

HOW TO DISAPPEAR IN AMERICA

First published by
The Leopard Press, New York (2008)

This bootleg version is published on the occasion of the exhibition
The Darknet – From Memes to Onionland. An Exploration
at Kunst Halle Sankt Gallen
18th October 2014 – 11th January 2015
www.k9000.ch

*This book is free.
Pay no more than nothing.*

Seth Price

HOW TO
DISAPPEAR IN AMERICA

*As if with a twist of the kaleidoscope
all would become clear,
splinters join,
new scapes hove into view.*

I'm like a person who makes things. You do it one after another, unending. It goes on for such a long time: *something new, and something else, and something something*. Here come a lot of different varieties of strategies and arrangements, all interesting, all interlocking, *mutatis mutandis*. Such a lot of things!

After a while, there arises a question similar to this one: might it be possible that a person of, say, forty has seen just about all that has been and will be? Well, catch yourself. That would be an argument against progress. Let's skip that argument. This is where we are! The bottom line is in fact *use*. You're a person who uses things. Use demonstrates an attitude, and attitude is all. Period. 'Nuff said.

At some point in the past, all production was for use, rather than for gain (unless use is a kind of gain). But even if we acknowledge that use was the foundation of Christian morality, justice and conventional social mores have since given rise to principles so general and agreeable as to be acceptable to everyone. In other words, whatever concepts you signal through your making of things, you end up sanctifying the current state of affairs. Anyone who gazes upon your products might well wonder: "*Must I consult some picture or trinket to learn that power corrupts, desires are commodified, control is paramount, subjectivity is administered?*"

Try to imagine so, for the sake of fiction. And ask yourself: for this sort of idea, would you discard all your friends, your family, your way of life? As in, put paid to some cumbersome item of crap. Some things that might have been dogging you lately. Nothing too heavy, at least not

psychically. Your car, for instance. A good one to start on. Total destruction of automobiles can be accomplished easily enough, just by adding long-grain rice to the car's radiator fluid. If you've been a housewife for decades, you may not know that much about cars, so here's what you look for:

* Pop the hood of the car. There will be a lever some-where above the feet of the driver's side of the car or, in older models, a lever is provided under the leading edge of the hood. Some hoods will stay open on their own whereas others have a rod mounted in the engine compartment that's used to hold the hood up. This lever may well be inscribed with words to the effect of: "Hood release."

* Remove the radiator filler cap if the engine is cold. (Opening the cap with the engine hot can get you badly burned. The fluid can start to boil once the pressure is relieved and spray all over you. The fluid will be quite painful resulting in first and second-degree burns. It's not likely to be disfiguring but if you accidentally burn yourself, you can very well go ahead with your plan to escape however your mind might be focused entirely upon the pain and not upon escape. With the engine cold you don't have to worry about getting burned.)

The cap can be found easily enough. Look for a cap with a small lever on it. Some radiator caps don't have levers, I'll add, but they'll be a standard size and shape. The cap will be mounted either in the center of the radiator or, usually, to the right. There will often be a notice on it saying

something like "Pressure Test to 13-18 Pounds" — at least in the United States they do. The cap is removed by lifting up the small lever on the top of the cap and turning counter-clockwise. If there's no lever, press down and turn counter-clockwise. It often only takes about a half turn before you can pull up the cap and remove it.

* Add as much long-grain rice as possible. The insides of the radiator will greatly affect the amount of rice you can add. If it looks like you must, pour in some rice and use your fingers to move the rice around inside the radiator. Then add more. Try to add as much rice as possible since what you're aiming for is a horribly clogged radiator and badly damaged engine. As you're adding rice, fluid will slop out. Don't worry about all that for now.

* Replace the cap. You'll have to lift the small lever on the cap (if there is one) then set the cap in place, turn clockwise until it stops turning, and then release the cap's lever, pushing it down if it doesn't automatically go down. Close the hood.

* Depending upon the amount of rice you added and the fluid level of the radiator before you began, you may have a pool of radiator fluid on the ground which, since it's usually a bright green, can be seen. Someone could see that pool, pop the hood, notice spilled grains of rice, and know that they've been "processed." They're not likely to run the engine with rice in the radiator — something you want them to do so that they'll destroy their engine by warping the head. So get a hose and wash the evidence away before any opposition can see it.

★ Add dirt and sand to the engine's crankcase. Open the hood and find the cap which covers the oil filler tube and remove the cap. (The location of the oil cap is far too different on cars to describe where to locate it.) You may find a notice which indicates the oil filler cap. Such a notice might say something like "Use only SAE 30" or "Use only SAE 10-40." Add as much sand and gravel as possible. This will rest in the valve cover until the engine is started. As the engine is run, some parts of it will not get oil — oil which is used for both lubrication as well as cooling. Worse still: ground-down particulates will work its way around the entire engine eventually ruining it until it just stops.

★ The traditional way to destroy a car quickly has become somewhat difficult now that most cars have locking gas caps. Still, if you have access to the car's keys, get yourself a funnel and add a pound of sugar to the car's gas tank. The sugar will disperse in solution and caramelize in the guts of the engine when it's burned with the air/fuel mixture. That'll kill the car for sure and will do the job quickly. Note that adding too much sugar could simply clog the fuel outlet line which, while it damages the car and requires extensive repair to clear, won't kill the car out totally — that's your objective, remember, since you're working to limit the resources of your opposition.

NOTE added July, 2005: Sugar in the gasoline tank does not work well and it's something of an urban legend. The suggestion is covered in a number of classic books such as Edward Abbey's "The Monkeywrench Gang" however actual experimentation proves that sugar added to a gas tank doesn't do enough damage.

It has been suggested that other substances added to a gas tank might cause serious damage, such as pancake syrup and other sweeteners however there is no good scientific data available anywhere that I'm aware of that provides any evidence that such substances work.

In the end, perhaps the best way to destroy a vehicle that might be used to come after you is to drape a blanket over the vehicle, dump a gallon of gasoline on it, and throw on a burning object from a relatively safe distance.

Alternatively experimentation with putting clothes soaked in gasoline in a pile under vehicles and then setting the clothes on fire has met with success in the United States so that's an option. There's that. It exists for you.

