

CHAIN

REACTION

Vol. 1 No. 1

"Unshackling Captive Minds"

Free To Prisoners \$1

Texas Serial Killers

WHAT'S INSIDE!

"Police State USA"

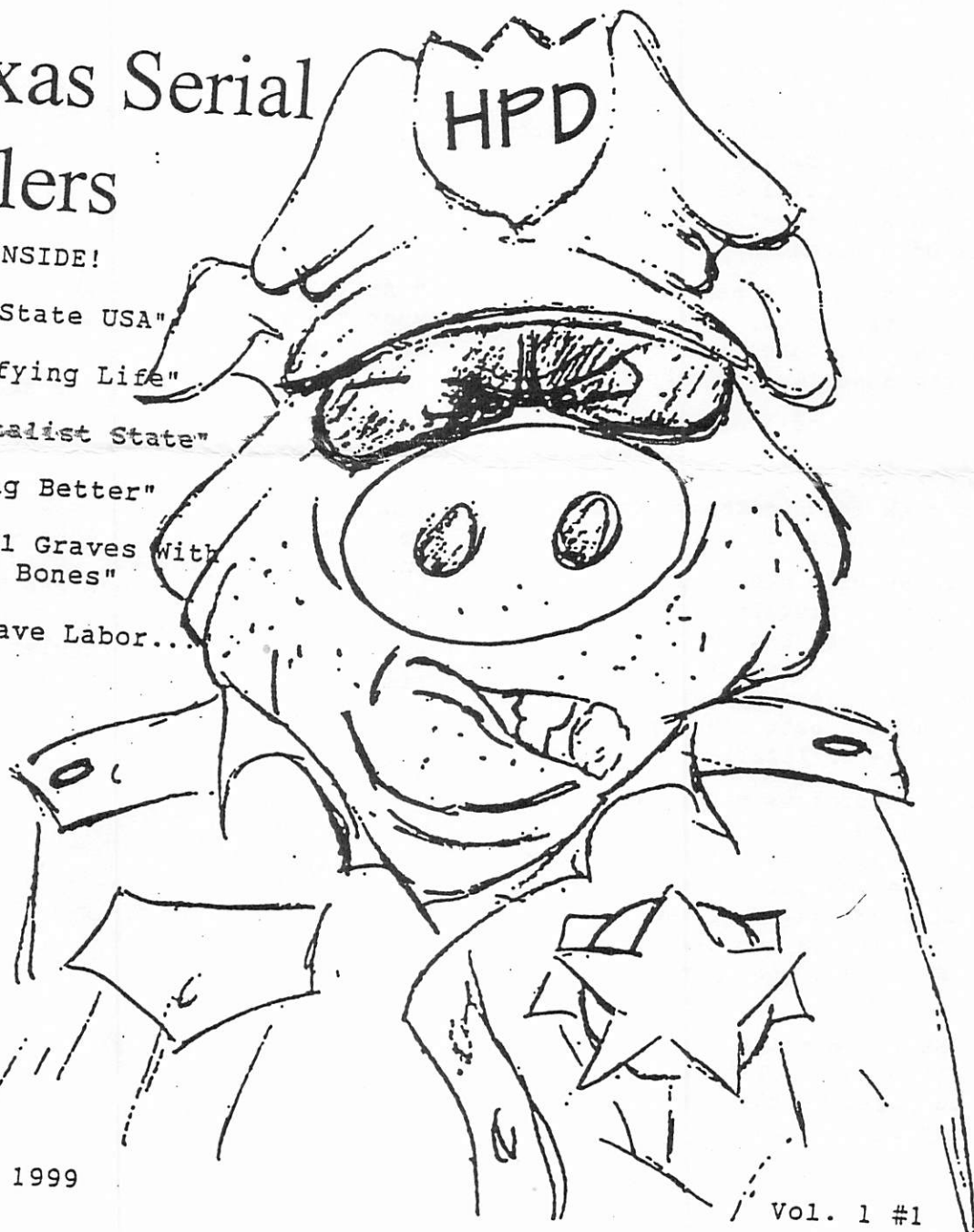
"Commodifying Life"

"The Capitalist State"

"Something Better"

"They Fill Graves With
Our Bones"

"Texas Slave Labor..."



Summer 1999

Vol. 1 #1

Who We Are

Chain Reaction (defined): A sequence of events, each of which, results in, or has an effect on the following event.

* "Unshackling Captive Minds" is our slogan. We believe that as the truth is revealed and minds are liberated, a "chain reaction" of revolutionary change will transform our present capitalist society of haves and have-nots into a truly democratic and egalitarian society built upon meeting human need instead of capitalist greed.

* **Chain Reaction** is a revolutionary anarchist collective. We are anti-fascist, anti-authoritarian; dedicated to the abolition of prisons, racism, classism, sexism, and the accomplice capitalist system that supports and perpetuates these institutions of oppression.

* We seek to change the media-cultivated perception of prisoners, and build solidarity between prisoners and working class people in the so-called free world.

* We seek to build solidarity among all prisoners, as well as among autonomous revolutionary anarchist organizations and others who seek the overthrow of capitalism and the authoritarian state.

* We seek to provide news and views that reflects the true brutality of capitalist society, and logical reasons for its elimination. At the same time, we aim to put forward workable alternatives to capitalism and show a better way for society to exist that is egalitarian in nature.

* We are not reformists and do not align ourselves with reformist organizations. We are abolitionists who believe reforms only legitimize and perpetuate a brutal and oppressive system. While we must fight for better conditions, we have to realize that reforms achieved today may be taken away tomorrow.

* As **Chain Reaction** collective moves forward, we will work to clearly express our goals and purposes as they relate to revolutionary social change.

* Though our coverage is international in scope, our primary focus is on the social, economic, and political issues confronting Texas prisoners and workers. We believe, however, that these issues and their resolution are relevant to all prisoners and workers worldwide.

* We encourage you to submit articles, art, clippings and other information concerning prisoner and worker issues. All submissions become permanent contributions to **Chain Reaction** collective and cannot be returned. We don't make any money off this and don't imply that any payment of any kind is offered for submissions. We reserve the right to reject any material contrary to the goals and purposes of **Chain Reaction** collective. Send all submissions to:

South Chicago ARA
P.O. Box 721
Homewood, IL 60430

* Articles not so designated do not represent the official position of **Chain Reaction** collective.

* We welcome donations of stamps and cash. Individuals of the collective are contributing their own personal financial resources to produce **Chain Reaction**. It will require the financial help of all who are able to contribute to make **Chain Reaction** an important voice for prisoners and workers, and to get it into the hands of as many people as possible. We hope to be able to publish on a regular quarterly basis. For additional copies of this issue or the next upcoming issue send a donation of \$1 or three(3) 33-cent stamps to the above address. Free to prisoners.



Starting a Chain Reaction

Welcome to the first issue of Chain Reaction. Our purpose for starting Chain Reaction is to advocate and promote the political education of prisoners and workers in order that we may learn about the machinations of capitalist society and the political state which oppresses us. In this way we can empower ourselves to fight against this crooked system while in prison, and also, once released from the gulags, we can engage solidaristically in prisoner support. Also to engage in labor and community organizing to abolish the capitalist system of wage slavery.

Prisoners inside the Texas concentration camp system are here for various reasons and lengths of time. Some of us may never get out, though we always keep a glimmer of hope alive. Others may be on parole for the rest of our lives, constantly in fear of being revoked and having to return to prison to provide job security for the minions of the state.

There's no doubt that some of us may have perpetuated some real crimes against our fellow workers in the past. Others' reasons for being here may simply be the result of economic pressures under capitalism or its ridiculous drug laws. Whatever the reason, it's not too late to empower ourselves and work for a better world in solidarity with fellow prisoners.

