:59,866highs in murder and violence.
8500:04:59,999 --> 00:05:03,399And this is how much of the \$72
8600:05:03,399 --> 00:05:06,266million free money we've been given by
8700:05:07,533 --> 00:05:10,833the feds to spend on violence.
8800:05:11,933 --> 00:05:13,533Parks.
8900:05:13,999 --> 00:05:15,999Parks, followed by
9000:05:17,699 --> 00:05:21,833covering our screw upson not balancing our budget.
9100:05:22,299 --> 00:05:25,599Then we care more about houses,
9200:05:25,599 --> 00:05:29,133houses owned by
9300:05:29,133 --> 00:05:30,466homeowners.
9400:05:30,466 --> 00:05:31,799Okay,
9500:05:32,433 --> 00:05:35,766then public utilities, then business,
9600:05:37,199 --> 00:05:39,532and then health care and then violence.
9700:05:40,366 --> 00:05:42,166This right here
9800:05:45,632 --> 00:05:47,899should prove this statement
9900:05:48,466 --> 00:05:52,199that Dan Horrigan does not careabout the people of Akron.
10000:05:52,466 --> 00:05:54,932He cares about how those
10100:05:54,932 --> 00:05:56,199plumbing
10200:05:57,566 --> 00:05:59,266we have.
10300:05:59,266 --> 00:06:03,899We are on track to yet againhave a record high murders
10400:06:04,266 --> 00:06:07,332and we are spending the least
10500:06:07,332 --> 00:06:10,299amount of money on violence.
10600:06:11,432 --> 00:06:15,932This is madness, but it doesn't.
10700:06:15,932 --> 00:06:19,366And Jayland Walker
10800:06:19,932 --> 00:06:21,566was murdered
10900:06:23,432 --> 00:06:26,532by the Akron police, shot in the back

11000:06:26,966 --> 00:06:29,732or wherever 46 times.

11100:06:30,332 --> 00:06:33,766He was not armed.

11200:06:33,766 --> 00:06:37,599In response to that,our police chief has now made it

11300:06:37,599 --> 00:06:41,132so that officers don't have to wearname tags.

11400:06:41,899 --> 00:06:46,066Chief Mylett defended his moveto allow officers to patrol the streets

11500:06:46,066 --> 00:06:49,966of Akron and control protests crowdswithout wearing name tags.

11600:06:50,732 --> 00:06:55,032Additionally, city attorneys have citedthe safety of officers in denying

11700:06:55,032 --> 00:06:58,399the Beacon Journal's requestfor the names of the eight officers

11800:06:58,399 --> 00:07:01,766who shotWalker and earlier police shootings.

11900:07:06,032 --> 00:07:07,799Where

12000:07:07,999 --> 00:07:11,432in any of this is protecting

12100:07:11,699 --> 00:07:15,799the peoplethat are being murdered at a record pace

12200:07:16,232 --> 00:07:22,066in Akron, Ohio?

12300:07:22,066 --> 00:07:24,699It doesn't show up.

12400:07:24,999 --> 00:07:27,166Additionally,

12500:07:27,866 --> 00:07:29,199there is no time

12600:07:29,199 --> 00:07:33,999table for the mayor or the police chief to meet with protesters

12700:07:34,399 --> 00:07:39,032of a national story here in Akron, Ohio.

12800:07:40,632 --> 00:07:44,599Jayland Walker was the story

12900:07:44,599 --> 00:07:48,866in the United States of Americaof police brutality.

13000:07:48,866 --> 00:07:51,299After missing an opportunityto meet with community activists

13100:07:51,299 --> 00:07:52,932and protest organizers last week,

13200:07:52,932 --> 00:07:56,766the mayor and police chief on Monday saidthey had no immediate plans to try again,

13300:07:57,066 --> 00:08:02,232but each expressed a willingness to doso if the opportunity arises.

13400:08:02,866 --> 00:08:05,266Horrigan said his office continuesto communicate with the U.S.

13500:08:05,266 --> 00:08:08,432Department of Justice officials,who set a meeting for Thursday.

13600:08:09,066 --> 00:08:11,099"I don't personally have a timetable

13700:08:13,832 --> 00:08:15,032of when they may

13800:08:15,032 --> 00:08:19,532or may not happen,"

13900:08:19,532 --> 00:08:21,799Dan Horrigan

14000:08:22,766 --> 00:08:24,132has said.

14100:08:24,232 --> 00:08:26,666He does not feel now is appropriate.

14200:08:26,666 --> 00:08:29,566A time to give a state of the city address

14300:08:30,666 --> 00:08:33,432because we can't shy away

14400:08:33,432 --> 00:08:37,332from difficult conversations.

14500:08:38,132 --> 00:08:40,866How does that even register?

14600:08:41,099 --> 00:08:43,432How does that even make sense?

14700:08:47,199 --> 00:08:50,232In response,

14800:08:50,432 --> 00:08:52,666Black elected officials of Summit County.

14900:08:53,299 --> 00:08:53,966Oops.

15000:08:53,966 --> 00:08:56,532Hold on. Sorry.

15100:08:57,199 --> 00:08:59,266Where to go? Oh, I lost it.

15200:08:59,732 --> 00:09:02,966The Black officials of Summit Countyhave put out a statement

15300:09:03,332 --> 00:09:05,332saying they are going to.

15400:09:06,132 --> 00:09:09,032They are putting together a

15500:09:09,632 --> 00:09:12,032something to go on the ballot

15600:09:12,866 --> 00:09:15,632for police oversight.

15700:09:15,799 --> 00:09:17,632That is their plan.

15800:09:17,632 --> 00:09:21,866That's what the Black leaders of Akron,Ohio, want.

15900:09:22,066 --> 00:09:23,199Okay.

16000:09:23,199 --> 00:09:25,232This is what they want.

16100:09:25,766 --> 00:09:31,199When you ask Black leaders of Akron, Ohioand Summit County what they want.

16200:09:31,366 --> 00:09:37,732They want police oversightbecause they will tell you they are tired

16300:09:39,666 --> 00:09:41,966of getting killed

16400:09:41,966 --> 00:09:44,166by the police

16500:09:46,099 --> 00:09:49,099with no oversight.

16600:09:49,166 --> 00:09:51,432The Black electedofficials of Summit County support

16700:09:51,432 --> 00:09:54,399a ballot initiative to amend Akron'sCharter to establish an independent

16800:09:54,399 --> 00:09:58,132citizen's oversight board and guidelinesto improve police and community relations.

16900:09:59,166 --> 00:10:01,666All right.

17000:10:01,866 --> 00:10:03,166They're encouraging the city council

17100:10:03,166 --> 00:10:06,199and all of the cities of Akronto support amending the charter.

17200:10:06,199 --> 00:10:13,132So why do Black elected

17300:10:13,132 --> 00:10:16,299officials of Summit Countyhave to do this,

17400:10:16,832 --> 00:10:19,899have to go over the head of the mayor

17500:10:24,566 --> 00:10:27,866to get an oversight board

17600:10:28,166 --> 00:10:31,999as they're being gunned downin the streets of Akron, Ohio.

17700:10:32,632 --> 00:10:36,599But policethat don't have to wear nametags.

17800:10:37,199 --> 00:10:42,799Meanwhile, the budget came out

17900:10:43,532 --> 00:10:48,666and we are adding 60 more public safetyofficers,

18000:10:48,666 --> 00:10:51,76660 more public safety officers.

18100:10:53,466 --> 00:10:55,799I didn't see anywhere

18200:10:55,799 --> 00:11:00,799where Black electedofficials wanted 60 more cops

18300:11:03,366 --> 00:11:03,932that don't

18400:11:03,932 --> 00:11:08,165wear name tags.

18500:11:08,932 --> 00:11:11,632It is madness. Now,

18600:11:12,799 --> 00:11:16,832one metricthat Dan Horrigan has always wanted

18700:11:16,832 --> 00:11:20,732since the beginningwas to increase the population of Akron.

18800:11:20,732 --> 00:11:23,899He has said repeatedlyhe doesn't want to manage

18900:11:23,899 --> 00:11:26,432the decline of Akron.

19000:11:27,365 --> 00:11:30,399Here is the population trend

19100:11:30,932 --> 00:11:34,199since 1860.

19200:11:34,199 --> 00:11:35,699Of Akron

19300:11:36,632 --> 00:11:39,265in 1960, we had a peak population

19400:11:39,265 --> 00:11:41,432of 290,000 people.

19500:11:42,465 --> 00:11:45,665Every year, Dan Horrigan has been mayor.

19600:11:45,665 --> 00:11:47,899Our population has declined.

19700:11:49,232 --> 00:11:51,999Our population is in decline.

19800:11:52,732 --> 00:11:55,765And I believe our city is in decline.

19900:11:55,765 --> 00:12:00,765Because we are not addressingthe fundamental issues

20000:12:03,665 --> 00:12:06,132of Akron.

20100:12:06,632 --> 00:12:10,399On my wallI keep a picture of a man named Rickey.

20200:12:11,099 --> 00:12:11,799This is art.

20300:12:11,799 --> 00:12:15,565Actually, the art behind meis also from a homeless woman

20400:12:15,832 --> 00:12:18,832that is a wonderful artist named DonnieJean.

20500:12:19,532 --> 00:12:21,665This is Rickey. Okay.

20600:12:21,932 --> 00:12:25,132Now I keep Rickey on my wall

20700:12:25,332 --> 00:12:28,932because this is Rickey story.

20800:12:29,432 --> 00:12:36,932I had never met Rickey before,but Rickey was one of four Black men

20900:12:37,265 --> 00:12:41,599that were denied hotel vouchersby Community Support Services.

21000:12:41,632 --> 00:12:46,699Okay, so what happenedwas the city of Akron goes around and does

21100:12:48,432 --> 00:12:50,032camp sweeps of homeless people.

21200:12:50,032 --> 00:12:54,365They just they're thereon an extermination process of just

21300:12:54,599 --> 00:12:58,832eradicating the view of homeless peopleanywhere in Akron, Ohio.

21400:12:59,065 --> 00:13:02,032And so there was a camp sweep

21500:13:02,032 --> 00:13:05,065where theythey cleaned out the entire camp,

21600:13:05,565 --> 00:13:12,799except for four Black men, everyone else.

21700:13:12,832 --> 00:13:15,532Now, there were Black menthat did get the hotel vouchers,

21800:13:15,665 --> 00:13:22,332but the people that were left werefor Black men, one of which was Rickey.

21900:13:23,099 --> 00:13:27,932And the reason Community Support Servicessaid they did not give Rickey

a voucher

22000:13:28,099 --> 00:13:31,332was because he had no addiction issues
22100:13:32,832 --> 00:13:36,399and thereforehe was not eligible for a hotel.
22200:13:37,699 --> 00:13:40,232They told Rickeyto go to the Haven of Rest,
22300:13:40,232 --> 00:13:43,765which is an extremist religiousChristian organization.
22400:13:44,232 --> 00:13:46,832Rickey said that he doesn't go
22500:13:46,832 --> 00:13:50,432to the Haven of Restfor religious differences.
22600:13:51,165 --> 00:13:54,432I don't know what Rickeyhis religious persuasion is,
22700:13:54,665 --> 00:14:00,165but it does not jive withthe only men's shelter in Akron, Ohio,
22800:14:00,332 --> 00:14:03,165that requires you to pray to a Christian
22900:14:03,165 --> 00:14:06,332God three times a day for food and a bed.
23000:14:07,932 --> 00:14:09,399He also does not
23100:14:09,399 --> 00:14:12,332agree with the group showersthat have no privacy.
23200:14:12,599 --> 00:14:16,432There are no doors on the toiletsand a lack of cleanliness
23300:14:16,699 --> 00:14:22,532and not being able to have his phoneafter lights out at 8 p.m.,
23400:14:22,532 --> 00:14:26,299I think it's actually 8:30,but he said 8pm. I think
23500:14:26,299 --> 00:14:28,832technically it is 8:30.
23600:14:29,865 --> 00:14:36,132I take you back to this slide.
23700:14:38,265 --> 00:14:40,099The only men's shelter
23800:14:40,099 --> 00:14:45,265we have in Akron, Ohio, is a privately run
23900:14:46,199 --> 00:14:48,532homeless shelter
24000:14:48,799 --> 00:14:51,932that requires 21
24100:14:53,065 --> 00:14:55,299religious services a week
24200:14:56,599 --> 00:14:59,565if you want food and a bed,
24300:14:59,565 --> 00:15:02,965how can that even be constitutionally
24400:15:03,232 --> 00:15:06,099permissible?
24500:15:06,099 --> 00:15:10,032We're spending \$25 million on parksthat homeless people
24600:15:10,032 --> 00:15:13,932are not allowed to be in.
24700:15:14,532 --> 00:15:19,132There is no homeless allocation of money.
24800:15:19,999 --> 00:15:23,132Budget stabilization.
24900:15:23,332 --> 00:15:26,665Giving \$3 million of repair money
25000:15:26,665 --> 00:15:30,032to homeowners.
25100:15:30,032 --> 00:15:32,799And this little thing downhere, violence prevention
25200:15:34,199 --> 00:15:36,432work.
25300:15:36,799 --> 00:15:40,432This is utter and
25400:15:40,432 --> 00:15:42,599total madness.
25500:15:44,599 --> 00:15:47,565Daniel Horrigan is literally fiddling
25600:15:47,565 --> 00:15:49,899while his city burns.
25700:15:51,265 --> 00:15:55,332He is literally giving people parks
25800:15:56,732 --> 00:16:00,532as they starve and cannot afford housing.
25900:16:01,832 --> 00:16:05,732It's Marie Antoinette all over again.
26000:16:08,199 --> 00:16:09,565Dan Horrigan
26100:16:09,565 --> 00:16:13,465does not care about the people of Akron
26200:16:13,532 --> 00:16:17,565and how he chooses to spend the city'smoney proves it.
26300:16:19,099 --> 00:16:22,265I give the state of the city an F.
26400:16:24,132 --> 00:16:30,165There is countless timeswhere we have had missed opportunities
26500:16:30,465 --> 00:16:32,699where we could right the ship
26600:16:33,665 --> 00:16:36,665and all we are doing is building parks
26700:16:37,032 --> 00:16:40,732and covering up budget allocationmistakes.
26800:16:42,265 --> 00:16:44,465Utter and complete madness.
26900:16:45,032 --> 00:16:49,632The city of Akron gets an F.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/hope-in-the-nightmare/>

og:title Content: Hope in the Nightmare - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: August 22, 2022

Blog Post Content:

There is so much going on in this Akron Beacon Journal article. The thoughts and feelings it stirs up in me are an overwhelming stew of mess and complication.

Let me just vomit some thoughts on you:

FIRST: you can't read it unless you pay for it. If you can afford this paper BUY IT! But what about everyone in Akron that can't afford the subscription? Undoubtedly, they are going to be a very high percentage of Black people that really should have access to this story. EVERYONE ON FOODSTAMPS WHO LIVES IN AKRON SHOULD GET A FREE ONLINE SUBSCRIPTION.

SECOND: I heard a rumor that there are more layoffs coming to the Beacon. If we don't support this paper our city will go dark. It's going to make the powerful more powerful. And the people will suffer more than they already do. BUY THE PAPER IF YOU CAN.

THIRD: based on what I read in this article and another article about the Stand Your Ground law that exists in Ohio, I believe Deshawn Stafford Jr., 20; Tyler Stafford, 19; and Donovan Jones, 21 should be set free. Ethan's parents (whose father is a minister) want their pound of flesh, however. They want to see "justice." These 3 men were cornered in a 10 foot high fenced-in basketball court. They were being shot with dozens of frozen gel pellets. One man had already been shot before with a real gun. They felt they were under attack.

The basketball players thought at first it was a real drive-by shooting and tried to run, but had nowhere to go because they were fenced in.

As some of Liming's friends ran, Liming picked up a pellet gun and fired it again at the basketball group, striking the elder Stafford in the face.

FOURTH: Liming and his friends were all athletes. The basketball group were not. The man who is accused of throwing the bunch that knocked Liming to the ground — is only 5-foot-5-inches tall and weighs 120 pounds. ETHAN DIED BECAUSE HIS HEAD HIT THE PAVEMENT. It was not because of some "brutal" beating that the police chief made it out to be.

FIFTH: The police chief did his first ever press conference to make the case that "Ethan Liming did not deserve to die that night at that point based on what we know now."

Akron police told reporters Liming died after being "brutally assaulted" after a fight on the basketball court. There was no mention that day that Liming and his friends first shot gel pellets at the basketball players.

SIXTH, Ethan's friends ran away after calling 911. They left their friend dead on the pavement. The only reason you do something like that is because you know you are in serious trouble. These high school boys were driving around Akron in Liming's Kia with one or two gel pellet guns, lots of gel pellet ammunition and two bags of marijuana and a digital scale in the glove box.

SEVEN: In a study of self defense cases that happened after that, the Urban Institute found that cases with a white perpetrator and a Black victim were 281% more likely to be ruled justified than cases with a white perpetrator and white victim.

It's just all so much.

Here are my thoughts and feelings as raw and unfiltered as I can give them to you:

I wish those boys with the pellet guns had gotten the shit beaten out of them worse than they actually did.

The entitlement of these kids is beyond imagination. I SO deeply wish for everyone's sake that Ethan hadn't died. Street fights are so much more terrifying than most people think. And it's exactly because of what happened here. Hitting your head is deadly. If you can't see the racist bias our police chief has in this case you are both blind and dumb. He did not need to make ANY kind of biased statement whatsoever about this case. The press release you do is simple: "We are deeply sorry that this tragic situation has happened in our city. We will work tirelessly to bring justice to the situation." Then you exist stage left and get back to work. The white supremacist group National Justice Party (NJP) that came here to demand the Black basketball players face hate crime charges for killing a white person are just creating a false flag operation to rile up white supremacists across the nation.

I have several white supremacist friends. I can appreciate their desire for heritage and tradition. But this kind of race baiting is so hurtful to their cause. Every white supremacist I talk to tells me the same thing: I have no problem with other races. I just want to be with White people. (I tell them to move to Wadsworth or Hudson. We have plenty of places like that right here in Northeast Ohio.)

All I see is everyone's pain and suffering. I sometimes feel like that scene in one of those Superman movies where Superman flies to space and just hears all the cries of humanity. I see pain and suffering constantly. Hate and anger is just pain and suffering leaving the mind. They are all so hurt and the only thing they can think of is to make other people hurt just a little more like they hurt. Ethan's parents lost their son. White supremacists are losing their country. Progressives are trying to bring justice to people who have never seen

justice in the first place. Chief Mylett has a very stressful job... Akron is a raw, rust belt inner city. He's from the west coast and likely is shell shocked with what he got himself into here.

I think this all could be good. Like REALLY good.

It feels like we are vomiting up all the wrongs of the world right now. And many of us are starting to be able to empathize with more and more people. We need MORE of these situations to come to light that are representative of wrongs that have always existed in America.

My wife and I were just talking about how a church is handling a pedophile entering their community. They want to support the man and they want to support the women who are afraid of him. What a beautiful tragedy that situation is. I believe they will figure it out.

This is my message to you: If you are in a place where you can hold peace and love and empathy for others who maybe don't even deserve it: DO SO. But if you only have anger and hate because of where you are in your life please know that's ok too. Just try not to physically hurt yourself and others along the way. And if you are a warrior for justice: go get 'em tiger. We need more people like you in the world.

I love you. Today I see hope in the nightmare.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/shammas-malick-will-run-for-akron-mayor-and-win/>

og:title Content: Shammas Malik Will Run for Akron Mayor and Win - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: August 29, 2022

Blog Post Content:

The rumor is that Shammas Malik is going to announce his run for Akron mayor next week.

I'm going to support him. And then I'm going to run for Ward 8 City Council. That is the Ward he currently holds.

Shammas Malik will win because he is a money magnet. He raised about \$50,000 for a Ward seat where most people raise next to nothing. He's brown. He's Harvard educated. He will easily raise the \$200,000-\$500,000 he will need to win this race. (The only thing he's politically missing is that he's not a woman. Otherwise, he's perfect.)

No one will be able to beat Shammas. He's too driven and too politically perfect. Harvard Law Students are some of the most competitive, aggressive people you will ever meet. (They often don't present that way. They usually like to make it look like they are soft and kind and gentle. Make no mistake. They are Wolves in Sheep's clothing.)

But Shammas is a good Wolf. He cares about the people. He will be a very positive force in Akron. I am looking forward to a Shammas Malik administration.

And then there's me.

I am everything Shammas is not. I'm a wolf in wolf's clothing. I am a terrible politician. I swear. I am angry. I rage against the machine like a pit bull. I am Truth To Power.

Shammas doesn't like me because of those things. He doesn't believe it "proper" to be so course.

He likes everyone to be civilized and polite. I know how to use an indoor toilet. That's about the extent of my civility.

Shammas berates the people because he wants "civil discourse." Shammas doesn't know the first thing of what it means to be Black or extremely poor in Akron Ohio. He will fight for those people while chastising them for being too angry. (I don't know what it's like to be poor or Black either. But I do know one thing: It's SUPER fucked up and they don't need another "leader" telling them all the things they are doing wrong.)

There is not ONE THING a Black person or poor person could do that would be unjustified for what the racist power mongers have done to them in the last 198 years in Akron Ohio. (Shammas will oversee the Bicentennial of Akron (2025) during his first and probably last Akron mayoral administration because he will be moving up the political ladder.)

I believe Akronites could be WAY more angry than they currently are. A riot is the language of the unheard. And the majority of this city's residents are nothing if not unheard.

I have 2 agendas for Shammas before he moves beyond Akron:

Stop belittling and berating the people. It makes you look like an elitist snob. (not only is it condescending to the people, it also is going to be an easy target for much better politicians than Akron politicians.) Stiffen up that handshake. There is nothing worse than a wet noodle handshake.

I don't mind verbally punching Shammas. Because when I punch Shammas I'm always punching up. He's better than me. When I punch Dan Horrigan I always feel a little icky about it because I feel like I'm punching down. He is NOT better than me.

But Shammas doesn't like it because his skin is still pretty thin. It may always be. But he needs to toughen

up. He should know from his Harvard days that Akron is a VERY small pond. And he's a big fish. Eventually, he's only going to swim with big fish. And they are sharks.
I set all of this up to say one thing: I AM NOT EVER GOING TO LIE TO YOU. You are always going to get what you get from me and that's all you are ever going to get.
The last time I checked, voters were all 18 years or older. We are all adults here. You can handle a little swearing from time to time. Grow the fuck up.
I am Truth to Power. I say things that you want to say but can't because it's too dangerous for you. I think it's the number one reason people like Donald Trump. He tells the truth (that he believes).
I am a leftist populist. I am Donald Trump for the Left. I am for the people. And the people have always been royally fucked. I am not going to keep my mouth shut because I think it might be strategically prudent. If I believe it I'm going to say it. I think that's what's missing the most in politics today. These politicians are slimy snakes in the grass that will say and do anything to stay in office.
Elect me. Don't elect me. I have a full life either way.
If you want someone that will fight to the death for ALL people you want me. If you want someone that lies to you so that you feel better about the world there are countless politicians out there you can choose from. I know I am yet again irritating Shammass because he surely has some highly crafted "launch" strategy for his mayoral campaign announcement. But he'll get over it (or not. I don't really care.)
You should vote for Shammass Malick in the May 2023 Democratic mayoral primary. And I'll be on the ballot right there with him in Ward 8.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/i-put-the-city-of-akron-budget-online/>
og:title Content: Sage's City of Akron Budget Spreadsheet - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist
Blog Post Date: August 31, 2022

Blog Post Content:

I'm not sure why I get attracted to one idea or the next. But I woke up today and decided to make a spreadsheet for the Annual budget for Akron city.
City Council actually voted to allocate money to put the budget online. But they have not done it.
So here is a spreadsheet for the Akron City Budget. It has data from 2018.
The city has their budgets online from 1994. But the problem is that they are all in PDF format within hundreds of pages of narrative. So, digging out the numbers is really challenging.
Here are those budgets if you'd like to see them:
2021 Budget Plan (pdf)2020 Budget Plan (pdf)2019 Budget Plan (pdf)2018 Budget Plan (pdf)2017 Budget Plan (pdf)2016 Budget Plan (pdf)2015 Budget Plan (pdf)2014 Budget Plan (pdf)2013 Budget Plan (pdf)2012 Budget Plan (pdf)2011 Budget Plan (pdf)2010 Budget Plan (pdf)2009 Budget Plan (pdf)2008 Budget Plan (pdf)2007 Budget Plan (pdf)2006 Budget Plan (pdf)2005 Budget Plan (pdf)2004 Budget Plan (pdf)2003 Budget Plan (pdf)2002 Budget Plan (pdf)2001 Budget Plan (pdf)2000 Budget Plan (pdf)1999 Budget Plan (pdf)1998 Budget Plan (pdf)1997 Budget Plan (pdf)1996 Budget Plan (pdf)1995 Budget Plan (pdf)1994 Budget Plan (pdf)
I undoubtedly will forget to update this next year, or even that I made this spreadsheet in the first place. But if you email me and remind me to do it I'll gladly keep this up to date.
If you'd like to see the data in different views, or if you'd like to see more data just let me know.
Have fun!
[CLICK HERE FOR THE CITY OF AKRON BUDGET SPREADSHEET](#)

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/where-does-he-get-his-money/>
og:title Content: Where Does He Get His Money? - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist
Blog Post Date: September 10, 2022

Blog Post Content:

Apparently the Akron Police Department has been asking my homeless friends where I get my money. My friends thought it was a strange question to ask and so they let me know the police were asking. It's strange because it sounds a little like an investigation. I mean, who in the government asks that question unless it's someone who is trying to uncover something?
So, considering the only other person besides myself who really knows "where I get my money from" is my wife, I thought I'd clear it all up for you. As much as I like my homeless friends, they don't have the slightest idea where my money comes from.

First, my day job is that of a marketer. I'm an Internet Marketer. I've been doing that since 1999. I'm happy to send you all my tax documents if you'd like. But here is what I've made in the last 365 days from that business:

I then have rental properties.

That's about \$22,000 a year.

Sometimes I get some W2 money. Let's call that about \$15,000/year.

So, that's \$143,196.44, roughly.

Then my wife is an executive and makes that money. She hates when I talk about our money publicly. So I'm not going to divulge what she makes.

That's my personal money. That's where MY money comes from.

Now let's talk about our Charities. The Church of the Nomadic Spirit and The Houseless Movement.

We have 3 tenants in our house that pay \$300/month each. That's a total of \$900/month.

And then we have monthly donors that send us about \$836/month.

So, the charities currently bring in: \$20,832 annually. I then do fundraisers mostly on Facebook for certain things. Those are not regular income. But if you'd like me to get those numbers for you, I'd be happy to do that for you.

As a charity, our expenses are a water bill, electric bill, gas bill and a little property tax. We have no paid employees. I don't take any money personally from the charities. As I said before, I have my own money.

IS THAT ENOUGH MONEY FOR YOU, ASSHOLES?

Now, let's talk about the questions behind the question?

"Is Sage doing illegal work?" "Is Sage selling drugs?" "Is Sage selling women?"

There have been these rumors in the homeless community for years.

A current rumor is that I'm sending women to Florida as sex slaves. The rumor is that there is a phone number on the water heater in the basement of our house of a guy in Florida who I send these women to. (The only non-Akron number on that water heater is a New York number of a guy who brings dog and cat food to homeless people with pets (he moved from NYC to Akron and that's why he still has an out of town phone number. There is no Florida number on the water heater.)) What I hate most about all these rumors is how insulting they are to me. What kind of idiot would leave his great "cover" business as an Internet Marketer and become a VERY public face of the homeless community? If I was an actual drug dealer or sex dealer there is no way in hell that I'd be so public about my relationships with my clientele. I mean I watched Breaking Bad. I'd want to be Gus Fring who owns a bunch of chicken restaurants and runs a mastermind drug business. THAT's the kind of drug dealer I'd want to be. Who wants to be on the street? These people talk about their drug dealers constantly. These customers can't keep their mouths shut. And most street level drug dealers make terrible money. They really would do better working at Amazon. But they like the freedom and excitement of drug-dealer entrepreneurship. I get it. If they are happy, I'm happy for them. But it's not for me.

I really think the pimp business died mostly with the 80s. These women are sick of giving all their money to some man that gives very limited services in return. All my sex worker friends that I know just sell direct.

Again, I find this whole idea insulting. I would have much higher aspirations than trafficking homeless women. I'd want to be one of those high end guys. Sex is going for \$20 a service in my neighborhood. Who wants the hassle of that business unless they have no other options?

But I've never EVER done any of this. (Not that I have any problem with people who do.)

Based on my entire knowledge of illegal business that I have gotten from "The Godfather" and "The Wire" and "Peaky Blinders", it seems to me that illegal business is something you are always trying to get out of in exchange for legitimate business. Why would I have legitimate businesses in exchange for low-level illegal businesses? Do you really take me as that kind of complete idiot?

But here is the real base of it all:

I WANT TO BE THE GOOD GUY.

I look around and see so many shitty leaders. They all seem so corrupt and just out for themselves. And their lying. They lie and lie and lie.

At the very least, I don't want to lie to you. (I guess you'd have no way of knowing if I really am a low level drug dealer and pimp, other than the facts I've given above of why I wouldn't want that life. I think it's impossible to prove that you haven't done something.) One of the reasons I swear so much publicly is because I swear all the time privately. I refuse to pretend to be something I'm not.

Here's the truth:

I haven't had a sip of alcohol since 2003 (before then I drank enough for my entire life a dozen times over.) I

had a DUI many years ago. I stopped drinking and driving after that (I did it A LOT before then). But I didn't quit drinking for quite some time after that. This is no longer on my record. I probably paid a lawyer to get it expunged at some point. I don't remember. But I am very willing to admit to this crime. It was very pivotal to me. I have tried pot maybe a dozen times in my life. I want to like it. But it just freaks me out. I haven't tried it again in many years. I really enjoy being "on planet" these days more than being high. I did LSD one time in college. It was amazing. I might try hallucinogens later in my life. I take 40mg of citalopram (the generic of Celexa). It is a Selective Serotonin Reuptake Inhibitor (SSRI) used to treat anxiety and depression. I've been on it for years and love it. I have never cheated on my wife. I make a point of no longer even so much as shaking a woman's hand. Between the #MeToo movement and Covid I see no reason to physically touch anyone. I help homeless people more out of an outrage of a torturous system than as some form of kindness and love. I very much enjoy being with homeless people because they are so raw and real. Middle class people annoy me endlessly with their "problems." I am often extremely angry due to the betrayal of my father leaving my mother and myself when I was 7. I just can't shake it. But this wound has given me many useful characteristics. I'm driven and competitive and funny and responsible and disciplined. It's all because my father left. I hate authority. I rage against it's cruelty and inhumanity. Again, this is all due to my father. I am often very angry at God. Again, thanks dad. I am impulsive and rash. I can drastically change my mind in an instant. It's terrifying to anyone who relies on my stability. Being a good husband and a good father is probably the most important thing in my life. I see your suffering constantly. The more people hate you the more attracted I am to you. Pedophiles and white supremacists are probably the people I'm most attracted to right now in my life. But women and Black people are the oppressed people I am willing to fight to the death for. I measure my worth to the world based on what John Brown would think of me. I often ask myself if John Brown would think I was doing enough to help people. People often believe that John Brown is the most consequential son of Summit County. I'd love to be the second most consequential son of Summit County. I totally get the desire of Achilles wanting immortality and fame. I'm not afraid to die. I'm afraid of disappearing. But at the same time, I have accepted the impermanence of my existence. I just hate it. I have never sold any drugs EVER. I have never bought any drugs EVER. Any illegal drugs I have taken (pot and LSD as mentioned above) were given to me. I have never sold anyone for sex EVER. I have never bought anyone for sex EVER.