But take care: Gasoline don't burn; the fumes mixed with oxygen in the air is what burns. After gasoline soaked cloth is set in a location, fumes will build and if you strike a match anywhere within the volume of asperated fuel, it will go BANG! And you don't want to be inside that volume when it ignites. Also take care: Arson should be a last resort because it's considered to be a violent and dangerous crime. Ask yourself whether your life is in danger or whether your child's life is in danger and whether burning the vehicle is what's absolutely required to safeguard your life or the life of your children. If the answer is No, just don't do it.

* Then destroy all photographs you have access to. This includes family volumes of photographs that family members have. Your family members may or may not be supportive and hand over (to the opposition) all of their

photographs of you depending upon your situation. Your family could be forced to support your opposition through threat of law or through physical violence. If you destroy all photographs of you, they can't be shown around gas stations and quick food stops.

If at all possible, your opposition should be reduced to passing out artist renditions of you. Even if you have police mug shots on file or have a drivers license photograph on file, it's still a good idea to limit the availability of photographs. Make the opposition use old photographs rather than up-to-date photographs if you can.

Another thing:

- * If you are employed, make arrangements in advance. First off, stop looking at this stuff at work. Network administrators have on going logs for where their users visit when they are supposed to be working. Go to a public library, or if you have a laptop, do it from a wifi location. Don't do it at home, because it is information that can be used against you. Don't do it at work. Do it from a public place.

- * Begin to express your dislike for your employment, and if possible, have the quiet conversation with your boss about being a part of the next layoff. It comes with a severance check. In some cases, you can prearrange to have your 401k liquidated, giving you additional funds. If you don't have a job to disappear from, there are fewer leads for your pursuers.

* Carry as little cash as possible, but find safe places to hide cash. Scatter it around so that in the even one cash cache cash is found, you have others.

* Change hair color and cut as soon as possible. If you are a man, grow or shave your mustache as soon as possible. Mustaches are readily spotted, but beards, not so much.

* If you are going to squat, get a Boy Scout Handbook. The information contained is invaluable, including simple first aid and how to get spotted when you need to be. Also how to build a shelter, and how to survive in the wilderness.

* If you are going to squat in the desert, the landscape is food and water. Learn what plants are edible. Realize that they will be a shock to your system and expect what is to be expected from a radical dietary shift.

* Properly skinning your poached meat will protect it from flies. Learn how to properly skin animals. Properly tanning the hide of your poach will give you clothing and additional shelter. Learn how. Properly "jerking" your poach will prevent it from spoiling giving you food sources for a long time.

* The U.S. National Park Service has scores of back-country hiking areas. Take your survival skills on a "test run". When you are ready to "drop off the grid", you will know what to expect.

* Drop your car off at a border crossing. Preferably on the other side of the border. The additional headache of working with international agencies causes your pursuers to waste additional time negotiating jurisdiction. And the Mexican side of the border is where you want your center of operations to be. Traipsying back across the border during normal "rush" is an easy way to blend.

Consider using cameras at transportation facilities to your advantage. Buy your \$500 beater and park it the day before. Drive your own car to the airport, bus station, trainstation, etc. Go into restroom and change your clothes, cutting and destroying as previously mentioned.

If you can't cut your hair, at least shave and acquire a new wig. You should have also destroyed your bag that you carried in. Go out the door and get into your beater car and drive away. Dump that car as quickly as possible and acquire a 3rd. Sell it to a car lot and it, in effect, disappears.

* Put paper napkins around any glass, can or bottle that you drink from. Open push doors with the back of your hand. Wipe the counter tops of restrooms with a clean paper towel before you walk out and toss the papertowel into another trash can. Get in these habits before you leave.

* Wear a hat... everywhere. Ha ha ha. Yes indeed. Hats hide the face from cameras. Most cameras are higher than your head. Spend a lot of time looking at the counter. Or your shoes.

★ Find nomadic jobs. They don't have insurance, but the people are communal and will help when they can. Renaissance faires, traveling Carnivals, Migrant farm workers are all nomadic.

Also look for natural disasters. There is a lot of work to be done, and there is also meals and shelter. I am not saying that you should defraud the government and take relief funds, but if you were a dishonest sort, you may be able to.

★ Many small towns don't have daylabor programs, but if you are reasonably well groomed, you can get day labor by knocking on doors and asking the people of the house if they have some outside chores you can do in exchange for lunch. If they are friendly sorts, you may be able to work for them a couple of days, but don't press your luck. If there isn't, move on quickly.

★ Like others said, shed the baggage. No one wants to hear your sob story and how everyone is out to get you. You left and aren't ready to be found yet. That's all that you need to tell them.

★ Be prepared for a spiritual awakening. Be prepared to have a new appreciation for people and less appreciation for material things. Be prepared to learn how wonderful and cruel the human being can be. Learn to drop your grudges. Any heavy emotional baggage takes physical energy to contain and release. You are going to be tired and hungry and just won't have the energy to maintain it.

* If you decide to carry a gun, realize that you may be breaking laws of the state that you are in. Realize also that it can be taken away from you and used against you.

Know that guns and jewelry are quick pawns for quick money. If your pursuers know that you have a firearm and they have the serial number, they will track you down. If they don't have that serial number, then a pawnbroker may not release your stuff for 90–120 days. Pawn and get out of town. Don't use the same pawn shop, preferably don't use the same town. If you can get away with it, don't use the same name, address or phone number, either.

* If you're thinking of hiding from a moral responsibility — such as child support — I want you to stop reading this right now and shoot yourself. This isn't for you. If you're thinking about committing a crime and then trying to get away with it, don't be an idiot: you will get caught — it's just a matter of when — and nothing on this page can possibly help you.

If you're thinking of running from an abusive ex-husband or ex-boyfriend who wishes to do you harm, I wish you the very best and hope that some of this is helpful though most of it, I'm afraid, is probably unworkable, silly suggestions that won't help you one bit, no not at all.