One thing is for certain. As long as capitalism exists, so will crime, prisons, fragmented communities, environmental destruction, war, famine and state tyranny. And although it's possible to be non-racist and non-sexist under capitalism, the capitalist system feeds on and promotes these negative social attributes which enables the bosses to divide the working class and maintain their profits.

Prisoners are in a unique position to view the capitalist state as it really is, unobscured by the cosmetics of the consumer society spectacle. We know the real deal and nothing can pull the wool over our eyes once we have had them opened. As we see it, within the razor wire of the Texas gulag is as good a place as any to fight against the capitalist system, which is a prison itself.

We welcome your additions to Chain

Reaction in the form of political articles, art, satire and humor, news from prison units, case law and successfully litigated cases, and your letters and comments. We will not print anything of a racist nature or anything which purposely promotes division of the working class within and without prison walls.

We recommend prisoners engaging in study groups to discuss articles appearing in Chain Reaction and how you can contribute to Chain Reaction to make it a voice heard for revolutionary social change.

We also recommend studying the philosophy of anarchism and libertarian socialism and learning how to apply them to everyday life. We will also be featuring articles in Chain Reaction on basic concepts and principles of anarchist society. You can also write to some of the groups and publications listed in our "Contacts" section. They are all supportive of prisoners and will send you good educational literature.

Try to establish solidarity with prisoner support groups, especially any in Texas. And let us know of any groups or organizations in Texas that you know are supportive of prisoners, as there seems to be a shortage of these groups in Texas. Get involved. Get others in prison and in the free world involved!

Solidarity

FWKG for the collective.



The capitalist state

By Gulf Coast Red

The boss class would like us to view social problems such as poverty, crime, and prison expansion as separate, unrelated phenomena to be dealt with individually. These social problems are interrelated, stem directly from the capitalist system, and are exploited often to our rulers advantage. In particular, I want to talk about the historical advent of prison expansion in our era, and its' relation to new trends in economics, as well as the changing historical role of the state.

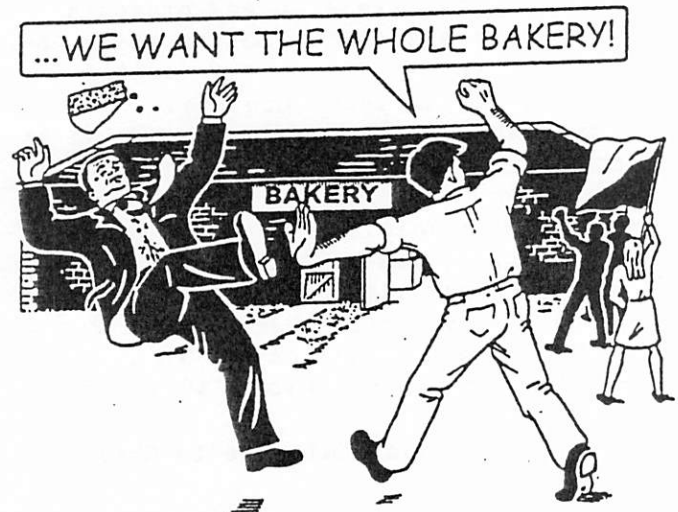
A little history. In the latter part of the 19th and early part of the 20th century (into the 1930's), the political state government in America was a total tool of the big capitalists. There were no government safety net programs to aid workers when capitalists put them in the skids. Workers had no rights and the work place was unregulated. Workers were beaten and shot for trying to organize unions. Socialism was not a dirty word, and had not yet been misrepresented and perverted by Lenin and his ilk.

During the depression, brought about in part by capitalists over production and lack of purchasing power on the part of workers to buy back their produce, President Roosevelt enacted reforms to aid workers when they were stuck out by cut-throat capitalism. These reforms were granted basically to preserve capitalism, and stave off socialist revolution by the american workers who were gaining in militancy.

In short, these reforms were a kind of bribe designed to pacify workers and fool them into seeing the government as their friend. These types of reforms are never set in stone and as Karl Marx once commented "reforms granted at one time by the ruling class can always be retracted when it suits their purpose: and that is exactly what has happened as we will see later. During the 1930's unions were legalized and, to a great degree, co-opted by the machinery of capital and of the state, however, unions retained quite a bit of militancy and high membership, and the standard of living tended to rise on up into the 1970's. These years, the late 30's to 70's, have been called the Fordist

era by some. Which mean large factories, lots of union jobs, and government reform aid to workers who become unemployed.

During the 50's and 60's the civil rights movement, anti-war movement, feminist movement, as well as the hippy movement were inspiring people to have high expectations about the future- an optimistic view of life. Unions were strong, and all of this was not only eating into the boss class' profits, but was causing our rulers great anxiety. Our masters decided we were exercising too much democracy, and began initiating a plan of systematic roll backs, i.e. class war tactics, to put the working class in check and maximize their power and methods of profit extraction from our toil.



In the 70's, we started seeing jobs sent overseas. In the 80's, we saw Ronald Reagans' war on the poor with his trickle down economics that didn't trickle down. During the Reagan years, the precedent was set to begin gutting social reforms, spoken of earlier, that benefit the poor. Union busting was started by Reagan as well.

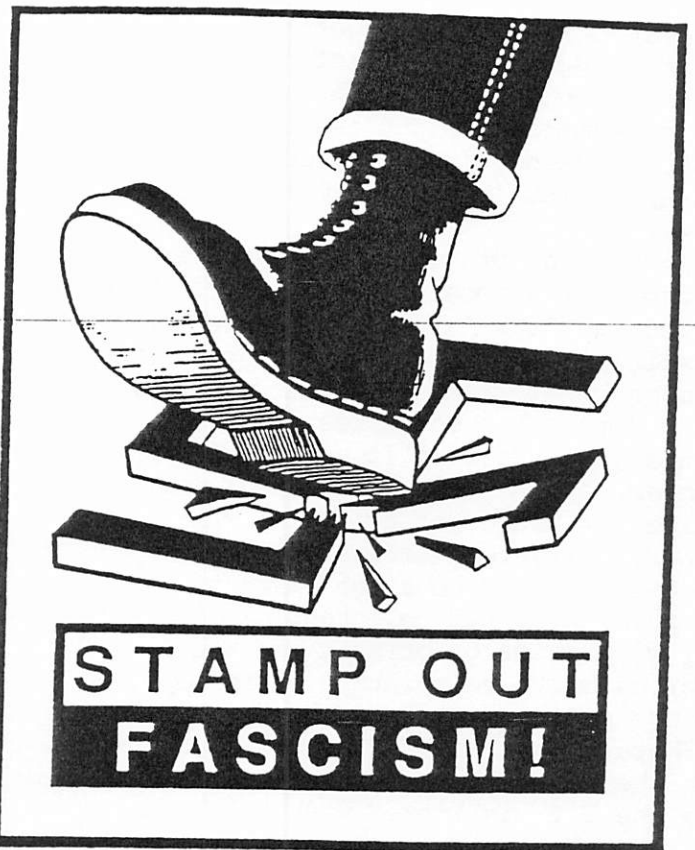
The move to ship jobs overseas, in order to ruthlessly exploit fellow workers in other countries, is known as capitalist restructuring. These jobs are sent to countries which have no environmental regulations, horrible working conditions, low wages, often repressive governments, some of which are backed by the U.S., who suppress and even shoot and jail union organizers.

What it means for Americans is that most of the good jobs leave the country. Leaving a whole lot of service jobs and McJobs to remain. Lots of part-time, temporary jobs, with no security or benefits. In this context, the role of the state government is changing back to the pre 1930's role as tool of the capitalists. All of the reforms that help workers are being retracted. For instance, Clintons welfare reform bill has thrown 5 million poor people off of health care benefits, a sizeable portion of whom are children. N.A.F.T.A. was pushed through by capitalists, Clinton and the corporate owned media. Even though labor unions protested that this measure would hurt workers and only benefit the rich.