THAT IS THE GOD'S HONEST TRUTH OF IT ALL.

I guess I could endlessly build that list. But the point of it all is to make this point: I want to be the good guy. And I'm just a guy. I'm not a god. I'm not a shaman. I'm just a guy. That's particularly important so that you can't easily escape my message. You can sideline a saint. But you can't sideline an average person that has the desire of trying to be a good guy. I want you to ask, "If Sage can do all this stuff, what could I do?"

I have virtually no fantasy of making any real meaningful change in the system other than maybe making you think about your place on Earth and what you are doing with your time here. The system will do what the system does. I can't change that. All I can do is do me.

Is that enough APD?

Next time you want to know something, don't ask someone who has no idea about my life. Just ask me. I'll be glad to give it you. (SOMETIMES I HATE YOU GUYS SO FUCKING MUCH. FUCK YOU, APD!)

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/sex-trafficking/>

og:title Content: SEX TRAFFICKING - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: September 12, 2022

Blog Post Content:

From what I know about the homeless community, this is the kind of sex trafficking that goes on...

Yesterday I came up on 2 very serious guys. One Black. One White. They were squaring off on each other. I asked them what was going on. The Black guy said that the White guy had taken on the debt of a woman (\$100).

This woman is not dumb by any stretch of the imagination. She is both book smart and street smart. She was given drugs on credit by the Black guy.

A woman who does this is almost always planning on paying for the drugs with services. \$100 is a HUGE number in the homeless community. Sex work sells for about \$20 per service in my neighborhood. So she was easily looking at 5 services plus probably some interest.

My guess is that she didn't want to have sex with the guy that she bought the drugs from (I've never seen her with a Black guy. I don't think she's particularly racist. I just don't think that's what's she's in to.)

So she sold the debt to the White guy. (I have no idea where he's going to come up with \$100. He has a severe gambling addiction. Nearly every dollar he gets goes into a tap tap machine or scratch off.) But I suspect he's willing to take the debt and not worry about the consequences of what happens of not paying it back. (These 2 guys are equally muscular, strong and violent. And the Black guy can be pretty mentally unstable at times. It could get ugly.)

So that's where we are in this story.

I suspect the woman will "pay" up on the debt with the White guy. I've known him to do incredibly violent and cruel things to people. No one in our community would ever think they could get out of a debt to this guy. She knew EXACTLY what she was getting into when she sold her debt to this guy.

But in another situation this is where things get complicated. I think sometimes a woman makes this deal and then doesn't want to do the trade.

They are dealing with drug dealers. A drug dealer is a capitalist that collects on debts. It's a matter of pride and respect, more than anything.

So, a woman gets in this situation and then is forced to pay. It looks like rape. And considering that she is forced to have sex against her will, it meets the definition of rape. It's a mess. I've bought debts for a few women in my time, to get them out of these brutal situations. But I certainly can't do it all the time. I'd go broke.

I am not here to give you a moral to this story. I am here to just tell you the story in case you aren't familiar with the situation.

I tell everyone, men and women: DON'T OWE THE DOPE BOY. But they just keep doing it because they think they can pay it off. The dope boy knows they aren't going to be able to pay it off and then they have created a slave. It's not always about sex. For men, it's often about becoming a weapon that will attack the dope boy's enemies.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/the-biggest-loser/>

og:title Content: The Biggest Loser - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: September 16, 2022

Blog Post Content:

I might be the biggest loser you have ever met.

I lose at every turn for wanting to do something so basic and fundamental as giving shelter to people that desperately need shelter.

One of my great friends and profound advisors, Jamie Johns, has made it very clear that what I am doing is "unwinnable."

Of course, I'm going to lose over and over and over again. In fact, gaining even an inch of ground would be earth-shattering.

This is the truth of the system. "Assimilate or die."

"Life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness" was written by a bunch of revolutionary kids. The adults have long since taken over and we can't be so naïve to believe such childish ideas.

But they are wrong. The revolutionaries are right. We must never stop fighting for the rights of being able to live the way we choose to live in our own country. In, of all places, the United States of Fucking America.

I. WILL. NOT. QUIT!

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/democrats-are-the-true-threat-to-homeless-people/>

og:title Content: Democrats Are The True Threat To Homeless People - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: September 20, 2022

Blog Post Content:

Here's the Headline and article summary:

New York City Mayor Eric Adams Considers Housing Migrants on Cruise Ships New York City's shelter system has been overwhelmed with new arrivals, but advocates for the homeless say the idea is insulting.

This is the response Democrats give EVERY time: "It just seems absurd that the city would consider cruise ships once again as a solution to the homelessness crisis," she said. "We know what the solution is — it's permanent affordable housing."

Someone comes up with a new idea for sheltering homeless people and then the Democrats ALWAYS come back with this response: "Permanent Affordable Housing" is the only answer. There is no other answer. Not tiny houses (they call them shacks). Not tents (they say they are beneath human dignity) . Not luxury cruise

ships (they say they are insulting.)

And meanwhile, homeless New Yorkers go around at dusk looking for cardboard boxes to sleep on. They don't have ANY cover like a tarp (It's probably inhumane to give them a tarp). I'm quite sure the Democrats would love to eradicate cardboard from New York, if they could.

ASK FUCKING HOMELESS PEOPLE WHAT THEY WANT!

Take a guy who sleeps on a piece of cardboard every night in New York if he'd like a private room on a cruise ship. I am willing to bet every dollar I own that he would say that's an improvement.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/tyrone-brown-in-akron-ohio-is-incredibly-important/>

og:title Content: Tyrone Brown in Akron Ohio Is Incredibly Important - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: September 21, 2022

Blog Post Content:

The Tyrone Brown case might be even more important than the Jayland Walker case in Akron (Who was unarmed and was shot over 40 times by Akron police).

There are some BIG claims on both sides.

The police are saying they did nothing wrong. Rev. Ray Greene of Akron's Freedom BLOC and Jayland Walker's attorney, Bobby DiCello (who is now Tyrone Brown's attorney) say the police took Tyrone away from the scene, took him to I Promise school and beat him unconscious.

The police say there are video footage of the entire time Tyrone Brown was in their custody.

If the police are correct and Tyrone made it up, that is likely going to seriously damage the movement of police reform and the validity of injustice against Black people (like yelling rape and lying about it.)

If Tyrone is correct and the police are lying then we will get (and rightfully deserve) another uprising in Akron.

Maybe there is a third truth between the two.

I don't know Tyrone. So I can't comment on his character.

But I do know Rev. Ray Greene. He's an important player in social justice here in Akron. He clearly believes Tyrone. Which makes me want to believe Tyrone. (If Tyrone is lying this fact makes the event even more tragic for the movement.)

KNOW THIS: Akron is a serious city. As serious as Baltimore or Detroit. We are living in serious times that could have very serious consequences for the political landscape locally and civil rights that could shape the entire country.

Tyrone sounds authentic. I just pray he's not lying.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/sage-against-the-machine-podcast-episode-96/>

og:title Content: Sage Against The Machine Podcast - Episode 96 - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: September 8, 2022

Blog Post Content: The Machine Makes Me Want To Kill Myself.

You can listen to the audio here:

If you have missed any shows they are now archived in a podcast. You can check them out on my blog. Or you can get them on your favorite podcasting platform.

Sage Against The Machine on Spotify

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URL: <https://sagelewis.com/sage-against-the-machine-podcast-episode-95/>

og:title Content: Let's talk about the lawsuit the city has against me: Order for Preliminary Injunction - City Of Akron v Houseless Movement - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: September 1, 2022

Blog Post Content: Let's talk about the lawsuit the city of Akron Ohio has against me: Order for Preliminary Injunction - City Of Akron v Houseless Movement

You can see the lawsuit here:

[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1YkAkcXWQGMic5vUW1Jk03UWytDehappj/edit?](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1YkAkcXWQGMic5vUW1Jk03UWytDehappj/edit?usp=sharing&oid=116437168519004876189&rtpof=true&sd=true)

[usp=sharing&oid=116437168519004876189&rtpof=true&sd=true](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1YkAkcXWQGMic5vUW1Jk03UWytDehappj/edit?usp=sharing&oid=116437168519004876189&rtpof=true&sd=true)

If you want to just hear me talk about this lawsuit it's at minute 23. Or you can click this link:

<https://youtu.be/IFpP-gw3XUk?t=1376>

You can listen to the audio here:

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URL: <https://sagelewis.com/sage-against-the-machine-podcast-episode-94/>

og:title Content: Sage Against The Machine Podcast - Episode 94 - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: August 25, 2022

Blog Post Content: If you aren't physically hurting anyone you deserve a place in society.

You can listen to the audio here:

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URL: <https://sagelewis.com/sage-against-the-machine-podcast-episode-93/>

og:title Content: Sage Against The Machine Podcast - Episode 93 - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: August 18, 2022

Blog Post Content: On being racist.

You can listen to the audio here:

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URL: <https://sagelewis.com/sage-against-the-machine-podcast-episode-92/>

og:title Content: Sage Against The Machine Podcast - Episode 92 - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: August 11, 2022

Blog Post Content: Should you be allowed to live in a tent?

You can listen to the audio here:

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you can get them on your favorite podcasting platform.

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URL: <https://sagelewis.com/sage-against-the-machine-podcast-episode-91/>

og:title Content: Sage Against The Machine Podcast - Episode 91 - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: August 4, 2022

Blog Post Content: Judgmental Assholes

You can listen to the audio here:

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Sage Against The Machine on Spotify

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Sage Against The Machine on Apple Podcasts

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/sage-against-the-machine-podcast-episode-90/>

og:title Content: Sage Against The Machine Podcast - Episode 90 - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: July 28, 2022

Blog Post Content: "You need psychological help."

You can listen to the audio here:

If you have missed any shows they are now archived in a podcast. You can check them out on my blog. Or you can get them on your favorite podcasting platform.

Sage Against The Machine on Spotify

Sage Against The Machine on Stitcher

Sage Against The Machine Podcast on Amazon Music

Sage Against The Machine on TuneIn

Sage Against The Machine on Apple Podcasts

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/sage-against-the-machine-podcast-episode-97/>

og:title Content: Sage Against The Machine Podcast - Episode 97 - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: September 22, 2022

Blog Post Content: Today is a bright new day in Akron Ohio

You can listen to the audio here:

If you have missed any shows they are now archived in a podcast. You can check them out on my blog. Or you can get them on your favorite podcasting platform.

Sage Against The Machine on Spotify

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URL: <https://sagelewis.com/the-draw-of-the-street/>

og:title Content: THE DRAW OF THE STREET - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: September 24, 2022

Blog Post Content:

THE DRAW OF THE STREET

Something we aren't discussing much when we discuss homelessness and addiction is how the street pulls you in.

And it's not just homeless people, addicted people and drug dealers. It's cops and homeless helpers and harm reduction people. It's me.

The street has a small amount of high risk. You probably won't die. But you could.

It's like skydiving and other risky activities. You get the rush. You get the focus of doing something exciting and engaging.

And the only option we are giving these people is quitting everything. Quit drugs. Quit the adventure. Quit your friends.

Become like the rest of us: Get in your box. Get in your job. Work a meaningless job until you are exhausted and then collapse on the couch to the drone of whatever is on Netflix. "It's what we all do. And look how happy we all are."

We have SO much left to understand about people that aren't us.

When a person quits long term homelessness and drug use people in the know will say that it only happens when "you are ready."

What they are saying is: the life on the street has lost its appeal. It has become too hard. I know that someday it will be too hard for me too. That day is no time soon for me. I love it too much. But someday I'll get old and tired. And I'll probably stop the street. The street will be too much to bear.

A woman I know was recently trapped by a guy for 2 days over a dispute about drugs. He thought she stole them. She says she didn't.

She was tired after that event. But she has too much fight left. I have a really hard time imagining her in the life of rent and a job.

Randy, on the other hand, pictured here, I think is different. He's 62. He said he didn't think he could do another winter on the street. He sounds ready to retire from the life. Lerryn is helping him with his social security. I think once he gets that I think I could see him move indoors.

If the street doesn't kill you, you will eventually quit that life. Otherwise, if we want to short circuit it we have to offer a more socially acceptable alternative that is equally as compelling.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/bay-area-research-on-the-effectiveness-of-tiny-homes/>

og:title Content: Bay Area Research on The Effectiveness of Tiny Homes. - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: September 26, 2022

Blog Post Content:

This is a really important article on the effectiveness of Tiny Homes for homeless people: Do trendy tiny really homes work as a solution to homelessness? (It's paywalled. So I'm giving you an overview here.) It's put out by Mercury News.

"To explore that question, the Bay Area News Group spent four months following several tiny home residents and analyzed three years of data from Santa Clara and Alameda – the counties with the Bay Area's largest homeless populations, and the two that have most fully embraced tiny homes – with the goal of determining how well the model works to get people into stable housing. "

The conclusion is that tiny homes are not the magic bullet to ending homelessness.

According to this article:

nearly 75% of participants did not find permanent housing. But 84% - 98% of shelters failed to lead to permanent housing.

The key reason is not the type of shelter. If you want people to get into housing you need one-on-one support. The support a person gets by another human being is the biggest factor to getting a person out of a tent and into a house.

Another big question mark is the amount of time a person is allowed to stay in the tiny house. These places only allow people to stay 2-6 months. Unwinding years of homelessness through an incredibly difficult system can take much longer than 6 months.

They followed one person, Robert Hernandez, in this study and found that he left his tiny house to go back to his "street family" because he worried about them.

Hernandez was one of 49 people to leave the Mabury Road tiny home site in San Jose over roughly two and

a half years and either return to the street or lose touch with case workers, according to HomeFirst, which runs the site. That means more than a quarter of people who left the site ended up homeless again or went to destinations unknown. Just over half went into permanent housing, and most of the rest ended up in other temporary shelters.

This person sums it up nicely:

What I hear from the experts is that this is a brutally challenging task – to help people who have been out on the street, in many cases, for many years, in many cases suffering from severe mental health challenges or substance abuse,” said San Jose Mayor Sam Liccardo, who has been a major supporter of tiny homes. “So of course, there’s going to be a significant number who are going to fail, and the lesson is not ‘OK, let’s stop.’ The lesson is, ‘It’s going to take multiple interventions.’”

This isn't just about "a house." This is about

community. "Street family" is all these people have left. It's everything to them. being stuck in a deep rut that pulls you back over and over again mental illness that makes the entire world confusing and nearly impossible to navigate addiction to many things like the street, gambling and drugs.

In my opinion, the first step is to triage these people. Get them some form of stability and safety immediately. Think of homelessness like a natural disaster because that's exactly what homelessness is. The type of structure people sleep in doesn't matter much at this stage. If it's dry and has some blankets, that's often times worlds better than what they have right now.

Then move them through a pyramid of opportunities. Each level up comes with benefits. And then you finally get them into a house.

We housed people find it hard to imagine that anyone would want to live differently than the way we live. But there are many forces at play in the world of homelessness. They have learned that a house comes with a lot of baggage like bills and rules that simply don't exist on the street.

The way I see it works something like this:

Emergency tent triage sites. If you don't steal from people and aren't violent, you can stay here (Yes, this means we need places for these people who can't manage in a community. I have ideas for them too.) Basic tiny houses with no utilities but porta potties and electricity are in the community. (These are for people who have gotten their IDs and have called 211.) Tiny Houses with electricity. (These are for people who have food cards and are actively working on housing. These people are also actively engaged with a mental health professional and some form of addiction program like AA. It's important to point out that these people don't need to be sober. They just have to be working some plan.) Traditional housing. (These are for people that have shown they actually are ready and want this. It is wasted effort and valuable resources to put someone in a house that doesn't want to be there. Trust me. There are people that don't want to be in a house. Even if they say they want to be in a house, sometimes their actions will show that they actually don't.

Homelessness is as much of an addiction as any drug.)

You will find that some people won't leave a certain step. Or they will slide down the process. That's totally ok. There also can be no time limits on any of these steps.

This model is more humane than anything we are currently doing. And it's better for the city. It's safer and a better public health solution than ignoring people and letting them fester in the woods.

I have run several tent encampments, and houses for homeless people. I've also written 2 books on the subject:

Out of the Shadows: An American Homeless Story The Homeless Activist

I know this community intimately and I've gotten to work with them in many different and interesting ways. I will gladly work with anyone that wants to even just discuss this incredibly interesting condition we call homelessness.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/1979-when-i-was-7/>

og:title Content: 1979, When I Was 7 - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: September 28, 2022

Blog Post Content:

I doubt I'll ever write an autobiography. It's like masturbating and asking people to watch. It's just a weird exercise for people who probably spent their entire lives looking for approval through some action they did. I'm not saying that I'm not one of those guys. I certainly am. But an autobiography just feels too extra and obvious.

I do love being talked about and written about, however. I've been in one documentary and I will probably be included in another one in the next couple of years. I can't get enough of that New York Times article that

they did on me. As far as I'm aware, the only modern-day Akronites that have been included in the New York Times were me and that lady who had ebola in her dress shop. I think she had 2 New York Times articles written about her. That makes me jealous. That means she's winning that game. I am very competitive. I don't mind losing. But I crave winning.

I pride myself on coming up with fresh new zingers when Doug Livingston from the Akron Beacon Journal calls. (That prideful "skill" likely has landed me in court with the city of Akron when I told Doug I'd just start buying up land all over Akron and put homeless people on it. They are currently trying to make it so that I will be in contempt of court if I put a tent on any residential land anywhere in Akron.)

I'm jealous of Harvey Milk getting to have Sean Penn portray him in his own feature film. I'm jealous of Petey Green's feature film. It's not lost on me that both of those guys were dead before their films were made. I am also not unaware of how little and petty this all makes me. Why can't I just be happy for them and play my own game?

I think if we peel back a layer or two it all becomes quickly apparent how fucked up we all are. I am so tired of everyone covering up their bullshit. The middle class is the worst at doing this. Mowed lawns, clean cars, picked up dog shit. But underneath they are addicted, depressed, and riddled with fear and anxiety. They know how easily all of their shiny shit could just blow away. It makes them extra insane.

I like to make a point of showing you my failings and weaknesses. I'm not ashamed of them in the least. They are some of the most important aspects of what makes me me.

I don't remember dates. But I remember this date and I say it over and over in my head: "1979, when I was 7."

That's a little strange because I was born in 1971. That should have made me 8. But my birthday is in September. So I would have been 7 for most of the year.

That was the year my dad left. (I've blocked him on Facebook so he doesn't have to read this stuff. But it's so important to who I am that I crave talking about it. It hurts me that he feels bad about hearing this stuff. It hurts me that he hurt me and my mom. I can't find an escape from the hurt. All paths lead to hurt when it comes to this topic.)

It all comes down to that year. 1979, when I was 7.

It's nothing particularly unique. Most of my friends' dads had left. I think it was just something guys did during that time. But it does something to you, at least it did for me.

It made me incredibly strong and independent. Those are the positive ways of saying that it also made me distant and a bottomless pit of needing to be approved by outside forces.

Neurosis is defined as a "poor ability to adapt to one's environment, an inability to change one's life patterns, and the inability to develop a richer, more complex, more satisfying personality." That has been most of my life. I'm neurotic.

It lead to my alcoholism, fierce competitiveness, and obsession with countless things. It made me who I am today. Good and bad.

The little game I like to play with myself is: If I could do it all over again, would I have rather had my dad than have become who I am today? I'm quite sure my dad would not have wanted me to go to college. And he certainly would have never given me cello lessons which lead to me getting a full ride to Baldwin-Wallace, which lead to me meeting my wife and having my kid. Those 2 people are the best things that have ever happened to me. Ever.

The most sick part of it is: Yes. I think I would have traded it all for my dad to stay and not leave when I was 7. That's so sad and fucked up. I'm glad it wasn't my choice. I certainly wouldn't have been able to have made it when I was 7 and I'm not entirely sure I would be able to make it today in 2022.

We all get forced into things in life. Cancer, dead parents, abusive parents. Just how much money our parents have was completely out of our control and yet is one of the biggest influences of our lives.

I'm not sure if I believe in free will much at all. The number of actual, unfiltered choices we have in our lives are not many or particularly impactful. My anger and sadness has pushed me through my life like a dark wind.

I like to imagine a Darth Vader who helps homeless people. He doesn't do it because he's filled with love. He does it because he's filled with rage at a system that has betrayed and used him. I can see Darth out in the field picking up trash and needles giving a big fuck-you middle-finger to the death star in the sky. That is much more me than some naïve whiney child like Luke Skywalker.

For most of us, I think that's about as enlightened as we get. Doing good through anger and rage and sadness. Who are these people like Jesus and the Buddha who are driven by divine love? Have you ever met one of them? I haven't.

Today is my birthday. I'm 51.

I tell you this story because life is nothing other than a journey. Do you know that game where they have you put your head on the top of a baseball bat planted in the ground. You run in circles around that baseball bat until you are about to puke. And then people make fun of you as you try to run in a straight line. I feel like that's what life does to you. It screws you up super bad until you are about 25 and then you spend the rest of your life trying to make sense of it all.

My kid is learning about Ikigai in high school. (No high schooler is ready to start piecing any of this together.) I am mindful of what the Japanese believe is the secret to a joyful life. It looks like this:

The idea is that if you have all four of these things in balance in your life you will achieve a joyful life. At the age of 51 I'm pretty damn close. My marketing career satisfies "What you can be paid for" and "What you are good at." And my homeless work covers "What the world needs" and "What you love."

These are all teetering spinning plates that continually need balanced. But I feel like I might be the happiest I've ever been. I've read that people get happier and more content as they get older. It could just be that.

But maybe it's also because I've been working on these issues my entire life. Who knows.

I'm not exercising. And I weigh about 5 or so pounds more than I want. So, I've got to figure those things out. And addiction always chases me. Mostly, I have to be really mindful of food. I live to eat, I don't eat to live.

This kind of naval gazing post is embarrassing to me. But I decided to treat myself to it because it's my birthday. If you read all the way through this, I'm sorry. You probably were hoping for some better message than me selfishly writing about myself.

If there is a message, it's this: we are all super fucked up. And don't let anyone tell you different. I get chastised by "proper" people for being angry and swearing. Meanwhile, you KNOW they go home and are swearing up a storm or who-knows-what. Let's stop pretending we aren't all a mess. Covering it up just makes other people think that they are worthless pieces of shit because the rest of the world looks so put together. We're not. We're just trudging through the muck like everyone else.

(Oh. And if you want to give me a birthday present, please consider donating to my campaign to be Ward 8 city council in Akron Ohio. I'm really excited about it all and I think I could do a good job.)

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/satm-podcast-the-great-american-conspiracy/>

og:title Content: SATM Podcast - The Great American Conspiracy. - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: September 29, 2022

Blog Post Content:

Sage Against The Machine Podcast - Episode 98

You can listen to the audio here:

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URL: <https://sagelewis.com/a-public-service-announcement-from-your-neighborhood-dragon/>

og:title Content: A Public Service Announcement From Your Neighborhood Dragon - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: October 2, 2022

Blog Post Content:

September 29 is the day some people in the West celebrate Michaelmas. Basically, because it is near the autumnal equinox, the celebration is about being brave as darkness begins to envelope us.

In Waldorf schools they often celebrate this with a story of villagers channeling the bravery of Michaelmas to fight the dragon. At the end, they tame the dragon and enslave him to turn the wheel to grind their grain. This dragon imagery is being discussed in some schools because Asian people don't see dragons as bad. Dragons are a positive force.

I would like to add a perspective to me and my fellow dragons. My power is most often created through anger and rage (which is just sadness in another form). I resent the idea that we dragons must be chained to grind wheat. Is that all you can imagine we are good for? Is that all you can envision for me?

That's what the city of Akron imagines for me. To sue me and penalize me into oblivion. All they want is for me to just stop. "Stop being a dragon. We don't need your kind around here."

Dragons fight injustice in powerful ways. Sure. Dragons sometimes are arbitrary and random in their rage. But with a little channeling, they are a wonderful power to have on your team. The Avengers figured that out with The Hulk.

Please learn to love your dragons and let them be dragons. We are wonderfully useful. Chaining us is just a waste of endless power and strength.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/mle-media-endorses-sage-lewis-for-akron-mayor/>

og:title Content: MLE Media Endorses Sage Lewis For Akron Mayor - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: July 13, 2022

Blog Post Content:

In their article "The Only Sane Choice for Akron Mayor is, Insane!" they write:

He has proven that he is not afraid to buck the system when he feels the system is wrong. I don't see Lewis "playing ball" just for the sake of politics. If I'd have to compare Lewis to another politician I'd say he is a mix of Donald Trump without the racism and Jimmy Carter without the meagerness. He believes in helping those that need it most, he has no problem saying exactly how he feels rather people like it or not. He is an off the cuff, off his rocker candidate and I believe that is what Akron needs. The most sane choice for us as a city in 2023 is seemingly a man I am not 100% sure is sane himself.- Michael Long

I'm VERY thankful and honored for this endorsement.

There are times I feel like Don Quixote "tilting at windmills."

He believes the windmills are giant foes that need to be defeated. But we all know that Don Quixote is mad. The scene, possibly the most famous in all of literature, represents our own impractical battles with imaginary or over-inflated enemies.

As I'm yelling into the wind I sometimes stop and ask myself, "Am I the insane one here?"

"Am I the only one seeing what I'm seeing here?"

I sometimes stand at my kitchen sink saying to my wife over and over again, "There are PEOPLE living unsheltered in the richest country in the world." I just say it over and over again.

I am currently being sued by the City of Akron for sheltering homeless people.

I told the magistrate that "No one thinks this sounds more insane than me, but I am telling you: 'I have been commanded by God to shelter people with no shelter.'"

She calmly and rationally said to me, like she's speaking to an insane man, "We all sometimes have to put our beliefs aside to abide by the law."

I. Feel. Insane.

Everyone in power just keeps telling me how what I'm doing is wrong. They patronizingly tell me that I have a "good heart" but I need to stop breaking the law.

But then I think of all the people who illegally moved slaves through the underground railroad to get them to safety in Canada.

Fugitive Slave Act of 1850 - Wikipedia

In response to the weakening of the original Fugitive Slave Act, Senator James M. Mason of Virginia drafted the Fugitive Slave Act of 1850, which penalized officials who did not arrest someone allegedly escaping from slavery, and made them liable to a fine of \$1,000 (equivalent to \$32,570 in 2021). Law enforcement officials everywhere were required to arrest people suspected of escaping enslavement on as little as a claimant's sworn testimony of ownership. Habeas corpus was declared irrelevant, and the Commissioner before whom the fugitive from slavery was brought for a hearing—no jury was permitted, and the alleged refugee from enslavement could not testify—was compensated \$10 if he found that the individual was proven a fugitive, and only \$5 if he determined the proof to be insufficient. In addition, any person aiding a fugitive by providing food or shelter was subject to six months' imprisonment and a \$1,000 fine. Officers who captured

a fugitive from slavery were entitled to a bonus or promotion for their work.
These people must have felt just as insane as me.

We have since learned the truth by the likes of Martin Luther King Jr.

"One has not only a legal, but a moral responsibility to obey just laws. Conversely, one has a moral responsibility to disobey unjust laws." – Martin Luther King, Jr.

We must repeatedly check our moral compass in a world that has lost their own moral compass.

The sane person in the insane asylum looks insane to everyone around him.

If sanity is letting veterans, senior citizens, pregnant women and single women drift through our streets with nowhere to safely lay their head then I will gladly stand with the "insane." Because sanity is now an alternative universe where compassion and understanding is irrational and illegal. I refuse to abide by that definition of sanity.

Josh Sanders is a friend of mine that happens to be houseless.

I just want to put this out there to everyone that keeps putting Sage Lewis name in the dirt I honestly don't think you all really give the man enough credit I get what you THINK he is doin is wrong but think about it if it wasn't for this man you know how much worse things would be not only does he try everything in his power to keep homeless people off the streets and away from your neighborhood this man gives homeless people a feeling of purpose you know he makes people feel like they aren't the scum dirtbag drug addict criminals alot of folks make them out to be and trust me to be at that point in your life being able to have that feeling goes alot further than everyone thinks if we lived everyday feeling that we were those scum addicts then thats how were gonna act cause thats how everyone sees us anyway so y not right but no he gives people a since of love he connects with each of us in our own lil way so we actually feel like we are normal human beings he has never condoned any of us to go get high or commit any crimes he has always tried his best to stare us away from that behavior I mean I honestly think that man is a true blessing to alot of people and he does so much more than just that all I'm asking is try to really look at all he does and honestly tell me he is not putting some good in to our community instead of just trying to be so judgemental what if you were one of us you could only be so lucky to have the opportunity of knowing that man just think about it I for one am so grateful to have somebody like him in my life when I really needed someone he is truly a remarkable man and if you put the judgemental opinions aside I think you can see it to everyone have a blessed day and stay safe out there thanks for your time

...thank you for everything you do for everyone and being so understanding when it comes to different people and different personalities and mindsets you are a great man and I vouch for you till the day I die thank you so much man all you do goes so much further than you think man we love you and God bless you

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/satm-podcast-my-mission-in-life-is-to-get-you-excited-about-local-politics/>
og:title Content: SATM Podcast - My Mission In Life Is To Get You Excited About Local Politics - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist
Blog Post Date: October 6, 2022

Blog Post Content:

Sage Against The Machine Podcast - Episode 99

No politics matters more to your day-to-day life than local politics.

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URL: <https://sagelewis.com/homelessness-from-hurricane-ian/>
og:title Content: Homelessness From Hurricane Ian - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist
Blog Post Date: October 7, 2022

Blog Post Content:

We need to talk about why homeless people from a Hurricane get instant access to an arena for shelter and hundreds of thousands of Americans who have been stranded on the streets of the richest country in the world get nothing.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/i-respond-to-steve-hilton-the-homeless-crisis-is-crippling-america/>
og:title Content: I Respond to: Steve Hilton: The homeless crisis is crippling America - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist
Blog Post Date: October 11, 2022

Blog Post Content:

Fox News loves to bash Democrats about homelessness. They don't ever come up with their own ideas. But they are right. Homelessness in America is a nightmare and it's all because of Democratic policies.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/satm-podcast-is-it-time-for-chief-mylett-to-go/>
og:title Content: SATM Podcast - Is it time for Chief Mylett to go? - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist
Blog Post Date: October 13, 2022

Blog Post Content:

Episode 100

Based on these 4 items I believe we have enough information to determine that Chief Mylett is not the right person for the job of Akron Police Chief and should resign:

Ethan Liming - downplaying the gun he used to attack those young Black men and demonizing the Black men. Jayland Walker - not releasing enough video footage and withholding names of officers. The Beacon is suing them for the information. Dealing with Protestors Taking Names off of badges. Reinstating officers.

If you have missed any shows they are now archived in a podcast. You can check them out on my blog. Or you can get them on your favorite podcasting platform.

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Notes: The silence of friends – Whoopsie Piggle - standing up for the Black men attacked by Ethan Liming and his friends.

Comrade Ohio on Twitter: "@WKSUJeff @WKSU Akron Police Chief Steve Mylett has a troubling past and that's why he bounces around so much. He was sued for discrimination in Washington by a Black police officer + he sued a Texas department for "discriminating white officers"...shady...proof below

<https://t.co/12DFtIfsjI> / Twitter

Kristen Anzuini on Twitter: "Protesters took to the streets of Akron's Highland Square neighborhood to voice their anger about the eight Akron police officers involved in #JaylandWalker death returning to work

<https://t.co/WB7xNgUh66>" / Twitter

Comrade Ohio on Twitter: "Justice For Jayland Walker This morning at the family press conference, Ray Greene with The Freedom BLOC @thefreedomBLOC spoke about Akron Police stalking, harassing, targeting + brutalizing community members who have taken to the streets. APD gang needs disbanded. Abolish.