* If you're thinking about taking your children with, DON'T! Bring yourself and your children to a shelter in another State but for no reason should you ever drag your children around with you while on the run or while hiding. They don't deserve the Abuse and you're being selfish if

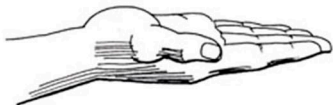
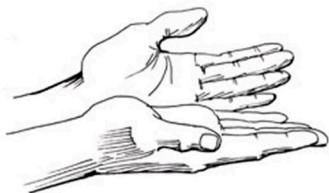
you try to. If you need help caring for your children but need to run from a dangerous spouse, ex-spouse, girl/boy friend, or ex-girl/boy friend, dial 1-800-4ACHILD and ask about what your options are for your safety and the safety of your child or children. Call before you leave if possible but most certainly call someone if you and your children must flee.

Also: The number of the National Domestic Violence Hotline is 1-800-799-7233.

The authorities will be highly motivated into tracking you down if you bring your kids with you as well. Think about what's best for those you leave behind and, as difficult as it will be leave them behind! Think of the children.

* While there are many shelters for women, finding a shelter for yourself and your children if you are a man is going to be difficult. References provided toward the end of the essay should be helpful in this regard yet understand that if you're a man fleeing spousal abuse, America just doesn't care too much about you. A man still has many options, however, yet, in America, there are fewer than for a woman.

Women who make allegations of child abuse against their husbands, ex-husbands, or ex-boyfriends are likely to be considered truthful in American society in far greater percentages than such claims made by men against their female counterparts. A man who must take himself and his children away from an abusive female is likely to be accused



of child abuse and American society is likely to believe the allegations.

Because of this, whether you're a man or a woman, protect yourself from such allegations by documenting abuses before you flee to a shelter with your children. Once at the shelter, make sure that a service worker at the shelter is given a copy of (or a chance to review) your documentation. It's greatly unfortunate that you will have to face legal needs when you're trying to escape from a criminally abusive person but legalities is something you must be prepared to face before you make your break. The fact that you took yourself to a children's shelter or a battered-woman's shelter goes a long way toward establishing your innocence in allegations likely to surface later.

Women are assigned priority status when it comes to such things. If you are a man fleeing an abusive woman, understand that whatever you tell the authorities (or organizations which provide assistance) will be greeted with undue skepticism. Check the references at the end of this essay for organizations which specifically assist men.

If you've entered the United States illegally to start a new life, (or are planning to) you must contend with immigration officials which have historically been under-staffed, poorly-managed, and staffed by incompetent (though often voraciously brutal) thugs — high school dropouts — who only want to carry a gun but couldn't make it in the police force. Unlike police officers, immigration officials didn't get into their line of work to help people; they got into their line of work to keep you out of the country and to track

you down and throw you out if you do get in. Their desire is to subject you to their control, feeding their power trips, making themselves feel manly. Unlike police officers, they aren't out to help society, they're out to inflict misery upon the hapless and the down-trodden.

I mention this because you must understand who your opposition is. Illegal immigrants face the exact same problems that those who wish to become anonymous in America face. The house wife who's been beaten into the hospital too many times faces the same problems which illegal "wet backs" face. The opposition, however — those detailed to finding the house wife — are quite different than those trying to find a cop killer. Know who'll be out looking for you when you do the do.

The resources of your opposition will dictate greatly your behavior and decisions. Determine whether you should stay in the same State or whether you should leave the country entirely. If at all possible, plan your escape as much in advance as possible and work to limit your opposition's resources. This mean that you clean-out bank accounts if you can and you destroy all vehicles the opposition has easy access to so that they may not be used to track you down. (And they can't be sold to finance private investigators to look for you.) You destroy said vehicles in a safe and non-violent way, by the way; you don't want to hurt anyone and thus strengthen the resolve of the authorities.

★ Then discard all your worldly possessions except cash. Most importantly destroy and discard all of your credit cards! The instant you use a credit card or an ATM bank

card while on the run is the instant the authorities or private investigators know where you are. Before you run you should empty all bank accounts anyway. Gas debit cards can also be used to find you. Telephone calling cards can be used to find you. In fact, any magnetic card with your name or the name of someone you know can and will be used to find your general area. Destroy them all. If the FBI, DEA, BATF, CIA, or any number of other agencies are involved in searching for you, they can pinpoint your location within minutes of you using a magnetic card.

Don't even think about hanging onto a credit card or other type of magnetic card for an emergency. You might think about maxing-out your cards then converting what you purchase to quick cash... but don't take cards with you! What you don't have can't tempt you to give your location away. When you're cold and hungry you will be tempted to use any cards you keep so destroy them before that happens.

Do not use your home, work or cell phone, and do not use your calling card. You should develop your plan at least six months beforehand. In the meantime have all of your services, cable, electric, phone bills forwarded to any GPO in the country. Call those companies every month and find your balances and pay them. Make sure all the bills go to different states. Have a little fun: one month have them send it to Oshkosh the next to Bogota, New Jersey. Let them know they have the wrong Social Security number on file and have them change it. Next month give them your cousin Chemicawa's phone number in Balderdash in case they need to reach you. The key here is to load your account with so much information you are creating misinformation.

Go online and get yourself a Jfax account. For \$9.99 per month you can get a phone number in any state or almost any country from Jfax. When someone calls your Jfax number, which will have your personalized recording on it, the message will be forwarded to your email address and you will be able to retrieve that message from anywhere in the world. Make sure the email address you give is a Yahoo or Hotmail address. Pay for your Jfax account for at least one year. This way there will be no transactions on your credit card in the coming months. Some skip-tracer trying to identify your number will only be able to get an email address from Jfax. What's also great about Jfax is you can fax directly from the Internet if you need to. Do not do any of your searching from your home or work computer. Go to an Internet café and do all of your research there.

Go by yourself to a pre-paid cell phone and never give anybody the number. Make sure you can dial an international number with your cell phone. If not, buy a pre-paid calling card then throw it away when it expires, do not reload it. With the pre-paid cell phone get a phone number that has an area code in another state. When you order your pre-pay cell phone pay cash and give them a different name. Never call anybody with that phone, the number might show up on his or her caller ID. Start calling where you're looking to escape to from your pre-paid cell number or calling card. Dump that phone every month, yes, the actual phone, and get yourself a new one. Get a new cell phone with a different number and a different area code from the original phone. By doing this no one will be able to track where you have called. Remember if you make one call from your home, work or cousin's house that is all I need to locate you. Get

yourself a locker and leave all your tools in the locker, never bring them home or to work. If you accidentally toss them in the trash, then someone who is searching your trash will find them. When you are ready to escape you can empty your locker and destroy all information that could leave a trail straight to you.