All of these moves are part of what is known as neo-liberal politics. They are designed to lower workers expectations, instill fear and insecurity at the threat of job loss. The idea is to get workers here to accept and expect less from jobs, and from life in general.

Neo-liberal politicians like Clinton have to come up with all sorts of slick propaganda to make the government seem legitimate in the eyes of the workers while they pander to capitalists every whim. We will likely see a resurgence of militant working class unionism, such as the Industrial Workers of the World (I.W.W.) in response to this precedent.

Interestingly, it is workers to a large degree who through taxes finance subsidies (corporate welfare) to the very same corporations who ship jobs overseas. Corporations want profits, and in order to get them, they need cheap labor, however



they can get it. Another method the boss class uses to beat workers over the head is crime, law enforcement, and the Prison Industrial Complex. Crime is not a problem for the boss class, but rather a phenomenon they exploit to maximize power. The crime rate has not changed much proportionately in the last 30 years. In fact, violent crime has abated in the last

though reporting in the corporate owned media has increased dramatically in the last decade. This has given taxpayers a false impression of an increase in crime, instill fear in them, and in this way, allowed politicians to grandstand on "tough on crime" policies. This has also allowed politicians to enact more draconian criminal legislation and build a massive prison complex.

We start to see an increase in prison expansion in the 70's, about the same time as jobs start leaving the country. And massive expansions in the 80's and 90's commensurate with the Reagan, Bush and Clinton neo-liberal years.

Systematically, the government has increased penalties for all manner of offenses, making people do inordinate amounts of time for minor offenses. In Texas, a person can do years behind bars for getting into a fist fight. Something

that used to merit a night in jail. Clinton has stepped up police powers and enacted legislation which makes it hard for prisoners to fight their cases. These measures keep prisons filled and serve to mop up excess labor, while instilling fear in workers.

The War on Drugs has been a great weapon in the 'boss class' arsenal. Used to lock up loads of workers and erode Constitutional rights. Drugs are treated as a criminal problem in this country, while some other countries place more emphasis on treating it as a health problem. The criminalization of drugs create all manner of crime and violence. Decriminalization, free supply, and treatment, would go a lot further. But the government has no intention of doing away with crime or prisons, as these problems serve to maintain their hegemony through police state measures.

There is a great deal of evidence that, over the years, increase in drug influx into the U.S. is linked with C.I.A. covert missions around the globe. The C.I.A. was smuggling heroin stateside during the vietnam war inside the bodies of dead G.I.'s. During the Iran contra episode, the C.I.A. has been implicated in smuggling cocaine into the country to finance arms for the right wing Contras. Ex-D.E.A. man Micheal Levine, one of Bush's top dogs in the Drug War worked throughout Latin America risking his life to bust cartel cocaine dealers numerous times only to have the C.I.A. tell him to lay off, or to have kingpins quickly un-arrested whom he had hustled by the C.I.A.

Levine states that 1/3 of the cocaine that entered the U.S. in the 80's was due to the C.I.A. He was intent on busting high officials in the mexican government, but was told to lay off of them because Salinas was going to make N.A.F.T.A. law. American officials were afraid that the exposure would hinder N.A.F.T.A.'s promulgation.

Two days after N.A.F.T.A. was enacted, the Zapatistas in Chiappas Mexico began their revolution. Paramilitary groups, trained at Fort Benning, Georgia, have been sent down to aid the Mexican government in quelling the Zapatista revolution. The School of Americas, aka School of Assassins, has trained men from latin American countries in the art of torture, assassination, kidnapping, and

blackmail. They have been responsible for mass killings in Guatemala, 150,000, and 50,000 disappearances. They have been part of many Latin American dictatorships responsible for untold atrocities all to further American interests in the region. The S.O.A. has been used in this manner under the guise of prosecuting the War on Drugs!

The phenomena of crime, prison expansion, War on Drugs, and Capitalist Restructuring, are not unrelated events. These are all measures which are connected and exploited to the benefit of our masters. We prisoners are as affected as our working class brothers and sisters fighting in Chaippas against tyranny, and our cause is linked with workers exploited by capitalists everywhere. Prisoners of the world, wake up!

We have nothing to lose, but our Wardens.

Texas. Once known as the cattle king. We have beef, we have oil. Now we have your freedom and your dignity as a human. You will mind in the state of Texas, you will act, think, and obey. You will hate others for skin color or religious creed. You can do your drugs, as long as we get our cut.

Welcome to Texas Department of Corrections. Here's your #, like a cattle brand. Remember, you have no freedom. You're not a man. You're what we allow you to be. Nothing much. You hate us, but can't touch us. Touch another inmate instead, using the excuse of racial supremacy.

Welcome to T.D.C., and have a "Nice Stay". We'll keep you ignorant and hateful in bliss. You'll grow to love it here because you'll forget what a real life includes beyond these walls. Remember, there is no unity among prisoners. Only racial unity. You will conform to the rules no matter how unfair they seem. You are state property, and are our commodity.

Welcome to the Lone Star, One Million Bar State. — Kevin Bullard

Prison Racism

The blind teaching facism to the susceptible, in their confusion and need for acceptance.

Something Better

By West Texas Slim

Why is there so much division and strife among prisoners? After all, aren't we all being held in the same oppressive state of bondage? What brings out disharmony among us when things could be so much better in an atmosphere of mutual aid and cooperation?

For starters, we prisoners bring with us into the prisons the same prejudices, hates, and power trips that we carried around in the free world. Just as the free world is structured with its various classes, cliques and gangs, so too, prisoners re-create and form relationships in the prison environment around those same hierarchies. We are, for the most part, a mirror-image of society. And as such, we reflect the various strifes and contentions that occur along the fault-lines of class and race in free world social relationships.

The class system in prison is often based upon group affiliation, either by happenstance or choice. Groups come together around previous free world affiliations, race, hometown, a need for protection, or any number of other reasons. Some group affiliations are involuntary, such as the systems grouping of prisoners into "violent" and "non-violent" categories. You get the picture; and if you've been in prison for any length of time you know how all this plays out. So I'll move on.

When we look at the problems that accompany these prison social structures, whether the problem is racial violence, or simply bullying somebody weaker, the one common root cause is the presumption that we are better than, or superior to, somebody else. It's played out through methods of control, intimidation, association, and even disassociation. The ol' "my race, my gang, my crime or my city is better than yours" attitude.

These attitudes of superiority are a prime example of the forces that work against prisoner unity. They aren't just part of our genetic composition. You may have been born with black hair and brown eyes, but you weren't born with hate and prejudice. Those attitudes and feelings have to be learned. They also have to be unlearned.

Prisoners must begin to better communicate with each other in a positive way, working to achieve a feeling of friendship and equality. It is of great importance that we prisoners recognize that there are only two group distinctions that matter—THE KEEPERS and THE KEPT.

Some of the questions I'm often asked by fellow prisoners is, "Do you think that things will get better?" Or, "Why do you think the politicians keep passing these fucked-up laws?" To find the answer to these and other questions, prisoners need to begin with some honest self-evaluation and mirror gazing. Though not all our troubles are of our own making, prisoners are often times their own worst enemy. If prisoners want positive changes, then they are going to have to start by changing their negative or indifferent attitudes towards prisoners' rights issues. It just blows my mind to hear so many prisoners talk like the same neo-fascists that have their heavy boot upon all our necks.

Many other prisoners I talk to have apparently been so beaten down by the system and life in general that they have developed a self-fulfilling defeatist attitude. No matter what the circumstances may be, the attitude is always the same: "THAT WON'T WORK!" Whatever the possible avenues of action might be, the defeatist never pursues them, so that the self-fulfilling prophecy of failure and defeat is always the outcome.

