500 word bio – Whitley Horn

I attended the University of Vermont for a year, only to realize that "Ecological Agriculture" wasn't the field for me. I came back to New Jersey and worked at Grassroots Natural Market in Morristown for over a year, which I really enjoyed. A healthy lifestyle is very important to me, and I got to interact with interesting people all day long, at both the cash register and the deli. But during this time, I held higher aspirations, and took some Photoshop and web design courses online. I very quickly realized that I prefer the actual coding side of web development.

During this time, I was also a big proponent of Bitcoin, as both a better alternative to all government-issued currencies, and a way of keeping one's financial information private from the State [side note: Bitcoin is not inherently anonymous, only pseudonymous, but cryptocurrencies like Dash are automatically mutating, and thus actually anonymous].

I took an online course called "Coder Manual" which taught me a lot of basic coding skills, culminating in a final project, a Ruby on Rails site. As my passion for coding grew, so did my passion for Bitcoin. The idea of actually working on cryptocurrencies as a developer seemed so far-off that I didn't really consider it possible--just think of all that math! But as my confidence increased, I realized that it was the perfect combination for me, and committed to master computer programming, a feat that I knew would be a long ways off.

Enrolling in the Rutgers Coding Bootcamp seemed like the next logical step: I could get a job as a web developer, preferably at a Bitcoin-related company, and get paid to practice coding.

When I'm not working on the weekly RCB homework, I'm writing rap songs (https://soundcloud.com/hypnoticHQ), freestyle rapping, meditating, and reading. My favourite topics to read about include Bitcoin, anarcho-capitalism, philosophy, "occult" studies, psychology, consciousness, "conspiracy theories," psychedelic drugs, and nutrition. Cheesy motivational books, à la Anthony Robbins and Brian Tracy, occupy significant shelf space as well.

Ultimately, I believe that human freedom is the fundamental question of our time, and the State seems to be the primary obstacle towards achieving it. Technology, on the other hand, has the opposite effect, with enormous potential to liberate the human race while creating a better standard of living for all. It is no coincidence that the government wants to find ways to regulate new technologies like Bitcoin, preventing this disruptive new godsend from actually being disruptive to the status quo. If I could play my part in taking the currency-creating monopoly away from the State, and work to create a world where we use decentralized, deflationary, potentially anonymous currencies instead, I would feel that I have actually lived out my definite major purpose in life.