Go online and get a mailbox from Mailbox Etc. Open up a corporation online in that state. Have all mail go to the above address. Make that address your service of process and your registered agent. When you have all your corporate information. Take a trip to that state. When you go to the bank, you will sit down and open an account. The person opening the account will call Telecheck which is a service bank used to search whether or not you have any overdrafts left over from other banks. They will run your name and there will be a record of you in any state that you've open an account in. So any skip-tracer with half a brain will find that account and locate your mailbox at Mailbox Etc. Give the person you open the account with your Mailbox Etc. address. Do not give them a valid phone number or one of your pre-paid numbers. Like the song says 867-5309 its one number you can't forget and it's a great conversation piece with the banker. Tell them the number won't be in service till next week.

Then contact Idealogic in Canada and have them open a Canadian corporation for you. Give Idealogic all your information from the above chosen state. Once you receive all your Canadian information open an account with BMO, which they should do via mail or possibly online; if not, a visit to Montreal is always great. Once you have all of the

necessary papers have Idealogic, BMO and your bank in the chosen state forward everything to your Mailbox Etc. address. When all is said and done have all of your mail from the Mailbox Etc. shipped to you, and when all papers are in hand from the Mailbox Etc. forward them to New York, then from New York to Chicago, then on to Atlanta, create a big loop. Do all your banking online, the bank will be happy not to mail you your bank statements. Remember always access your accounts from an Internet café.

You can then transfer money from the U.S. to Canada and then from Canada to your chosen offshore haven. Belize is a good place — they do not adhere to MLAT (mutual legal assistance treaty). Never use your ATM from your U.S. account; never use your ATM from your Canadian account. Use your Canadian and U.S. accounts as buffers for your chosen offshore haven.

Pay for your ticket in cash at the airport. Don't use your frequent flier account. Cancel all membership. Do not transfer any of your magazine subscriptions. If you are receiving any type of direct deposit from the government, such as retirement money, do it through the account you opened. Don't get a library card in your new location, do not get cable service under your name. Do everything through the name of your foreign corporation. Make sure your foreign corporation has no similarities to your name or anything from your past.

Calling family and friends is a touchy issue, depending on your personal situation. Awkward! With technology today you just don't know when you call someone from, say, Costa

Rica, whether or not your number shows up on their caller ID. If it does and they happen to call you back, someone will be able to track your location. All your effort and hard work will be thrown out the window. So if you need to get in touch, get yourself another pre-paid cell phone from a different place and call those you need to speak to through your cell phone. Dump the phone every so often.

* A missing person's report is generally not something that can be filed until some 24 hours after the person has gone missing — in most States of the Union. Additionally it usually requires a family member or some other unique "qualified" individual to file a missing person's report.

Because of this, spouses who are attempting to vanish might consider getting themselves ready to do so ahead of time, ducking out and running as soon as their spouse leaves for work. The 24 hour rule may start with the time you were last seen, or your State might not have such a rule.

Some States don't apply the 24 hour rule if there is any indication that foul play was involved, or if there is any indication that you might be suicidal or harbor violent intentions of your own.

Yeah but on the other hand, if you have a history of domestic difficulties and you suddenly go missing, suspicion may come down on your spouse and if it's considered that your spouse might have done you in, the authorities may set aside any 24 hour rule for that reason as well.

Point being: You may or may not be afforded 24 hours before any law enforcement offer or agency feels the need to look for you. If you're a minor, of course, the 24 hour rule is probably not going to apply, even if you have a history of running away from home.

Always over-estimate the resolve of those seeking to get you, yet keep your estimations reasonable. Greatly over-estimating your opposition can cause you to behave in predictable, patterned ways, however. It is the predictability of your actions based upon your opposition's controlled stimulus which can get you.

If your opposition are police authorities, rest assured that they have decades of experience to back them up whereas to them, you're nothing more than another faceless fugitive on the run. To them you're no one special; it's not usually personal (unless you've killed a cop in which case they will get you — and I hope you'll have an "accident" on the way to the police station.) To you, however, being hunted down is quite personal. They know how you will feel and will use that against you.

This is very important if you build a new family: Your wife or husband should be told who you really are before you get married. Since you're working to become a respectable, productive member of society, your prospective spouse should know your past before you get married!

Finding out your real name isn't Michael Johnson after five years of marriage won't help your wife maintain support for you when the cops come to haul you away. Letting her

know you're on the run and for why you're on the run before hand means that you'll have support if they ever do find you.

* Purchase clothes you normally wouldn't consider wearing and put them on in a place where you won't be observed. Cut your old clothes into pieces and flush them down the toilet — you don't want your old clothes to be found. (O. J. Simpson probably discarded the shoes and clothes he wore when he probably murdered two people by depositing them into an airport trash can. Don't rely on blind luck to save you like he probably did: Destroy your old clothes and flush them!)

* Abandon your car. Don't bother driving your car into a lake or an ocean. They can be seen from helicopters or, at minimum, fresh tracks left in the mud surrounding lakes can be spotted from the air easier than by people from the ground. Since you're giving up an asset, make giving it up work for you.

Abandoning your car in a place where you feel confident it will be stripped and sold by thieves is a good idea yet you're left with having to walk out of a probably dangerous neigh-borhood.

Leave the pink slip of the car in the glove box to make it easier for thieves to chop and sell your abandoned car. Leave a door unlocked so they don't have to break a window. You want the car to be taken in mass rather than picked apart on the street where a cop will spot it so it's best that you leave the key in the ignition while you're at it.

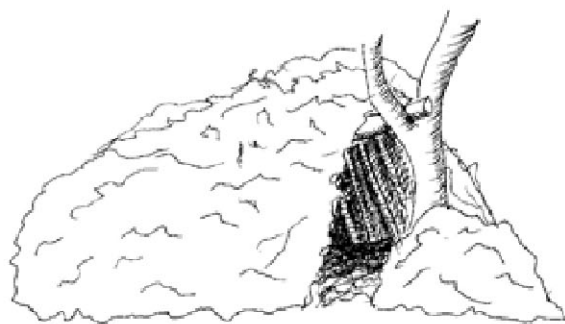
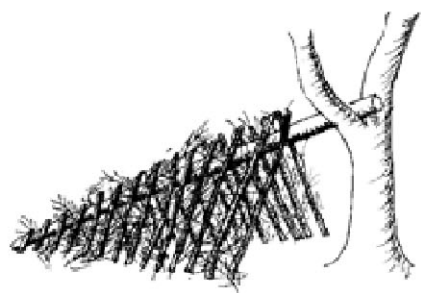
Before you walk away from your car, leave the engine running, in fact, so that a thief will feel more comfortable stealing it. You could make it look like you're just running into a store to buy something quickly.