This defeatist attitude isn't just limited to prisoners and prisons. Much of the working class and poor suffer from this same ailment. And perhaps because so much of the prison population is comprised of these same people, they feel beaten long before they ever arrive behind the razor wire. They've been fucked over so often, and for so long, that the will to resist has been replaced with an apathetic daily existence of monotony. No real purpose left in life other than to live to suck air for one more day. Those of us who are still standing-up need to counsel these fellow prisoners and try whatever we can to bring them back to life.

Also, too many prisoners are standing idly by waiting for others to perform some miraculous act that will transform their present misery into "something bet-

ter." Often times they pin their hopes on what the feds will do to help. Well my friends, those days of large-scale system-wide class-action lawsuits are all but gone. The remnants of previous consent decrees are still clinging to life in a few state prison systems. However, it won't be long before the politicians completely close that avenue of relief.

Historian and political philosopher Howard Zinn once wrote:

History does show us how hard it is to challenge those in authority.... But we also learn that at certain times in history, surprising, unpredicted victories became possible when ordinary people organized, risked, sacrificed and persisted.

It's time for prisoners to begin once again making some history of their own. Court rulings favorable to the plight of prisoners came about because there was a massive social change both inside and outside prisons. The problem is those changes didn't go far enough. This goes to show that reforms aren't the ultimate answer. We must work towards a total transformation of society away from prisons. Over the past ten years the winds of change have shifted in a more conservative and repressive direction.

The courts have followed along and are now much less inclined to intervene on our behalf. Courts don't lead change, change leads courts. As it concerns prisoners' rights and the improvement of our conditions of confinement, it must be the prisoners who are the vanguard in the struggle to be human.

There are many things prisoners can do to bring attention to their oppressive conditions. Write letters to newspapers, magazines, and various prisoners' rights organizations. You can generally send media correspondence out in a sealed envelope as long as it's going to the editor or staff writer of the publication you're writing.

It's true that not everyone we write will be responsive to our problems. That's still no excuse for not trying. Join the prison abolition movement. There are many anarchist and socialist organizations who are strong advocates for prisoners and prison abolition. Funding is always a problem, so do your part to contribute as best you can.

Most importantly, talk to fellow prisoners about problems and the alternatives available for dealing with them. Just establishing a regular dialog with each other is an important first step. In future issue of Chain Reaction we will provide info and ideas about methods available that prisoners can use to affect change.

Prisoners won't always achieve the improvements they want regardless of what methods they use to present their grievances. However, we can work toward a future day when prisons are a thing of the past. The idea isn't as farfetched as it may sound. One thing is for sure: We will never get anything just sitting on our collective asses. In a speech given in 1857, the ex-slave and abolitionist Frederick Douglass said:

If there is no struggle there is no progress.... Power concedes nothing without a demand. It never did and it never will.

Timeless words. 142 years later they still apply.

Superiority complexes and defeatist attitudes work from opposite ends squeezing us all into a useless mass of humanity that feeds upon itself. The powers that be hope prisoners, the working class, and the poor all continue in disarray with all the hate, contentions, and indifference between us causing us to remain separated into small powerless groups. That way, all the system has to do is sit back and watch us destroy ourselves.

MOVE activist Ramona Africa not too long ago asked:

How can we demand respect from anybody, when we don't respect ourselves enough to stand up for ourselves?

If we prisoners, and workers too, want to have "something better," then we damn well need to get with the program. What program, you ask? The solidarity program. Do your part. Reach out to other prisoners in a cooperative spirit and begin mending the fabric of solidarity that has been shredded by our learned hatreds. It's time to unlearn them.

The hierarchial, patriarchal and racist attitudes we brought from the free world must be discarded. Then, when that day comes when we are free of these shackles, we can bring forth this new spirit of mutual cooperation and assistance which grew out of the mire of despair. That people, is real revolution and real rehabilitation.

CR

Revolutionary Mail

Welcome to the great lust and feast of human flesh and blood. The Texas Prison system along with the greedy bloodthirsty prisoncrats are among the first at the table. It is written that man will lust for, and gain great pleasure from other men's sorrows. So the belly of the beast is being gorged. Our society society of submissiveness has opened the door to a great many cleaver thinkers, who are taking advantage of a society that allows lawmakers to manipulate the constitution of the United States all to benefit a very lucrative federal and state incarceration campaign against the common citizen. Not to mention the carnal pleasure they gain by the destruction of multitudes of families and relationships.

The enhancement of the federal conspiracy law and the federal and state probable cause law has lead to thousands of unjust incarcerations, only to increase the size of the deceiving propaganda machine, conceived by the federal and state prisoncrats across the country, somehow convincing what was once known as an involved, intelligent society that by massive incarceration they will create a utopia for the existing passive, submissive, controllable citizens who have been deceived into believing their propaganda.

Unaware of the gradual effects of this police state atmosphere, the American people, and especially people of Texas, will soon be under a state of complete police rule. With basic rights accordind to the constitution having been dissected and manipulated to a point of unuseful recognition. The increasing illegal police intrusions and the shootings (murders) by police across the country, accepted by society and dismissed by the courts are a prime example of a country or state demoralizing its citizens by excessive force or police action.

Already their are almost 2 million people in US prisons, and increasing at a staggering rate. The demand to fill prison beds as fast as they are made, which is another staggering rate of increase, fuels and encourages more police action against people.

The government of the United States is exploiting its citizens by using people, primarily the poor and working class, to keep a machine of economic tragedy turning. Texas is at the forefront of this government vs. the people campaign. They've found a commodity, and it's human lives.

Since OPEC decreased the price of oil, domestic exploration has decreased. In Texas, oil exploration was our number one economic stabilizer. In desperation the politicians looked for an economic boost, without recognizing the destruction of so many lives, for that matter, without caring. They discovered human warehousing is very profitable.

The FBI has created the DNA index system. Some critics believe it will eventually contain the DNA makeup of every citizen in the country. They are also putting together what they call a criminal genetic makeup system, so if your DNA falls into this category, believe it!, big brother will be watching you, whether you know it or not. The ATF and the DEA both have full authority to violate the 4th Amendment, your right to privacy, at any given time, simply on suspicion, without repercussion of any kind as has been seen on several occasions.

When will America wake-up, hopefully before it's too late.

"Flash"
TDCJ Walls Unit



Police State USA

In a recent article in The Nation adapted from his forthcoming book, "Lockdown America: Police and Prisons in the Age of Crisis," Christian Parenti gives us a view of the American police state. Parenti starts off by saying this is "a sneak preview of a future American police state...." However, from the examples of paramilitary police operations that are currently taking place nationwide, it's obvious that the police state is already in full bloom.

Fresno, California has "America's most aggressive SWAT team." This special paramilitary force is the Fresno police department's Violent Crime Suppression Unit. Massive paramilitary police sweeps are a common occurrence in the sprawling poor neighborhoods of the city's southwest side.

One evening, "three squads of ten police officers in combat boots, black jumpsuits, military helmets and bulletproof vests load their Heckler & Koch MP-54 sub-machine guns (the same weapon used by the elite Navy SEALs) and fan out through the neighborhood." This goes beyond simply "community policing." This is an all out military attack on civilians—not in Kosovo but the good ol' USA. "Backed by two helicopters with infrared scopes and an Army-surplus armored personnel carrier, the unit is also equipped with attack dogs, smoke bombs, tear gas, pepper spray, metal clubs and less-than-lethal 'blunt trauma' projectiles. 'It's a war,'" say the cops. The VCSU has been terrorizing Fresno's poor neighborhoods since 1994, patrolling the streets "in full military gear, with assault rifles at the ready."