<https://t.co/92hy9Cvgah>" / Twitter

(4) D.C. (iamakron.com) on Twitter: "@AkronOhioMayor @MaddowBlog @FoxNews @TheJusticeDept @MSNBC @ComradeOhio <https://t.co/nMOdtSljzj>" / Twitter APD Assaulting a black man.

Jacob Blake's father arrested in Akron, Ohio during protest over police shooting - YouTube

(822) Councilwoman: Bringing back 8 Akron police officers not good idea - YouTube

Everything we know about the protests in Akron Wednesday night - YouTube

(822) Akron protest arrests - YouTube Police punching Michael Harris

Akron police update Ethan Liming's death, ongoing investigation - shows video of Chief Mylett talking about the gun Ethan and his friends used. Start at about 6:37.

(822) My Response to Akron Police Wrongfully Identifying a Black Man - YouTube - showing how police don't talk to protestors and don't show names.

Are Akron police becoming too secretive in wake of Jayland Walker?

Why we're challenging Akron's increasingly secretive police department Akron Beacon Journal Editorial Board

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/freedom-bloc-endorsements-for-november-2022-election-in-akron-ohio/>

og:title Content: FREEDOM BLOC ENDORSEMENTS FOR NOVEMBER 2022 ELECTION IN AKRON OHIO - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: October 14, 2022

Blog Post Content:

I'm supporting the candidates The Freedom BLOC supports in this election because they are bad-ass and I love them.

The Freedom BLOC | Facebook

The Freedom BLOC (@thefreedomBLOC) / Twitter

I've put this in a handy PDF that you can download and print and take to the polls. JUST CLICK HERE TO GET IT.

The Freedom BLOC is proud to announce our endorsed candidates for local, state, and federal races in 2022. For years, the basic rights of all human beings have been under siege from the state, national, and local leaders working with corporations to limit access to the ballot box, a holistic education, the ability to achieve economic freedom, and eliminate access to reproductive health care, including safe and legal abortion, and comprehensive sexual health education

Governor: Nan Whaley Lt Governor: Cheryl Stephens Secretary of State: Chelsea Clark Chief Justice of Supreme Court: Jennifer Brunner Justice of Supreme Court: Terri Jamison Justice of Supreme Court: Marilyn Zayas Representative to Congress (13th District): Emilia Sykes State Representative (33rd District): Tavia Galonski Member of County Council At Large: Erin Dickinson John A Donofrio Elizabeth Walters Judge of the Court of Common Pleas: Alison Breau Judge of the Court of Common Pleas: Kani Hightower

Issues: Vote No On Issue 1 - State Issue Vote No On Issue 2 - State Issue Yes on Issue 10 - Akron These 13 candidates Freedom BLOC has endorsed represent the best interest of ALL Akronites. Akronites deserve leaders at all levels of government who will protect our rights and fight for fairer, more just systems. We're proud to stand with these candidates, who will fight for all Akronites and their families, regardless of their race, income, zip code, or insurance status.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/my-response-to-susan-sarandons-homeless-video-post/>

og:title Content: My Response to Susan Sarandon's Homeless Video Post - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist
Blog Post Date: October 19, 2022

Blog Post Content:

This is in response to the Twitter post by Susan Sarandon here:
<https://twitter.com/SusanSarandon/status/1581991330812551169>

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/satm-podcast-i-am-not-a-communist-and-my-take-on-the-jeffrey-dahmer-series/>
og:title Content: SATM Podcast - I am not a communist and my take on the Jeffrey Dahmer series. - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist
Blog Post Date: October 20, 2022

Blog Post Content:
Sage Against The Machine Podcast - Episode 101

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URL: <https://sagelewis.com/the-main-lesson-helping-is-teaching-me/>
og:title Content: The Main Lesson Helping Is Teaching Me - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist
Blog Post Date: October 21, 2022

Blog Post Content:
A homeless person messaged me recently (I hadn't talked to her in MONTHS.) She said she needs her mail and a phone she had sent to my office immediately or she was going to "Report" me.
These encounters are where the learning in life is most important for my personal journey.
"No good deed goes unpunished" is a very real experience. It's almost as if the universe wants to test you to see if you truly were doing a good deed or if you were just trying to make yourself feel good about yourself for doing something nice.
I have seen MANY people leave the helping world after being betrayed by someone they were trying to help. I've seen people hit, stolen from, deceived and yelled at by the very people they were bending over backwards to help.
I TRULY BELIEVE THAT'S THE UNIVERSE ASKING YOU IF YOU ARE READY FOR THE LESSONS THAT COME NEXT.
If you drop out, that's fine. You learned what you were ready to learn. But if you are willing to stay, you are going to enter a world of learning that very few people experience.
That image of Jesus hung up on that cross is probably the all time best imagery of this lesson. How do you love the very people that will kill you or kill your family because you got involved in helping them? It's huge.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/sage-against-the-machine-podcast-episode-102/>
og:title Content: Sage Against The Machine Podcast Episode 102 - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist
Blog Post Date: October 27, 2022

Blog Post Content:
Sage Against The Machine Podcast - Episode 102

If you have missed any shows they are now archived in a podcast. You can check them out on my blog. Or you can get them on your favorite podcasting platform.

Sage Against The Machine on Spotify

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URL: <https://sagelewis.com/the-temporary-injunction-i-signed-yesterday/>

og:title Content: The Temporary Injunction I Signed Yesterday - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: October 28, 2022

Blog Post Content:

(I am not a lawyer. Everything I say here could be wrong and misunderstood. The funny thing about the law is that regular people can't understand it. If anyone in the know wants to correct what I have said here please just let me know.)

I signed a piece of paper yesterday agreeing to not shelter people in tents or any other structures (other than in our house) on 2 parcels of land owned by the Church of the Nomadic Spirit.

This is a Temporary Injunction (I believe they called it). They are going to decide if they need to push this further based on "what I do this winter."

The lawyers of the city of Akron said very explicitly that winter is coming and they want to see if I will shelter people on my land (or any land really).

If I do they will continue to come back at me. If I put anyone on these 2 pieces of land I face fines and jail time.

They want to see if I dare shelter anyone during this Northeast Ohio winter.

I told them I'm looking forward to seeing what I'll do as well.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/the-effects-of-felony-charges-on-homeless-people/>

og:title Content: The Effects of Felony Charges on Homeless People - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: November 2, 2022

Blog Post Content:

This is in response to this new article:

<https://www.kgw.com/article/news/local/homeless/portland-homeless-felony-charges-criminal-background/283-41d5342c-cbc2-4fee-9835-c2fb5c811376>

"The long-term consequences of felony charges often prevent people from qualifying for jobs or housing."

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/the-people-involved-in-nakia-crawfords-murder/>

og:title Content: The People Involved in Na'Kia Crawford's Murder - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: November 3, 2022

Blog Post Content:

These are the people most closely involved in the murder of Na'Kia Crawford. (Her murder trial is going on right now.)

Adarus and Jaion were in the car where one of them pulled the trigger and murdered Na'Kia.

Officer Jackson (I think this is him) was the first person on the scene.

Lynn is Na'Kia's grandmother who was in the car when Na'Kia was shot. Na'Kia was running errands for her grandmother.

"Weez" (if you have a picture please send it to me) was the name on Jaion's car. He had put it there in remembrance of his friend who had been murdered.

Jaion has since been murdered in Kentucky.

As a defense mechanism I can hear some of you saying, "Good! Jaion and "Weez" got what they deserved. And Adarus needs to spend the rest of his life in prison."

And some others of you will say, "Jackson knew what he was signing up for when he became a police officer."

HAVE YOU EVER SEEN A DEAD PERSON?

I have. I once saw 2 of my friends pull an unknown man out of a tent who was overdosing. He was clinically dead. But they saved him.

I found my mother when she died in the apartment below me. The cold early morning October sun glared on her gaping mouth. She looked like she was screaming in horror.

That's nothing.

Homeless people find their friends overdosed, murdered and suicided continually.

The number of dead people Officer Jackson has now seen in his career (he started around 2015) has got to be in the dozens, if not hundreds.

The people in this picture are surrounded by death and tragedy.

These are your family members. This is your Akron Street Family. You may not know what a Street Family is, if you aren't living on the street. But it is as strong a bond as any form of DNA.

If you live in Akron, these people are your family. You can't escape it.

And as their family, if you have the mental and emotional space to do so, you can't just brush off their tragedy. It solves nothing.

When we only look at the aftermath we solve nothing. Prison and murder is not a deterrent for people who have nothing else to look forward to other than prison and murder.

We are a family with a large portion of family members who know nothing other than hopelessness and tragedy.

Basketball courts and parks do not solve hopelessness.

Meaning and purpose solve hopelessness. It could be a job. But it also could be art or music or social engagement.

Tragedy is what I call the Terrible Gift. There are always deep lessons to be learned from tragedy, if we choose to listen to the lessons.

Vengeance does not solve this problem. Love and compassion and understanding and GETTING INVOLVED solves this problem.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/should-some-things-not-be-said/>

og:title Content: SHOULD SOME THINGS NOT BE SAID? - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: November 7, 2022

Blog Post Content:

We are having a pretty intense conversation in my family right now about topics that maybe are better left unsaid.

In this case I had mentioned that maybe my son and his cousin (a girl) should get together. Everyone was mortified. (I will admit that I do love a provocative conversation. A good shock to the conversation is always a good time in my book.)

But I mean, why not?

My son has declared he is not going to have any kids. Either is my niece. Both of them have been good friends since day one. And they don't seem to be having much luck with relationships of people with the opposite sex.

The next day I had to have a talking-to by my wife about how I need to stop saying things like that. It is mortifying to her and she's convinced our son is not going to bring friends around if I keep talking about these kinds of things.

The debate comes down to 2 ideologies: My belief is that all things can and should be discussed. My wife's belief is that words have consequences.

I am very sexually open-minded. I'm furry-friendly, LGBTQIA-friendly, etc. I will support any imaginable (that I can think of right now) consenting sexual relationship that doesn't involve minors. (Where I get a little stodgy is this whole 18 cut-off. I believe 18 year olds are still kids. While I don't think it should be a law, I think morally, no one over the age of 30 should date someone under they age of 25 or 26 (the time scientists believe the human brain has fully formed.)

Strategically, I have friends and family that think that this open talk is dangerous for a person that is trying to get into politics. That talking openly and freely is political death. My belief is that people are tired of all the

bullshit. One of the reasons people like Donald Trump is because he says what he feels without wondering what it will do to his poll numbers (I think that actually helps his poll numbers. That he has found that people would rather hear the truth, even if they don't like it, than some focus-group-tested sound bite.) The reason I bring it up is because I'd love to hear your opinion on the matter. I don't really know that I am willing to bullshit you in order to win a seat in politics. I think I'd rather do something different with my life. I have gotten this far being true to myself. I'm willing to do a lot to be a representative of the people (which I'm learning is nearly non-existent in this so-called "Republic" we live in. (the only entities that appear to truly be consistently represented are corporations and special interests.)) But I don't think I'm willing to lie to you about who I really am in order to win.

My belief is that OF COURSE you shouldn't believe everything I believe. I don't even know how that could be possible unless I become some sort of cult leader that has brainwashed you. THE ONLY thing I'd like to convince you to believe is that I care about the people, ALL THE PEOPLE, more than anything else. If you believe that about me, then I don't really care what else you think of me.

I believe in 1A, 2A, Police Reform, Police Oversight, Personal Freedom (which is a really messy area of thought), And putting ALL THE PEOPLE FIRST.

I would find it very suspicious if I gave you an entire list of things I believe and you believed all of them. And that's another big point I'm trying to make: Just because someone believes something different than you does not make them your enemy. They just have a different point of view than you. That's all it means. As long as someone isn't physically hurting someone else, they are good in my book.

So what do you think? Should I stop talking so openly?

And on whether my son and his cousin should get together, based on the near vomit-inducing response, I think the answer should be no. I don't care who they get together with. Just as long as they are happy. I just thought I'd throw out the idea. (For the record, yes. I know that it is not wise to inbreed with cousins. Although, this has been something that has been done probably since the beginning of time, which is probably the most surprising part of this conversation being taboo. It's a thing a lot of humans do. Why wouldn't we talk about it?) The Amish are having a real problem with this from what I understand.)

ADDENDUM 1:

Famous cousins who married:

Albert Einstein (1879–1955), physicist, and his first cousin, Elsa Löwenthal née Einstein
Carlo Gambino (1902–1976), a mob boss, and his first cousin, Catherine Castellano
Charles Darwin and his first cousin, Emma Wedgwood.
Henry Nelson Coleridge (1798–1843) and his first cousin, Sara Coleridge
Buddha Gautama and first cousin Yaśodharā
Jesse James (1847–1882), American outlaw and guerilla, and his first cousin, Zerelda "Zee" Mimms
Abraham Maslow, father of humanistic psychology, and his first cousin, Bertha Goodman
Muhammad, Islamic prophet (c. 570 – 632) and his first cousin, Zaynab bint Jahsh
Edgar Allan Poe and his first cousin, Virginia Clemm (1822–1847)
Sergei Rachmaninoff, composer, and his first cousin, Natalia Satina
Igor Stravinsky, composer, and his first cousin, Katerina Nossenko
H. G. Wells (1866–1946), author, and his first cousin, Isabel Mary Wells (his first wife)
Jerry Lee Lewis married his second cousin, Myra Gale Brown. He was 23.
Rudy Giuliani - The former New York mayor married his second cousin once removed, Regina Peruggi.
Thomas Jefferson - The Founding Father was married to his third cousin Martha Wayles.
Franklin D. Roosevelt- The former U.S. president was married to his fifth cousin once removed, Anna Eleanor Roosevelt.
John Kerry - The former U.S. Secretary of State is distant cousins with his now ex-wife Julia Thorne.

ADDENDUM 2:

YOUR PERSONAL LIFE IS NOT MY BUSINESS.

I think that's why I support cousins hooking up.

I believe women should be able to get abortions.

I believe you should be able to take any drug you want.

I believe you should be able to sell your body for money.

I think you should be able to have sex with anyone that wants to have sex with you as long as they are over 18 (or my 25/26 theory mentioned above.)

I believe you should DO WHAT EVER THE HELL YOU WANT TO DO as long as it doesn't hurt someone else.

YOUR PERSONAL LIFE IS NOT ANY OF MY BUSINESS.

ADDENDUM 3:

I have had people who were very insistent on not divulging their information who have thanked me for supporting cousins who have married because they married their cousin. The general response from them is that you don't choose who you love.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/thank-you-for-passing-issue-10-akron-ohio/>
og:title Content: Thank You For Passing Issue 10, Akron Ohio - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist
Blog Post Date: November 9, 2022

Blog Post Content:

The people of Akron are why I keep fighting this god-awful system that looks to keep the people under their heel while funneling mountains of cash to corporations.

You are SO good and SO hopeful and SO resilient. You deserve SO much better than the crumbs you have been given.

I love so many things about Issue 10. Here are a few: * It was a thoughtful, measured response in the face of a tsunami of anger and hate and anguish. You had every right to want to burn it all down. And we definitely talked about it. But instead, you made Issue 10. How beautiful is that? Every great spiritual guide through the history of time is looking upon you with admiration and beautiful wonder.

* It is a truly meaningful response to what Justice for Jayland looks like.

* You so cleverly by-passed the slime monster politicians by taking your ideas directly to the people. It was an incredible force of pure Democracy. I hope we learn from this and take more issues directly to the people. The Slime Monsters like Jeff Fusco are, right now, seething in their bogs of decay and rot planning their insidious conniving plot to destroy this beautiful declaration of hope and common sense.

Our fight (with this and the eternal fight between Good and Evil) will now enter a new phase. You are going to need City Council People and a Mayor who will craft the Details of what Issue 10 manifests itself into.

You may be tired. But you cannot rest.

We must now push for the May 2023 election where every single Akron city council member and the mayor will be decided in the Democratic primary.

I love you. You are the love and hope and optimism that drives me forward to fight this oppressive system of pessimism and hate.

- SageRunning for Ward 8 City Council in May 2023 in Akron Ohio.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/please-sage-make-fun-of-cops-again/>
og:title Content: "PLEASE SAGE! MAKE FUN OF COPS AGAIN." - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist
Blog Post Date: November 10, 2022

Blog Post Content:

"PLEASE SAGE! MAKE FUN OF COPS AGAIN."

A Communist friend of mine recently asked me to get back to the energy where I viscerously, brutally and vulgarly verbally attacked racist and murdering cops.

So, instead, I thought it would be more fun to attack his sacred cow: COMMUNISM. (Everyone loves when I attack their enemies. And then they quickly get butthurt when I come after their team. All institutions are rotten and corrupt and deserve to be violently reformed.)

Communists are these sweet, young summer children that believe the words of Marx. That there is an utopian fantasy world where it's all peace, love, harmony and bliss.

The problem is that these young people haven't been on the planet long enough to understand the true nature of human beings. At our core we are as beautiful and as terrible as anyone can imagine. ALL OF US. Balls of love and hate, light and dark, good and evil. All rolled up in a juicy meat bag of impermanence and prone to disease. Our consciousness makes us insane as we try to make sense of this senseless existence.

We aren't capable of utopia. And all the tests of Communism throughout history have proven it.

The first thing a Communist does when they get into power is create a dictatorship. All freedoms go away. Democracy and freedom of speech are the very first items on the very long list of Communist annihilation. If my friend snapped into power as a Communist the very first thing he would do is send me to a black box detention center to torture me into understanding the beauty of Communism.

That's the great irony of Communism. They want us all to be equal. But we are nothing other than equal lumber and rocks to equally spread around the world. No one is better or worse. We are all equal. And saying otherwise is worthy of death and torture. I'm sorry but that ideology simply does not jive with a creature as fucked up as a human being. We want things to be fair, not equal.

Deportation of political opponents, classicide, mass starvation and famine induced by reckless economic planning were common traits of both the Soviet Union under Stalin and China under Mao Zedong, while the Khmer Rouge which ruled Cambodia from 1975 to 1979 were responsible for the mass killing of political

opponents. (they'll say that these weren't "real" communists. But this is how Communism manifests itself in the "real" world.)

One of the most clever parts of Capitalism is that the free market does all the economic planning for us. When we have too much of something prices go down. When we have not enough of something prices go up. Clever. In Communism the government has to handle every single detail of economic planning. It becomes too much to micromanage and so invariably massive gaps in supply and demand happen. And then what happens is that black markets pop up. Underground capitalist markets appear to sell you things that you can't get through the government. People still get rich in Communist states... just like street drug dealers. And since they don't have the support of the government they handle debt their own way through torture and murder.

I love where all of this ideology comes from. I love what my Communist friends represent which is that people are taken care of and we all have what we need to live.

But if there was a war of people trying to implement Communism I would be happy to fight to the death against Communism. (Honestly, I don't think Communism has much of a substantial following. Most people are escaping Communist countries to come to America, if they aren't killed for attempting to escape the dystopian nightmare that Communism produces again and again.)

So: FUCK THE COMMUNISTS.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/sage-against-the-machine-podcast-episode-103/>

og:title Content: Sage Against The Machine Podcast Episode 103 - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: November 3, 2022

Blog Post Content:

Sage Against The Machine Podcast - Episode 103

Let's Talk Politics

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URL: <https://sagelewis.com/satm-podcast-104-all-politicians-are-slime-cancer/>

og:title Content: SATM Podcast #104 - All Politicians Are Slime Cancer - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: November 10, 2022

Blog Post Content:

Sage Against The Machine Podcast Episode 104

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URL: <https://sagelewis.com/homeless-people-are-hated-like-jews-are-hated/>
og:title Content: Homeless People Are Hated Like Jews Are Hated. - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist
Blog Post Date: November 12, 2022

Blog Post Content:

I have debated if the work I'm doing is similar to the Underground Railroad in Slave America or Jewish rescuers in Nazi Germany.
The biggest disconnect between slaves and homeless people is that slaves were not being eradicated. They were property that slave holders wanted returned.
Nazi extermination only wanted one thing: to wipe Jews off the face of the earth. That's much more similar to how we think of homeless people.
The city of Akron has clearly stated to me that they "want to see what I do this winter". How much more they look to punish me for helping homeless people will be in direct relation to how much they can determine I attempt to help homeless people.
I now face fines and jail time for putting so much as one tent on my land.
Helping Americans to survive in the winter is now clearly against the law, particularly for me. Just as sheltering Jews in Nazi Germany was against the law. There is only one answer to the Homeless problem in America: comply or go away.
There is a well-structured homeless camp that is going to be bulldozed on Tuesday. I thought about protesting this inhumane cruelty. But to what end? They don't care what people think of them.
My focus is now going to be to hide homeless people. We must find places for homeless people to shelter that society cannot detect. Homeless people are largely hated by the government and much of society. One phone call and a homeless person will get all of their belongings thrown away by the government.
Being homeless is illegal and hated in Akron Ohio.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/iza-institute-of-labor-and-economics-3-year-study-on-housing-first/>
og:title Content: IZA Institute of Labor and Economics 3 Year Study On Housing First - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist
Blog Post Date: November 14, 2022

Blog Post Content:

I came across this Guardian article on this study concerning Housing First: Stable housing helps the homeless but it doesn't cure all their problems | Torsten Bell | The Guardian
Housing First dominates Democrat ideology in America to solve homelessness. The only thing a homeless person is missing is a house. This is so obviously wrong for anyone who has spent any amount of time with actual homeless people.
You can access the entire study here: IZA Institute of Labor and Economics 3 Year Study On Housing First
What they find is that initially, housing first works. You get a house (duh) and your employment goes up. But over 3 years the gaps between people in the program and those not in the program disappear. "Two-thirds of individuals are housed, whether or not they have been in the program."
The authors' conclusion is that the chronically homeless face many long-term problems that housing alone can't resolve.
Housing solves homeless problems for people that simply can't afford rent. But there is a subset of homeless people that are MUCH more complicated than that.
This is a screenshot from the study:

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/houseless-harboring-guide/>
og:title Content: Houseless Harboring Guide by Sage Lewis
Blog Post Date: November 14, 2022

Blog Post Content:

If I put so much as one tent on my land this winter or any time going forward I will now face fines and jail time for doing so.
This fact makes me realize EXACTLY how society feels about the houseless community. They are considered hated, diseased rats that must either COMPLY OR DIE.
We are now living in a country where we have a large segment of the American population that society

wants to eradicate. It is a genocidal plan just like all the other genocidal plans Europeans continue to implement.

WE MUST PROTECT OUR HOUSELESS NEIGHBORS. We have a moral, spiritual, and philosophical obligation to do so. To that end: I have created the HOUSELESS HARBORING GUIDE to show you how to do this work effectively and safely. I have sheltered hundreds of houseless people over the years in tents, cars, houses, campers and sheds. I've learned a thing or two about the experience. This guide is created based on those experiences.

IF YOU ARE ABLE TO HARBOR A HOUSELESS PERSON PLEASE CONSIDER DOING IT. THEY DESPERATELY NEED A SAFE PLACE TO ESCAPE THE SYSTEM.

This first edition was thrown together really quickly. I plan to modify it as I have time and get feedback from other people.

PLEASE CONSIDER SHARING IT. Here is the link:

<https://bit.ly/houselessharboring>

Here is the QR Code to download it:

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/satm-podcast-105-all-politicians-are-slime-cancer-part-2/>

og:title Content: SATM Podcast #105 - All Politicians Are Slime Cancer Part 2 - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: November 17, 2022

Blog Post Content:

Sage Against The Machine Podcast Episode 105

City council member Shammias Malik liked the title of last week's podcast so much that he referenced it in a speech at the city council meeting this past week. So, since he liked it so much, I thought I'd give him a Part 2:

All Politicians Are Slime Cancer Part 2

Here are the resources I referenced during the show:

HE TOOK HER SHOES. - YouTube

SATM Podcast #104 - All Politicians Are Slime Cancer - YouTube

Akron residents raise objections to city's White Pond development plan

Reverend Ray Greene on Meeting Jeff Fusco In A Dark Alley - YouTube

Akron Council Person Shammias Malik Takes His Time To Speak To Bash My Podcast - YouTube

While Sage Lewis postures - Dan Horrigan Op-Ed

Akron pays \$1.6 million to consultant to help spend ARPA funds | wkyc.com

Akron City Councilman Mike Freeman Bashing Me For Daring To Say Something at Akron City Council - YouTube

Akron City Council Public Request Document

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URL: <https://sagelewis.com/hopelessness/>

og:title Content: Hopelessness - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: November 18, 2022

Blog Post Content:

I don't typically write these kinds of posts simply because throwing myself a pity party is not really my style.

"Suck it up, buttercup" is how I live my life. But I guess there might be some worth in recording that I feel this way from time to time.

There was a city-wide camp sweep this week. I documented one of the camp sweeps

here:<https://youtu.be/qh8bobL-zUs>

There was a moment where they just start taking stuff from these people. The very first thing they took were a woman's boots she had neatly set out in front of her tent the night before. He just took them:<https://youtu.be/DaAfhtdcYwU>

As I was yelling about these inhumane atrocities I couldn't help but realize that no one was helping. City workers, police. I'm yelling. Begging for help. And they all are just staring at me with blank eyes.

The entire process expanded out into a global truth. We yell and yell. We beg and plead. And no one comes to help. Not god. Not man. No one comes to help.

And then the week, before I went to city hall to speak up about a rental development that no one wants in their neighborhood. The only thing councilman Shammass Malik thought was wrong in the world was the title of my podcast "All Politicians Are Slime Cancer." Here's his speech on that:<https://youtu.be/7c4Qv6tVlxA>

The profound absurdity of humanity was rolling over me like a steamroller trying to smooth out an asphalt road. "There's nothing to see here. Just keep pushing it down into the dirt and we can stop looking at it."

The world sometimes gets to me. When I'm tired. When it all seems pointless. All I see is the futility and screams of people begging for help. And no one comes. No one comes.

These feelings are always very temporary (like less than a couple hours) and the next thing you know, I'm back being the Happy Warrior again. But man. Where is the cavalry? Where are the adults? When does help arrive?

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/satm-podcast-episode-106-my-take-on-the-white-pond-development/>

og:title Content: SATM Podcast Episode #106: My Take On The White Pond Development - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: November 22, 2022

Blog Post Content:

The Akron mayor and city council are trying to ram a huge apartment rental development in a neighborhood that no one in the neighborhood wants. This is my take on this situation.

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URL: <https://sagelewis.com/satm-podcast-episode-107-akron-the-eviction-capital-of-ohio/>

og:title Content: SATM Podcast Episode #107: Akron: the Eviction Capital of Ohio - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: December 8, 2022

Blog Post Content:

Sage Against The Machine Podcast . This podcast discusses the findings of this article:

<https://www.beaconjournal.com/story/news/local/2022/12/08/eviction-case-filings-reach-new-heights-in-akron-as-rental-relief-ends/69688139007/>

(it's a paywalled article. I'm sorry.)

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URL: <https://sagelewis.com/what-ive-learned-about-democrats/>

og:title Content: What I've Learned About Democrats - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: December 9, 2022

Blog Post Content:

In my campaign to try to be the next Ward 8 Council leader I have been to over 1000 Democratic voters so far. (Some I've gotten to speak to and some I've just dropped off literature.)

It has been such a wonderful opportunity to get to talk to all these people. I've learned some things along the way.

IN GENERAL, I believe there is a consistent sentiment that runs through the Democratic community. They truly care about things outside of themselves.

They care about the environment, about animals, about homeless people, about low income people.

I've had several people say to me that they want EVERYONE to be taken care of.

I feel like that is in contradiction to what I'm seeing IN GENERAL in the Republican party. They seem mostly angry. Angry that their country is changing. Angry that immigrants are getting more attention than people who have lived here for generations. Angry that liberals don't care about them (even though they will care about just about anyone or anything else).

Now... to be VERY CLEAR, these are sweeping generalizations. Some of the most extremely giving people I have ever met in helping homeless people has come from Fundamentalist Christian Conservatives. In fact, they may give the most.

And I DEFINITELY know angry Democrats (I often find myself in that camp.)

When I started writing this I had an idea of this being a kind of gloating diatribe that Democrats are better than Republicans. But now that I'm at that point I have changed my mind.

I think Democrats still have more work to do. There is no point in shaking our finger at other people. It just makes things worse. The only meaningful work to do is to work on ourselves.

I'd like my fellow Democrats, this holiday season, to think about how our Conservative neighbors are feeling. Think about how maybe they feel like the world is moving on without them. About how once upon a time their values and ideals were the mainstream. And now they are not only being sidelined, they are being chastised for loving God and loving family.

Conservatives are angry because they are sad and hurting. That's where all anger comes from.

OF COURSE we can't allow the Constitution to be thrown away. OF COURSE we can't physically hurt Black people and immigrants.

But maybe when we see Conservatives yelling about immigration and non-traditional values, we could see it for what it really is: A deep sadness of loss and isolation.

Conservatives are absolutely critical for the success of our country. They protect us. They take care of us in hospitals. They build our roads. They fight our wars. They grow our food. They do the work that Liberals simply aren't good at yet are so needed.

Yes, Democrats. You are very caring. But keep caring. Push it into areas that make you uncomfortable and even scary. That's where the most profound work of compassion and love really start to work.

I love you all.Sage

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/savannah/>

og:title Content: Savannah - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: December 12, 2022

Blog Post Content:

When they say Love Conquers All, this is what they mean right here.

A couple years ago on some cold winter day I got a call from a 14 year old girl. She heard I knew her dad.

So she reached out to me. I knew where he was. I went down to the Adams Street camp. He came out of the woods looking barely alive. I often tell him that I don't recall seeing anyone look more homeless than I saw him on that day.

I told him I talked to his daughter and she wanted to talk to him. I asked him if he wanted to talk to her. He looked nervous and overwhelmed by that idea. But he said he did. I dialed my phone and handed it to him. I didn't think much more about it. Family members wanting to see if their loved one is still alive is sometimes a thing.

Not long after that this young person wrote her dad a 3 page letter. I remember him showing it to me. It clearly made an impression on him.

This year that dad decided he wanted to be a part of his kids' lives.

He got into a housing program. He rented a room. He got a job. He bought a car.

And yesterday he stopped by to introduce me to his daughter, Savannah - pictured here with her dad, Josh Imler. She was the young person who called me 2 years ago to try to talk to her dad.

She spent the night at his house 2 nights ago.

Success stories like these are pretty rare. But when they happen it's usually because of love. A homeless person loves someone, usually a child. And they completely transform.

"Hitting rock bottom" almost never does it. Humans are far too tough to let a little thing like freezing weather, complete isolation and starvation to change our lives. There's only one thing that does it: Love. Thank you Savannah. All I could ever do is be a friend to your dad. You saved his life.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/i-am-so-proud-of-you/>

og:title Content: I AM SO PROUD OF YOU. - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: December 13, 2022

Blog Post Content:

Last night city council ignored the people and voted to force a half-baked, high-priced rental complex down the throats of citizens who have fought so systematically and respectfully to at least slow down the process. I've been there.

We had hundreds of people come in support of the tent village we were running on my private land to only be ignored and shut down by city council.

The ward reps who voted in favor of the sale were: Lombardo, Sommerville, Freeman, McKittrick, Connor, Baylor, and Fusco.

These are important names to know because these people are nothing more than the mayor's lap dogs. They do whatever he tells them to do so that they can keep their cushy jobs.