★ Don't use a taxi service any time you're fleeing. Taxi drivers and their dispatcher will take records of everyone picked up and dropped off and often taxi drivers will be able to recall your description to match you to your destination. If you look like you're running from something, their memory of you will be even sharper.

★ Purchase another car. In America one can slap down \$300.00 and buy a pile of junk with no questions asked and no identification needed. If the seller has the pink slip and a key, you buy it if it's cheap and doesn't have anything a cop might consider stopping you for a safety violation.

Make sure that the back license plate has a current registration and that the exhaust doesn't visibly smoke. Make sure the turn indicators are working and that you have headlights. Make sure the windshield has no cracks. Broken or missing break lights are often used as an excuse by police officers to pull over suspicious cars so make sure that the break lights are working.

Don't do something stupid and buy a stolen car! That is a one way ticket to a cruise with bruise. If there's no pink slip and no ignition key, don't buy it. Match the VID number on the pink slip to the VID number on the metal plate usually mounted on the dash board under the



windshield wipers. Match the license plate number. If one or both don't match, don't buy the car: the license plate could be stolen or the car could be stolen or both.

Don't borrow a friend's car. Don't even think about borrowing a family member's car. There are cameras situated along America's highways and, while I don't know their resolving capabilities, I think it's likely that the make and model of cars streaming past them can be made. Even if they can't resolve your car, a borrowed car is a known avenue of your escape so avoid it.

You might consider a street motorcycle, in fact, since they're as mobile as one can get without using a horse. Motorcycles, however, draw more police attention to them if they look chopped and fast. Your personal appearance on a motorcycle can help deduct from any suspicion that is a normal part of riding a motorcycle in America. A suit and tie might be a good idea: "Mr. Business Man" or "Ms. Business Woman" clothes and appearance might help.

* Don't fill up your newly-acquired car with any of your personal belongings. If you get stopped by a cop or a cop drives by you, you don't want it to look like you're packed up to the ceiling with all your worldly possessions. You need to discard everything you own and don't let it show that you're doing anything other than commuting to or from work. Even if the cop doesn't stop you, if word gets around that you've gone missing, the cop is more likely to remember a stuffed car than all the countless cars simply commuting. They'll match your profile against your description and may recall the general — if not the exact —

type of car you may be driving. If you want to escape notice of the cops, you need to blend in.

Cops work off of profiles: They are trained to spot the unusual as well as how to spot individuals fitting a variety of profiles. Someone on the run fits several profiles. You want to "fall out of the net" and slip through the typical police profiles.

A cup of coffee on the dashboard in front of a guy or gal wearing work clothes arouses no suspicions. You're on your way to work. Neat.

Don't studiously avoid catching a cop's eye, by the way. Lean back in your seat, left arm on the window sill, right hand on the steering wheel at the 6:00 O'Clock position. Take a sip of your coffee, water, or Diet Coke every now and then, and try to act like you're a mindless commuter getting from point A to point B with the rest of the lemmings.

You're not frightened that you'll get stopped. You're not anxious of what will happen when your wife or boyfriend discovers you've left. You'll need to adopt a carefree attitude and outward composure. If you're an illegal alien, you should be thinking about joining the work force and becoming a productive member of your new society, not thinking about the friends and family you might have left behind. Cops, immigration, and everyday people can smell your anxiety and fear so you'll want to focus on the positive aspects of why you're on the run.

* Don't run from the cops in a car or motorcycle! You might say, good one, sherlock. But: If you're in a car or on a motorcycle, pull over, stop, turn the engine off, and show your hands. If you like, get out and run. (More on bailing out of cars and running later.) The worse thing you can do is try to run with your car. Not only will you kill someone, the police will be very motivated to do what it takes to stop you before you do kill someone. In America that includes pulling along side you and popping you with Mr. Shotgun. If you're driving 120 through the streets of Los Angeles, you become a fatal threat and will be handled with fatal force. Don't think that you and your car can get away! You can't. These days nobody can. Believe it. You can't outrun radio or helicopters and the police aren't just going to go away. Spike strips will puncture your tires and slow you down even more. (Eventually there will be devices deployed which will destroy an engine's ignition system, operated through a remote-control radio link.) These days nobody gets away and you are a dangerous fool to try it in America. Believe it.

* Don't tell anyone where you're planning to go or what you're planning to do. For as long as possible, don't ask friends for help or shelter — most of all never ask family members! Don't telephone anyone to say "good bye." Don't have any contact with friends or family! Police authorities will monitor their residential lines and private investigators can easily tap loop-start residential lines with not much more than two pieces of equipment costing all of \$200.00 each.

★ Leave town. Don't go to any place you've talked about or stated a desire to visit. Don't run to any place predictable. Don't hide in a city or town you've ever been to or contains known family members. Don't do something obviously stupid like running to Las Vegas or Hollywood. If you're taking children out of an abusive family, leave town and go immediately to a shelter in another State — preferably a State which has laws which help to protect battered men or women from their ex-spouses or live-ins. (References provided toward the end of this essay.)

★ It's best to avoid going to McDonald's or other fast food places if you have a habit of doing so. When spotted in a city the authorities will divide and eliminate sections of the city. If you like certain fast food places and they know this, they will keep an eye out for you in those areas. These places also have been installing cameras which watch over the counter and the eating areas — cameras you can't see and cameras you can see. This is also true of many drive-through areas as well though the camera angle is usually covered up by a one-way concave mirrored surface.

Keep from depositing traces of yourself. Every place you go, you inadvertently leave pieces of yourself. Every article of clothing, every door knob, every carpet, every telephone, every toilet seat you use will contain pieces of you. Your skin is flaking off all the time. You need to decide whether there is a risk of authorities or private investigators looking for you tracking you through your blood type or DNA (which can be worked-up by using pieces of your hair.) After you weigh the risks, take the precautions you deem are needed.