"Throughout the nation, paramilitary, SWAT or tactical policing—that is, law enforcement that uses the equipment, training, rhetoric and group tactics of war—is on the rise," says Parenti. "According to a study by sociologist Peter Kraska, the nation has more than 30,000 such heavily armed, militarily trained police units." In most cases people of color are the primary target, with all the cops generally being white.

Parenti goes on to say, "Nationally, activity by paramilitary police units—as measured by the total number of callouts,



or SWAT team mobilizations—quadrupled between 1980 and 1995, according to Kraska's study. And a CBS News survey of SWAT encounters showed a 34 percent rise in police use of deadly force between 1995 and 1998. Increasingly, the Defense Department is supplying the gear for this SWAT buildup. Between 1995 and 1997 the DOD gave local police departments more than 3,800 M-16 automatic assault rifles, 2,185 M-14 semi-automatic rifles, 73 M-79 grenade launchers and 112 armored personnel carriers—1.2 million pieces of military hardware in 1997 alone."

Along with all this exotic and deadly military equipment comes the inevitable jackbooted stormtrooper tactics. "From Albuquerque to Miami, tactical units have not only harassed innocent people but time and again have shot and killed unarmed civilians. In a recent case in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, a man was killed when a SWAT team shot him and then burned his house down." These murders committed by police special forces are in addition to the many murders of civilians committed daily by the regular police forces.

What can only be described as one of the biggest affronts to democratic society took place in Chapel Hill, North Carolina several years ago. In "Operation Ready-Rock," the "police received a 'blanket' warrant allowing them to search every person and vehicle on the 100 block of North Graham Street." Forty-five heavily armed cops rampaged through the neighborhood terrorizing all in



its path and holding citizens at gunpoint.

Even supposedly liberal San Francisco is not immune from these out-of-control goon squads. "On October 30, [1998], a masked tactical police force of ninety officers, armed with rifles and dressed in black fatigues, launched a predawn raid on thirteen apartments in the Martin Luther King and Marcus Garvey resident-owned housing cooperative. The police commandos blew doors off their hinges and cleared rooms in which children were sleeping by tossing in non-lethal 'flash-bang grenades,' designed to terrify and disorient suspects."

Police officers slapped, stepped on the necks of, "and pressed pistol and machine gun muzzles to" the heads of the African-American occupants. "Scores of people with no charges against them and clear records, including weeping children as young as 6, were cuffed and forced to sit half-dressed in the cold dawn. According to Police Chief Fred Lau this last touch—cuffing the kids—was to keep the youngsters from running around."

But what Parenti documents in his forthcoming book is only part of a much larger concerted effort by the United States government to forcibly subdue the poor and working class people of not only the US but

the entire world. As more and more people bristle under the heavy boot of capitalist exploitation, the accomplice government (local, state, and federal) knows that the only way to prevent a major uprising against the master-class is by using increasingly brutal and militaristic tactics against the civilian population.

US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright has used the term "permanent war" in describing America's current stance in the world. And so it is, even here in the good ol' USA. It's class war and the working class must prevail as the victors.

[Source: Christian Parenti, "SWAT Nation," The Nation, 31 May 1999]



COPWATCH

A grassroots movement for police accountability is gradually gaining momentum. One such organization, CopWatch, is located in several U.S. cities, including Berkeley, Calif. and Seattle, Wash. Their tactic is simply "cop watching." "During these routine patrols, activists armed with camcorders and a basic knowledge of the law observe and videotape the police as the latter conduct stops, searches and arrests. 'We are always very respectful and stay within the law. But we let the cops know that we won't be intimidated and that we will exercise our right to observe,' explained Danielle Storer, who helped found the group in 1990."

They Fill Graves With Our Bones

By Scott A. Mollette

A Monday morning, just after Mid-May 1999, and I had again awakened to another day in the belly of the Texas gulag system. My eyes were barely opened slits peeking out from six hours of blissful peace and quiet, when a jackbooted grayshirt occasioned by my cell on the main run, peering ever so suspiciously into my cramped, steel cage. I busied myself washing the remainder of Mr. Sandman's labor from my blinkers and then spun and reached and turned my radio on, a modicum of displeasure awash in my yet foggy brain. Anon, akin to those clear paper weights with the pretty scenery inside, and the magical snow falling when turned asunder, I too saw that my anger subsided when my survival mechanism kicked in. The grayman bumped it on down, was gone. Only the stench from his arrogance remained.

Moments later I was assaulted anew, and furthermore blatantly insulted, when Houston's Mix 96 fm blared rudely through my trusy companion's voice box. The morning show dee-jays, Larry and Chelby, were busy fielding phone calls from their listeners. The latter were spewing teary-eyed anecdotes in their best impression of holier than thou's. I listened to these remarkable tales then heard the coffers ring as each caller culminated in pledging money to Officer Troy Blando's family fund. The hypocrites!

For the record, Officer Blando, a veteran with nineteen years of service on the HPD force, had been shot dead in an exchange of gunfire with a young black male suspect. The former had supposedly seen the latter absconding with a vehicle other than his own. With curiosity piqued, I listened most raptly as the aforementioned dee-jay's got on Big Brother's bandwagon and struck up the chords of praise for the cop, while simultaneously badmouthing the alleged actions of the accused. It is interesting to note that the radio personalities knew neither of the parties to the incident. In fact,

they knew only what they had been told or had been gleaned from various media outlets and HPD spokespersons. In effect, they had become victims of the propaganda machine, and mayhaps willingly.

My ire was raised forthwith as I stumbled on a recent memory regarding Pedro Oregon, himself a murder victim. Indeed, he was a victim of over-zealous, trigger happy HPD officers who kicked the door in at his residence and promptly shot the gentleman dead with a multitude of bullets, most of which struck the innocent man in the back! Big heroes these guys, huh? The story is ever worthy of the retelling as subsequent to the gestapo action, all of the police officers were immediately cleared of any wrongdoing. What was amazing, and perplexes many to this day, was how only one officer came to be indicted-and he on a misdemeanor trespassing charge! He, too, was eventually exonerated when a jury refused to perform their constitutional duty, and rather acquitted him as facists often do for each other. Justice? Hardly.

The media covered the story, they had to. Sensationalism, baby! Hispanics cried foul (and rightly continue to), but to little or no avail. And now the Feds are to investigate. Far as I can surmise, from the long track record of our government, this too will result in a probable finding of no substance to any claim of the victim's civil rights being violated. Damned hypocrites! But I won't be surprised. Will you?

Interestingly enough, I failed to hear Mix 96 or any other radio station raising funds for Mr. Oregon's family. No, not a dime. Not even a whimper. No teary anecdotes here! I can't help but choke on the contempt I reserve when I weigh the glaring and disgraceful disparity of the two tragedies. And yet the evil persists and otherwise runs amok in Hous-

ton and Texas as well as throughout our nation.

Bear Claw, aka Charlot, was a principal chief of the Kalipsel band of the Flathead Indians. Long lied to oppressed, cheated and killed, he spoke for his people boldly concerning the reign of terror at the hands of the U.S. government. When speaking of the shame of those in power, who were relentless in their thirst for wiping the Indian out, Charlot wrote these fitting words that parallel the oppression of the working class blacks, whites and hispanics of today. Won't you hear them?

"Did he (the U.S. capitalist) not feast us with our own cattle, on our own land, yes on our plain by the spring? Did he not invite our hands to his papers (treaties); did he not promise before the sun, and before the eye that put fire in it (a possible reference to the GOD of Genesis), and to the name of both, and in the name of his own Chief, promise what he promised...Now, because he has lied, and because he yet lies, without friendship, manhood, justice, or charity, he wants us to give him money-pay him more. When shall he be satisfied? A roving skulk, first; a natural liar, next; and withal, a murderer, a tyrant. To confirm his purpose...he whispers soldiers, lock houses and iron chains." (They threaten by hinting of police power and imprisonment.) Sound familiar?