While Shammass Malik voted against this bill the only thing he ever seems to focus on is how non-polite people are. Malik talked about "treating each other with dignity and respect, not arguing" and accepting outcomes even if there is disagreement.

He is a man who has no understanding what it is to a citizen of Akron that is completely ignored by its politicians.

These kinds of losses are demoralizing and fill a person with hopelessness. But, for at least a few of you, I hope it educates you about a corrupt system that must be changed.

You are so beautiful and so wonderful. You fill me with hope and inspiration. You ran your movement against this rental abomination beautifully.

I BEG YOU TO RUN FOR CITY COUNCIL.

Tara Mosley's seat is open because she is running for mayor. Jeff Fusco is the ring leader of this dark order of fascists. And the Sommerville family is notoriously known for only caring about one thing: the Sommerville family.

The next battle is May 2, 2023. That is the Democratic Primary where our next mayor and all city council members will be elected. Whoever wins that primary will win the general election in November.

PLEASE consider going to the Summit County Board of Elections and asking them about running for City Council. Don't run for mayor. We have enough candidates. You aren't going to win mayor.

City council members make about \$34k a year, have incredible health insurance and get a free phone. And it is a PART-TIME JOB. You genuinely could win this election.

PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE. Go to the Board of Elections and learn about how to run for city council. And if you have any questions you are always welcome to contact me.

Here is the Board of Elections Information:

Summit County Board of Elections 470 Grant Street Akron, Ohio 44311 Phone: 330.643.5200

Fax:330.643.5422Send an email to

You can learn more about the vote of this White Pond Development here:Akron City Council removes public from meeting on White Pond

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/satm-108-liberals-love-taking-away-our-rights/>

og:title Content: SATM #108 - Liberals LOVE Taking Away Our Rights - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: December 15, 2022

Blog Post Content:

Sage Against The Machine Podcast Episode 108.

Akron City Council passed an anti-menacing bill this week, 12-1, that will give mandatory jailtime for any city working including the mayor and city council if they BELIEVE they are at risk of being hurt.

If you have missed any shows they are now archived in a podcast. You can check them out on my blog. Or you can get them on your favorite podcasting platform.

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URL: <https://sagelewis.com/a-demon-from-hell/>

og:title Content: A Demon From Hell - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: December 15, 2022

Blog Post Content:

As soon as I said my name it was like she realized she was looking at a demon for the 7th level of hell. She exclaimed, "No!"

She quickly shut and locked the door.

I've had some people not appreciate my presence on their doorstep as I knock on what is now over 1000 voters' doors as I make my bid to be the next Ward 8 City Council person here in Akron.

But this level of rebuke was pretty special.

I wasn't so much hurt by it as I was curious as to which part of me she detested so much.

The constant swearing that seems to get worse the more I try to stop swearing.

The railing for reform against even the most sacred organizations.

My "hilarious" memes.

There are just so many valid reasons a person would hate me. It was all I could do not to knock and ask her what part of me she hated the most. But she seemed so disturbed by my presence, I thought I'd just leave her in peace.

I know how she feels. I have to live with myself constantly. I gave up drinking 19 years ago. So there is no escape from me for me. Even my dreams are often filled with anxiety and worry about my actions.

I can't tell you how embarrassed I am about my antics.

It's like there is "Hell-Raising Sage" and there is "Embarrassed Sage. They both live within me and they really don't like each other.

I was just reading this article about my attorneys at the Institute for Justice and I making one last stand at the U.S. Supreme Court to hear our case to let me shelter ANYONE who desperately needs it on my land.

All these years I've just been yelling into the wind in any way I can think to get someone's attention that there are living, breathing human beings freezing to death on our streets and all I want to do is shelter them. Shoot, just let me shelter ONE of them. There answer is always "No!"

The article does an excellent job at highlighting all my failures:

In early 2019, the Akron Planning Commission upheld the city's denial, determining a "campground" is not a permitted use in a residential district.
We then appealed to the Ohio 9th District Court of Appeals, which upheld the city's rejection of the variance, reaffirming Akron's zoning code doesn't provide for tent shelter.
At the time, I was turned down for a conditional-use variance, the city also issued an "action plan" led by the Summit County Continuum of Care.

Within those 3 bullet points were countless meetings with city council members, organizing hundreds of supporters to speak at city council. Meetings with lawyers. Meetings with city officials.
All I have gotten out of it is that I am now being sued by the City of Akron personally. If I so much as put a single tent on my personal property, for any reason, I face fines and jail time.
Not only am I loud and crude, I'm also the biggest loser you probably have ever met. I lose over and over and over again.
So, that lady's reaction to me knocking on her door is probably the only really rational response to seeing me coming. Just run and hide.
This is the part of the story where things get weird.
I believe God wants me to keep fighting. And before you roll your eyes at this please know that no one thinks this is kookier than me.
It was 40 degrees and raining today. I knocked on about 60 doors.
I like to be out in bad weather because it makes me feel a little closer to my homeless friends who are undoubtedly out in the rain somewhere in Akron. Being in bad weather just makes me feel closer to them.
So, feeling the deep cold of wet clothes as I continued to ponder this lady's disgust at my existence was all very satisfyingly humbling and painful.
Just then, 3 men yell over to me. They want to see my electric bike. It turns out they were homeless. I don't know if Ward 8 realizes they have homeless people living in their midst but they do.
They were living in cars and some camper somewhere.
One man told me that he had all his belongings stolen. I didn't want to get into the story. The pain of just admitting this truth was already enough for him. He said that he now rides his bike to do job quotes. He rides 30-40 miles a day to do quotes. I didn't ask him what kind of work he did.
I mentioned that I do some work with our homeless population.
One of the guys asked to ride my bike. Of course I let him. He loved it.
And the other 2 just kept asking me about what kind of work I did for homeless people.
They asked about our tent community. They asked about our transitional house.
And then, of course, they profusely thanked me for standing up for their homeless brothers and sisters. They said what they always say: "No one cares about us."
I felt like it was God saying this to me. "No one cares about us."
How many billions of people right now on planet Earth feel that way? I'm afraid to even guess.
And that's why I do it.
That's why I get mad.
That's why I keep knocking on these doors even when people hate me to their core.
That's why I don't quit.
How can you quit when one human being says to you "No one cares about us."
Of course that's not true. There are quite a few groups that care. But for many homeless people living in cars and in backyards hiding from the police and the nuisance inspector, they don't know anyone is out there trying to make things better for them.
They just feel alone and hated for losing everything.
I'll lose and lose and lose till the day I die if I can make one more person think that someone, anyone, cares a little about them.
P.S. I'm sorry about me. I hope you can forgive me. I'm trying to be better.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/the-meaning-of-life/>
og:title Content: The Meaning of Life - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist
Blog Post Date: December 18, 2022

Blog Post Content:
I've come to believe that all of this is just a physical construct for a spiritual journey.
A possible reality is that you are the only conscious being in the entire universe and everything and everyone

else is just a fantasy you have created.

Whether that is true or not doesn't matter. There is only one thing you can even mildly control and that is your own thoughts and a few of your actions.

And furthermore, you can't do this journey wrong. You will get out of it what you are meant to get out of it. But every once in a while you might ask yourself if you are happy with how you are doing it.

I'm not talking about whether you should lose some weight or quit smoking meth. Those things are meaningless. I'm talking about what energy you are putting out into the world. Are you satisfied with the energy you are putting back into the universe? That's the only contribution that really matters. The energy you put back into the universe is all the universe wants from you. Everything else is meaningless and a social illusion created by old white men.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/i-will-be-sleeping-outside-on-christmas-eve-2022-in-solidarity-with-homeless-pregnant-women/>

og:title Content: I will be sleeping outside on Christmas Eve 2022 in solidarity with homeless pregnant women - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: December 20, 2022

Blog Post Content:

I wanted to remind you that I will be spending Christmas Eve sleeping in a tent at the corner of West Market and Portage Path in Akron Ohio from 6pm to 6am in solidarity with homeless pregnant women.

People have slept out with me before. I really wish you wouldn't. It's not safe. And it is going to be 7 degrees. I CANNOT TAKE CARE OF YOU IN ANY WAY.

But I would LOVE if you would stop by and come visit me. And, if you want, you can bring hats, gloves, hand warmers, zero degree sleeping bags, tents and tarps that I will give out to my homeless friends.

I love you. And stay strong.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/satm-109-assisted-outpatient-treatment-big-brother-is-coming/>

og:title Content: SATM #109 - Assisted Outpatient Treatment - Big Brother is coming. - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: December 22, 2022

Blog Post Content:

House Bill 439 has already passed the House in Ohio. It's only a matter of time before it becomes a law in Ohio. Big Brother is coming.

<https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HB-439>

If you have missed any shows they are now archived in a podcast. You can check them out on my blog. Or you can get them on your favorite podcasting platform.

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URL: <https://sagelewis.com/the-results-of-my-christmas-eve-sleep-out/>

og:title Content: The Results of my Christmas Eve Sleep Out - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: December 27, 2022

Blog Post Content:

I like trying to think of activist direct action ideas that both raise awareness of the humanitarian crimes we impose on our OWN CITIZENS by stealing their tents and belongings and leaving them stranded on freezing

streets in the richest, most "Christian" country in the world AND trying to help these people at the same time.

My Christmas Eve sleep out in support of homeless pregnant women (Mary was a 12-14 year old homeless pregnant woman) does pretty good at that.

SO MANY people stopped by to say hello and bring donations. One person stopped by and brought this \$50 bill. (See below) So on Christmas morning I took that \$50 and bought tobacco and pop and snacks for my homeless friends. (We have dehumanized these people. So I try doing things for them that remind them that they are, in fact, still very human.)

I have gotten so many donations the last couple years that this year I rented a uhaul trailer to carry them all. When I pulled up to my homeless friends on Christmas morning, I opened the trailer and a new guy, Vinny, took one look at everything and shouted, "No Fucking Way!"

Yes Vinny. People's kindness and goodness is very real.

And then I put my friend Tony in charge of handing out these supplies. (I deeply believe in the power of self-run homeless services. It creates an incredible amount of self worth and personal value.) Tony is a homeless veteran and ran our kitchen in the first tent village and day center that the city shut down. He took some pictures of the supplies and people he gave stuff to this Christmas morning.

I have learned that the goodness of humanity FAR out ways the badness. But it is the corporations and political parties that survive on tearing us apart and making us hate each other by only showing us the bad in humanity.

I love you. You are amazing. I am constantly blown away by your goodness and kindness and compassion.

All I am doing is trying to live up to the goodness that is in your heart.

I love you. I love you. I love you.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/an-unloaded-gun/>

og:title Content: An Unloaded Gun - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: December 29, 2022

Blog Post Content:

As a drug addled insane man pulled a gun on me yesterday because someone broke into his room and stole his clothes while he was in jail for two months and somehow blamed me for it, my first thought was: "That poor guy spent all his money on drugs and doesn't have an easy way to get bullets for that gun." (I had seen that gun before and knew that a couple days earlier I had seen it and it was unloaded.)

My second thought was, it is illegal for me to shelter people in tents on my own private land. I now face jail time for doing so. But as a gun dealer it is perfectly legal for me to sell bullets (and guns) right next to a church and school. "I should sell that man some bullets for his gun. An unloaded gun is not nearly as compelling."

That's where this madness, inhumanity and horror has taken my mind.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/satm-110-joe-biden-knows-nothing-about-homelessness/>

og:title Content: SATM #110: Joe Biden Knows Nothing About Homelessness - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: December 29, 2022

Blog Post Content:

Joe Biden has a "new" homeless plan and it's dog shit.

If you have missed any shows they are now archived in a podcast. You can check them out on my blog. Or you can get them on your favorite podcasting platform.

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Here are the resources I referenced in the podcast:

Biden Homeless Plan Recycles Failed Approaches, Advocates Say | National Review

Lawyers Representing Disabled Portlanders Suspect Public Funds Paid for Homeless Camps | National Review

Akron businessman asks U.S. Supreme Court to hear homeless camp case

Is Akron following the rules in homeless encampment sweeps? Advocates raise concerns | Ideastream Public Media

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/i-react-to-the-five-on-fox-news-reacting-to-homelessness-in-american-cities/>

og:title Content: I react to 'The Five' on Fox News reacting to homelessness in American Cities - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: January 4, 2023

Blog Post Content:

I react to this Fox News video on their ideas on homelessness:

<https://www.foxnews.com/video/6312385708112>

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/satm-podcast-111-has-the-left-alienated-young-men/>

og:title Content: SATM Podcast #111: Has the Left Alienated Young Men? - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: January 5, 2023

Blog Post Content:

Sage Against The Machine Podcast Episode 111

Has the Left Alienated Young Men?

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Sage Against The Machine Podcast

Here are the resources I referenced in the show:

Joe Rogan Podcast:

Andrew Tate Taken into Custody:

MRA

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Men%27s_rights_movement

Incel:

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Incel>

<https://twitter.com/LibNatArabian/status/1609499436534710273/photo/1>

Sid 1:

Sid 2:

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/january-6-2023-the-4th-anniversary-of-the-forced-closure-of-akrons-tent-city/>
og:title Content: January 6, 2023 - the 4th anniversary of the forced closure of Akron's tent city. - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist
Blog Post Date: January 6, 2023

Blog Post Content:

Today, January 6, commemorates the forced closing of Akron's tent city on my private property on January 6, 2019.

I have ALWAYS said, if you don't like my ideas then come up with your own ideas.

Our homeless-run tent village ran for almost exactly 2 years. The MetroParks closed a very established homeless camp on January 7, 2017 to build "Freedom" Trail.

Some of the refugees from that displacement came to my property to stay with me.

There were an estimated 50 people who were displaced in that eradication.

I truly believe nothing has changed after all this time.

We ALL KNOW we have American citizens freezing to death on the streets of Akron Ohio.

We ALL KNOW there are people who will gladly take care of them with private land and private money if the government would let us.

And yet the only thing the government has done to help the homeless epidemic in Akron is to sue me. That's their big contribution to solving homelessness in Akron. (I now face fines and jail time if I allow so much as one single tent on my private land.)

I will not stop. I cannot stop.

I am now running for Ward 8 Akron City Council to take my fight into the halls of city council. This journey has opened my eyes to the truth of the nepotism, corruption and complete disregard for ALL the people of Akron Ohio.

Akron politicians only care about one thing: MONEY. And no human being will stand in their way when money is on the line.

I STAND WITH THE PEOPLE.

I stand with the teachers of Akron and fully support their strike.

I stand with the residents that fought so hard against the White Pond abomination of a development.

I stand with taking care of our environment.

I stand with YOU.

I am deeply and eternally thankful for your support and love and hopefulness. Your beauty and wonderfulness are the energy that keeps me fighting.

Thank you for everything.

The pictures here are some pictures from our beautiful community we had at Akron's tent village. It truly was a very special place.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/i-react-to-a-man-being-attacked-by-a-homeless-person-with-a-shard-of-glass/>
og:title Content: I react to a man being attacked by a homeless person with a shard of glass. - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist
Blog Post Date: January 9, 2023

Blog Post Content:
Here is the link to the story: [Homeless community protect Portland man from attack | kgw.com](#)

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/the-white-pond-development-debacle-in-akron-is-far-from-over/>
og:title Content: The White Pond Development Debacle in Akron is Far From Over. - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist
Blog Post Date: January 10, 2023

Blog Post Content:
The White Pond Development Debacle in Akron is Far From Over.
There is a good chance that city council illegally sold that land.
There are 3 facts that have surfaced from this that are important to understand about Akron government.
FACT 1: Dollar signs matter more than ANYTHING to this current administration. Even when the deal is bad. There are no people in Akron, no matter how rich or beneficial to Akron, that matter more than money to Dan Horrigan's administration.
FACT 2: Our schools are going to need a new levy to pay for the raises and security our teachers need. This developer will not have to pay ANY taxes on that land for 15 years. We will be paying for the kids in that development to use our schools tax free. We will also be paying for their roads and sidewalks.
FACT 3: Screwing over poor people, homeless people and addicted people rarely has any negative repercussions for the city. Screwing over rich people is an entirely different game. I don't think the establishment Akron government understands the hornets' nest they just hit with a baseball bat.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/satm-podcast-112-i-analyze-the-marketing-of-my-political-opponent-and-other->

akron-city-candidates/

og:title Content: SATM Podcast #112 I Analyze the Marketing Of My Political Opponent and Other Akron City Candidates - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist
Blog Post Date: January 12, 2023

Blog Post Content:

SAGE AGAINST THE MACHINE PODCAST EPISODE 112 The Akron Democratic Primary is May 2, 2023. There is no politics more important than local politics. PLEASE VOTE!

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URL: <https://sagelewis.com/racism-in-akron-schools/>

og:title Content: Racism in Akron Schools - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: January 20, 2023

Blog Post Content:

I LOVE thinking about the hardest problems in society. I believe the race war between Blacks and Whites is a foundational struggle that is so embedded in American society that it is almost our one great sacred struggle between good and evil. I am nearly obsessed with the Black/White American problem.

If we can overcome this racial war that has plagued our country since the beginning, we will have transcended into one of the most enlightened communities humanity has ever seen.

The Beacon Journal has been putting out some amazing articles on issues in Akron schools:

Six ideas to make Akron Public Schools safer for students and staff

Teacher grievances in Akron schools reveal disparity in student discipline

Look at some of these stats:

Of 1,392 students caught fighting this year, 1,054 are Black, 163 are white and 122 are multiracial. Black children are 46% of all students and 76% of students caught fighting.

About 87 percent of the district's educators are white.

The U.S. Department of Education's office for civil rights found in 2014 that black students are three times more likely than their white peers to be suspended and expelled from school.

I feel like there are 2 general camps of thought and they are mainly divided by political lines:

Conservatives believe it's a cultural issue. That Black families need more fathers and more "traditional" values.

Liberals believe it's a systemic issue. Childhood and societal trauma are driving these issues.

I think both sides are partly right.

MOST Black families are painfully aware of this stigma that they are the ones to blame. So, I think they work extremely hard at building structure and traditional values at the heart of their family. But I also know Black families that use daycare as a form of parenting. The parents (mostly single moms) drop their kid off first thing in the morning and leave them in daycare until the latest possible moment. Drugs are often involved in these scenarios.

I am of the Liberal mindset. But I try to stay aware of my natural biases to blame everything on a broken system. There eventually needs to be personal accountability. BUT, when Black men are being locked up for years on stupid drug charges, how the HELL do you expect to get more men in Black families?

There's a great quote in one of the articles from Joshua Grundy, 19.

Grundy leads a youth mentoring program in Akron called Mendia.

"I feel like it's kind of expected out of us. ... Then the teacher will spend more time with the kid who she thinks is gonna do good. It's only gonna push a student back as far as self-esteem goes," Grundy said.

"Since the black males in this society are already labeled, once they walk in some place where they're new ... they're already labeled before they get to that direction they want to go."

I come back to this stat: About 87 percent of the district's educators are white.

We MUST accept that there is cultural and racial bias. We are afraid to talk about it. I think it's this fear that keeps this issue stuck in a perpetual loop.

"I'M NOT RACIST," says every fragile white person I've ever met. Oh yes you are. So am I. And it's natural. And it does not make you bad.

It is impossible to not slip into generalizing thinking. Meth users, opiate users, alcoholics, obese people, Black people, White people, rich people, poor people. You would have to be asleep if images don't flash in your mind with every one of those groups of people. ALL of those generalizings are wrong. Yes, there are assholes. But you can't use their social grouping to determine it. You have to judge everyone individually. I have been blessed to be able to work closely with that entire cross section of humans. I can tell you without a doubt, with 100% certainty that lazy people, and bad people are spread evenly throughout ALL cross sections of society. I can't find any group of people (and believe you me, I look) that has any greater propensity to acting one way or the other. People are people. Period.

Compassion / hatred. Criminal / law abiding. Addicted / sober. I see these traits spread like sprinkles evenly over all people.

What is not equal is who has more power and who has less power. I don't believe for a second that if Black people were in power and White people were oppressed that it would be any different than it is today, if everything has been reversed for the last 400 years. People are people.

The power imbalance is the difference.

About 87 percent of the district's educators are white. There are now 72 Black officers in Akron representing less than 16% of the force in a city where 30% of residents are Black. Akron police force struggles to reflect city's diversity

White people MUST realize that there is a power imbalance in America and in our cities, like Akron. It creates a very human, but very oppressive, community.

Just look at the Redlining that is still affecting our property values and home ownership in Akron. That was all a power imbalance. (And again, I am in no way saying it would be different if the racial history of America had been reversed. People are people.)

My friend Reverend Ray Greene Jr. sums it up perfectly: Greene from My Brother's Keeper said teachers establishing relationships with students and letting kids know they care is the key to reducing discipline and misbehavior. But there is room for improvement from all parties.

"The community needs to be more involved in the school system, and teachers need to be more involved in the community," Greene said. "This is everybody's problem."

The way forward is through connection.

I'm telling you, it is incredibly difficult to be afraid of and to hate someone you have actually met. I'm talking about murderers, rapists and pedophiles. Even racists. I am friends with them all. And what makes them a good person or bad person is personal choice, not the grouping we've artificially stuck them in.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/satm-podcast-113-my-city-council-fundraiser-is-tonight/>

og:title Content: SATM Podcast #113 My City Council Fundraiser is Tonight - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: January 26, 2023

Blog Post Content:

Sage Against The Machine Podcast Episode 113

If you have missed any shows they are now archived in a podcast. You can check them out on my blog. Or you can get them on your favorite podcasting platform.

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Sage Against The Machine on Apple Podcasts

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/pictures-from-last-nights-fundraiser/>

og:title Content: Pictures From Last Night's Fundraiser - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: January 27, 2023

Blog Post Content:

Here are some photos from our fundraiser to support my run for Ward 8 Akron city council last night.

We were at Mercedes' Tavern which is run by Cindy who is incredible. I got to meet Cindy's partner, Ruth, who is at least as incredible as Cindy. (I find that every successful business owner has a partner behind the scenes that quietly, yet powerfully, supports that business-owner's dreams. That's definitely the case with me and my wife, Rocky.)

I'm always so humbled and honored when people make such large efforts to come out and support me. As a person who likes helping other people, I have a very hard time asking for help myself. I'm so deeply grateful and indebted to all of you that are so kind and generous and caring.

Maybe it was all those years as a bartender, but I love being with ALL kinds of people. Rich, poor, young, old, Black, White, conservative, liberal. And the wackier you are the more I like you. I love the wide array of amazing human diversity.

I think that love of all people is what we need in politics today. We have to stop hating 50% of the country when in reality we agree on 90% of everything.

I mean, check out these pictures. For some reason, a WIDE variety of people don't hate being around me. I consider it a great honor and blessing that I am able to be friends with such a diverse group of people.

COMMUNITY IS THE ANSWER.

We have to stop looking at our differences and start looking at our similarities. It is extremely hard to do because the most powerful institutions, corporations and political parties only survive by keeping us hating each other. So they will do anything in their power to incite hate and fear and downplay love and acceptance.

I'm telling you: you can find much to like in every single human being. EVERY SINGLE ONE, if you just stop looking for reasons to hate them before you even meet them.

THE AKRON PEOPLE'S COALITION

That is the foundation of everything I will be working on as Ward 8 Akron City Council. Coming together, listening, trying to understand each other... and then looking for ways to help each other. THAT is how we reduce violence in our schools and our neighborhoods. THAT is how we reduce addiction. THAT is how we reduce oppression.

You can't expect change without changing. PLEASE VOTE FOR ME FOR AKRON'S WARD 8 CITY COUNCIL IN THE DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY ON MAY 2, 2023. Give me a shot to see if these new ideas make a difference.

I love you and I'm so thankful for you.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/the-murder-of-tyre-nichols/>

og:title Content: The Murder of Tyre Nichols - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: January 27, 2023

Blog Post Content:

I'm pleased that the court system of Memphis was able to bring justice to Tyre Nichols, a 29-year-old Black man who was brutally beaten and murdered by 5 police officers. They all are charged with 2nd degree murder.

The added twist here is that all 5 officers are Black.

So the idea that changing the color of police officers is clearly not the answer.

People are justified in being enraged and furious that these are supposed to be people that protect and serve. But you never know when you're going to run into a gang of police officers that is there to torture and

murder.
I liken it to pedophile church leaders. Both professions cater to a certain kind of person that sometimes ends up abusing their power.
Maybe more harsh sentences for criminal cops would help.
I'd like to see the end of qualified immunity. And I would like police officers to be able to be subjected to civil lawsuits like doctors.
Maybe those things would help. But we can't ignore this like we do school shootings and homelessness and addiction. This issue destroys the social contract we all have agreed to live by. This will continue to tear America apart. Divided we fall.
That's how America dies.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/my-most-prized-possession/>
og:title Content: My Most Prized Possession - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist
Blog Post Date: January 28, 2023

Blog Post Content:

This might be my most prized possession. (I think telling its story is relevant to the brutal beating and murder by Memphis police of Tyre Nichols).
I just bought this gun last night from a felon. This is something I do from time to time. I buy guns from people that shouldn't have them.
But this gun is special. This gun was pulled on me by an enraged, drug-addled man with extreme mental illness issues. He accused me of letting people break into his room in our house and take his clothes while he was in jail for 2 months. I chained the door locked with the biggest chain I had.
During the encounter where he pulled it on me he then pointed it directly in the face of another homeless man, EB.
He has pulled this gun (which is loaded with 4 live rounds and 2 spend cases) on everyone in our house. I would say I would have been in my right to pull my firearm and defend myself during this encounter. But I didn't.
I calmly (which is difficult for me) told him that I'm sorry he lost his clothes and I'd help him get more. I got in my truck and drove away. I've been told he fired at my truck. But I didn't see or hear that myself.
This is my most prized possession because it is out of our house and out of the hands of a truly mentally ill person.
NO ONE GOT HURT.

The reason I think this story is relevant today is because de-escalation works. I'm not great at it. But my homeless friends are masters at it. When shit gets real, shit gets real calm. It's amazing.
I'm not saying police can walk away from an armed gun man. But what I am saying is that there is more than one way to deal with these situations. It seems like police escalate situations. That they try to over-power a person. You can't over-power someone who doesn't care if they live or die. They have nothing to lose. So they'll escalate right along with you.
I truly wish NO ONE had to deal with crazed people with guns. But it is what a police officer signed up for. I feel like if you're going to be in that business you're going to have to be more nuanced in your approach. Personally, I'm having pretty good luck just buying guns from people that I don't want to have guns.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/sully-got-housed/>
og:title Content: Sully Got Housed! - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist
Blog Post Date: January 31, 2023

Blog Post Content:

This is my friend Sully. Sully just got housed through Community Support Services. He has lived outside off and on for the last 5 winters. He was the "yard dog" for the 2 years of our tent city. When a new person would come into our village he would always be there to help them set up their tent. And if a tent needed repaired you could always count on him to help as well.
Groundhog Mike, who has been homeless for 22 years, is also housed in this house. It's a 3 bedroom rooming house.
The rapid rehousing program organized by Community Support Services and working closely with United Way is making a huge impact on some of the most difficult to house people.

Close friends of mine: Josh I., Kenny, Gary and now Sully have all been housed through this program. It's truly impressive.

Now... they aren't out of the woods yet. All these people have got to get and keep jobs. They have been given the downpayment and first month or two of rent. And then they have to survive on their own. That's going to be incredibly difficult in some cases. Keeping people in houses is sometimes just as hard as getting them in the house in the first place. (Going to jail for a couple months due to an outstanding warrant will often destroy housing.)

In general, people that stay housed do so because they have something larger than themselves to think about: Kids, a spouse and God are the big ones.

I'm so happy for these people. I have some video of Sully and Groundhog Mike that I'll share with you soon. Thank you for everyone that made this possible. It takes countless volunteers and paid staff and programs to make this possible.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/political-candidates-that-filed-for-the-may-2-2023-akron-ohio-primaries/>
og:title Content: Political Candidates That Filed For The May 2, 2023 Akron Ohio Primaries - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: February 2, 2023

Blog Post Content:

Here are the candidates that are running in the Akron Ohio May 2, 2023 primaries: Ward 1 Nancy Holland vs. Jude Yovichin

Ward 2 Incumbent, first-term Councilman Phil Lombardo is running unopposed. No Republicans filed.

Ward 3 Margo Sommerville vs. Damarios Walker in the Democratic primary. No Republicans filed.

Ward 4 Russ Neal vs. Will Blake vs. Jan Davis in the Democratic primary. No Republicans filed.

Ward 5 Johnnie Hannah vs. Shamoriea Hilliard in the Democratic primary. No Republicans filed.

Ward 6 Incumbent, first-term Councilman Brad McKittrick is running unopposed in the Democratic primary. No Republicans filed.

Ward 7 Incumbent Donnie Kammer is running unopposed in the Democratic primary. No Republicans filed.

Ward 8 James Hardy vs. Sage Lewis in the Democratic primary. No Republicans filed.

Ward 9 Tina Boyes vs. Susan Culver in the Democratic primary. The winner will face Republican Micah Townsend in November.

Ward 10 First-term incumbent Sharon Connor is running unopposed in the Democratic primary. No Republicans filed.

Republicans at-large (3 are chosen) Cynthia Blake Vyrone Finney

Democrats at-large (3 are chosen) Ginger Baylor Jeff Fusco Linda Omobien Fran Wilson Derrick Hall Jarreua McClendon Ronald Smith Johnny Osby Jr. Lamont Porter

MAYOR Seven Democrats and one Republican are running to be the next mayor of Akron.

Republicans: Jim Isabella

Democrats: Mark Greer Shammass Malik Keith Mills Tara Mosley Joshua Schaffer Marco Sommerville Jeff Wilhite

I'm going to try to get as many of these people on my podcast as possible. If you see this message and you want to schedule a time please message me.

All of us still have to have our signatures validate. So it's very likely some of these people will not make it past the signature validation step. We'll learn that within the next 2 week.

Some people will drop out. But their name will still be on the ballot, if they make it past the signature validation step.

Some of us are running for office primarily to help make Akron a better place. Some of us are running for office primarily for the power and glory. All of us have some mix of both motivations.

Democracy is a mess.

The kind of person that runs for political office is narcissistic, has an overblown ego of self-importance and has a certain amount of mental illness. I'd love to know how many of us have significant "love me daddy" issues.

But who else is going to run for office? Anyone in their right mind will take a pass on this. Who needs all the personal scrutiny and public whoring that is required to run for office? Only people that have some deep hole of need-to-be-loved in their soul, that's who.

A well-centered person would have absolutely no interest in this path.

BUT GOD BLESS US INSANE PEOPLE THAT DO THIS!

If no one would run for office Democracy literally could not exist.

Just because a person is a narcissist, soulfully needy and has a massive ego does not make them bad. They're just screwed up in a certain way. We're all screwed up on planet Earth. How could we not be? Have you seen this place?

A person with significant emotional need won't find contentment by winning one election. Nothing external ever actually fills that hole. And we're too insecure to truly believe that we can fill that hole ourselves by working on actual self-acceptance and personal love of who we are.

So they'll work their ass off to continue to get people to love them. They'll be constantly looking around for someone, ANYONE, to tell them they are doing a good job.

All the people on this list will work hard and do the best they can. Don't question their commitment to Akron or whether or not they are a good or bad person. They will do their best going down a path that they feel is best for the city. That is the absolute truth. No narcissist wants to go down in history as being a person who did a terrible job and was out to destroy the city. That isn't how it works.

We all just have different ideas about how to make Akron better. Honestly, who knows what will actually work and what won't. There are infinite variables that play into all this. Most good leaders just got lucky for being in the right place at the right time with the right idea.