* Wear a hat indoors. Wearing a hat in a hotel room won't remove the probability of you leaving hair follicles in the room yet it will reduce the number of such particles making finding evidence difficult. Cutting your hair until it's real short will also help. And that's what you want to do: Limit the amount of physical evidence which can be used to track you.

* Use "toilet seat protectors" — so-called "Ass Gaskets" — where they are provided to reduce the possibility of leaving skin, sweat, or other body fluids on the seat. These substances can be swabbed into glass vials and be used to identify you. Paper seat covers will either eliminate this problem else reduce it greatly.

* NEVER lick an envelope or a stamp for obvious reasons! If it is known you're in a particular city your general location can be inferred by the physical location of your correspondence in a stack collected by the postal authority. You shouldn't mail anyone anything unless it's done so anonymously (wear gloves when handling paper) yet if you feel the need, remember that if you lick something and it leaves your control, you may as well take out an advertisement in the newspapers broadcasting your general location.

* Don't leave blood, semen, or menstrual discharge behind you as you run. If you happen to spill your blood on something, there's not a damn thing you can do to get it cleaned-up so you may as well not expend the effort to try. Even if you were to clean it up entirely and then wash everything down with gasoline, there are substances which

can spot minute traces of blood and technologies which can type extremely minute traces. Even burning the building down to the ground is pointless: Spill your blood and you've left a clue you can't retract at any cost. Don't even try as you make it worse by spending time trying.

* Wipe every surface in your hotel before you leave. For good measure, wipe every surface in any bathroom you may use along the road. Keep in mind that you need to use soap and water when you wipe away your fingerprints and skin tissue otherwise you'll only leave a bunch of smudges which can be reconstructed using contemporary computer imaging technologies.

Toss your wiping materials down the toilet. (If you're on an airplane, don't toss anything down the toilet as it goes to a holding tank which can be raked for evidence later. Carry-out your wiping papers with you inside your shirt under an armpit and flush them in a normal toilet when you can. (Note: Visible bulges under your shirt will be considered by flight attending employees to be indicating the real possibility that you're smuggling drugs. If you must hide a lot of wipe materials, you should distribute them among your body to eliminate bulges, otherwise you may be escorted to a little white room and made to strip. When they find you're hiding damp paper towels, you'll have some explaining to do.)

Be sure to wipe everything including things you didn't touch! Scientifically-controlled testing shows that people touch objects without realizing it or being able to recall having touched them. The only way to be absolutely

certain you re-move finger prints from everything you touch is to clean everything within reach.

By the way: Rubbing alcohol is pretty good at getting up the natural oils which comprise the majority of your fingerprints so perhaps before you run you should acquire a bottle and keep it with you.

Before you leave your hotel room, hang the "please make-up this room as soon as possible" sign on the door handle, taking care not to leave your prints on the sign. You want the room vacuumed, cleaned, and touched by hotel employees as soon as possible.

"Don't wear gloves where you can be seen yet do wear gloves when you won't be seen."

* Don't eat in restaurants. Your drinking glasses and eating utensils will contain pieces of you. Fast-food places without cameras are okay provided you be sure to take the food with you and can flush paper down a toilet. If you eat at a fast-food place and discard of your trash in the trash bin, you're leaving a trail behind you. (It's a difficult trail to follow, granted, yet still a trail.)

Don't forget that most fast-food places and mini-markets these days will videotape you. Even the smallest stores usually run continual videotape of everyone who enters, leaves, and stands in the check-out line.

Don't look for the cameras; notice where they are not and then focus on that spot. Turning your head up to

look at a camera changes the shadow and contrast attributes of the video shots of you drastically so, as you enter a shop, keep you face down and look at spots where you off-handedly know cameras are not mounted. (In fact, practice becoming aware of where visible cameras are. Lately cameras are becoming invisible so eventually you'll never know where they are. You can learn where cameras are usually located, however. Learning the location of cameras you can see will tell you a lot about the possible locations of cameras you won't see.)

Contemporary computer imaging software can take multiple video shots of you from different camera angles and combine them in extraordinary ways. Poor quality video shots of differing contrasts, brightness, and angles can be processed on a computer to yield good quality photographs of you. Your job is to limit the number and attributes of raw video shots taken of you. This is a damn difficult thing to do, of course.

Running is the easiest part. Hiding is a bit harder. Staying hidden is the difficult part. The difficulties are determined by the resolve and resources of those hunting you. If the government wants to find you, they will unless you are willing to sacrifice everything.

* If you run to the hills, satellites can see you and identify the type and color of the automobile you're driving. If you've hidden yourself in a cabin, your thermal signature will be seen from satellites. Even if you drive to a road and abandon your vehicle and walk to a cabin 30 miles away, a body heat source in a cabin in the desert or in the woods

with no corresponding automobile heat source can signal where you are. It's suspicious.

Satellites can bounce LASER light off of your windows and, by measuring the minute distance differences between a vibrating window and the satellite, reconstruct your speech — from orbit! I don't know how much this process costs yet it was demonstrated for PBS some years ago so it may not be all that expensive. The quality of the audio is poor but it can be understood.

Incidentally: Some of the higher technology law enforcement agencies (FBI, CIA, lately BATF) employ "adaptive mirrors" for some of their optical law enforcement efforts. A signal is bounced off of an object, and the signal contains marking information and timing information. The return bounce tells the computer system a great deal of information about the atmospheric conditions, temperatures of the air and surfaces, and a host of other attributes about the environment (such as humidity.)

The computer system evaluates conditions and then adapts mirrored surfaces to remove distortion, providing amazingly clean audio surveillance from orbit upon unsuspecting suspects. As you can imagine, it's expensive and law enforcement doesn't apply the technology to every fugitive. It's used against law breakers only in extreme cases. The technology is usually applied in intelligence-gathering missions for NATO-aligned countries.

If a satellite must be re-missioned or maneuvered, obviously the cost goes up — but then if they do that,

they've launched a man hunt against you which you probably won't escape anyway. Cloud cover won't help. Smog won't help. Tree coverage will help a little but don't rely on it.