These words written in 1876 are nonethe less fresh today. The difference lies in that no longer is just the Indian the scourge of the land, but rather now he has been complimented with his working class brothers-the whites, blacks, hispanics - and any and all who would object to the present governmental system. This is the very one that breeds and fosters greed then punishes the poor offenders who run afoul of its parameters. Hypocrites!

But back to the disparity. What part did you play in all of this? Did you pledge five bucks to the Blando fund and not even a fleeting moments thought to Pedro and/or his family? Or perhaps you are just guilt-

ty of apathy as are most? Did you go and pray for the Blando's and neglect the Oregon's? Ultimately, all are guilty who would forget these state-sanctioned murders, those who would do nothing. The voices of the people must speak plainly and boldly! We, the working class, must say no to this oppression with our votes, our wallets and by direct action. We cannot, must not, sit idly by, knowing that there are more Pedro Oregon's unknowingly nearing their demise at the hands of over-zealous, trigger happy police, who themselves are above the law we must abide by. Hear again the reason of Charlot: "They fill graves with our bones." Don't you or your loved ones become the next victim. Act. Today!

Uncle Sam wants you!



For cannon fodder!

Your silence and inactivity
is their victory
Challenge their lies and deceit. Resist!

Commodifying Life

By Gulf Coast Red

Genetically modified foods are fast growing cash crops for greedy transnational corporations. These corporations care nothing about screwing with nature. As long as short term profits are available, to hell with the long term picture.

The Monsanto corporation, one of the most notorious in this field, has produced "Roundup Ready" seeds which are genetically engineered to withstand mega-doses of the extremely potent herbicide, ... yeah, you guessed it, Roundup. These genetically altered plants run the risk of cross-pollinating with pest weeds which could result in superweeds impervious to herbicides. Monsanto just happens to produce Roundup as well. Use of this herbicide is extremely detrimental to the top soil and is a harmful addition to the runoff of poisons into the world's already dwindling water supply.

In America this year, genetically altered plants will make up about 15 percent of the US corn harvest, 30 percent of soy bean, and more than half of cotton crops. Genetically altered plants will be increasingly used in processed foods and as of yet do not have to be labelled.

The marketing of these products amounts to carrying on an experiment on consumers without regard for their safety. None of these foods have been pretested and scientists don't know what the long term health ramifications will be.

There exists the possibility that future mutations of the genetic code could result, causing new diseases and weaknesses to manifest. New toxins and allergens may also arise. Unnatural gene transfers between species could cause the spread of disease across species barriers.

In Great Britain people have protested the infiltration into their lives of genet-

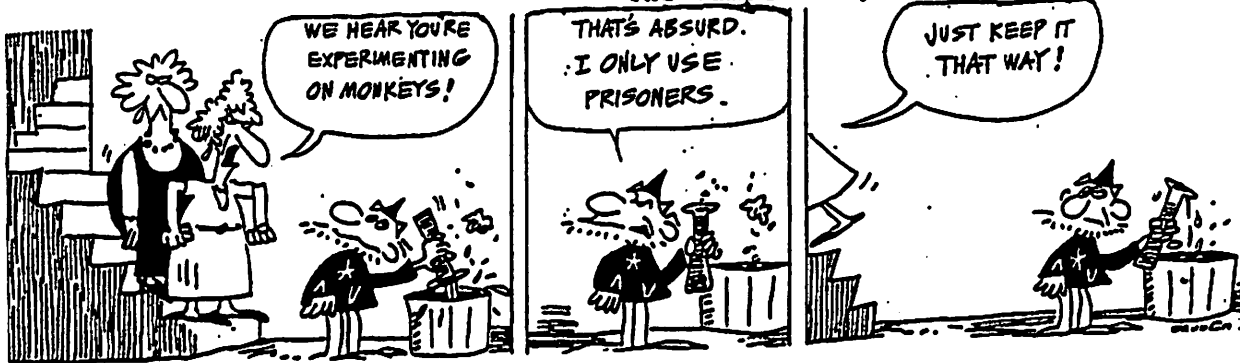
ically altered foods by pulling-up and trashing genetically altered test crops. People in India have revolted by burning crops being tested by Monsanto and have been organizing against attempts of this and other greed-head corporations to monopolize and commodify life.

Monsanto has been developing wheat, rice and other food staples that contain a terminator gene which causes crops to produce sterile seeds. This forces impoverished farmers to have to buy new seeds each year. Of course, pollination to other crops could result in unintended seedless crops. An international call has gone out to oppose this greedy profit-driven tinkering with nature, with direct actions against these crops.

"So what," many of you may wonder, "does all of this have to do with prison issues or promoting prisoner solidarity?" Well the same capitalist system which adulterates our food, poisons the planet and seeks to monopolize all of nature's works is the same profit-driven system that fosters crime and prisons as an ad-hoc solution to social problems.

Many of these corporate parasites are into prison industries and private prisons. They even lobby Congress to lock-up people longer, at a younger age and for ever more frivolous reasons. Just as Monsanto profits off of the misery of Indian farmers and the destruction of nature, corporations profit off of the misery of working class prisoners.

Texas prisoners will no doubt be subjected to genetically altered foods along with the often polluted water they have to drink. While we swelter in our unfair conditioned cells, felling the increase of global warming capitalism is causing, it would be well for us to realize that prisoners have the same foe as farmers in India and the rest of the working class world have. The vampiric system known as KKKapitalism. OR



PARENTS VS. PRISONS

[The following article is adapted from a letter by D. Knod]

Custodial parents in this country are exploiting the civil and criminal justice systems by filing criminal charges on non-custodial parents in attempts to keep them from accessing and knowing about their children.

The problem is that one-sided laws are being enacted and enforced. Too often domestic violence and child support laws are used to lock-up the non-custodial parent. Laws designed to counsel or mediate solutions to domestic problems are seldom, if ever, used before criminal charges are filed.

A non-custodial parent's rights to visit with their children are usually spelled out in a court order or consent decree. Often the order contains child support obligations. These parental rights are usually designed so one parent cannot refuse the other parent access to the children for failing to pay child support. Nor can a parent refuse to pay child support because the other parent is denying access to the children.

As the non-custodial parent tries to maintain contact with their children, they are often met with resistance. In such a situation, some simply abandon their children and/or refuse to pay child support.

This, in turn, sets the stage for the criminal court to intervene, which usually results in the arrest of the non-custodial parent. While the parent is incarcerated the children suffer. They neither get the monetary support of the imprisoned parent nor are they usually allowed to maintain a personal relationship with them. A lot of these cases, however, could be resolved by separately counseling both parties, having group sessions, or even parenting classes, without resorting to criminal court intervention.

Often times the custodial parent simply refuses to keep the incarcerated parent informed about the children, either through letters or visits. This causes great damage to parent/child relationships. Some experts even say the children often blame themselves for the absence. This can easily become a

a weapon used to destroy an otherwise good parent/child relationship.

Courts have simply refused to aid prisoners trying to enforce their parental rights despite the fact that the fundamental rights as a parent are one of the few that prisoners do not lose when the prison door shuts.

Look how quick the state and its many agencies join the bandwagon of a custodial parent and have the non-custodial parent prosecuted for failing to pay child support. Meanwhile, non-custodial parents have to fend for themselves to pursue claims of being denied access to the children.

Then think about this: While the non-custodial parent is imprisoned for failure to pay support, the custodial parent most likely isn't going to allow them contact with the children. Sad but true.

It has become all too easy to forget those who are incarcerated. Prison systems are being designed to destroy family relationships!

Currently there are more than 1.8 million people being kept prisoner in this country, with millions more on parole and probation. You could be next.

Somewhere along the way these words of our country's founding fathers were forgotten: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

Today prisoners all across the country are constantly being oppressed. It's time we take the tools of oppression away from the oppressor. I challenge readers to join together and push the government to amend the constitution.