And this takes me to you.

In a Democracy it is actually YOU that leads this entire mess. YOU have to decide who is the right person for the job right now.

There is incredible importance on picking the right person. Unfortunately, you are so busy with the million other things in your life that it's hard to fit in being a Democracy scholar on the side. BUT YOU HAVE TO TRY.

Some of you are amazing at understanding the nuances of all these people. Most people aren't.

Those of you that are well educated in all this PLEASE share your thoughts and reasons with people in person and on social media. Your insight matters. (You are the few people that have read this far in this post

DON'T BE AFRAID TO FIGHT FOR DEMOCRACY.

Talk about politics. We need more talk about politics ESPECIALLY LOCALLY.

Let me finish by saying: Thank you for all of you that had the courage to stand up for this Democratic process in Akron. It's amazing that you have done it. It's incredibly brave of you to run for political office. Good luck and may the best person for the job win.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/satm-podcast-114-joe-i-love-pharma-but-dont-tell-anyone-biden-is-a-total-liar/>
og:title Content: SATM Podcast #114 Joe I-Love-Pharma-But-Don't-Tell-Anyone Biden is a total liar. - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: February 2, 2023

Blog Post Content:

Sage Against The Machine Podcast #114

If you have missed any shows they are now archived in a podcast. You can check them out on my blog. Or you can get them on your favorite podcasting platform.

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URL: <https://sagelewis.com/she-said-no/>

og:title Content: She Said No - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: February 3, 2023

Blog Post Content:

Get this.

I asked a friend of mine to come move into our house. She's pregnant. I can't stand watching pregnant

women freeze.

It is currently 14 degrees. She is in a tent with no heat. Someone has tarped it really nicely however.

She said no.

I have no rules. Like zero rules. As long as you aren't trying to murder people I'll let you stay. (I guess that's a rule.)

I'm telling you this because people often say homeless people don't go into shelters because they don't like the rules.

It's not about the rules. It's about being stuck in a massive rut. It may be freezing and isolated. But it's what you know. So you won't leave it.

We have so far to go in understanding our homeless population. We've always had them. But we've never cared to try to understand them. Homelessness will never end if we can't grasp the most basic fundamentals of what it means to be homeless.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/driftng-away/>

og:title Content: Drifting Away - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: February 7, 2023

Blog Post Content:

If I had no family (I don't have any friends I meet up with and I have no real interest in finding any. I'm naturally an introvert with low grade depression) I'd just roll out. I'd get in my truck and head to the desert, I think. I'd take my tent, sleeping bag, Coleman stove, a cooler, my dog... and I'd just leave.

I look around and I see nothing but broken and failed systems.

Police murder and torture innocent people and no one does anything.

People slaughter little kids in schools and no one does anything.

Bernie Madoff stole \$64.8 billion because he was buddies with the SEC and no one does anything.

100s of Ohio doctors sexually abused their patients for decades because the State Medical Board of Ohio botched the handling of accusation and no one does anything.

I could write this list endlessly. But it's unnecessary. Anyone who has been looking around at all knows exactly what I'm talking about. It's just an ocean of failed systems. I mean can you name one system that isn't catastrophically broken at it's core? I can't think of any.

That's how the world looks to me. It's a playground for the demented and cruel people of the world to just have their way and no one comes to our rescue. No one does anything meaningful to try to make sure it doesn't happen again.

But here's the thing. I'm not alone. I have a mind-blowingly great wife and a kid who leaves me in awe every single day.

Those two people make me fight. They make me want to stay here and help.

Help homeless people, help ailing family members, run for city council, run marathons, get on a 75 day diet/workout intensive program. On and on. The love of my family makes me a productive citizen. That's all it is. Nothing more.

Those 2 people keep me connected with society. Without them I'd just drift away.

And that's what it's like being homeless for many people. You don't become homeless because of the injury at work, because of the mental illness, because of addiction. You become homeless because your people are gone. They have either died or they have left you.

I know 2 homeless people who are direct descendants from very successful local families. You all would know their businesses if I told them to you. They've been cut off from their families. These families easily have an extra \$1000/month to keep these people in a house. But they don't. They've been burned too many times. So they just abandon them to the streets. They are left to wander like ghosts of people. Apparitions of what it means to be a human being.

They become wild and free. The safety nets have cut a hole out of the bottom and these people are just in free fall. Why try to claw your way back in when you know that the only thing you'll find back in the system is failure and disappointment? It's better to just take your chances on the streets. And, by the way, your street family is amazing. They look out for you. They love you when no one else ever would.

THIS is the kind of understanding we all need to begin to grasp if we are ever to have any hope of getting homeless people off our streets and out of our woods.

That understanding will look like triage centers. We meet them where they are right now. We set up safe

parking locations. We set up structured camps. We get service professionals into these locations. We build trust with people who have every reason to believe they shouldn't trust anyone ever again. This is how every other catastrophe is dealt with.

Expect that if a person has been on the streets for a year it's going to take 3 years to get them back into society. A year of homelessness is 365 days of solid trauma, terror and betrayal from a system that does nothing other than look down on these people.

We are going to have to build trust with these people and give them a reason to leave this life if that's really what we want in society. We've always had homeless people because of these reasons. Now with a sharp increase in income inequality these reasons are spreading like a virus to more and more people every single day.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/violent-purse-snatching-in-ward-8/>

og:title Content: VIOLENT PURSE SNATCHING IN WARD 8 - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: February 8, 2023

Blog Post Content:

This is the arm of an 80-year-old woman who had her purse stolen and was knocked to the ground in front of Gionino's Pizzeria in The Valley. The man who stole her purse ripped it so hard off her arm that it caused this injury.

This shit infuriates me.

Ever since I heard about this story I've been wishing that I had been there. I've fantasized about tripping the guy, beating the crap out of him and yelling at him: DON'T STEAL FROM PEOPLE!

Life is hard enough for everyone. No one needs this kind of trauma in their life.

And almost simultaneously I also think about why this guy did this. This isn't an everyday occurrence. But it definitely could be a sign of an increasing trend of income inequality.

THIS HAPPENED IN MY WARD. WARD 8.

We're supposed to be the rich ward. We're supposed to be the Ward that is immune to this kind of thing. Gionino's Pizzeria is at the corner of Merriman Rd and North Portage Path. Ward 8 Precincts C, P and H all come together at this point.

This area is a mix of low-income rentals and nice homes overlooking the nature in this beautiful area. 1-bedroom apartments at Timber Top (where a person died of carbon monoxide poisoning) cost about \$750/month which is extremely low cost these days in Akron.

Low-income apartments bring people who are struggling with money. When you are struggling with money you sometimes start doing anti-social behaviors to cope with all the stress of not being able to afford to live. (Drug use, drug sales, sex work and stealing.)

I can tell you right now, the idea the current administration has one plan to solve this problem: gentrify the area. Push the poor people out.

The problem is: THERE IS NOWHERE FOR THESE PEOPLE TO GO. It's not like we have any programs to help support low-income people. A mom of six that I know was on AMHA's waiting list for 6 years to get subsidized housing. She finally got moved up the list when her house burned down and she and her 6 kids became homeless.

PLEASE LISTEN TO ME: We are not living in a time of the "same old, same old." This is a new era. And I see no evidence that this is a temporary fad. Income inequality is increasing. We need leadership that is willing to deal with poverty, crime, addiction and homelessness for what it is: a growing issue caused by fundamental economic factors that are not going away anytime soon.

I find the most meaningful work of my life working with homeless people who also are sometimes thieves, murderers, sex predators, sex workers, drug dealers and any other crime you can possibly imagine. These are all people that live freely in our city. They've done their time. And they are back in society. They are in Ward 8 just as much as they are in Ward 3 or Ward 10. These people sometimes INFURIATE ME! But most of the time they are just people that are trying to get by just like the rest of us. We have to help them find a path back into society that is meaningful to them while not hurting the rest of us.

If we don't work with these people I only see one outcome: more crime, more violence, more homelessness, more addiction.

We need programs that are inviting to people who get out of jail and prison with nowhere to go. A work with MANY people who are homeless after coming out of prison or a long stint in jail. They have nowhere to live. No job opportunities. They just have the street and what they have learned in prison and what sent them to

prison in the first place.

PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE Vote for me as the Ward 8 City Council Representative in the May 2, 2023 Democratic primary. I'm the right leader for this time in the history of Akron.

#sageforakron8

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/this-is-my-friend-aubrey/>

og:title Content: This is my friend Aubrey. - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: February 11, 2023

Blog Post Content:

This is my friend Aubrey. She's pregnant in a tent.

I offered her a room in my house. She said no. People have told me a bunch of reasons why she won't go. (Rules are definitely not one of them). But it doesn't matter. She doesn't want to go. That's all that matters. Another friend of mine messaged me and asked me what we could do. I was so focused on putting her in my house that I had no ideas. I had one idea, it failed and that was it. This friend then said, "Could we get her a heater?"

OF COURSE we could get a heater. I sent this friend a link to the heater on Amazon. Along with the connection hose so you can use a gas grill tank with it. This friend didn't buy one heater. She bought 2!

This is Aubrey with that heater, hose and tank.

We must meet these people where they are. Not where we want them to be. They are human beings for God's sake.

When you agree to have a society you then become responsible for ALL the people in the society. Not just the ones you like.

This problem isn't that hard if you stop looking at one solution and open your mind and heart to ALL the solutions.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/here-come-the-akron-corprocrats-to-steal-your-democracy/>

og:title Content: Here come the Akron Corprocrats to steal your Democracy. - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: February 13, 2023

Blog Post Content:

Here we go again.

The power-mongers of Akron are going to try to buy yet another Akron Mayoral election. And they are going to rely on your political apathy to do it.

Here are 13 reasons you should NOT vote for Marco Sommerville for mayor:

1. Retired Akron Children's Hospital CEO and President Bill Considine.
2. Retired FirstEnergy lobbyist Joel Bailey.
3. Former FirstEnergy CEO Anthony Alexander.
4. Past Brouse McDowell law firm managing partner Marc Merklin.
5. Summit County Democratic Party Chair Tom Bevan.
6. Summit County Board of Elections Chair Bill Rich.
7. Former party Chair, Mayor and current At-large Councilman Jeff Fusco.
8. The CEOs, owners and families of H.M. Miller, Kenmore and Thomarios construction companies, J.W. Didado Electric, G. Stephens Inc., Rubber City Arches and other companies that receive substantial city contracts.
9. Laborers Local No. 894.
10. The Tri-County Building & Construction Trades Council.
11. Former Summit County chief of staff Jason Dodson.
12. Former Akron city chief of staff Dave Lieberth.
13. Retired Akron Mayor Don Plusquellic.

Those are Sommerville's high rolling donors. They are cashing in on the promise that they will make TONS more money by donating just a little bit of money from their fat bank accounts.

And WHAT'S WORSE is that the Beacon Journal helps push this agenda. They want the machine to win too. The article that I'm not going to link to because it SUCKS, and it is only available to rich people who can afford a subscription, puts a huge picture of Sommerville at the front.

Meanwhile, Shammias Malik has beat Sommerville in donations in every way. He has gotten over 200 Akronites to donate to him. WAY more than Sommerville. Malik is buried in the article with a much smaller picture.

Malik's donors have donated between \$212 to \$741.

Sommerville's donors have maxed out the \$1000 limit. The first 12 checks Sommerville got her at least \$500 each.

Oh yeah... and did you remember this bit of news: City Council voted 8-5 in November to raise the amount

individuals can give to municipal candidates. For mayoral candidates, the maximum donation went from \$750 to \$1,000. Had the increase, which was supported by Malik and opposed by Mosley, not been approved, Sommerville would have lost \$6,000 on the 24 maxed-out checks he collected in just his first five weeks of fundraising.

The Akron Democrat party is in opposition of everything that an average Democrat stands for. Dark money. More campaign finance money. Fuck the environment. Screw poor people. They are evil and rotten. FOR CHRIST'S SAKE DON'T VOTE FOR SOMMERVILLE. You might as well be voting for Marie Antoinette.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/akron-ohio-is-a-racist-city/>
og:title Content: Akron Ohio Is A Racist City - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist
Blog Post Date: February 15, 2023

Blog Post Content:

Akron Ohio is a racist city. It always has been and I see no indication based on the leadership of today that it ever will not be a racist city.

I could give you countless reasons to support this statement. But I'll just give you the most recent one: Imokhai Okola is a Jones Day attorney. His practice focuses on complex civil litigation and product liability defense.

He is applying to be on the city's new police oversight board. The white male powermongers of city leadership are doing everything in their power to defile his name and get him off of the list of this police oversight board. I mean LITERALLY it is old white men trying to get him thrown off.

Imokhai is a young Black man. He graduated from University of Akron School of Law. Hi lives in Akron. He grew up in Akron. He went to Firestone High School.

Imokhai is the young Black man success story we all want. And yet old White men are trying to do everything in their power to take away his strength.

LET ME ASK YOU THIS: if Imokhai Okola isn't good enough to be on the police oversight board: WHAT FUCKING YOUNG BLACK MAN IS?

We must change the old men's club that has ruled Akron for decades. I know I look like them. But Jesus fucking Christ I am so sick and tired of my kind. White men have driven colonization, slavery, oppression, murder / torture and rape of indigenous people. We have so many sins to own up to.

I have fought these oppressors for years to try to do ANYTHING for our local homeless population. They haven't done one damn thing.

Please let me take this fight to city hall. PLEASE VOTE FOR ME, SAGE LEWIS, AS THE NEXT WARD 8 AKRON CITY COUNCIL MEMBER.

THE ELECTION IS MAY 2, 2023. PUT IT ON YOUR CALENDAR AND VOTE. THE VERY HEART AND SOUL OF OUR CITY DEPENDS ON IT.

I will fight for the people with everything I have.

#sageforakron8

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/satm-podcast-episode-115-east-palestine-ohio-train-derailment-dont-trust-the-leaders/>

og:title Content: SATM Podcast Episode 115 - East Palestine Ohio Train Derailment - DON'T TRUST THE LEADERS! - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: February 16, 2023

Blog Post Content:

The East Palestine Ohio Train Derailment is just the latest episode of big government and big business working together to undermine safety, lie to the people and let innocent human beings suffer and die for the good of making billions of dollars in profits.

The are the resources I used for this episode:

East Palestine derailment: Charges against reporter covering train derailment dropped

File:Ohiorivermap.png - Wikimedia Commons

AP: Posts misuse Ohio River map to distort contamination area
@devonoship | Linktree for Chemical Testing
Police body cam footage released in Jayland Walker shooting case
Chemicals Reported On The Train
How dangerous was the Ohio chemical train derailment? An environmental engineer assesses the long-term risks
TikTok: East palestine train derailment. Dead fish floating. Aftermath.
Devon Oship on Tiktok: Neuroscience MSc, gremlin. Sci-com and chaos live here.
East Palestine train derailment: Officials share information about dead fish and contamination in waterways amid reports of sick pets - CBS News
Ohio's DeWine says he has not taken up Biden on offer of 'anything you need' in wake of train derailment disaster - MarketWatch
Petition · Hold Norfolk Southern Accountable for The Northern Ohio Train Derailment · Change.org
WATCH: East Palestine mayor Trent Conaway is fed up and wants questions answered just like village residents.
The Brockovich Report: East Palestine: The Place You Don't Want to Be!
Reddit Comments Union Rail worker warned us about potential catastrophes
East Palestine on Reddit

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/the-young-sex-worker/>
og:title Content: THE YOUNG SEX WORKER - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist
Blog Post Date: February 20, 2023

Blog Post Content:

If we are ever going to get one step closer to solving our societal problems we must acknowledge the complicated nature of reality. Let me tell you this week's story...

A young woman from out of town ended up in our house that tries to help the most challenging homeless people.

She said that she had been kicked out of the battered women's shelter and Haven of Rest. She said that she would not come back regularly to these shelters. So they kicked her out.

Some young sex workers like to barter for sex. They will give a person sexual favors in exchange for drugs. This seems logical in a place where cash is rare but drugs are plentiful.

This is a recipe for disaster. These young women start to get passed around from guy to guy. The more high they get the less discerning they become. It all descends into a really dark, terrible place.

That's where I enter the picture. Late last week this woman, who I had never met before, came to me and said she was being sex trafficked. My entire existence for being in the homeless community is to reduce pain and suffering. I am not here to get you off of drugs. I am not here to shame you for being a worthless piece of shit. I am a harm reduction guy.

So my first response to her was to call the police. You might as well ask a six year old to eat liver and onions with a side of brussel sprouts. It's not going to happen. It's against "the code of the street" and if the person doesn't get arrested the blow back can be deadly.

No one would call the police. So I notified a police officer friend of mine of the situation. Again, I will not stand for people to be hurt and abused on my property under my watch. I do this work under one basic philosophy: DO THE RIGHT THING.

Telling my police officer friend about this was the right thing.

But then the situation got complicated. The woman started changing her story slowly but surely. Maybe it wasn't trafficking. Maybe the guy didn't give her the drugs she thought he should. On and on.

POLICE CAN DO NOTHING IN THIS SITUATION.

If a victim won't call and won't testify then there is nothing a court of law can do. It's like the crime didn't happen.

Some of my conservative friends believe the answer is more police. It's not.

Some of my progressive friends believe the answer is abolishing the police. It's not.

Yes. We must hold police leadership accountable for bad cops. That's the only way policing is going to get better. But I'm here to tell you: a void gets filled. If there are no police someone will take that place. And it's going to be way worse.

But police can only do so much. They are just the tip of the spear of a complicated echo system of laws,

judges and over-crowded jails and prisons.

We must stop looking around for someone else to solve our problems. We must start looking at ourselves for the help we truly need.

I was stuck in a bad spot with this woman. I couldn't get the men involved out of the situation because they have not been formally accused of a crime.

I can't go to war with these guys because I don't run a mob. I'd be killed.

So, I did the only thing I could think to do. I drove this woman away from my place into an apartment... with another man.

What a fucking mess.

This woman burned so many bridges with shelters in this town and others. Every idea I suggested to her was met with a reason that wasn't going to work.

She needs to stop trading sex for drugs. It's a basic mistake that all beginning business owners make. Don't trade and barter. Just work for money. Doing it any other way is asking for all kinds of unforeseen problems. Every shelter I can think of has some sort of wall. You either have to pray to God, quit drugs, show up on time... some shelters require all those things.

Why can't a woman in serious trouble just go someplace safe? I'd love to be that. But I don't have the money or resources to be that person. And my focus ultimately is more on changing the system, not protecting a few homeless people. Maybe that's wrong.

The Underground Railroad was made up of volunteers who protected slaves on the run. Maybe we need something like that. But I'll tell you right now... I'm not sure I'd be that person. The woman will want drugs and the next thing you know: her abusers are going to be at your house.

I have zero answers.

But I know some things for sure: more cops is not the answer, less cops is not the answer. It has nothing to do with cops. Unless we are going to just start locking people up that we think are criminals without due process then police are not the answer one way or the other.

We have to move beyond the simplistic talking points of activists. We have to get in the dirt ourselves and start digging around.

This whole more cops/less cops debate is just another political ball that keeps us amused and lets leadership avoid having to deal with the actual problems.

And for the record: we also can't just throw our hands up in the air and give up. I believe these complicated issues are an important piece of the puzzle for the progress of humanity. I believe these issues are here for a reason: to help us grow as a society. To be better. That's the only reason I can see for us being here on this inconsequential rock in the outer leg of an inconsequential galaxy. It has to be for something. And I believe the reason is to be better.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/we-lost/>

og:title Content: We Lost - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: February 22, 2023

Blog Post Content:

For about 5 years now we have gone to every court possible asking for the permission to let me somehow help any homeless people that can't find their way into a shelter or a house.

We have been denied at every turn.

Our property rights litigation journey is now over. Consider it lost. Consider it a failure.

That said... our attorneys at Institute for Justice have said that what they learned doing our work helped them win cases for homeless people in other cities. So, it's not truly over. It's not truly a failure. The ripple effects of this journey have and will have positive effects in America.

I don't care much if I win or lose. I have no problem being a failure. I am in the company of countless activists, much greater than me, who have failed time and time again.

"It's all about the journey" is one of those catch phrases that I deeply believe. I just keep pushing that rock up the hill because it needs to be pushed. It's a good workout and I learn something every time I push that rock and it falls back down again.

So, property litigation is over. But I've already been turning the page. I'm trying with all my might to run for Ward 8 Akron City Council. I don't know what my likelihood of failure is on this endeavor. But it's in the double digits for sure. James Hardy is a long-time insider who has a lot of money and a lot of powerful connections. I definitely could lose this too.

But I have another catch phrase I like and use often: "You can't lose 'em all."

The power of human fortitude, determination, hope, belief and love is a hell of a thing. It bends great forces. A city council member is only as strong as the people around them. You always need 7 votes to win anything. (Akron City Council is 13 people.)

I have been fantasizing about slowly but surely turning Akron politics away from the corporcrats and help the people of Akron be the leaders of city council and the mayor. It will be a monumental task. But it's worth fighting for.

For me, homeless people are a symbol of all the great suffering of Akron. So many wealthy white people on the West side have never even talked to an opiate or meth user or murderer or drug dealer or homeless person. But I can tell you one thing for sure: ALL THOSE PEOPLE ARE SHAPING OUR CITY IN POWERFUL WAYS.

The foundation of Akron is rotten. Generational poverty, lifelong trauma and, of course, systemic racism of epic proportions, are destroying the fabric of our community.

We are now in an era of increasing income inequality in America. I see no indication that this is going to do anything other than get worse.

We need leaders in Akron that understand the tsunami that is heading our way. We are facing existential threats to the very existence of Akron.

No amount of parks and lakes are going to fix that. We have to deal with our problems head on.

So, from now until May 2, 2023 I will work my ass off to try to be the next city council person for Ward 8. I think I could do a good job.

If you want to help that cause I would be immensely grateful for one of two things:

1. Please let me put a sign in your yard.
2. Donate a little money so I can keep running ads on social media to tell this story.

You can find out how to do those 2 things and more in my Link Tree:

<https://linktr.ee/sagelewisforakron8>

Please always know that the number 1 reason I fight this fight is because of you. The greatest gift this journey has given me is to let me see EVERY SINGLE DAY what generous and kind people you all are.

I love you so much.

Sage

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/a-vote-for-sage-lewis-is-a-vote-for-school-unions/>

og:title Content: A Vote For Sage Lewis Is A Vote For School Unions - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: February 27, 2023

Blog Post Content:

I stand with Akron City School Board, The Akron Education Association, the Akron Education Association, OAPSE Local 689 and SEIU Local 1.

Are you following the war going on right now between the Chamber of Commerce teamed up with the mayor against the Akron School Board? I truly hope you are because it DEEPLY matters to the foundations of our schools in Akron. If you want safer schools and better education for our kids you need to understand what is going on.

On September 12, 2022 this article was written: Akron City Council OKs resolution to back superintendent after review (So City Council publicly comes out against the school board, a democratically elected body, just like them.)

On February 16, 2023 this article was written: Akron leaders critical of school board over superintendent resignation (Then a bunch of powerful white men come out against the school board, because powerful white men can do whatever the hell they want.)

On February 19, 2023 my opponent for Ward 8 City Council wrote this piece: James Hardy: Hall, Akbar should resign from Akron school board (This guy is sucking up to the powerful white men so he can hopefully, someday be allowed in their club. Just because you are white doesn't automatically get you in the club. You have to publicly bend the knee.)

On February 26, 2023 this article was written: Akron Public Schools' unions defend school board's leadership (Akron City School Board, The Akron Education Association, the Akron Education Association, OAPSE Local 689 and SEIU Local 1 ALL emphatically stand against this powerful white men club that is coming out against them.)

Why does this matter, Sage?

Thank you for asking!

It matters because all these people are sending smoke signals to each other.

The power players in Akron are the Chamber of Commerce and the Mayor. They hold all the money and all the power. If you go against them they will write it down in their little book and never forget it. Remember that time I dared to fight using my American rights to go to the courts asking to be able to shelter the most extremely desperately homeless people and the Mayor of Akron wrote his third op-ed ever to slam me for it: "While Sage Lewis postures"

They never forget.

They are fragile and hurt little boys. I'm sure their mommies never told them no.

But boys and their toys, Sage. Who cares?

These are life and death decisions.

All of this petty bickering over money and power is going on while the very lives of our children are hanging in the balance.

I LOVE THE EDUCATION MY SON HAS GOTTEN AT FIRESTONE HIGH SCHOOL. But, honest to God, we are so thankful we're getting out at the end of this year before he gets shot or treated more like an inmate at a prison.

It's not the school board creating this mess. It's the sticky, greedy fingers of Akron power-players that are creating this mess.

This quote from APS Unions says it all:

"While reading the recent ABJ article, "Leaders criticize school board," our feelings of frustration and extreme disappointment in those who profess to be looking out for the best interest of Akron Public Schools and its students certainly highlights for us the hypocrisy and self-serving political agendas which we believe motivates their unwarranted and ill-informed attacks."

I deeply and sincerely hope you let that statement sink in.

"hypocrisy and self-serving political agendas"

If you spend any time at all looking at Akron politics this fact becomes blatantly clear. These people are all just out for themselves. Making them and their friends more wealthy and more powerful. It's sick and disgusting.

We Must End This Stranglehold Powerful Men Have On Our City.

OK. How can we help Sage?

There is only one thing I want you to do right now. I want you to help me get my signs in yards.

All you have to do is reply back to this email and let me know if I can put a sign in your yard. Just send me your address and I'll put one sign in your yard.

And if you REALLY want to help me you will text, call or email your friends and ask them to let me put a sign in their yard.

Signs are small signals of endorsement. They matter because they influence elections. They can go up 45 days before the election, May 2, 2023. I'll probably be willing to put a sign anywhere, but West Akron is my focus. Just fill out this form:

I'll Take A Sign

Use this form to let me know that I can put a sign in your yard. Thank you SO MUCH!

Name(Required)

First

Last

Email(Required)

PhoneAddress(Required)

Street Address

Address Line 2

City

State / Province / Region

ZIP / Postal Code

Comments If you have any questions or comments please just let me know. Thank you for everything!

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gform.initializeOnLoaded( function() {gformInitSpinner( 2, 'https://sagelewis.com/wp-content/plugins/gravityforms/images/spinner.svg', true );jQuery('#gform_ajax_frame_2').on('load',function() {var contents = jQuery(this).contents().find('*').html();var is_postback = contents.indexOf('GF AJAX POSTBACK') >= 0;if(!is_postback){return;}var form_content = jQuery(this).contents().find('#gform_wrapper_2');var is_confirmation = jQuery(this).contents().find('#gform_confirmation_wrapper_2').length > 0;var is_redirect = contents.indexOf('gformRedirect()') >= 0;var is_form = form_content.length > 0 && ! is_redirect && ! is_confirmation;var mt = parseInt(jQuery('html').css('margin-top'), 10) + parseInt(jQuery('body').css('margin-top'), 10) + 100;if(is_form) {jQuery('#gform_wrapper_2').html(form_content.html());if(form_content.hasClass('gform_validation_error')) {jQuery('#gform_wrapper_2').addClass('gform_validation_error');} else {jQuery('#gform_wrapper_2').removeClass('gform_validation_error');}setTimeout( function() { /* delay the scroll by 50 milliseconds to fix a bug in chrome */ }, 50 );if(window['gformInitDatepicker']) {gformInitDatepicker();}if(window['gformInitPriceFields']) {gformInitPriceFields();}var current_page = jQuery('#gform_source_page_number_2').val();gformInitSpinner( 2, 'https://sagelewis.com/wp-content/plugins/gravityforms/images/spinner.svg', true );jQuery(document).trigger('gform_page_loaded', [2, current_page]);window['gf_submitted_2'] = false;}else if(!is_redirect){var confirmation_content = jQuery(this).contents().find('.GF AJAX POSTBACK').html();if(!confirmation_content){confirmation_content = contents;}setTimeout(function() {jQuery('#gform_wrapper_2').replaceWith(confirmation_content);jQuery(document).trigger('gform_confirmation_loaded', [2]);window['gf_submitted_2'] = false;wp.a11y.speak(jQuery('#gform_confirmation_message_2').text());}, 50);}else{jQuery('#gform_2').append(contents);if(window['gformRedirect']) {gformRedirect();}}jQuery(document).trigger('gform_post_render', [2, current_page]);});});
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And remember:

If you love and support me: VOTE.

If you hate and despise me: VOTE.

The Democratic Primary is May, 2, 2023.

Whoever wins the primary will win the general election. There is no Republican running for Ward 8 in November.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/it-turns-out-we-all-live-in-a-prison/>

og:title Content: It Turns Out We All Live In A Prison - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: March 1, 2023

Blog Post Content:

Did you see the new policy where Akron Public Schools is locking away some students cellphones?

We are starting at East, Buchtel and Ellet.

We have contracted with a company called Yondr for \$43,450 to lease 2,475 locking pouches.

East and Buchtel's campuses include grades six through 12, and Ellet is nine through 12. (What does that tell you about what the leaders think of different kids in different schools? They like Ellet kids more. I think they just forced Ellet into the program so it wouldn't look like what it really is: a racist / classist program.)

I guess it's already happening. They say the bags will be ready for use on February 27.

This is all under the guise of safety. This will make our schools safer.

I supposed there is some safety issue to it. But that's certainly not the entire story. And it may not even be the driving factor.

The truth is: teachers can't compete with phones. Their content is irrelevant. Their presentations are often dry and boring. Kids are underslept and underfed. Their homelives are tumultuous because 63% of Americans are living paycheck to paycheck.

Median household income in the United States was \$67,521 in 2020, a decrease of 2.9 percent from the 2019 median of \$69,560.

The median household income in Akron is \$42,129.

The cost of living in Akron is 14% lower than the national average. But our Median household income is 39% lower in Akron than the national household income. ($\$69560 - \$42129 = \$27431$. $\$27431 / \$69560 = 0.394$) So if 63% of Americans are living paycheck to paycheck, the number of Akronites living paycheck to paycheck is much higher. SIGNIFICANTLY HIGHER.

This means there is more stress at home, which leads to more fighting, more alcoholism, more addiction, more crime, etc. I know one test Akron kids are getting better and better at: Increasing their ACEs score. Our institutions are notoriously bad at innovating. So they just force us to do things we don't want to do. And that's when more crime happens.

Here are 5 easy ways to get into these ridiculous Yondr pouches we are leasing for \$17.55 each:

This video was the very first thing my Firestone senior showed us at dinner the day this policy was announced.

So now we are just making more criminals. I'm certain there is going to be some sort of punishment if you do these things to get into the pouch.

At their best, phones are a comfort. You can text a friend, look at a dog, talk to your mom. And now they are taking them away by force. At their worst, phones are an addiction.

The war on drugs is a war on addiction and the only thing it has done successfully is institutionalize racism. Of course this phone policy will be harder on minorities than white kids. That's all this really comes down to. Black kids and poor kids are not sitting up straight and paying attention. What can we do? I KNOW! Take away their phones because they are just being lazy and ignorant.

This is going to make things worse. Not better. It's going to push lower income kids further away because the system makes no sense to them. It will get them in more trouble. It's madness.

How can we have lived through the largest protests in the history of America with Black Lives Matter and we still can't even slightly grasp the racism at the foundation of everything we do in this country?

But let me leave you with this: The varnish is starting to rub off in all of society. In Ohio, compulsory education laws require children between the ages of 6 and 18 to attend school. And then what happens at 18? You get a 40 hour a week job that barely pays the bills (remember the 63% of Americans living paycheck to paycheck fact?). So they just keep us running and running and running.