* The eyes track motion. If there are helicopters looking for you, it is always best to hide in a bush or up in a tree rather than running it out on foot. Your body heat will probably give you away any way. If you have a helicopter looking for you, bury yourself in mud and leaves and you stand a chance of not being detected by your body heat. A river, lake, or stream can mask your body heat, of course, yet those would be obvious places to look for you.

I might add that helicopter pilots are trained to follow the driver of automobiles when they bail out and leave any other occupants of the car that bail out to the ground officers. If you're driving a car and bail out (which is the safe, smart move rather than trying to make a run for it with the car) with a helicopter watching over you, climb over to the rear right hand seat and bail out from there, never from the driver's seat. If they don't know you're alone, they may mistakenly wait for the driver. It might even help to kick open the driver's door before climbing out the back door. If you do that, though, you could be identified as the driver by your clothes so consider the problem.

If you're walking or running through hills or wooded areas, the eyes of your opposition will track your motion. If you're motionless, picking you out of the visual clutter will be difficult. Even dogs have trouble picking up a stationary object.



* Speaking of dogs, I've yet to see a human capable of outrunning a healthy dog. You can confuse them by running around objects a few times and — always traditional — running downstream a swiftly moving stream of water.

Running upstream should be avoided. Your scent will be carried downstream and you wish to go with it otherwise you leave a long tail behind you.

Dogs will go for your feet or hands when you're running then for your hands when you're down. They're trained not to go for the throat (though I've heard that some police trained dogs will if given specific instructions to.) Since they are trained not to bark until they are close to you, you will probably not hear the dog getting closer.

Dogs usually work with one officer. Putting more than one dog on an individual's trail is very rarely done. The officer usually holds onto the dog's leash yet that slows the dog down considerably. Dogs that have had their voices removed are rarely released for long-distance track downs.

If a police dog confronts you with an officer, give up. If the police dog has been sent on ahead, kill the dog. You should sacrifice a bit of flesh to do this effectively: Offer your "dumb" hand to the dog and let it take it. (First wrap your arm in a shirt if you can.) Use the knife in your "smart" hand and try to drive it through the dog's braincase.

This will work provided the dog hasn't seen your knife. They know what they look like and what they're used for. Anything in your hand, in fact, even if it's a jacket

or a pair of socks will be treated with much suspicion by the dog and the dog will be trained to go after the hand with the object in it.

Dogs are trained to expect their targets to scream and yell such amusing phrases as "Argh! Get him off me! Get him off me!" That makes the dog immune to the emotional pleas of its victims. They're trained to ignore all commands except those of its master and in some cases they are trained to understand commands given in different languages.

Trying to get both hands around the dog's neck is probably a mistake since doing so will be next to impossible. If you can get your hands around the neck and you don't have a knife, lift the dog off the ground and shake it until its neck snaps. You can try to squeeze the dog's windpipe closed yet that takes strength and time. It's best to break the neck. You've been on the run and will probably lack the strength needed to strangle the dog.

There was a discussion several years ago about police dogs' bodies being used to offer clues as to the general location of the criminal they had been tracking. If possible, hike the dog's body along with you and dispose of it later. If you use a knife, leave it in the dog as the blade can and will be used to identify you if you're caught with it.

There is the possibility that in the future people may be identifiable by their purchasing habits. Granted, the point-of-sale data collected by computers would need to be immense, yet eventually pattern-recognition software may

some day be able to provide authorities with perhaps 100 of the best possible "hits" on people matching your known buying habits. When — if ever — that becomes a reality, you can be sure you won't know about it until it's shown on cable television. By that time, the technology will have been in use for years and you may end up on a list of possible matching a purchase profile.

So alter your buying habits. You need to discard as many predictable patterns as possible. One of the most common mistakes is maintaining old habits. If you're a smoker, stop. If you don't smoke, start. If you enjoy hot and spicy foods, stop purchasing those items and change to mild foods. If you frequent bars, stop. This may seem an unusual step but patterns are predictable. Break them.

* When running from ground forces, it is expected that you'll:

They will expect you to: Run directly away from the opposition. You'll want to put as much distance between yourself and your opposition as possible. That may be a bad decision since escape could be to your left or your right. You don't want to be driven into a trap by running directly away from the ground forces. If they can see you, running directly away could be leading you into a trap — they have radios and you probably don't. They have helicopters. If they can't see you, take an unexpected tangent to their pursuit. It won't put as much distance between you at first but if they walk past you at a distance, you win for a while.

They will expect you to: Seek the high ground. There is the idea that if one puts a mountain between you and your pursers, you're home free. From the top of a mountain or high hills you can better see possible avenues of escape. Your opposition will expect you to climb. Ravines and passes are going to be easier, allowing you to move faster though perhaps not as far away from the opposition as you would like. Going around a mountain could take more time than going over — you decide how you want to do it. If you go over the top, you stand a chance of being seen and you also have more of a helicopter treat.

They will expect you to: Go to ground (or "hole up.") If you're hurt or just tired, hungry, and desperate, you will probably want to go to ground. It is expected that as your pursers get closer to you, you'll find a hole to climb into, a tree to climb, or something equally disastrous. In the cities, the criminals are often found under a bush, in a tree, under a car, in someone's shed on a roof. At some point it's expected that you'll stop running and try to hide. With today's technology, that's a bad idea. Keep going until you're unable to. You can catch up on your sleep when they catch you or when they put a few rounds into your back.

They will expect you to: Take the easiest route to escape capture. You may want to do things which are totally unexpected by doing things the hard way. If you're tramping through the forest along a trail walking at high speed, making good time toward freedom, you may want to toss that away, break from the trail, climb the ridge if there is one, and crash through the bush for ten miles. They'll expect you to walk in the shade if it's a hot day and along

water ways if it's a hot day. Decide whether taking the easy way and being predictable is acceptable.

They will expect you to: Doubled back on yourself. If you can work your way around a hill free from the eyes of your opposition, and double back on yourself, you have increased the chances of escape. Your opposition will be looking for signs that you've double backed on yourself. You're leaving a scent trail for every dog in the area to follow so that should be of some consideration when you double back. You need to try to create a break in your trail at the point you change direction. This could mean walking backwards a bit, climbing a tree, working your way through the branches to other trees, climbing down, and then working your way back the way you came. Even if you don't suspect that you're being trailed, it is probably a good idea to break your trail from time to time if you can. You could start being followed hours later, after all.