Let's amend the 13th Amendment Sec.1 and abolish all forms of slavery forever. Let's amend the 14th Amendment Sec.2 and give the right to vote forever. And let's add a new amendment banning the use of the death penalty forever. Help fight this prison/industrial complex. It could be your job a prisoner does tomorrow. It's us parents against the prisons.

—D. Knod

Ⓐ Revolutionist

Corporate Junkies

As everyone who has not been in a coma the past ten years is aware of, the United States won the Cold War against the former Soviet Union. This was a very joyous occasion for the socially conscious individuals who for years have spoken out against massive expenditures devoted to military expansionism. Suddenly the arms race was over and the so-called "peace dividend" could be directed toward more socially ennobling programs, such as education. Or could it?

The megacorporations, devoted to supplying America with its implements of death and destruction, soon woke-up to the reality that the trillion dollar government teat upon which they suckled for all these many years was on the verge of drying-up. Like heroin junkies denied their fix, Death, Inc. began to suffer severe withdrawal symptoms. "Something must be done to restore our cash fix," the CEOs shouted in despair.

Their friends on Capitol Hill, the kingpin dealers of the government-money-drug, heard the CEOs' cries and were only too willing to come to the rescue of the subsidy addicts. "To hell with those children and education and all that other social crap!," the money dealers chided.

So with the help of their good friend and partner in crime, Bill Clinton, they began to spread tales of the "new threats" to American security. The Albanians are developing weapons of mass destruction. Lithuania is on the verge of perfecting an ICBM that can target Poughkeepsie.

"Rogue states and terrorists are hiding around every corner of the planet. This is no time to disarm; we must build, build, build," the corporate money junkies screamed in unison. "Bigger, smarter bombs! An anti-missile defense umbrella to save us from God-knows-who!"

And so it was and so it is. The udder has been replenished with luscious cash. An addiction more diabolical and insidious than anything known to humankind. The result, not only for America but for the world as well, is a mad race toward extinction of the human species and a world where only insects will thrive. All on account of one lethal drug—money! CR

U.S. MILITARY PREPARES FOR URBAN ASSAULT

It was a scary sight to some South Texas residents: Black helicopters swooped in and dropped helmeted soldiers into the downtown area, even causing a fire in Kingsville.

Those weren't foreign invaders in Kingsville and Port Aransas, however. The soldiers were part of the Army's Delta Force, a counterterrorism unit from Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

Maj. Jeff Fanto, spokesman for Army Special Operations Command headquarters at MacDill Air Force Base in Florida, said the training was "routine."

"They're practicing skills of getting in and out of urban areas and special operations for the missions they're responsible for," Fanto said.

Kingsville Police Chief Felipe Garza said that several buildings that had been abandoned in the downtown area were used Feb. 8 by Army Special Operations Command troops and Kingsville police.

The exercise involved eight Army helicopters, which flew low over town before dropping off personnel in a two-block area.

"It was secret," Garza said. "I really can't talk a lot about it. But no one was hurt, and that was the important thing."

The exercise wasn't entirely mishap-free. A welding torch used to cut through wires ignited a fire in Kingsville's old police station, said fire Capt. Roel Cavazos.

"They tried to contain the fire themselves, and it apparently went out of control," Cavazos said.

A block from the old police station, grenades were set off in the abandoned Exxon building, shattering the windows, Garza said. He also received about 50 phone calls from residents concerned about the maneuvers.

Randall Jarris, a farmer, said he resented the maneuvers. "I don't really like this town being turned into a war zone," he said. "Someone could have gotten hurt."

Another local resident, Maria Garcia, said, "I went outside, and I had no idea what was going on. I was scared."

A spokeswoman for the army said the public never is notified before such exercises.

[Source: Houston Chronicle]

TEXAS PRISONER MAY HAVE BEEN MURDERED

The family of a Houston teenager who died in prison April 17, 1999 said his body was emaciated and had numerous wounds causing them to believe he died under suspicious circumstances.

Reginald Lavergne, 18, was serving a five-year sentence in the Michaels Unit near Palestine, Texas for aggravated robbery. He became a Texas prisoner at age 15 in October 1996.

An autopsy was performed within a day or so at the University of Texas Medical Branch hospital in Galveston, but Lavergne's aunt, Janet Talton, said the results had not been released.

"We are here today because we need some answers. We are trying to find out what happened to this young man," Talton told a news conference at the office of the National Black United Front.

She said prison officials told her that he began having difficulty breathing while taking a shower and then fell to the floor.

Family members learned of the death on April 18, said Talton, adding that prison officials offered to bury Lavergne on prison property.

"We told them no, that we would bury him our way," she said.

When his body arrived at a funeral home in Louisiana, however, Talton said, the family was stunned to find that Lavergne had lost considerable weight and had several unusual wounds.

"He has bruises on his shoulders and one on his chest," she said. "He also has holes on the bottom of his feet that look like they were caused by nails."

Talton said the body appeared so different than expected, the family is not entirely sure it was Lavergne's. "It just doesn't look like him," she said.

After the autopsy, Talton said, prison officials told the family the cause of death was still under investigation. "They said he had been very depressed and had been in lockdown and probably committed suicide by eating the inside of his mattress," she said.

Kofi Taharka, of the National Black United Front, said it appears that Lavergne was murdered. "We are demanding a full investigation," he said.

Texas Department of Criminal Justice media flack Glen Castlebury said he could not comment on the body's reported suspicious marks, saying TDCJ internal affairs investigators are still investigating.

[Source: Houston Chronicle]

PRISON LIFE

Everyone knows the influence of decent clothing. Even an animal is ashamed to appear before his fellow creatures if something makes him look ridiculous. A cat whom somebody has painted black and yellow will not dare mingle with another cat. But men begin by giving the clothes of a lunatic to those they profess to want to reform.

During all his prison life the prisoner is subjected to treatment which shows the greatest contempt of his feelings. A prisoner is not accorded the single respect due a human being. He is a thing, a number, and he is treated like a numbered thing.

And it goes hard with those who do not submit. If being searched is humiliating, if a man finds the food distasteful, if he shows disgust in the keeper's trafficking in tobacco, if he divides his bread with his neighbor, if he still has enough dignity to be irritated by an insult, if he is honest enough to be revolted by the petty intrigues, prison will be hell for him.

He will be overburdened with work unless he is sent to rot in solitary confinement. The slightest infraction of discipline will bring down the severest punishment. And each punishment will lead to another.

He will be driven to madness through persecution. He can consider himself lucky to leave prison otherwise than in a coffin.

—Excerpted from
"Prisons and Their Moral
Influence on Prisoners"
A 19th century work by
Peter Kropotkin

TEXAS SLAVE LABOR FEEDS & HOUSES POOR

Texas prison slave labor is being used to feed and house the poor. Though volunteering one's labor to help the needy is a noble gesture in the free world, it takes on an ominous and somewhat disturbing aspect when performed by people enslaved by the state.

The prison slaves at the TDCJ-ID Stevenson Unit in Cuero, Texas harvested 31,847 pounds of vegetables that benefitted the Community Food Bank in Victoria, Texas. It provides food to the needy in Victoria and surrounding areas.

Texas Second Chance, initiated in the Rio Grande Valley, uses prisoners from the Lopez State Jail at Edinburg, Texas to provide a consistent slave work force for the food bank of the Lower Rio Grande Valley Area.

The Darrington Unit in Rosharon, Texas contributed 750,000 pounds of slave-picked fresh vegetables to the Houston Food Bank in 1998. That's a lot of hot miserable days of stooping over.

The Torres Unit in Hondo, Texas shipped 250,000 pounds of produce to the local food bank. Prison slaves laboring in the hot sun helped make that large contribution possible.