They force us to live in over-priced boxes, going to increasingly irrelevant schools, and ending up in dead-end jobs that make us scrape and claw to get by. And what happens if you don't follow that regiment? You go to prison.

As of January 2023, the United States has the second largest prison population in the world, and the sixth highest per-capita incarceration rate. One out of every 5 people imprisoned across the world is incarcerated in the United States. In 2018, the United States had the highest incarceration rate in the world, with 698 people incarcerated per 100,000; this includes the incarceration rate for adults or people tried as adults. CAN'T YOU SEE IT!?

There is no freedom in America. It's just a lifetime of moving from one prison to the next. And you'll see... they will push the age of social security back so that we have to stay in our work prisons until we can't physically package one more widget for Amazon.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/why-do-i-want-to-put-myself-through-this/>

og:title Content: Why Do I Want To Put Myself Through This? - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: March 4, 2023

Blog Post Content:

I read this article: Akron, Ohio, police condemn councilwoman's comment on Jayland Walker and my first thought was: "Why am I doing this to myself?"

I could sell a couple assets and retire. I'm 51 years old and I could just move to an island or California or someplace where there is less racism and hatred for people that don't look like me.

Akron City Councilwoman At-Large Linda Omobien stated at a recent council meeting that "Jayland Walker was murdered by police."

"Our members are furious and very upset by these comments," said FOP President Clay Cozart. "We had close to 100 members here Wednesday and the no-confidence vote was unanimous. We condemn her comment."

Linda Omobien looks like this:

Clay Cozart looks like this:

Now don't get me wrong. If I become Ward 8 City Council leader they will gladly come after me even though I look more like Clay than I do Linda. It will be easier for them because I'm white and they will say it has nothing to do with racism. But it most certainly will.

That's because I'm a "race traitor". I've been called that on Facebook and in person.

I had a older Black homeless man ask me point blank: "Aren't you afraid for you and your businesses because you are a nigger lover?"

It's going to be bad for me. I am not under any delusions that they aren't going to do everything in their power to destroy me any way they can.

I am already facing fines and jail time if I put one more tent on my land. They'll just keep turning that vice on me.

Akron has a new menacing law where you get an automatic 3 days in jail if a politician believes they are being menaced. I fully expect to be charged of that at some point (even though I have said time and time again that my strategy is completely non-violent.)

The Ohio Revised Code's definition for the crime of menacing states, "No person shall knowingly cause another to believe that the offender will cause physical harm to the person or property of the other person, the other person's unborn, or a member of the other person's immediate family.

At the same time I was fantasizing about my early retirement I saw this article: Nobel Peace Prize winner sentenced to 10 years in prison by Belarusian court | The Hill

The official Twitter account for the Nobel Prize posted after the sentencing that Bialiatski has advocated for fundamental human rights, democracy and freeing political prisoners from Belarusian jails for many years. It quoted him as saying last year that, "It just so happens that people who value freedom the most are often deprived of it."

And that was it. That's all I needed.

I would rather be in prison because I stood up for basic human rights of the most oppressed, hated and

forgotten citizens of Akron than sitting on a beach somewhere with not a care in the world. The beach would be much more of a prison for me. I would be tortured by shame and guilt for not standing up against evil in the name of all those who are dying on the cement with the knee of the powerful white man on their neck.

GET ME IN THERE!

I cannot promise you that I will be able to move the racists on city council one lick.

But incremental moves are nothing compared the the tectonic shifts that hope and love and righteousness can do to the world. Everything I do is done for the mind-blowingly good and kind and generous people I see every single day here in Akron. The goodness of Akron is breathtaking. I fight for you. I fight because it's the very least I can do given all that you do.

We are treating Black people, addicted people and poor white people like animals. They are less than human in the eyes of the powerful white elites of Akron Ohio. They believe that their racism and elitism is just what the future of Akron needs.

ALL COMMON SENSE AKRONITES know that's the past. The future is a place where we respect our land, our nature, our water, our people regardless of race or income.

The future is a place of love and respect. The past is a place of hate and prejudice.

There are many things you can say about me. But no one and I mean NO ONE can say I won't fight with everything I have for the those that are being sidelined in Akron.

PLEASE vote for me for Ward 8 Akron City Council on May 2, 2023.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/who-is-sage-lewis-politically/>

og:title Content: Who Is Sage Lewis Politically? - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: March 6, 2023

Blog Post Content:

There have been some really interesting articles, locally and nationally, about political polling.

I just finished reading:

Asian Americans, Shifting Right - The New York Times

It's primarily about Asian Americans. But it has other more general stats that I find very interesting. For example:

Nationally, the rightward drift of Asian voters is connected to a new class divide in American politics. The Democratic Party, especially its liberal wing, has increasingly come to reflect the views of college-educated professionals. This development has had some benefits for Democrats, helping them win more suburban voters and flip Arizona and Georgia in recent elections.

And this:

The trend has long been evident among white working-class voters, and many liberal analysts have claimed that it mostly reflects racial bigotry. But recent developments have weakened that argument. Class appears to be an important factor as well. Since 2018, more Asian and Latino voters have supported Republicans, and these voters appear to be disproportionately working-class.

I think the summary is: if you have a college education you are a Democrat. If you don't have a college education you are a Republican.

Doug Livingston has written 2 really interesting articles on polling Akronites:

Poll: Public safety, policing most important issues to Akron residents

Poll: What Akron residents say about mayor's race, Jayland Walker, more

There are A LOT of good stats in those articles. But this summary jumped out at me:

And this graph:

It's so tempting to morph into the stats as a political candidate.

Part of it is trying to be responsive to the citizens of Akron. But part of it also is just trying to win the seat. Russ Neal, Ward 6 council representative, recently told me to not worry about the politics of things. When you get in, work in the political mechanisms. But don't try being something you are not just to get votes. People will see through it.

I deeply admire Russ. And I'm also going to trust that top number: 76.1% of people want leaders with a high ethical standard.

So, I'm an open book. I'm going to tell you some things I believe. And if you want me to expound on things I haven't mentioned just ask and I'll give you an answer.

Let's talk police.

During Black Lives Matter and the Jayland Walker protests you could hear me say anything and everything about the police. I like the word "fuck" because it isn't pejorative against any particular person and it's also really strong. So, "Fuck the Police" was definitely a common phrase out of my mouth and on the Internet. I don't say it any more.

It's not because I'm suddenly in love with the police. I have some police I work with that I REALLY like. I've run into some that I don't.

I'm not saying it these days because I've evolved my thinking. My target is now leadership. I think Chief Mylett should resign.

I did an hour long podcast on why I think he should resign. It was based on these 5 items:

Ethan Liming - downplaying the gun he used to attack those young Black men and demonizing the Black men.

Jayland Walker - not releasing enough video footage and withholding names of officers. The Beacon is suing them for the information.

Dealing with Protestors

Taking Names off of badges.

Reinstating officers.

Here is the video:

And I'm also really upset with Clay Cozart, President of the Fraternal Order of Police Akron Lodge 7. He exhibits strong racist tendencies and protects criminals.

He will gladly tell his version of the Jayland Walker story and then tell anyone who disagrees with him that they are tainting the investigation and should stop talking.

And here is the statement from the FOP on the policy of jamming snow into the face of a person so they can't breathe: Akron Fraternal Order of Police issues statement on use of force case

"Experienced supervisors investigated and came to the conclusion, that Officer Turnure's use of force was within the policy of the Akron Police Department and within the law.

Here is another perspective of that story: Suspect says 'I can't breathe' after Akron officer shoved snow into his face during arrest

Over the course of 15 seconds, former officer John Turnure shoved snow into Charles Hicks' face three separate times on Feb. 7. When he finally caught his breath, he told officers: "Yes sir. I can't breathe."

And most recently:

Akron, Ohio, police condemn councilwoman's comment on Jayland Walker

"Our members are furious and very upset by these comments," said FOP President Clay Cozart. "We had close to 100 members here Wednesday and the no-confidence vote was unanimous. We condemn her comment."

The union has issued a no-confidence vote against Akron City Councilwoman At-Large Linda Omobien for stating at a recent council meeting that "Jayland Walker was murdered by police."

There are only two organizations that I can think of that get 100 people to unanimously agree on anything:

Totalitarian States and gangs.

When 100 people vote unanimously for anything that means one thing: they are afraid of the consequences of doing otherwise.

These issues make it very challenging for me to have a meaningful response to my friends that think we should abolish the police.

If the heart of the union and police leadership provides cover for bad cops how are we ever going to get better? It's impossible. Maybe it should just be torn down and started over.

But I don't actually believe that. I'm a reformer, not an anarchist. All of our institutions are diseased and rotten. We'd have nothing left if we destroyed every terrible organization.

PETA

PETA is still killing puppies: Euthanasia At PETA's "Shelter" Still Occurring At Alarming Rate - Lexology

PLANNED PARENTHOOD

There is some pretty compelling evidence that the founder of Planned Parenthood, Margaret Sanger, was a racist and a eugenicist. (You don't have to debate me on this. I know the complicated nature of this issue.)

DEMOCRATIC PARTY

The Rise and Fall of Jim Crow. Jim Crow Stories . Democratic Party | PBS

The Democratic Party identified itself as the "white man's party" and demonized the Republican Party as being "Negro dominated," even though whites were in control.

POLICE

I think police history has it worst of all: The Origins of Modern Day Policing

The origins of modern-day policing can be traced back to the "Slave Patrol." The earliest formal slave patrol was created in the Carolinas in the early 1700s with one mission: to establish a system of terror and squash slave uprisings with the capacity to pursue, apprehend, and return runaway slaves to their owners. Tactics included the use of excessive force to control and produce desired slave behavior.

Humans are a messy group.

Police want 470 officers. They should have it.

We have a violence issue in Akron. Everybody is carrying a gun. The new Ohio concealed carry law lets anyone conceal carry (as long as they haven't been legally forbidden to do so) with no training. And they don't have to tell a police officer that they have a gun.

So everybody is carrying in Akron. Felons, non-felons. Everyone. It's more dangerous for police, without a doubt.

We need to be mindful of what police say they need so they can be part of the solution to help reduce violence.

But please take note of what I just said: Police need to be PART of the solution. They cannot be the entire solution.

I believe we, the people of Akron, need to be as much a part.

I am working on presenting to you a program I'm REALLY excited about. I'm calling it: THE WARD 8 COMMUNITY ALLIANCE.

It starts at the block level. Maybe a dozen houses. I believe we need to come out of our houses and be part of our communities. I think Block Clubs could be part of this. And I think a Ward leader is just the person to help organize something like this.

THE WARD 8 COMMUNITY ALLIANCE is going to be at the heart of everything I do during my time as ward leader.

I have a lot of ideas on this. But I still need to organize them better. So stay tuned on that.

I believe WARD 8 is a ward of smart, kind and thoughtful people. I believe Ward 8 can lead Akron into the future of the kind of compassionate, innovative and progressive city the future of America needs.

RACISM

I have a lot of friends and family members that are racist.

I believe that we are all on a racist spectrum. There is nothing more fundamentally human than creating in-groups and out-groups. It's how we have survived for hundreds of thousands of years.

But if you believe Black people, LGBTQIA people, addicted people, homeless people are inferior to you then you need to leave Akron. Go to Wardworth or Medina or Hudson. We don't want you here.

If you are open to thinking about your racism and bigotry, that's a different story. But if your mind is made up that you are better than anyone else you are just not what Akron needs. Go away.

ADDICTION

Addiction is not a crime. It is a brain disease. It is in the DSM as a substance use disorder.

DSM-5 Criteria for Addiction Simplified

The Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, Fifth Edition, or DSM-5, is the American Psychiatric Association's goldstandard text on mental health that was crafted by hundreds of mental health experts. The DSM-5 has eleven criteria, or symptoms, for substance use disorders based on decades of research. The DSM-5 has helped change how we think about addictions by not overly focusing on withdrawal.

We are throwing people in jail because they have a mental disorder.

It's regressive thinking. We will look at this era like we look at the shock treatment era of insane asylums. Akron is a holy city to hundreds of thousands of people. They come here every year to pay homage to the founding of AA.

AA might be our single greatest contribution to the world.

I have been sober for 19 years. I'm so thankful for that gift I gave myself. (I used SMART Recovery primarily. But AA and AA meetings have always been with me as well.)

I have a long-term vision of making Akron the Recovery City of the World. A place where all are welcome to come and decompress, unwind and recover.

This has turned into a much longer article than I anticipated. I have to get to some other work. But that should get you started on how I feel about some issues. If you have any questions about these issues or any other issues please let me know.

A big part of me being the Ward 8 representative is community and communication. We will definitely continue these discussions about the most important issues facing Akron.

I truly believe we are in decline as a city. And if we don't address the big issues like violence, addiction, homelessness, housing, mental illness... we will die as a city. I truly believe it. These issues are rotting the foundational pillars of our city.

PLEASE VOTE FOR ME, SAGE LEWIS, AS THE NEXT WARD 8 REPRESENTATIVE ON MAY 2, 2023.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/to-each-their-own/>

og:title Content: To Each Their Own - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: March 7, 2023

Blog Post Content:

This is my friend Aubrey, with her dog Harley.

She is pregnant, due in May, and lives in hiding in the woods hoping that the police and society don't find her and take all her belongings.

Some of us are learning acceptance of others. Some of us aren't. All of us need to be better at it.

For example, some of us are learning to accept non-binary gender. Spring Garden Waldorf School is particularly good at this. Some of us are trying everything in their power to oppress, condemn and sow hate for these people.

Black people, addicted people, homeless people, poor people, elderly people, mentally ill people, physically disabled people. ALL THESE PEOPLE BRING VALUE AND LIGHT TO THE WORLD. They are here for a reason. We all must practice compassion, forgiveness, love and acceptance. This is commanded by every meaningful spiritual guide in human history.

"To each their own."

That means: "We should allow each person to have their own opinion." Or, "I try not to judge people who like different things from me - each to their own."

Humans have a VERY hard time with this. Conservative people can't seem to do it much at all, unless they or their family member happens to be different.

Aubrey is taking pre-natal vitamins, she's going to the doctor and she plans to give the baby to her aunt.

She stays in the woods because she has severe social anxiety and finds it difficult to be around people. She is comfortable in the woods.

To each their own.

We are living through a battle between good and evil in much of the world. Good = love and acceptance. Evil = hate and bigotry.

Akron City Council is failing to get people on the police oversight board which was demanded by the people with 62% of the vote. It's a battle between good and evil. Evil is winning right now.

You need 7 votes to pass anything in city council. This oversight board thing needs 9 votes.

We must work to get 7 people on city council that are on the side of Good. Money and Power are fighting to keep Evil in charge.

PLEASE VOTE FOR ME, SAGE LEWIS, ON MAY 2, 2023 FOR WARD 8 AKRON CITY COUNCIL.

You know I fight for diversity, equity and inclusion. That is the side of goodness. That is the side of God.

That is the side of Jesus and Ghandi and The Buddha. Those are the forces I fight for.

For all that is good in the world, PLEASE GET ME ON CITY COUNCIL.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/why-do-you-put-pictures-of-these-people-online/>

og:title Content: WHY DO YOU PUT PICTURES OF THESE PEOPLE ONLINE? - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: March 8, 2023

Blog Post Content:

This is a friend of mine passed out after taking a really good hit of fentanyl. The needle is still in her arm. In our circle we all know who this is. She's embarrassed by this picture. But she didn't tell me to take it down.

That's the one rule I've given myself. If a person or their family tell me to take down a photo or video I do it. But sometimes I even debate that.

A person accused me yesterday of exploiting these people for my own political gain. I'm running for city council. And I'll make a bigger plug for that later in this post.

Why am I doing this?

There are several reasons.

I believe if you don't see something then it doesn't exist. If and when they start putting homeless people in concentration camps we all are going to be thankful this woman is no longer in our sight and she's "getting the help she needs." Even though we'll have no earthly idea what is going on behind those walls.

Pictures really impact the human mind. If I just told you the story of this picture it wouldn't have nearly the impact of being forced to look at her.

And finally and most importantly: I don't want you to be able to say "I didn't know it was happening."

Nazi concentration camps were right outside cities where Germans were carrying on like nothing was happening. This woman is in your community. I feel pretty confident that there is a person right this minute looking a lot like this picture within a mile of your house in Akron Ohio.

I NEVER WANT YOU TO BE ABLE TO SAY YOU DIDN'T KNOW.

Imokhai Okolo is being denied a seat on the police oversight board (that has zero power) by 5 old white men. It's cut and dry racism. NOW YOU KNOW.

The city of Akron is clear cutting the land at White Pond that they most likely sold illegally to out of town developers. NOW YOU KNOW.

8 cops emptied 8 clips of bullets into one unarmed Black man. NOW YOU KNOW.

WE ARE ALL CULPABLE. We wealthy white people who live blessed, easy lives are propping up a system that exploits and tortures non-wealthy, non-white people because it benefits us.

We buy chocolate and shrimp that was cultivated by child slaves. We buy nearly everything that was made in countries that was made by exploited workers because we don't want to pay an American to do the work.

WE ARE GUILTY OF ALL THIS.

When I look at this woman I am not embarrassed for her. She suffers great back pain and she can't get pain drugs from a doctor. So she gets them from the street. I'm embarrassed for myself and the system I greatly benefit from and causes great suffering to countless other people who are not me and my family.

I get nauseous just thinking about going into the city council room. I hate it there. There is real evil in that room. I would MUCH rather be with this woman in this shed.

I'm running for city council because none of our lawsuits worked to allow me to shelter anyone on my private land. Running for office is my next idea on how I maybe can make a difference.

If you don't want to see pictures of pain and suffering from me anymore CHANGE THE SYSTEM. One way you can do that is to vote for me as Ward 8 Akron City Council on May 2 2023.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/who-id-vote-for-akron-mayor-right-now/>
og:title Content: Who I'd Vote For Akron Mayor Right Now - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist
Blog Post Date: March 10, 2023

Blog Post Content:

I had a GREAT time at the Akron Mayoral debate last night in Ward 5 at Robinson CLC. I truly believe we are going to get a Black mayor in Akron. That excites me a great deal. I hope that inspires some new voters to come out and get in the game on May 2, 2023.

This is the order of who I would vote for right now. I believe we need ranked choice voting to make all of our votes matter more. So if we had that, this is the order I would put them in:

Tara Mosley, city councilor and candidate for Lieutenant Governor of Ohio in 2018

First: Tara Mosely. She CLEARLY is the most ready for this job. She is a very active and engaged member of city council. She's in the game. She is a 3-term Akron City Councilwoman. She's ready. She's smart. She would be good for Akron. My biggest concern is that she isn't widely known all over Akron.

Marco Sommerville, deputy mayor for intergovernmental affairs

Second: Marco Sommerville. This guy is so likable. That is really important in a popularity contest like democracy. He has previously served as Planning Director, City Council President, Ward Councilman, and Akron NAACP president. He's currently the deputy mayor for intergovernmental affairs. He's got a lot of experience. But he feels more like a statesman where Tara feels like she's actively in the fight. I'm really worried about all the money pouring into his campaign. Those rich business owners don't flood your campaign with tons of money for nothing. They want a return on investment. But I got to talk with him a little last night and it was good. He publicly said that the names of the police who killed Jayland Walker should be put out in public. I REALLY appreciated that.

Shammas Malik, city councilor

Third: The more I get to know Shammas Malik the less I like him. He's just not good one on one. To the point where I wonder if he might have some actual difficulty with that kind of engagement. But he's good on stage. Ward 8 constituents tell me he has come out to talk with them when they have a problem (most of the time). I think he's trying too hard to be a "politician". He's in his head too much. He needs to get in his heart more. But as a highly educated, highly academically intelligent person I don't think he puts much weight on emotions and following your heart. We could have a worse mayor.

Jeff Wilhite, Summit County councilor

Fourth: Jeff Wilhite is a nice guy. That's the biggest thing I can say about him. He wasn't memorable. I really can't recall anything he said other than we need to talk more to each other. I'm tired of talk. I want action. This guy isn't going to win. But he is the token white guy. Ellet is going to vote for him because they don't have anyone else to vote for. I'd say 20% of Akron is very racist. They won't vote for someone who is a Muslim, a woman or a Black person. Wilhite is all they have left. He's going to pick up the racist vote. I definitely don't have any indication that he is racist. But that will be a big chunk of his vote.

Keith Mills, teacher

Fifth: Keith Mills is great. I REALLY liked his presentation. He has gone from being homeless to having his masters degree. He teaches up in Cleveland. He also had a harrowing story of a home invasion where he had to scare someone out of his house. If he gets the politics bug I think he'd be an EXCELLENT school board person. I'd love to see him try for that next.

Joshua Schaffer, cellphone store manager

Sixth: Joshua Schaffer made the entire night for me. He was quick witted. And he came out fighting. He had some really great zingers against Shammas and Marco. It took a lot of guts to do what he did up there. He's really into green spaces and green jobs which is super cool. He's not going to win. But I really hope he doesn't quit. He feels like a quirky Dennis Kucinich, maybe. He's brave and exciting and thoughtful. I really want to see him try for more political positions.

Mark Greer, former Akron Small Business Program Manager

Undecided: Mark Greer - When I started writing this post I was going to put him at spot 3. I LOVED his

ideas, his presence. I loved everything about him. But then I read this article:<https://www.beaconjournal.com/story/news/politics/2023/03/09/city-of-akron-small-business-manager-mark-greer-forced-to-quit-before-campaign-for-mayor/69980272007/>
I think he got shafted by the Horrigan administration because he dared to go against the ordained choice for mayor, Sommerville. That makes me like him more. The issue I had is that he votes Republican in primaries and he's running as a Democrat. I HATE when people do that. I know they do it because people only vote for Democrats in Akron and they often do so blindly. But there are currently people on city council that do this too. It's a lie. It's deceiving. It's pure political bullshit. It drives me nuts. Russ Neal wants to do away with partisan voting in Akron. Just take away the R and D from peoples' names like we do with judges. It's meaningless in Akron. I'll gladly help support that cause with Russ if I become the Ward 8 council person. But Mark Greer should have either run as a Republican or as an Independent. He's just not a Democrat.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/my-second-experience-with-de-escalation-with-a-gun/>
og:title Content: MY SECOND EXPERIENCE WITH DE-ESCALATION WITH A GUN - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist
Blog Post Date: March 11, 2023

Blog Post Content:

I was sitting inside my building yesterday when a homeless friend came to me and said there was a man with a gun who was extremely agitated at our house.
I went to see what was going on.
As I slowly walked towards the scene I watched as this man ranted and paced around aggressively in front of the door of our house. I didn't recognize him right away. He wasn't a person who was a regular.
As I got closer someone near the scene told me who it was. I then recognized him. He was upset about a rumor he heard.
As I got to him I noticed he didn't have 1 gun. He had 2. One gun was in his left sweatpants pocket. And the other gun was in his right hoodie pocket.
He would occasionally touch the left hand gun from outside his pants pocket.
As he and I were talking he was getting more agitated. He wanted information of a specific location that we all knew. But given the circumstances we didn't want to tell him because it was a location of a small camp of homeless people.
He kept getting more and more agitated. It was just me and him talking. Others were calmly milling around like it was a normal day. Drama like this isn't an everyday thing for these people. But it's also not uncommon.
He seemed to be getting angrier and angrier. So I put my hand on my gun which was on my back right hip under my coat. I had taken the safety off as I had walked to the scene.
He kept pacing and ranting.
He finally said, "what do you have your hand on? I've been shot before."
He then took his left hand gun out of his pants pocket. I was trying to notice how old the gun was. How reliable was it going to be if he fired it?
This was the moment I had to make a very serious decision.
I said, "Look man. Just put your gun away."
I took my hand off my gun and held my hand in the air.
He put his gun back in his pocket. I asked him to take his hand off his gun. He did.
I told him I'd help him find the answers to his questions.
He was still angry. But he got in the passenger side of the car he came in.
They drove off.

I have a couple thoughts about this situation.
First, I've had a gun drawn on me before. It doesn't scare me. I believe I have a broken fear switch. I'm not scared. I'm not excited. I don't feel anything different at all.
You might as well be talking about the weather to me.
But I am constantly assessing the situation. Who's around me? What could I do to take cover? How is everyone else feeling and acting? Do I need to calm them down? What's my escape route?
Then it's just me and the person having a conversation.
My goal is to just move on to the next step. What does this person want? How can I help them get it?
I'm not there to take this person into custody. I'm not there to take his gun. I'm just there to help move

beyond this point.

I don't know if I'm doing it right. I just am making this stuff up on the fly. I have never been trained in de-escalation.

Honestly, I think this is probably what most people do in these situations. For every encounter where someone ends up shot I bet there are 100 where it resolves this way. This kind of thing is just not that uncommon in our neighborhoods. Guns are everywhere.

I think where it goes wrong is when an agitated person meets an immovable wall like another agitated person... or a police officer.

Police are stuck in a bad spot. There is no way they can let a person like this walk away. So they have to go the other way. They can't de-escalate like I did. They have to figure out how to control this person and take him into custody. I'd probably do it a lot like how they do it if I were in their shoes.

I don't know exactly what my lessons are here. But maybe its more about teaching de-escalation to the community. To the people. If you don't want the police involved then you're going to have to handle it yourself. Maybe we offer defense training and de-escalation training regularly in our communities.

If either I or the person I was talking to got shot yesterday it would have been all bad. It would have torn our community apart.

In the last situation I was in like this I ended up buying the gun from the person. I felt like he was going to be a recurring problem. In this situation I feel like this was a one off thing. I'm not worried it's going to happen again.

In this situation it was all just a misunderstanding. It was cleared up and all is right with the world.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/akron-can-be-the-hero-suffering-people-need/>

og:title Content: AKRON CAN BE THE HERO SUFFERING PEOPLE NEED. - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: March 14, 2023

Blog Post Content:

I'm really excited about the abortion access amendment groups are trying to get on the November ballot in Ohio. The proposed amendment would provide that every "individual has a right to make and carry out one's own reproductive decisions," including abortion.

On top of that there is an Ohio Marijuana Legalization Initiative that I think is also going to be on the November ballot.

Conservatives simply don't care about women or people that find relief with marijuana.

WE IN AKRON KNOW THAT IS WRONG. We fight for the people. ALL PEOPLE.

I believe power is all about organizing. I have an idea I will implement as Ward 8 City Council Person (Vote May 2, 2023). I'm calling it THE WARD 8 COMMUNITY ALLIANCE. It is the foundation of everything i'm trying to accomplish. It's a community organization initiative that starts at the most micro level - creating Block Clubs.

A Ward leader is in a great position to help organize at this most granular level. But that's just the start. Once we get a basic framework of Block Clubs organized then we can start organizing groups of Block Clubs. These will become Neighborhood Clubs. And then Neighborhood Clubs become Area Clubs. And Area Clubs become Ward Clubs. Ward Clubs become City Clubs. City Clubs become Region Clubs. Region Clubs become State Clubs.

Ward 8 is a perfect place to start this movement. Ward 8 citizens are kind and educated and thoughtful and caring. When I'm out meeting people I hear it over and over again: We are doing well and we want everyone to do well. Ward 8 is set to be a wonderful leader in humanitarian justice. Just look at all the signs in Ward 8 yards calling for social justice. It's incredible.

The Reproductive Rights Initiative people need 400,000 signatures to get their amendment on the ballot. Akron and Cleveland need to be helping lead this incredibly important work. AND WE MOST CERTAINLY WILL.

Please keep an eye out to make sure you sign the petition to get this amendment on the ballot. And if this is an issue that is important to you please look into how you can help this cause.

Moving forward, groups behind the proposed constitutional amendment, will need to collect over 400,000 valid signatures of Ohio voters by July 5 to qualify the proposed amendment for the November ballot.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/my-rankings-for-akron-mayor-after-the-second-debate/>

og:title Content: My Rankings For Akron Mayor After The Second Debate - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: March 15, 2023

Blog Post Content:

First: Tara MoselySecond: Marco SommervilleThird: Mark GreerFourth: Shammass MalikFifth: Joshua SchafferSixth: Jeff WilhiteSeventh: Keith Mills

My rankings have definitely changed since the last debate.

Tara and Marco are still in the top 2 spots.

But Mark Greer is just amazing. He's a younger Black man who really gets it.

At one point the question was: How do we keep people in Akron? Mark's answer: TREAT THEM BETTER.

He is so right about that. The best people in our community often get treated like crap by the administration.

Number 1 on that list right now is Imokhai Okolo. He was the only young Black man to potentially be on the Police Oversight Board (a group that has zero power to do anything to police). He was uniformly blocked by 5 old white men.

I'd seriously think about leaving Akron if I was him. He undoubtedly feels hated and not respected for all his successes. (He's an attorney in Cleveland for Jones Day.). If I were him I'd be thinking about getting one of those swank downtown lofts in Cleveland.

I talked to another Black man yesterday that is very high in power. He said that he feels like the administration makes it their life mission to personally destroy you if you disagree with them. I feel that sentiment based on my experiences trying to come up with new ways to shelter homeless people.

The administration says they want to grow the population. But then they publicly seek to crush you if you step out of line. Who wants to live in a city like that?

Joshua Schaffer also went up in my list. He listed all of his educational background. It's really impressive. He doesn't list his resume on his website. But I wish he would. I didn't catch everything in my notes. But I'll tell you: this guy is highly educated in political science.

Shammass Malik continues to slide down for me. During the question about Fresh Ideas he said "slow, consistent work. That's what you'll get from me." That has got to be the most boring fresh idea I've ever heard in my life.

Shammass opened up talking about his mom. He closed talking about his mom. He sounds like a guy pretending to be a politician. He's just not good at it. He is a good speaker. But the ideas he has behind the words are weak. He wants to be the politician with experience yet he hasn't finished one full term in city council. He feels like a guy with a Harvard Law degree that thinks he's better than this low level grunt work and just needs to ascend as fast as possible.

He talks about respecting people and then calls us out during city council if he doesn't like the words we use. (He was done for me after the way he treated Reverend Ray Greene.) For a person that talks about how important respect is: he sure doesn't seem to respect many of the people and their legitimate feelings of being oppressed and squashed by a ruthless administration.

Jeff Wilhite has a pretty interesting background. He has done some really interesting things. But the long and short of it is: we don't need another mainstream white guy running Akron right now. The Black community needs a serious voice at the table.

I believe it's incredibly important and relevant that we have a Black mayor at this time in Akron. And we have really good choices to pick from. They truly are the best choices from the list.

I still like Tara the most. She is down in it. She's been on city council for 9 years. She knows how the system works. She's calm. She works well with all kinds of people. And she gets it. She knows the systemic problems we are facing in Akron. I just truly believe she would be great for this job. Being a Black Woman is also a big plus.

Marco Sommerville has a ton of experience. He was president of city council. He was the planning director. He's the deputy mayor right now. He's a businessman. He knows the neighborhoods. But he's got that "old man" feel about him. I'd say he's not fresh and exciting like Tara and Mark Greer. But what I like maybe most about him is his team. He has a really energetic young team helping his campaign. I LOVE them. It's great that he's got a core group of young people that are excited about him. You just never know what a person is going to be like in a position like mayor. He might cave to all the money and special interests. Or he might be brave enough to bring in exciting, fresh faces into his cabinet. We just don't know.