They will expect you to: Work your way to your right. You might be tempted not to keep an eye on landmarks and set yourself goals to acquire in the distance. If you're worried about and focused upon getting away, your natural behavior will be to circle to your right if you're right handed, to the left if you're left handed. If it's at night, pick out the North Star and set your course by it rather than rely upon your internal direction sense to travel.

It's getting harder and harder to hide in America. There used to be a loose defacto "underground" of "freedom loving" people — hippies, if you will — who would provide aid, shelter, and comfort to those on the run

from Authority (or The Establishment, The Man, The Fuzz, The P. I. G., "Them".)

These days, however, in our increasingly paranoid and dangerous society, offering assistance to strangers is a bad idea: It gets people killed. One must rely upon professional organizations which assist people who need to hide from abusive people. Professional organizations, however, will want you to have a virtuous reason for running and hiding and will want to help you by reporting you to the authorities if they feel they should. None that I know of assist you if you're running from a law enforcement agency. (Note: Foreign agents operating in America might be willing to assist you yet that falls outside the scope of this commentary. Arrive at the embassy of your choice and make your offers and perhaps they'll grant you provisional security from police authorities.)

The hippies have given way to another class of citizen. These are the so-called "skin heads," punk rockers, and New Age nuts. While many are social misfits, most interact with "regular society" in their off-hours and rock-out at night or on the week ends.

The anti-establishment and socially disassociated populace has always existed and has always been an asset to those on the run. Your job is to find them if you need them. Be honest with such people since they know the score and will shine you on if you're a lying jerk.

★ Motorcycle Hangouts.

Buy people drinks, talk politics, express your viewpoints, and get to know the people in motorcycle hangouts.

Express an honest interest in learning how to ride safely. Find out what it's like to drop everything and ride to feel free.

Eventually, let a few you think you can trust know that you're looking for a place to hang out "out of the way" for a couple of days. Don't press the issue and don't ask outright for shelter. Ask around about where a good spot to sleep is out in the hills where the cops won't find you. Someone may offer you a tent in his backyard.

Ask where a good place is to find something to eat or get day labor. Someone may offer you a fiver or yard work.

Honestly make friends with some of the people. Your best bet is not to lead people on and take advantage of them but to actually befriend people who can help you hide and then — hopefully — start a new life with a new identity.

Motorcycle riders have reputations they must defend and domination games they must play. If you're on the run or need a place to hide, understand that you are Beta Male among Alpha Males. Understand that these are usually good people worthy of your friendship who can and will help you. Understand that you must fit into their society of Alpha and Beta males and accept their domination games. Many gangs are only minor criminals with codes of honor and ethics, existing only to drink, fuck, and ride with

their buddies — bikers who have regular jobs during the week and hang out and ride when they can. Not all motorcycle gangs are druggie murderers and thieves. These days in America, bikers like that are few in number.

*** Punk Rock or New Age dance studios.**

This group of people tend to be younger than the motorcycle crowd. Your best bet for assistance will be among the younger kids but, being young, they'll probably be living with their parents and have no resources to help you with. They probably know where you can sleep safely, however, and will know who might have jobs available.

With punkers it will be okay to let it be known outright that you're looking to find a place to hide from the cops for awhile. The punkers with the proper punk attitude will "know someone who might know someone" who can help you find a place to cool off for awhile — or maybe find a meal or two.

*** Gay bars.**

Gay bars are a good place to go if you're needing a meal or a safe place to spend a couple of nights. Of course it helps if you're good-looking yet most people at gay and straight bars are looking for companionship first and hoping for sex second. It doesn't matter if you're gay or straight: What people want is companionship and interesting people to talk with first and foremost. If you're interesting or have interesting stories to tell, finding someone in a gay bar can be mutually beneficial to the both of you.

When it comes down to it, it doesn't pay to be shy... let someone take you home with them. Get a bath, a meal, and a place to sleep for awhile. Don't overstay your welcome, however. Offer to leave from time to time and when asked to do so, do so. Return to the same bar later and make yourself known.

★ Homeless shelters, soup kitchens, and churches.

Most moderate or large cities will have shelters and soup kitchens operated by either the State government or religious organizations. Questions are usually never asked though such places usually like to make sure you're not holding dope or weapons before they'll let you stay. If possible, try to see if there's any work in the kitchen or dorms you could do to repay their kindness. Such people who exhibit a willingness to work will be afforded assistance finding a paying job — which is something you'll want to do since you're trying to build a new life.

The idea is to run and hide only as long as you have to and then start rebuilding. Homeless shelters, job placement services, and day labor can give you hope and help while you're struggling to make your new life. You're using a computer so I assume that you have food and shelter now and possibly employment. Save up your money before you run and you'll give yourself a chance.

If you're in a city or town, you stand a better chance of feeding yourself and keeping yourself from freezing to death. There are often shelters run by Christian, Muslim, or Jewish organizations which will feed you and put you up.

It may be dangerous to do so simply because such places are usually — nearly always — in dangerous neighborhoods. If you're wearing the wrong color face, you have to compare the possibility of violence and abuse against hunger. If you look like you're on the run, you could be victimized in the city. Those who would victimize you know you won't go to the cops. You're on your own in an area where punks band together out of boredom.

Finding work is your best bet. You're using a computer right now so it is assumed that you have a job (or are married without a paying job) and as such have some marketable skills. Even without marketable skills, you can find employment if you're willing to work hard.

Suppose you're a wife looking to leave an abusive husband. Suppose you're a teen-ager looking to leave an abusive mother or father. How would you feed and house yourself when you run and hide? If you're young, you can expect to be raped (boy or girl), drugged, and horribly abused when living on American streets so you must consider that fact and go for a children's shelter instead.

Hopefully you've managed to save aside some cash but that won't last long. There are jobs that you can do:

★ Day Labor: Normally day labor is back-breaking, hot and sweaty work and is given to men. Women can get day labor cleaning — houses, hotels, dishes... it's hard work but it is out there. You may be paid cash for day labor and no one will ask you questions. If you have a skill (such as sewing, tree trimming, or painting) your pay will be higher