At the same time the prison system was offering up these generous contributions to area food banks, its cannery at the Ramsey III Unit in Rosharon fell short of its goal of 500,000 cases of canned produce used to feed the slaves in the prisons.

Prisoners are forced to work in hoe squads under appalling conditions. The armed field boss keeps a close eye on prisoners from atop his horse. They are forced to line-up shoulder-to-shoulder, moving in lockstep to the squad leader's call. This is called four-stepping. An even quicker and more brutalizing version is a fast two-step that can leave even the most physically able prisoner gasping for air. Some prisoners collapse or "fallout" from the heat.

These are the conditions under which the Texas prison slave labors to provide all those wonderful contributions to the poor.

Then there is the matter of Habitat for Humanity, a quasi-religious organization that builds new houses for the poor. One of the most notable participants in Habitat for Humanity is former president Jimmy Carter. Once again, there's nothing wrong with volunteering your time and energy to build affordable housing for the poor. But such volunteerism is highly dubious when performed in the coercive atmosphere of a prison.

Take for example the Ferguson Unit at Midway, Texas and the Rudd Unit at Brownfield, Texas. Both have Habitat for Humanity house-building programs. The homes are prefabricated inside the prison perimeter and then moved to their final location upon completion.

Prison and Habitat for Humanity officials all gush about how the prisoners working on these projects have supplied their labor "voluntarily." It should be noted that both of these prisons also have extensive agricultural field operations—hoe squads. So naturally the prisoners "volunteer". It's either volunteer to build house for the poor or else work in a sweltering hot field picking peas for the poor with your forced participation.

This scenario, in my mind, conjures up images of Nazi concentration camp prisoners working to supply the needs of the German population during World War II. A slave is a slave is a slave.

You can come up with whatever reason you want for enslaving a person. It's a barbaric practice under any circumstances. And it certainly shouldn't be condoned, and even encouraged, by so-called charitable groups.

There's nothing charitable about slavery in any form. It's a legacy of barbarity that should have been ended a long time ago. CR



Contacts

Break The Chains

P.O. Box 25706

Eugene, OR 97402

(They provide great prisoner literature and also put out a good zine called revolt)

South Chicago ARA-ABC

P.O. Box 721

Homewood, IL 60430

(Provide great revolutionary literature for prisoners)

Active Transformation

P.O. Box 11508

Detroit, MI 48211

(An excellently produced Direct Action Anarchist newspaper. Free to prisoners)

News & Letters

59 East Van Buren St., Room 707

Chicago, IL 60605

(An excellent Marxist-Humanist revolutionary newspaper. Contains lots of stuff on prison issues. Free to prisoners)

Industrial workers of the World (IWW)

103 W. Michigan Ave.

Ypsilanti, MI 48197

(Revolutionary syndicalist union. We highly recommend learning about the IWW's aims and principles. They put out a great paper on industrial unionism, The Industrial Worker)

Claustrophobia

P.O. Box 1721

Baltimore, MD 21203

(Prisoner support group. Also puts out a good anarchist paper and literature)

Books Through Bars

4722 Baltimore Ave.

Philadelphia, PA 19143

(They have excellent free books to prisoners and supportive of prisoners' rights)

W.S.A. I.W.A.

339 Lafayette St. #202

New York, NY 10012

(Anarchist syndicalist union. We strongly recommend requesting info on their aims and principles)

[When requesting literature, newspapers and other stuff from these groups please send along a few stamps if you can to help them to continue providing support to prisoners. Thanks!]



MOURN NOT THE DEAD

Mourn not the dead that in the cool earth lie-
Dust unto dust-
The calm, sweet earth that mothers all who die-
As all men must;
Mourn not your captive comrades who must dwell-
Too strong to strive-
Each in his steel-bound coffin of a cell,
Buried alive;
But rather mourn the apathetic throng-
The cowed and meek-
Who see the world's great anguish and its wrong
And dare not speak!

—Ralph H. Chaplin

A DANCE WITH LIFE AND DEATH

In no beginning, all is death -
heralds soon remitted
by anxious breaths -
from veil to silent veil.

Under mirrors' orbit we venture,
young and old in a ring.
Feel or feed a dual string,
a cyclic, carnal ruse.

Marked or not, mere bones do
habit seek . . . so devise a five-eyed
vessel. Decay of an Angel come close,
I wish to pray on you.

What is to be . . .
for hundreds dying in chains?
Into a southern scarecrows' camp,
cast another lamp.

Killing Augulimala is the thrill,
gray corpses revel round the oaks
with a foaming will,
near a tin-roofed apparition.

In spring, the last words life did
hear were, "Just die you S.O.B." . . .
after telling the victim's mother,
"I didn't kill your daughter."

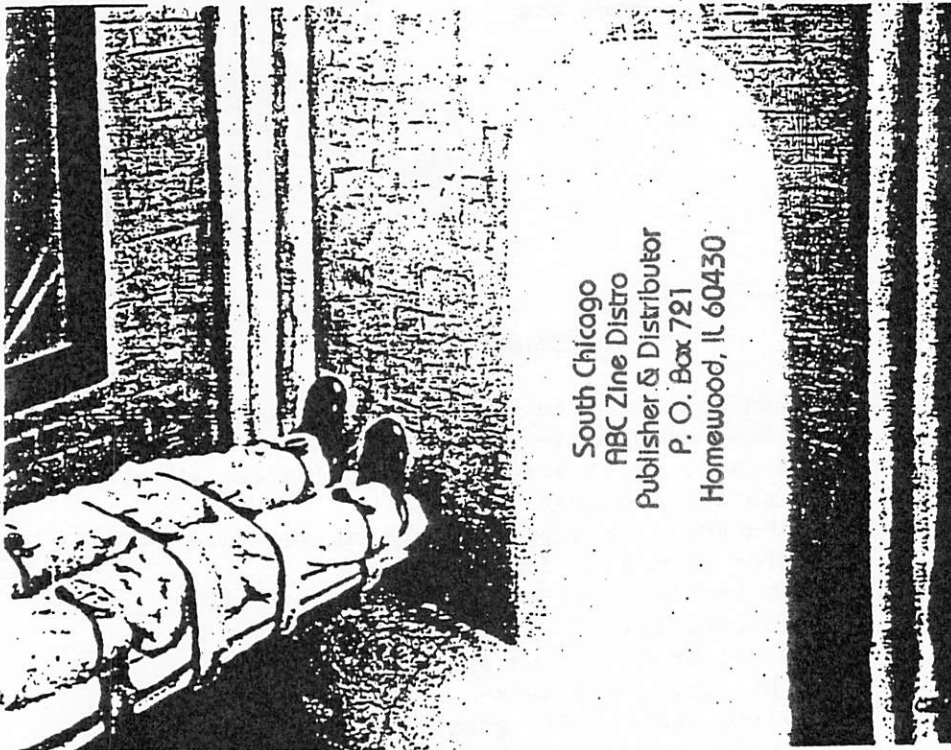
Bored and fearful minds tend
hate filled cages of the timid and mad.
Who will the pack bend
as time turns blindness to sight?

Delusion be gagged on until you're truth;
belief can foreshadow no deed.
Doubt what's near or cling to rules -
victim and felon but tools.

Changeless be crossed,
shame be damned!
Till the summoned virus is lost,
life and it relics' thirst.

death and birth in a thought.
Claw, circle, or sit.
Such fruit cannot be taught.
In no ending - all is life.

August 10th is
International
Prisoner's Day, a
day of solidarity
among the
prisoners of the
world. On
International
Prisoner's Day we
remember our
alien comrades
who have died
behind the
prison
walls. The death
of a prisoner
behind prison
walls equals
state murder.



South Chicago
ABC Zine Distributor
Publisher & Distributor
P. O. Box 721
Homewood, IL 60430

"Death Gurney" by Clifford H. Boguess