Mark Greer is amazing. He has this Malcom X look about him. He's incredibly thoughtful, incredibly exciting. If he became mayor I would feel like we had definitely turned the page in Akron. I'd feel the same way about Tara. With Marco I'm not sure if we are turning the page or just going to the next paragraph of the same idea.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/satm-podcast-episode-116-down-and-dirty-akron-politics/>

og:title Content: SATM Podcast Episode 116: Down and Dirty Akron Politics - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist
Blog Post Date: March 16, 2023

Blog Post Content:
Sage Against The Machine Podcast Episode 116. We talk about the candidates and racism, classism and misogyny.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/my-rankings-for-akron-mayor-after-the-3rd-debate/>
og:title Content: My Rankings For Akron Mayor After The 3rd Debate - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist
Blog Post Date: March 17, 2023

Blog Post Content:
My Rankings For Akron Mayor After The 3rd Debate:

First: Tara Mosely
Second: Mark Greer
Third: Joshua Schaffer
Fourth: Shammass Malik
Fifth: Jeff Wilhite
Sixth: Marco Sommerville
Seventh: Keith Jeff Mills

The BIG winner of the Social Justice Forum debate last night (March 16, 2023) was Mark Greer. The questions they asked were right up his alley and he knocked them out of the park. The first question the candidates were asked was "what is the most important social justice issue in Akron." The answers from every candidate were so boring and uniform. It was hard to separate them. "Public Safety" was their answer. It's a stupid answer because OF COURSE safety is the most important thing. Just because you say it doesn't mean you are going to make it better at all. No one actually talked about why things are unsafe right now. Things are unsafe because of increased income inequality, generational hopelessness, demeaning jobs and living in a city that so clearly doesn't care about its citizens... especially the young, Black male ones. NOT MARK GREER. He went first and his answer was: Jayland Walker is the number one social justice issue. That answer is so brilliant because it tells the entire Akron Condition in one terribly tragic story and is representative of all that is wrong in Akron. An unarmed man is shot at 90 times and hit over 40 times. "Let's talk about that." It's complicated and delicate and nuanced. Telling us that we need more police walking around neighborhoods is like telling a person with cancer to eat less sugar. Sure. It's probably a good idea. But it is not going to cure the cancer. Mark went on and on like this all night. Every word out of his mouth was fresh and interesting and deeply thoughtful. The second question was "Talk about 1 or 2 interventions for gun safety." This is where Sommerville started falling apart. And he did so a few times in the night. He wasn't reading off of his tablet last night and now I see why he should probably go back to it. Marco has one idea he's super excited about. He wants to put Batman-eque magnetic darts on police cars that will shoot out and stick to a bad guy's car and that dart will have GPS. These are being used in some other cities in the country. It's cool and all. But it's not a strategy. It's just a tactic that may or may not be effective. Besides, we already have all these Flock licence plate cameras throughout the city. I'm quite sure if an officer is close enough to shoot a dart at a car, they are close enough to read the license plate and then have the Flock cameras scan for the plate all over the city. Sommerville, without his notes, feels like an out of touch old man. I'm not sure he has any idea what's really going on. So, after Marco talks about his dart idea that he has talked about at every debate so far, he says that, at that

point, the police can stop the chase, let the gps do its work and then they can "move in for the kill." That line elicited a lot of groans in the audience.

When it was Mark Greer's turn to speak he apologized for Marco's gaff. It was brilliantly played. It was sincere, authentic and put a nuanced point on the fact that just because Marco is Black doesn't mean he is getting it.

It was like that all night. As good as Mark Greer kept getting, Marco Sommerville kept getting worse. At one point Marco said that we needed more women on the police force because women are better at de-escalation.

Here's a tip gramps: Whenever words like "Women are...", "Black people are...", "White people are..." come out of your mouth NO MATTER what you say after that you are going to sound ignorant and bigoted. We've all learned now (or at least we should have all learned) that stereotypes just aren't true. You have to judge the individual person not the arbitrary grouping you've amassed them in to make your life easier. Humans are too complicated to generalize into neat little stereotypes. You have to get to know each individual person.

And may I say for the record, not all older people are out of touch. Reverend John Beaty is one of the most hard core social justice fighters I know and he's like 82 years old.

But Marco Sommerville is living into that old person stereotype. Out of touch and ignorant of his out of touch ideas.

An incredibly powerful bit of investigative journalism by Doug Livingston this week showed that the mayor's office has been hiding money spent for decades. Sometime in the 1960s an unknown person put a passage in the annual budget called "Section 56."

Section 56 gives the mayor the authority to skip council approval and sign millions of dollars in consulting contracts that don't require council notification.

That's not how it's supposed to work. Council controls the money. Everything over \$50,000 needs to be approved by city council.

Last year the mayor's office snuck through 173 contracts totalling more than \$30 million. It is equal to about 1 in every 6 income tax dollars collected locally. City council had no idea this was happening. They would have never known if it wasn't for Doug Livingston.

For example, there was a \$155,000 contract with former Mayor Don Plusquellic, and a \$35,000 contract for James Hardy, my political opponent for Ward 8 city council.

Why hide the money? Why not just put it in the regular budget?

Marco Sommerville thinks this is totally cool. He said he doesn't see any corruption or any problems with the way money is being spent inside the administration, OF WHICH HE IS A PART.

And that right there ladies and gentlemen is the number 1 reason why you should NOT vote for Marco Sommerville. He looks different. But he's not different.

Nothing will change under Marco Sommerville.

There will be no social justice. There will be no listening to the people. There will be no care for our natural resources (that are probably going to be the biggest draw for us in the near future for people to move here, as much of the rest of the country suffers from drought and other natural disasters.)

After last night I would not vote for Marco Sommerville.

As much as I love Mark Greer, he doesn't have the political machine in place to actually win this election. Politics involves a lot of different muscle groups. You need to be able to fundraise, to inspire volunteers, to think strategically about your campaign. Unfortunately, being the person with the best ideas isn't enough. Democracy is very much a popularity contest and you have to know how to win it.

My hope and belief is still on Tara Mosely. She gets the social justice failings of Akron. She has the 3 term city council experience. She knows how to pass legislation. She has energy and passion. She can cross all kinds of racial and class lines.

If I was betting, I'd still say Sommerville is going to win. He's got a ton of money and he's going to flood the market with all kinds of advertisements.

Very few people go to debates. Very few people take the time to read posts like these. Most people are too busy and don't see the importance of local politics in their day to day lives. Most people don't know that there is even a May 2, 2023 primary or that whoever wins that will be the next mayor of Akron.

As a city council person I'm very excited to continue to talk about local issues and help get people more excited about local politics. I'll have a slightly bigger platform to get these ideas out.

We need to create a movement of the people that gets them interested and excited about local politics and how they can radically transform it if they get just a little bit involved.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/my-final-answer-on-who-should-be-the-next-mayor-of-akron-ohio/>
og:title Content: MY FINAL ANSWER ON WHO SHOULD BE THE NEXT MAYOR OF AKRON OHIO - Sage Lewis
- Libertarian Humanist
Blog Post Date: March 21, 2023

Blog Post Content:

Here Are My Rankings For Akron Mayor After The Saturday March 18 2023 Forum
First: Tara Mosely
Second: Mark Greer
Third: Shammass Malik
Fourth: Marco Sommerville
Fifth: Jeff Wilhite
Sixth: Joshua Schaffer
Seventh: Keith Mills

I thought it might be useful to talk about my biases. Each time I do these rankings after a debate I ask myself if I'm letting certain biases weigh my thinking.

For example, as people, I don't really like Shammass Malik and I REALLY like Marco Sommerville. There are a couple underlying motivations for this. I have a natural tendency to not think much of intellectuals. I have a problem with them. They think too much of themselves because they got an advanced degree. I believe anyone can be brilliant if they make the topic narrow enough. So then they get a big degree and then all of sudden they think they know everything about everything. And it turns out that their myopic decades of study has made them actually mentally retarded in things like how to fix a tire or how to replace a door handle.

I'm a grinder. I like working hard and slogging through the mud and the muck. Marco Sommerville seems like a salt-of-the-earth kind of guy. He's a businessman, which carries a lot of weight with me. And he's super charismatic. I talked one-on-one with him after the debate. I don't know how you cannot like the guy. I want to be Marco's friend.

Before the event I got to talk with Darnell Davis. He works on Marco Sommerville's campaign. He's a young guy that is super cool and enthusiastic about Marco. He said Marco took him under his wing while he was a poly-sci student at the University of Akron. He is now a Government & Politics/Academic Instructor at the University of Akron.

Because of my discussion with Darnell before the event I went in with a really open mind about Marco. I was pretty hard on Marco for his performance at the last debate. If a really cool guy like Darnell likes Marco I felt like I needed to clear my head and open my mind to Marco.

On top of that, at the first debate Marco asked me if we could have a picture together. That was extremely flattering and kind. As a guy with serious daddy issues and sees political figures as celebrities with power, I was really taken aback by him wanting to take a picture with me. Most people in real jobs run like the wind when I come around. They don't want anyone to know that they might be friends with me.

So, I started today's debate with an open mind about Marco. If anything, I was feeling positive about him. But he just couldn't do it.

The people he's running against are younger and are more aware of current issues like mental health, addiction, trauma, homelessness and the power of community and collaboration.

We got to ask questions from the audience today. I asked a question about how to handle unsheltered homeless people.

Tara Mosely has been to our encampment. She would bring supplies and food to us. She uses the word "houseless." She is open to tiny houses.

Mark Greer might be an honest-to-god genius. He had houseless stats at the ready. He knows about rapid rehousing. He believes in housing first and then treatment (I'm not a housing first person. But he clearly is open to this topic.)

Shammass Malik knows about the Pallet tiny houses they are using in other more progressive cities. He said straight out he'd do tiny houses.

Jeff Wilhite is the president of Family Promise which houses homeless families. He said that the first thing you need to do is get everyone warm, dry and safe. That is right out of Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs. He said that we need to learn to respect other people. He said that we have to be open to the idea that some people don't want to be inside. He said that leaving people out on the street is "not who we are."

Keith Mills has actually been homeless. He is now a teacher with a master's degree. Lived experience is a powerful tool.

Marco Sommerville said "certain people want to stay houseless." That's false.

Let me break down the difference between what Marco said and what Jeff said. Jeff said that some people don't want to be inside. That's true. They have anxiety in closed spaces. Saying it the way he did shows that

he empathizes and understands the needs of this community. When someone says "certain people want to stay homeless" it is saying that these people are beyond help. That they don't want help. That's absolutely false. If you hand someone some brussel sprouts and they turn them down you can't then say these people don't want help. All that means is they don't want brussel sprouts. We have to meet all people where they are right now, not where we wish they were. Jeff clearly gets that. Marco doesn't get it. I can't say it enough. I like Marco Sommerville. But we need a leader who is in tune with current thinking and ideas.

Unfortunately, he isn't that leader. I'm truly sorry. I want him to be that leader. And even more unfortunately, he's probably going to win.

The vote is going to get all split up. Jeff Wilhite is going to take a large part of the white male vote. Shammass Malik is going to get some younger voters and a large chunk of Ward 8. Tara Mosely is going to get a lot of women. Tara and Marco are going to split the Black vote and then institutional voters will vote for Marco. I predict Marco is going to win with 36-42% of the vote.

The positive part of Marco is that he gives young Black people a chance. He is open to working with young people. That could be great. But what he does for addiction, homelessness, mental illness is probably going to be pretty minimal. And I really don't know how much power he has with the police and the police union. I think he will try to work on policing. But I just don't know what he will have the power to change. I don't think you can actually get rid of the "bad apples." I think they are protected by the union.

Marco also likes to talk about all the houses he's torn down at Summit Lake. And then he's going to build new houses at Summit Lake. He said that current residents will get the first shot at those houses. But how much are these houses going to cost? Will average people be able to afford them?

Another bias I have is towards the Black candidates and the half-Pakistani half-Irish candidate, Shammass Malik. Their racial background is a huge positive for me. I'm tired of old White men running everything. I'm often embarrassed by their complete lack of ability to understand other people. Don't get me wrong, white men have good things to offer the world. But we just need to get out of the way. We need to step back. Shammass grew up in a Muslim community in Akron. That appeals to me a great deal. I would love for us to have a Muslim mayor. But I think it's more important to have a Black mayor.

The message a Black mayor sends to the Black community of Akron is critically important. Ward 8 really needs to back a Black mayor. I have a feeling Ward 8 is going to be divided between Shammass, Tara and Marco. Shammass is pretty well liked in Ward 8. But I really wish they would throw their support behind Tara. But because the symbolism of a Black mayor is so important right now, I wouldn't hate it if they backed Marco.

When I first did these debate reviews, after the first debate my top 3 were: 1. Tara Mosley 2. Marco Sommerville 3. Shammass Malik

I think that's going to be my final answer.

I'd like Mark Greer to be in the number 2 spot. But he just doesn't have the machine in place to win this time around. So, when I think about who could actually win, and the importance of a Black mayor, I might just end this thought process for me with:

1. Tara Mosley 2. Marco Sommerville 3. Shammass Malik

People have very specifically come up to me and said Marco Sommerville isn't right for the job. Maybe he is (Darnell Davis thinks he is). Maybe he's not. I don't know. But if we really want to support the Black community I believe we need to support a Black candidate.

Marco talked to me after the event today. We were walking about 10 feet away from each other. He yelled out my name, "SAGE LEWIS!" I yelled back "Mr. Sommerville."

We had a wonderful talk. Like I said, he's an incredibly likable guy.

He said he didn't need this job. But he wanted it to help the community. I told him I was worried about all the rich donors sending him all that money. I told him I was afraid they were going to want a return on their investment. He said he will do what he wants to do. I believe him.

He said "you don't need this either," meaning the work I do for homeless people and the such. He said "you do it because of this right here", he slapped his chest right between his heart and his stomach. He's right. That's where it is. That's the place that drives me.

He definitely understands why you do this work. I believe he is doing this because he wants to make a difference. Maybe he'll be a great mayor. Maybe he'll be a terrible mayor. Who knows. But if Tara or Marco became mayor I really think it would be good for the spiritual health of our city.

And Shammass... that guy annoys me to no end. But he's wicked smart and he has a real vision for where he wants to go.

So:

1. Tara Mosley2. Marco Sommerville3. Shammass MalikFinal Answer.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/help-my-family-member-is-addicted-to-meth/>

og:title Content: Help! My Family Member Is Addicted To Meth - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: March 24, 2023

Blog Post Content:

I just got this question from a person on Facebook. This is what they wrote:

This is what I wrote:

This is a favorite topic of mine. I LOVE thinking about it. And I'm so sorry you are experiencing this in your family. It's brutally difficult.

This is what I tell people: Think of yourself as a life raft. You can only handle so many people. And if a person on the raft is stealing the food and water or trying to sink the raft or trying to hurt people on the raft: IT'S OK TO PUSH THEM OVERBOARD.

You can't save anyone if that person sinks the boat.

Pushing someone overboard is an analogy to kicking a person out of your house and your life. Sometimes you have to do it and it's ok. (It's not tough love. I don't believe that works most of the time. It's just survival.)

The sad part is that these people then have nowhere to go. The seriously mentally ill and extremely addicted people are the people I'm most drawn to. I love being with them and trying to figure out how to help them in some way. A tent is often the best you can do for a person like this. They'll destroy anything else. (They'll often destroy or burn down the tent too. But at least it's only \$50 to buy another one.) I will now go to jail if I put one more tent on my private property. There is nowhere for these people to go.

That said, know this: Humans are astoundingly tough and resilient. It's incredibly difficult to kill a human by exposing them to the elements and removing regular food and water. We all have this in us. ALL OF US. Your family member will be fine. If you have to let them go, let them go.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/its-not-the-ballot-or-the-bullet-its-the-ballot-and-the-bullet-from-my-speech-at-the-social-justice-candidates-forum/>

og:title Content: It's not the Ballot OR the Bullet. It's the Ballot AND the Bullet. (From My Speech at The Social Justice Candidates Forum) - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: March 30, 2023

Blog Post Content:

This event took place on March 30, 2023 at 8 - Point Bistro. I only had 60 seconds to make a statement. So I could only speak part of it. Here is the full speech.

60 seconds is a difficult amount of time to lay out a complete philosophical strategy of uprising. So let me just say this: I have 2 messages I want to convey. 1 message is for the oppressed and one message for the oppressor.

With 60 seconds I only have time to relay the message to the oppressed.

For the oppressed, and I'm talking to the LGBTQIA community, the communist community, the Black community, the native community and the low income white community. You all live here in Akron. To prepare for this evening I re-listened to Malcolm X's Ballot or the Bullet Speech. I recommend you go relisten to it again yourself.

You have every right to demand freedom by any means necessary. But what I say is: you don't have to pick between the ballot or the bullet. Both are powerful weapons. Be open to both.

Vote on May 2. And fight the other 364 days.

I also must implore you to unite as one. The enemy of your enemy is your friend. And you only have one true enemy: that's the powerful white man. He is the one trying to divide you. That is his most powerful weapon: division and isolation. Find common ground and unite as one.

The rest of this speech is on my website at SageLewis.com. Thank you.

Focus on that truth and hash out the other stuff once you win. Because you will win. The powerful white man couldn't win in Vietnam or Afghanistan. He has no earthly idea how to win a populist revolution on his own land.

And here is my message to the Oppressor: the powerful white man: A bloody revolution is coming. And there is only one person who can stop the inevitable wave of revolution that is plowing towards you right now.

THAT'S YOU! It is starting on the Right and the Left will join in and you will be surrounded in the middle. Some of you will be murdered. I guarantee it. But you can stop it. Just give the Black person, the LGBTQIA person, the native person and the low income white person everything they have coming to them. Reparations, power, dignity and respect. That's how you avoid this Bloody revolution.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/satm-podcast-episode-117-my-reaction-to-the-community-conversation-series-with-akron-police-department-on-march-29-2023/>

og:title Content: SATM Podcast Episode 117 - My Reaction To The Community Conversation Series with Akron Police Department on March 29, 2023 - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: March 30, 2023

Blog Post Content:

The Akron Police Department is trying to prepare us for the outcome of the grand jury hearings happening in April. I think it just made things worse.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/jayland-walker-was-murdered-by-8-akron-police-officers/>

og:title Content: Jayland Walker Was Murdered By 8 Akron Police Officers - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: April 6, 2023

Blog Post Content:

Not killed. Murdered.

I know this for a fact simply by the admission of Chief Mylett.

I have heard him say on several occasions that an officer must be able to account for every single bullet that leaves the barrel of his gun. As soon as the threat is eliminated they must stop firing.

By that definition these 8 anonymous officers must account for 90+ bullets that came out of their guns. If one single bullet came out of one gun that was unnecessary, it is murder. Plain and simple. How do you account for 90 bullets, 46 of which made contact with Jayland, as a direct need to stop an imminent threat of an unarmed man? I'm telling you, you can't do it.

Definitely don't forget that Jayland was unarmed. So NONE of the bullets on that scene were from him.

Jayland Walker was murdered by 8 anonymous police officers.

I feel this is important to say before the grand jury is sat for these murderers.

A special grand jury will meet Monday in Akron to determine whether charges will be filed against eight police officers who fatally shot Jayland Walker last summer.

These anonymous grand jurors picked from all of Summit County (where 15% of the population is Black, while 30% of the Akron population is Black) will determine if any, all or none of these anonymous officers will be indicted.

Everyone is preparing for ZERO indictments. None of these police officers will be charged. Their names will never be released. And they will continue working on the Akron police force as they are currently doing right now.

And then the Walker family will not be able to create a civil lawsuit against the officers because of Qualified Immunity. There will be no justice for Jayland. Get it out of your head. It's not happening as long as these powerful asshole white men run this show.

All you have to do is read the room. Look around. They are preemptively meeting with the community to explain the situation. They are preemptively boarding up windows. They know a storm is coming.

I'm writing this piece now for a couple reasons.

I want you to know where I stand on the issue. The police violently murdered an unarmed Black man. They are protecting the police officers involved by hiding their names. And they have removed name tags from all police officers. Officers in Akron no longer have to give their names. What's next? Masks? Oh they have masks:

Meanwhile, do they ever for one instant think about how at risk young Black men feel in this city? They aren't anonymous. They aren't hiding behind a system that does everything in its power to protect them. They are sitting ducks to be murdered by the government at any time. Young Black men only walk the streets of Akron at the pleasure of out-of-town white cops. Akron police are tone deaf. They protect themselves while terrifying all of us. (I'll certainly be put on a list of people to watch, if I'm not already.) They know me. But we don't know them.

I want to talk about what's next.

If I'm wrong and there is actual justice for Jayland, then forget all of what I'm saying here. I was wrong. America is truly a place for liberty and justice for all. But if the truth unveils itself yet again that there in fact isn't liberty and justice for all, it's liberty and justice for a few powerful white men and their military, then keep reading. I have never told anyone how to protest. Least of all a Black person. If you decide to burn it all to the ground you are certainly justified for doing so.

On August 22, 1900, a riot erupted in Akron, Ohio that would live on to be called the "darkest night in Akron's history." The cause of the riot occurred the day before, on August 21, 1900, when Louis Peck, an African-American, was arrested for assaulting six year old Christina Maas, who was white. Peck was caught the next morning and confessed to the crime. The local newspapers printed stories of the heinous crime. One paper's story was published in red ink and exaggerated the story of Peck's confession, causing extreme anger and malice to spread throughout the city. That evening, a mob started to form in the city streets with the intention of lynching Peck for his crime. City buildings were burned to the ground, two young children were killed in a crossfire of bullets, and the National Guard was eventually called in to restore order to the city. Peck was removed from the city to Cleveland during the riot and was found guilty in record time and sentenced to life in prison. He did not even have any legal representation as no one would defend him. In 1913, Governor Cox pardoned Peck, citing the lack of a fair trial. <https://ndnpohio.ohiohistory.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/AkronRiot.pdf>

You should also learn about the 1968 Wooster Avenue riots. This is a great recap: [Wooster Avenue riots: Civil unrest of 1968 comes home to Akron](#)

We've burned city buildings to the ground before. I feel like the tension in Akron is congealing and getting thick. I see no reason why it couldn't happen again. Right now. The Summer of 2023 is going to be hot. In 1967 Martin Luther King Jr. said "a riot is the language of the unheard." In 2023 we say, "Fuck around and find out." It's the same thing.

You have every right to be filled with rage and hatred. In fact, I'd actually like to see a little more of that sometimes. I usually just see dead eyes from people who have lost all hope of a better life. Like docile cows that have accepted their fate of just being meat for a machine with a bottomless pit of consumption. There is nothing you could do that would come anywhere near the murder, torture and suffering the American machine has done to you and your family for 400 years.

If you want to burn it to the ground I won't be the one to tell you not to.

But I will tell you about another way.

I believe in the power of hatred and anger. I believe in the power of Darth Vader and Anakin Skywalker. Anakin Skywalker is the power of vengeance. His mother was a slave who died in his arms. And the love of his life, Padme, died in childbirth. Anakin was powerless to stop any of it, even though he should have been able to. We are all Anakin. Our loved ones are dying in our arms and we are powerless to stop it.

I also believe in the power of love and hope. I believe in the power of Jesus. (Jesus is a better character than Luke Skywalker. Sorry. It's true.) It's a force of direct action. It isn't passive. It's violent too. But it's violent and filled with rage because of the power of love and hope. Jesus leans into the death and torture and suffering. He takes it on himself. He begs to be the sacrificial lamb. And with that bloody death we have Easter. A rebirth. Nothing dies. Everything is born again. Everything. We are all the sacrificial lamb. We are all living a life of pain and suffering, only to be born again and again and again. Forever.

Vengeance violence destroys. Hope and love violence builds and creates. I think you need both. The Force demands to be balanced.

They often can look very similar. But they have very different outcomes.

Smashing some windows and setting some dumpsters on fire is cathartic. Please watch some TikTok videos of what is happening in France for inspiration: <https://www.tiktok.com/search?q=france&t=1680785736731>

But it does nothing for building things, for making a better world. You'll march and burn and smash until all your energy is gone. And then we'll just go right back to the way things are. Another option would be to take that seething rage and do real damage. Destroy the system at its core. VOTE ON MAY 2, 2023. I know that sounds so lame. It is embarrassing to even write down. But it's the truth. Democracy is a mother fucker. It takes the control away from those assholes who are fucking you. And you have real candidates to vote for.

Tara Mosely - Mayor
Eric Garrett - Council at Large
Fran Wilson - Council at Large
Damarrios S. Walker - Ward 3
Russ Neal - Ward 4
Sage Lewis - Ward 8
Susan Culver - Ward 9

After those fucking assholes go free, flood the streets and organize. Use your energy to not burn down a couple buildings. BURN DOWN THE ENTIRE FUCKING SYSTEM. You are being handed a golden gift from the universe. A true Easter Miracle. You can't control what the police do or what the grand jury does. But you CAN control what you do. ORGANIZE. ORGANIZE. ORGANIZE. That's how you kill the system that is killing you.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/ward-8-community-alliance/>
og:title Content: WARD 8 COMMUNITY ALLIANCE - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist
Blog Post Date: April 11, 2023

Blog Post Content:
This is the big project I want to work on for the next 4 years as the Ward 8 City Council Person. I'm calling it the Ward 8 Community Alliance. Here's what it looks like:

The foundational building blocks of this idea is the Block Club concept. I feel like a Ward leader is probably the most ideal person to help lead a program like this. Once we get a basic framework of Block Clubs organized then we can start organizing groups of Block Clubs. These will become Neighborhood Clubs. And then Neighborhood Clubs become Area Clubs. And Area Clubs become Ward Clubs. Ward Clubs become City Clubs. City Clubs become Region Clubs. Region Clubs become State Clubs. (You get the idea.) Ward 8 is a perfect place to start this movement. Ward 8 citizens are kind and educated and thoughtful and caring. When I'm out meeting people I hear it over and over again: "We are doing well and we want everyone to do well." Ward 8 is set to be a wonderful leader in humanitarian justice. Just look at all the signs in Ward 8 yards calling for social justice. It's incredible. America has become so splintered and fractured. We are like an exposed nerve ready to explode at the slightest infraction. We are all cancelling each other if we don't like the same ice cream flavor. All of this is being compounded because we are living in our tiny little silos where we don't have to look at another person that has a different idea than ours. This is the opposite of what it means to be human. Humans are so amazing BECAUSE OF our differences. We adapt and change and experiment so beautifully. Ward 8 has Trump supporters, Christians, Muslims, Atheists, racists, Universal Unitarians, progressives, communists, radicals, moderates. We are just like every other community in America. We are a wild stew of flavors and tastes. And as long as we don't seek to take away the rights and freedoms of other people, IT'S ALL GOOD. (I've learned this in the homeless community so profoundly. I can't tell you how many White racist friends I have that are good friends with my Black racist friends. They live together in harmony because they have no other choice. They need each other and so they respect each other. (Most of the time.)) I am SO EXCITED about doing this work. This is the Number 1 reason I want to be the Ward 8 City Council Leader. I want to help us come together. I know how to do it and I've seen the power of uniting. It's the most beautiful thing on Earth.

PLEASE VOTE FOR ME ON MAY 2, 2023 AS THE WARD 8 AKRON CITY COUNCIL PERSON.
I have a vision for where we can go and Ward 8 is the perfect place to start.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/will-you-play-well-with-others/>
og:title Content: Will You Play Well With Others? - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist
Blog Post Date: April 12, 2023

Blog Post Content:

I was out talking to voters yesterday and a woman asked me this question: "Will you play well with others?" That's a really good question. It represents a deep understanding of who I am. I really appreciated the question. She is wondering if I will be able to work with other members of city council if I get elected. So let me talk a little about that.

My first response to her was: "I don't know. I've never been in a situation like this before."

My second response was that I understand very clearly that in order to get things done in a group of lawmakers you must compromise. There is a part of me that doesn't like that word "compromise." It represents giving in. Accepting a bad situation.

The 20 year old idealist, Sage, is alive and well in me. I am filled with that fire and rage and energy. But I'm not 20 years old. I'm 51 years old. And that brings a certain amount of cold, hard experience with it. The truth is if you want to get things done, you compromise.

As a person who has been sued and has sued other groups, I have learned what a good legal deal is when you finally settle. Both sides should not be happy. That's how you know you have met a fair deal. You wanted more, but so did they. But you both got something.

That's compromise. That's community.

I get so angry at my Communist friends. Most of them don't vote. It just doesn't make any sense to me. Why bother being involved in the system if you aren't willing to do the thing that makes real change? The answer is simple: They don't want to compromise. Even voting for someone like me is not good enough. They talk about burning the system to the ground. But I don't see them making any headway with that either. I was talking to a friend of mine who is my age. She said all the communists are is "talk." They just talk and get nothing done. That's how I feel sometimes too. But I do deeply admire their uncompromising idealism. It's just young and naive. It's sweet in its own way.

Look: If you voted for Hitler (which is something I would definitely not put past Americans) and he was in city council with me, I'd look for ways to work with him. He was really into dogs and animals, from what I understand. Maybe we could do a deal on helping stray dogs.

The Akron equivalent to Hitler is Jeff Fusco. Why the hell you vote for him is beyond me. All he does is carry the water for the administration. I mean, do you just want a king? Because that's what Jeff Fusco and his new cronie, Ginger Baylar, are doing to us. They are minions for the administration. Either you don't understand that or you don't care. Because you just keep voting for this guy.

But I've been thinking a lot about how I could work with Jeff Fusco.

In 2004, during his deputy service director stint, he was caught and convicted driving drunk in a city-owned car. That's an appointed 6 figure post. It's in the cabinet of the mayor. He was "punished" with a seven-week suspension from the city without pay.

I'm a recovering alcoholic. I quit drinking in 2003. Clearly, Fusco is an alcoholic too. I'd love to work on a deal with him to help other alcoholics like us. That would be really cool. And I'd definitely be looking for other ways to work with him too.

This is how you get things done. You look for things you have in common. Not what your differences are. If you have listened to me over time you have seen that I regularly talk about understanding people like:

Addicts
Homeless people
Pedophiles
Conservatives
Black people
White people
Mentally ill people
School shooters

I am always looking to try to understand people I don't understand. I fundamentally believe this is how we

grow as a society. Hating other people and accusing them of just being evil or stupid is a cop out. It's not true. Everyone, and I mean everyone, has gotten to the place they are in life for reasons that make sense. You just have to be open to listening to them and understanding their perspective.

Now, I am NOT saying we must let child molesters have free reign on our kids. I actually believe we probably should be doing better at keeping these active attackers away from our kids, probably permanently. (Did you see what the Dalai Lama has been up to, by the way.)

I am so furious at a group of homeless people right now. Some of them are acting like complete and total idiots. But I know why. It's the change of seasons. Every change of season makes this outdoor community go batshit crazy. They'll calm down. We just have to get over this period.

We must understand. We must listen. We must make room for everyone in society.

If all we ever do is hate people who aren't like us, we will never fix our problems. We'll just be outraged every time an old man wants a child to suck his tongue, everytime a young white man slaughters school children and nothing will ever get done.

We need to allow men to have a place they can go if they are having feelings and thoughts of pedophilia. We need to have places for men to go who are thinking about shooting up a school. We have to stop these things before they happen. (Have you noticed how a large portion of our problems in society are caused by men? We have a "man" problem. We need to help our men deal with their emotions and urges. Men have a very important place in society. We deserve to be here. But we need emotional help. A LOT OF EMOTIONAL HELP.) And the only way to do that is through understanding and compassion. It's the only way.

So, will I work with other people? I can't wait to work with other people. Finding common ground with people who are different than me is one of the most fun things I do on this planet.

And then there are the people I am so excited about working with. You need to vote for these people on May 2, 2023: Tara Mosely - Mayor
Eric Garrett - Council at Large
Fran Wilson - Council at Large
Damarios S. Walker - Ward 3
Russ Neal - Ward 4
Sage Lewis - Ward 8
Susan Culver - Ward 9

If you want to meaningfully work on crime, addiction, poverty and all the other cancers that are eating away at the foundation of Akron: YOU NEED TO VOTE FOR THOSE PEOPLE. I want to work with them so bad I'm a little nervous I'll not pay as much attention to people that are different than me.

Look: I don't need to be doing this. I don't need the money. And quite honestly, it is a kind of stressful process running for office. It's much more fun "being the hands and feet of Jesus," literally something people tell me I am with the work I do with the homeless community. But I feel very strongly that Akron needs to be paying attention to the low income community much more than we need to be renovating Lock 3. Lock 3 is just polishing a turd. I'm telling you: I am deeply involved in the low income community of Akron and it is undermining everything. If we don't address the fundamental issues of poverty (which are hopelessness and isolation) it will destroy our city. That's why I'm running.

Please vote for me, Sage Lewis, as the Ward 8 City Council leader on May 2, 2023.

#sageforakron8

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/satm-podcast-118-we-think-we-are-so-smart-and-so-we-get-brainwashed/>
og:title Content: SATM Podcast 118 - We Think We Are So Smart and So We Get Brainwashed - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist
Blog Post Date: April 13, 2023

Blog Post Content:
Sage Against The Machine Podcast Episode 118.
We have to realize that the global corporate powers are using highly sophisticated mechanisms to convince us to think a certain way. The minute you think you are not susceptible to their manipulations they have instantly won.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/tara-mosely-is-exactly-what-akron-needs-right-now/>
og:title Content: Tara Mosely is exactly what Akron needs right now. - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist
Blog Post Date: April 14, 2023

Blog Post Content:

Look, if you know, you know.

Tara Mosely is exactly what Akron needs right now.

We are entering a time of sadness, desperation, isolation and hopelessness. I'm telling you, Jayland Walker's murderers will not be indicted

We will, yet again, learn that the laws of the system are only here for one thing: To protect the ruling class. The very idea of a grand jury is to protect the ruling class. How can an anonymous group of people get to decide if someone should face a trial or not? Grand jurors lack the legal knowledge necessary to determine if there is a case or not. So the powerful use their ignorance to their benefit and get their friends (and this case, their enforcers) out of an actual trial.

I honestly just thought it was poor people and Black people they villainize. But now with the White Pond atrocity, hopefully you know that they hate all of us. We are the enemy of the powerful. We are only good for one thing: to make them more money. If we can't make them more money we are garbage the needs to be thrown away.

Shammas Malik is a good guy. But he does not have the emotional intelligence that we need right now.

Marco Sommerville is just an old out of touch guy that thinks he deserves to be mayor because he put in his time.

There is only one right answer for mayor of Akron right now: TARA MOSELY.

But you must be brave, Akron. You must not pull another Bernie Sanders, "But he can't win," stunt. Tara only loses if you decide that she loses.

You are kind and wonderful. Give yourself the leader you deserve. Vote for Tara Mosely on May 2, 2023.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/who-cares/>
og:title Content: Who Cares? - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist
Blog Post Date: April 18, 2023

Blog Post Content:

This is the memorial that was created near where Jayland Walker was shot and killed. It's at East Wilbeth and South Main. I took this picture at a very peaceful protest last night.

I kept coming back to this little tree. I'd take pictures from different angles. Like in hopes that it would tell me something that made sense. That it would tell me what to do next.

It's not entirely true that it was all peaceful. A person in a pickup truck barged into the scene actually trying to run people over. A woman in a car was doing the same and was yelling, "You're going to end up just like Jayland."

A semi-truck driver got stuck in the traffic block. A young Black man came over to start to offer some ideas on how to get him out of there. But the (white) truck driver just started swearing and yelling "all lives matter" and "white lives matter." The Black man just walked away.

Part of me is envious of the rage these conservative white people have. Why do conservatives come with such fury? Why do progressives get so bogged down in our heads?

That's where I am right now. I'm just mentally bogged down.

All I've ever wanted to do is try to make the system just a little better. And I've been fought every step of the way. I can't get anything done.

I was taking pictures last night. A person I really respect came to me and said that I was making people nervous with my camera. I just left. I mean, who cares if I take some pictures? Who cares if I try to tell the story? Who cares?

Who cares?

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/we-must-love-our-police-officers/>
og:title Content: We Must Love Our Police Officers - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist
Blog Post Date: April 19, 2023

Blog Post Content:

The more radical I become in my activism the more extreme my positions of love become.

I often like to tell you to love pedophiles. I do that because I know it's the hardest challenge of love for many of you (unless of course you have a loved one that is a pedophile, like I do). Here we are 2 days after the Grand Jury found that 8 police officers were justified when they shot Jayland Walker 46 times with 90 bullets. And I'm telling you to love our police officers. Everything about that message sounds cruel and possibly even racist. How can you side with the police when they so clearly murdered Jayland Walker? Make no mistake, they MURDERED Jayland Walker. I watched the still pictures of the shooting. It clearly looks like he reached into his pockets. And then it very clearly looks like he stretched his arm straight out. They tried tasing him. It didn't work. I very easily could have been the person to decide to pull the trigger on that first bullet. Based on what I saw, that makes sense to me. Within 6 seconds another 89 bullets were fired. And I'm here to tell you I could have shot that 90th bullet just as I could have shot the 1st bullet. To think you would have acted differently in that situation is a delusion. Maybe you wouldn't have acted in the same way. But statistically we know that's just not true. It's always a delusion to think you would have been better than the people who supported a terrible outcome. Do you really think you would have been one of the people to hide Jews in your attic in Nazi Germany? I highly doubt I would have. My activism always happens very neatly and conveniently away from my personal home and family. I'm as much of a coward as anyone on planet Earth. Have you ever been to a shooting range? You put on your ear protection, you put on your eye protection. You bring the gun you want to fire neatly organized in a bag with extra magazines and bullets and other handy items. Maybe you like to use a mechanism to help you load more easily. You open the soundproof door with your bag on one shoulder and your favorite target you just bought from the sweet lady at the checkout counter. You go to the booth that has been pre-selected for you. You set your bag on the counter in front of you, you put your target on the auto-feeding mechanism and then BAM! someone shoots off a round a couple booths down from you. It makes me jump every single time. You slow down. You take your time getting all your items organized and ready. You hear it again. BAM! And again BAM! You slowly get acclimated to the surroundings. And then eventually you get your gun loaded. You remember to keep your trigger finger on the side of the gun. Never on the trigger. You remember your 2-handed stance. You think about your feet positioning. You take a breath in and then as you are breathing out you slowly pull the trigger until your gun fires. BAM! It's incredibly loud. The kick of the gun is severe. A casing goes flying out of your semi-automatic gun. You start the process over. Remember your stance. Remember your hand-hold. Breathe in, slowly breathe out. BAM! You get acclimated to the surroundings slowly. Very slowly. It's shocking every single time. Now throw that all out the window as you are chasing a masked man at midnight who had just fired a round out of his car window. 7 other people around you. Yelling. Running. Adrenaline pumping. No eye protection. No ear protection. Just the hellish scenario that came out of nowhere, right before your eyes. BAM! You jump. You are panicked. BAM! BAM! You don't have time to think. You are now in a war zone. You aren't relying on your prefrontal cortex of your brain that intelligently regulates your thoughts and actions and emotions. You are now fully in the almond-shaped mass of gray matter called the amygdala. It drives core animal fear. Fight or flight. You are instantly in the fight of your life. Everything is flashing in your brain. Your kids. Your wife. Your dog. When you were a kid and you got your first bicycle for your birthday. Everything is about trying to save all that for one more day. If you think you wouldn't have emptied your clip that night I highly doubt you are being honest with yourself. There are some people that probably would have been more comfortable in that situation. Actively trained military probably would have handled it much differently. Have you ever watched these videos of young guys in an urban warfare setting, talking to the camera like they are standing on a street corner on Main Street U.S.A as mortar fire and bullets are going off all around them? The entire scene is insane.

They got trained and they got acclimated.

Maybe in addition to de-escalation training we need more urban warfare training. I don't know. All I do know is we have to figure out how to stop it from happening next time.

Americans are great Monday morning quarterbacks. And usually the answer to some atrocity is "lock 'em up and throw away the key."

That answer is as idiotic as it is impossible.

There is only one answer to solving an atrocity. And that's going to the heart of the matter. And there is only one way to do that: LOVE.

We have to love people so that we understand what they are going through. Love is the same word as empathy, compassion, understanding. If you think I'm being too unrealistic with my word "love" then use whatever word gets you to the same place.

Instead of telling the police what they need to do (this is what we do to homeless people, by the way) we need to ASK the police what they need. What would they like to help them do their job better? What does it mean to them to do their job better?

These 8 police officers should be named and fired. Not because we hate them. But because we deserve the right as citizens of a society to be protected. We need to trust the systems of our society. How can we trust a system that allows our "protectors" to shoot us as many times as they see fit? But that will not be happening. The system wins again. Just like in Vegas, the house always wins.

Here's an article that came out less than 2 weeks ago:

Maryland AG Report Chronicles Decades of Child Sex Abuse and Church Cover-Up

Maryland Attorney General Anthony G. Brown has released his agency's report documenting a long history of widespread child sex abuse and systemic cover-up by clergy and others associated with the Archdiocese of Baltimore.

The Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting occurred on December 14, 2012, in Newtown, Connecticut, United States, when 20-year-old Adam Lanza shot and murdered 26 people. Twenty of the victims were children between six and seven years old, and the other six were adult staff members.

The biggest lessons we are learning as we grow up from being naive American children of the 1950s is not that atrocities happen. It's that the systems are broken, untrustworthy and uncaring. Things may shift around. But at the core nothing will change.

Churches will continue to cover up their sex abuse scandals. 6 year old children will continue to be slaughtered. Police officers will brutally murder unarmed Black men. AND NOTHING WILL CHANGE.

NOTHING WILL BE DONE TO MAKE THE SYSTEM BETTER.

The 8 Akron police officers that murdered Jayland Walker will walk anonymously among us with guns. Clearly changed one way or another from this extreme situation. They will be protected at all costs and we will be less safe because of it.

We must grow up and realize that's the truth. SYSTEMS DON'T CHANGE.

But there is also another truth. Just as much as the systems will fail us like clockwork, the people of America will rise to the occasion like clockwork.

If, right now in this long article, I were to put in a request for a tent for the biggest loser homeless person you've ever met in your life, I guarantee someone would get it for me. Your compassion is as reliable as the sun rising every morning. It's so consistent I never doubt it. It's the manifestation of the love of God. It's a never-ending river of giving and kindness and love.

That's the strength of the world. The love of the people. We need to play to our strengths. And our greatest strength is our unending love that we bring.

We can try to make the systems better. I guess.

Get more cameras. Get more training. Try to get rid of qualified immunity. But the foundational principles will never change. Systems will protect themselves at any cost. It's not the 8 police officers that are the problem. Or the pedophile clergy or the mass school shooters. IT'S THE SYSTEMS THAT PROPAGATE THESE SITUATIONS. And I'm telling you, they will never change. Never.

It makes the anarchists look good. Maybe they have a point. Just burn it all to the ground. The people will do better than what we have now.

But ultimately that's not true.

Roads, Internet, fire departments, EMS, the electrical grid, hospitals, medicine. These are systems that we really can't replicate as individual people. But we can learn something from the anarchists. I believe we need to work on needing the systems less and relying on our neighbors more. The more we can sideline the

police, the clergy and the politicians the better we are going to be collectively. Don't burn the systems to the ground. Just use them as little as necessary.

If we want to work on something, I think we should work on minimizing our use of the police. We could work more on community security clubs. But that would be a huge shift in Akron. We call 911 all the time. We call 911 so often that police can't do the things we say we want them to do: be more involved in the community as partners.

We all play a role in the responsibility of the extreme murder of Jayland Walker.

Every time you dial 911 for something that you could have handled on your own or by calling a friend, you are taking away time for police to do foot patrols and community building. You are pulling the police (the government) into your personal business. You are asking them to get mixed up in it all.

We must stop looking at what other people are doing wrong and spend all our judgmental time looking at what we individually are doing wrong.

We all share the blood of Jayland Walker. It's on all of our hands.

We fix that by practicing compassion and understanding of people who make us angry and hateful. It's like being angry at the tornado for tearing down your house. The anger will do no good.

Let go of your hatred of the police. It's pointless. They got caught up in the situation. They are not properly trained. And they are working in a city filled with illegal guns. It's not hard to understand where they are coming from. Let it go. They are free and anonymous in Akron right now. If we want to fix the police situation in Akron, it doesn't start with the police, it starts with the person reading this article right now. What are YOU going to do about it? If safety is your big issue, what are YOU going to do to make us more safe? Otherwise, these 2000 words were a waste of computer pixels.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/i-respond-to-trumps-homeless-relocation-plan/>

og:title Content: I respond to Trump's Homeless Relocation Plan - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: April 19, 2023

Blog Post Content:

The main video was published here: <https://youtu.be/FRp6la-A6e4>

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/satm-podcast-119-april-20-2023-where-we-are-with-jayland-walker-today/>

og:title Content: SATM Podcast 119: April 20 2023 - where we are with Jayland Walker today - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: April 20, 2023

Blog Post Content:

Sage Against The Machine Podcast Episode 119. I tried to be understanding and empathetic of the police. They chose to make us hate them.

Here are the links I referenced in this show:

Imokhai Okolo, an attorney, calls on young people to organize to demand Justice for #JaylandWalker. Okolo was up for a spot on the city's Citizens' Police Oversight Board.

"Folks at the city, they're playing in our faces. They want to put Black faces in front of you like Marco Sommerville" (of 1p pastor peace presser) :58

Come outside Akron 100s have Storer + Copley shut down for Jayland Walker. We're gonna be like a tonight Shut this city down Akron. The whole country needs to be

Fuck APD. Y'all started a riot Justice For Jayland Gonna be a long night

Akron's thugs attacking peaceful protesters in the black community @ProfBlacktruth @TheBlackChannel

@BlkVoltronRlded @ComradeOhio

Rev. Ray Greene with strong comments after the #JaylandWalker decision. "To the city of Akron, board up

everything that you wanna do, but we are coming."

Imokhai Okolo, an attorney, calls on young people to organize to demand Justice for #JaylandWalker. Okolo was up for a spot on the city's Citizens' Police Oversight Board.

Broken windows at Wally Waffle, IRIE Jamaican Kitchen and Chipotle

Akron police, Summit deputies use chemicals at Jayland Walker protest

LOCAL 'The worst experience': What 8 Akron police officers who shot Jayland Walker told BCI

New Akron police review board to examine Jayland Walker shooting death

If you have missed any shows they are now archived in a podcast. You can check them out on my blog. Or you can get them on your favorite podcasting platform.

Sage Against The Machine on Spotify

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Sage Against The Machine on TuneIn

Sage Against The Machine on Apple Podcasts

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/akron-you-are-radicalizing-your-black-community/>

og:title Content: Akron: You are radicalizing your Black community. - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: April 20, 2023

Blog Post Content:

Here's a picture of me and Imokhai Okolo. It was taken in mid-March of this year.

Imokhai has been betrayed by his city.

Jayland Walker was murdered in extreme cold blood with 94 bullets all meant for his unarmed body.

The city of Akron did something similar to Imokhai. They looked to destroy his character. He is exactly what society wants to see our young Black people become. Highly educated. Highly paid. Folded nice and neat into the White corporate system.

But it's not good enough. Imokhai is not good enough to be on the (powerless) police oversight committee. 5 white city council men saw to that.

So then you have to ask: "If Imokhai isn't good enough what chance do I have?"

"If Imokhai won't be accepted into the white man's system why should I try? I have no chance. None of us have a chance."

You are making radical extremists, Akron. You are creating them.

You did it to Dr. N.J. Akbar... My city council opponent (a very successful white man) wrote an op-ed saying that Dr. Akbar should resign from the school board. You cancelled him.

You did it to Russ Neal. You censured him for terrifying 6 anonymous women during remote work covid times. You cancelled him.

You did it to Linda Omobien when 100 members of the the police union voted a 100% no confidence vote in her. You cancelled her.

You are radicalizing the Black community.

The message you are sending is that no Black person, no matter what level of class and accomplishment is good enough. If you dare take a stand that is contrary to one single thing the White powerful man says, you must be cancelled.

I saw a young Black man face down aggressive police who moved in on a peaceful protest on Copley Road... a place known for over policing. He yelled, "I'm gonna die about this."

I'm hearing extreme statements like this more and more. What is the point of living if you only live at the pleasure of the white man? You are no longer a human. You are now an animal. And if they want you to be animal then they are going to get an animal.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/a-freighter-full-of-hope/>

og:title Content: A Freighter Full Of Hope - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: April 27, 2023

Blog Post Content:

Something I don't currently talk much about (because there is so much else to discuss) is my deep love of

technology. I am currently obsessed with AI and what it means for the future of humanity. Here is an image I created with an AI image creator called Midjourney.

The prompt I gave it was: "show a desolate scene where a freighter holds the letters "HOPE" as some sort of beacon of light."

This is pretty close to what I was feeling after reading this seemingly hopeless article about the state of Akron and what it means for our new mayor:

<https://www.beaconjournal.com/story/news/politics/2023/04/27/akron-ohio-news-mayor-guns-infrastructure-education-housing-costs-election/70122607007/>

The general gist of the article is:

Gun violence is out of control and the ideas for fixing it are everything from having more police to having no police.

Among the nine largest cities in Ohio, Akron has a faster growing rental market, in terms of the portion of all housing units, than all but Canton, Toledo and Mansfield, according to U.S. Census Bureau data.

We lead the state in evictions.

There were 48 new housing permits pulled last year in Akron. 45 of them were for houses above 2000 square feet and are selling for \$300,000.

64% of homeowners reported incomes of more than \$50,000 while 77% of renters said they earn less than \$50,000.

We are losing 1000 residents every year.

We have \$1.23 billion in debt which is \$7000 for every man, woman and child in Akron.

I feel like Akron could appear as the poster child for the "Cluster Fuck" wikipedia page.

What a mess.

No wonder Dan Horrigan is bailing on being mayor of Akron (and I'm sure his wife is totally over having SWAT teams need to protect their house from angry protestors).

But here come a bunch of mayoral candidates promising that they hold the answers to all of Akron's problems.

They don't.

But they have to pretend they do because we are all looking to them to get us out of this mess.

I assure you that in 6 months or a year we will be swearing at the new mayor for not doing enough to get us out of our problems.

We are in a flat bottom boat going down a river without any paddles. We're all sitting in the boat watching one person (the mayor) desperately paddling with their hands to hopefully move the boat slightly to one side or the other. The stronger the current, the less likely this person is going to have any success in making anything happen at all. (And of course, there is always the possibility that they will paddle us in completely the wrong direction.)

Here's the truth:

Most of these midwestern cities are declining in population because wealthy people are sick of the high taxes, the problem of economic diversity in the schools which leads to very challenging education situations, gun violence and having to look at homeless people begging for money on every street corner. It's too much. Suburbs are more peaceful in every possible way. Go ask Medina or Copley or Bath how many murders they have had in the last 5 years.

Shammas Malik is rightfully focused on education and violence as his main initiatives. But you know what is easier than hoping Shammas Malik will fix our problems? MOVING OUT OF AKRON. If you move to Bath you have instantly solved the problem of education and violence (and gotten lower taxes to boot).

Cities have a high population of people who are experiencing the most extreme effects of income inequality. It's making these people insane. Drug overdoses, gun violence, homelessness, increased mental illness... it's all a product of decades of global political decisions. First we gave all our jobs to Mexico and China. Now we are giving the jobs to the machines. It's only a matter of time that truckers (a huge employer in America) will lose their jobs to AI.

If you really want to see change in Akron, don't look to the new mayor to somehow magically get us out of this mess. LOOK TO YOURSELF.

Does your friend have roaches in their apartment? Go help them get rid of them.

Does your road never get plowed in the winter? Get a truck and plow it yourself.

Is your neighborhood filled with illegal guns? Pool money and buy the guns.

Is there a person living in the abandoned house down the road? Help them keep it clean.

YOU are the answer to our problems. Not the next mayor.

Is this going to be easy? HELL NO! "No good deed goes unpunished" is a very real thing. The minute you dip your toe into helping fix the situation you are going to wonder what you ever were thinking. Helping is hard and messy. But it needs to be done. And it needs to be done by YOU. Not me. Not your neighbor. YOU! We have gotten in this mindset that the government is the solution to all our problems. We have seen very clearly how wrong that thinking is.

I'm not saying we should get rid of any services the government is providing. We need to keep every last nickle of human services the American government is giving us with our own money. But we need to go the last mile. We need to pick up the slack.

I don't see things getting better for cities like Akron any time soon. In fact, the trends appear to me that they are going to get worse.

But as an entrepreneur and innovator, that doesn't get me down. The more problems there are the more opportunities there are for coming up with cool and innovative ways to fix them.

One thing is for sure though: the government can be accused of a lot of things. But no one EVER has accused the government of being "cool and innovative." Those characteristics are only ever found in one place: THE PEOPLE.

Fix the problems of Akron yourself.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/satm-podcast-120-insanity-in-akron/>
og:title Content: SATM Podcast 120: Insanity In Akron - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist
Blog Post Date: April 27, 2023

Blog Post Content:

Sage Against The Machine Podcast Episode 120 We are going to look at the forced mental health treatment courts in Akron Ohio.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/i-lost/>
og:title Content: I Lost - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist
Blog Post Date: May 2, 2023

Blog Post Content:

I'm sorry. I tried really hard. And I know that there are some people that wanted to see me win. But clearly, most of Ward 8 did not see it that way. That's fine. I absolutely respect their decision. This is not the first time I've lost. Far from it.

I've lost more times than most people in Akron I can think of.

I've lost multiple tent communities. I lost a wonderful homeless run day center. I've lost at city council, the zoning commission and every possible court available to me including the Ohio Supreme Court and the U.S. Supreme Court. Both of those courts refused to hear our case asking for the right to shelter any single homeless person in the most dire and extreme cases.

I like to think of myself as Akron's Biggest Loser. Fortunately, I won't have to change that title now. But here's the thing. Every time I lose, the cause becomes a little clearer. A few people think to themselves: "this isn't right. We should be treating the most suffering people of our community better."

My losses strengthen these people's stories and their dire situations. My losses remind some people of those among us who have lost so much more.

And so I never lose. I can't lose. The more I lose the more the cause gets stronger.

What is happening in Akron and all of America isn't right.

I sat outside in 40 degree rain for 13 hours today at a polling place thanking people who came out to vote. The real reason I sat out there all day was to remind myself that HUNDREDS of Akronites sat outside all day this day and EVERY day of the year for years on end because society can't find a path where that humanitarian nightmare ends.

I suspect I lost because most of society doesn't see a need for a person like me in any kind of formal leadership. "His heart is in the right place" (which is something authorities like to say). "But we need someone in that role who is more realistic and serious."

I like James Hardy. I think he'll do well as a city council person. I am at peace with the universe and what it

intends for me.

But the way we treat each other in America today is atrocious. We cancel each other at the slightest whim. Where did we learn this kind of cruel, unforgiving hatred? There isn't one single spiritual icon who has ever remotely suggested such childish, hateful tribalism.

We must do better. Some people are on that path. Most people aren't.

I feel quite confident that my place is not in politics, given my substantial loss today. But I truly believe I have a message that needs to be heard.

Quitting has never been a real option for me on this journey. How could I quit when we have so much left to do?

Thank you for all of you that helped me along this journey of trying to be a city council person. Please don't be down. These kinds of things are just a part of the journey that must continue.

I love you all.Sage

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/i-react-to-jordan-neely-a-new-york-city-homeless-man-being-choked-to-death-on-the-subway/>

og:title Content: I React To Jordan Neely, a New York City Homeless Man, Being Choked To Death on the Subway - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: May 4, 2023

Blog Post Content:

This is the original video: <https://fb.watch/kjoDdWC4Fi/>

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/satm-podcast-121-i-lost-my-election-biggly/>

og:title Content: SATM Podcast 121: I Lost My Election Biggly - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: May 4, 2023

Blog Post Content:

Sage Against The Machine Podcast Episode 121

We're going to look at my election for Akron city council and why I lost so spectacularly.

We'll also look at who won and who else lost.

I'd like to talk a little about where I'm thinking about going from here.

If you have missed any shows they are now archived in a podcast. You can check them out on my blog. Or you can get them on your favorite podcasting platform.

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URL: <https://sagelewis.com/jordan-neely-homelessness-and-mental-illness/>

og:title Content: Jordan Neely, Homelessness and Mental Illness - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: May 7, 2023

Blog Post Content:

I hope you have had a chance to read about Jordan Neely. He was the mentally ill, Black, homeless man that was choked to death on a New York subway by a blond Marine man.

Every one of those details matter to the story. Race, mental illness, inner city, homelessness, gender. All these things matter.

The picture here is my gun. I carry it every single time I go to hang out with my homeless friends. Guns are everywhere in this city. The more poverty there is the more guns there are in Akron.

I carry it primarily for a couple mentally ill, Black, violent, homeless men that are friends of mine. That's not to say I don't have mentally ill, White, violent, homeless men friends. I do. But their violence tends to be slightly less erratic. They burn down a friend's tent for some injustice they feel was done to them. They seem just slightly more in control.

The Black guys I'm thinking of are completely random and wild. I have no idea what is going to set them off. And they are strong. Stronger than any white guy. Both physically and mentally. The guys I'm thinking of are like terminators. Nothing will stop them.

I have one guy like this that kicks in every single door in our house. It's to the point I think he just doesn't like doors. This week he unscrewed the hinges of a door because he couldn't break the padlock I put on the door. Now I have a door just hanging from a lock.

I think race matters in this story.

It's very possible that I'm overly worried about these men because I'm more afraid of Black people than White people. But I'm not afraid of any of these people. Fear does not enter into this world for me. I am not afraid of any of these people.

And the Black men I'm thinking of here are some of my most favorite people to be around. They are so smart, so strong, so wild. They are beautiful in their own way. But that doesn't mean I trust them. They are dangerous. Very dangerous. They can and will strike at any time.

I personally believe race matters in this situation because of how neglected Black men are in America. For 400 years we have treated them like animals. Now the good jobs are gone, income inequality is extreme, the drugs are flowing and the mental health facilities are gone. We have turned some of these men into raging, wild beasts.

I can't get these guys in jail because everyone is terrified of them. If they report one of these guys and they don't go to jail they will die. These guys will kill you for reporting them.

So we are forced to live with them because the police system doesn't protect us from them.

We MUST bring back mental hospitals where these kinds of people can do.

This is the one glaring area where my social libertarianism breaks down. If you want to do drugs, sell sex or leave your serious mental illness untreated that's fine with me. But the minute you start hurting other people, now I've got a problem with you. You need to go away. Maybe for life.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/5-people-have-already-moved-into-this-church/>
og:title Content: 5 People Have Already Moved Into This Church - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist
Blog Post Date: May 8, 2023

Blog Post Content:

We've been starting to clean out this church.

It has sat completely empty for years. Random people come and go. But nothing really significant was happening there.

Within a couple weeks of us working in the church we now have no less than 5 people living in this church. How could it go from having no one in the church to suddenly having 5 people living in it?

It's not because we started cleaning out the trash. These 5 people are actually bringing in MORE trash.

It's simple: ACCEPTANCE.

We don't judge these people. We live by a very basic, yet foundational philosophy: We accept you just the way you are.

If society actually wanted to engage with people living on the fringe, they should try starting with accepting them for being fine just the way they are. And then they all would find that everyone has hopes and dreams and aspirations. You could offer your "wrap around services" to these people that already feel loved and accepted.

It's a radical and extreme philosophy. We always seem to go the "lock 'em up" approach.

ALL THAT SAID: We are not letting these people live in this church. That's not what this is about. That's not what this community needs.

We gave these people a 2 week notice. And then we'll be securing the building.

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/suzanne-thomas-was-found-dead-in-a-scrapyard-in-canton-april-26-2023/>
og:title Content: Suzanne Thomas was found dead in a scrapyard in Canton April 26 2023. - Sage Lewis For Akron City Council Ward 8 - May 2, 2023
Blog Post Date: May 10, 2023

Blog Post Content:

Suzanne Thomas was found dead in a scrapyard in Canton April 26 2023.

I've been meaning to talk about this for some time. But it's a bit of a difficult subject for me.

Suzanne was a close friend of our homeless community. She lived at our tent village for quite some time.

She also was wanted for the murder of her boyfriend, Joe Hall. He was shot in his home in December 2022.

The murder of Joe was particularly difficult for us because Joe was so well liked in the community. He was incredibly kind and a really great worker. He owned his own roofing company at one time in his life.

Apparently Suzanne and Joe were arguing over a car. And then another person, Darrell Lee Antwan, apparently shot Joe.

We all had some heart-to-heart conversations over this murder of Joe.

We were deeply concerned that someone would go after Suzanne for that murder.

So, the fact that Suzanne was eventually murdered is not a huge surprise. I don't know if she was killed in retaliation for Joe or not. But I've never heard of anyone ending up dead in a scrapyard.

I always was really bothered by the picture they use for Suzanne in the newspaper. She was WAY more beautiful than that picture. The picture I posted here is much closer to how she normally looked.

It's funny that kind of thing gets under your skin. Who cares what she looks like? But for some reason I care.

Looks matter with humans. Looks shape the story.

Suzanne was beautiful.

She was kind and sweet and really enjoyable to be around.

When Joe and Suzanne were happy together... they were really happy. When they were not happy together... they were REALLY not happy.

Suzanne would get in these bad situations. She'd stay with some guys who would dose her with drugs that weren't what she intended to take. She nearly died because of those situations a couple times. Joe saved her from those situations more than once.

The last time I saw them, they were together. They came up to my truck in our yard. They were happy and smiling. Fortunately, that's the image I have in my head of them. It was a sunny day. The weather was nice. They both looked beautiful. That's the image I think of when I think of Suzanne and Joe.

I guess Suzanne's murder closes the book on the Joe and Suzanne love affair. It's how you might end the story if you were writing it... if you were writing a tragedy.

This story asks all the big questions. What's the point of all this? Why does the world hand us the cards we are dealt? What kind of redemption can we find in this story?

And, of course, as the hopeful humans that we are, we insist on adding a happy ending to the story: "They are at peace now." "They are with God now."

Maybe. Maybe not. That Heaven narrative feels a little contrived to me. It's just a little too convenient a storyline. And that makes me feel like an afterlife mythology is probably just a way to make us feel better. Because if the truth is that "life sucks and then we die" that's a tough pill to swallow.

Does any of it matter? What happens to us when we die? What happens to us while we're alive? Who really cares?

Joe and Suzanne are murdered and dead. Just like the other 8 billion of us on the planet right now who will eventually be murdered (by something) and then will be dead. Who cares? In fact, how can you possibly care about 800 people much less 8 billion people?

And yet somehow we do care. We have hope when all signs point to hopelessness. That's the most bizarre part of it all.

There's just a lot here to unpack for me and many of us who were close to Joe and Suzanne.

Take care everyone. Try to be nice to each other as much as you are able. It might be all that we actually have.

Here's a picture of Joe:

Joe Hall at a camp sweep. The city had just thrown him out of where he was staying.

I love this picture of Joe and Suzanne

URL: <https://sagelewis.com/satm-podcast-122-donald-trump-is-going-to-be-the-next-president-of-the-united-states/>

og:title Content: SATM Podcast 122 Donald Trump is Going To Be The Next President of the United States - Sage Lewis - Libertarian Humanist

Blog Post Date: May 11, 2023

Blog Post Content:

Sage Against The Machine Podcast Episode 122

Based on the CNN Donald Trump Town Hall, Donald Trump is as good as ever. His base loves him. And Joe Biden is no match for this guy.

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