CHAIN REACTION

Vol. 1 No. 2 "Unshackling Captive Minds" Free To Prisoners $1



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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.

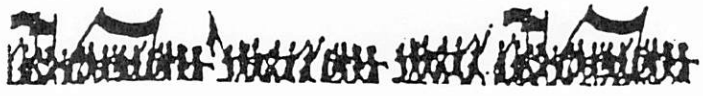
* We seek to change the media-cultivated perception of prisoners, and build solidarity between prisoners and working class people in the so-called free world.

* 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.



Reforms Or Revolution?

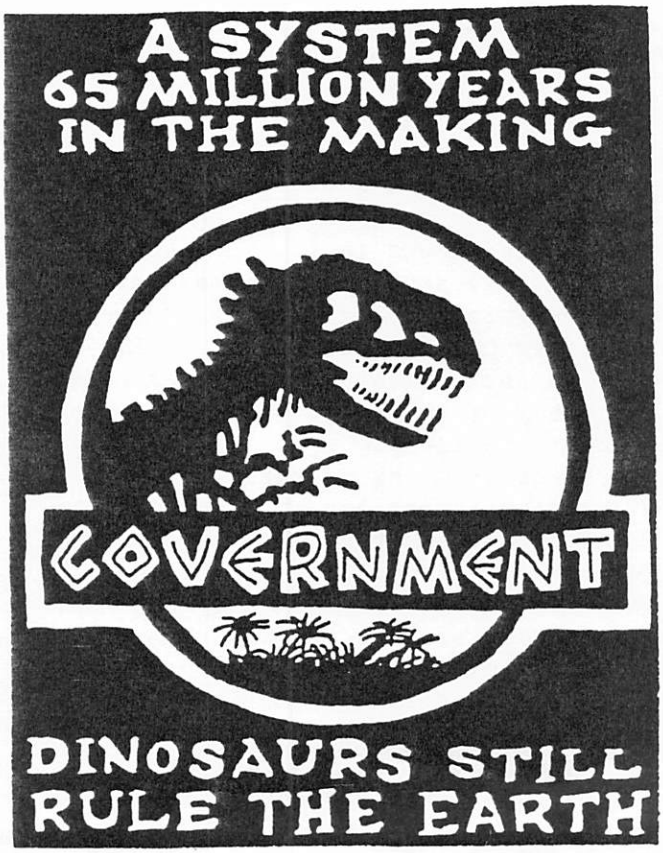
Readers of **Chain Reaction** should by now understand that we are not a reformist group. In the statement of Who We Are (see page 2) it states that "We are not reformists and do not align ourselves with reformist organizations." Some of you may be confused about what we mean by that, so hopefully this will help clarify things.

Most of us involved with putting together **Chain Reaction** are also prisoners in the Texas gulag. We didn't just drive up, but have been down for anywhere from seven to twelve years, or longer. We too have to put up with the petty attitudes, bullshit, and assaults on our sanity (not to mention our persons) dished-out by gray-shirted morons who otherwise could not get a job taking out the trash at the local McDonalds.

During our years of imprisonment we've come to believe one thing for certain—REFORMS ARE NOT THE ANSWER! What the state (or feds) giveth, the state (or feds) taketh away. If you've been down for any significant length of time you are well aware that reforms come and go, depending on which way the political winds are blowing. They're here today and gone tomorrow.

At the same time, we also understand that we must fight for better conditions in the here and now. People are really hurting in gulag-land and need some immediate relief. We are not against organizations such as TIFA, CURE, and others that advocate reforms. But what sets us apart from these reformist groups is that we see reforms as temporary fixes while we continue to fight for the total abolition of prisons and a complete social revolution.

Though reforms can be viewed as stepping stones paving the way to ultimate revolutionary victory, they are, more often than not, like landmines that divert us from our ultimate goals. Reforms tend to act as safety valves that relieve the pressure for revolutionary change. They calm tensions just enough so that the rotten system continues merrily on, with no substantial change at all. That's why the people in power love to hobnob with reformists. Using the system to obtain immediate relief is a necessary evil. But it should not distract us from our vision



of total and complete revolutionary victory.

We have been overwhelmed by requests from Texas prisoners (and a few out-staters) for issues of **Chain Reaction.** That shows us that there is a great void that needs to be filled in addressing the plight of Texas prisoners and also of those prisoners worldwide.

Your letters confirm what we've known all along—things are pretty fucked-up in the Texas gulags. And what we also know is there's a severe lack of groups in Texas who are willing to take a revolutionary stand against George "Dubya" and his right-wing fascist machine. That is why we started **Chain Reaction.**

Year after year, the reform groups go before the Texas legislature begging for a bone. Most of the time they are rebuffed. Occasionally they score a small victory. Still, the great devouring beast that is the Texas prison system continues to grow. It doesn't take a rocket scientist to see that whatever it is TIFA, CURE, and the other reformists are peddling hasn't made a dent in reversing this madness. But that is what happens when you crawl into bed with the enemy. You have got to engage the enemy,

because if you do it on their terms, the outcome is already known. Zilch!

That's why **Chain Reaction** advocates revolutionary transformation of our entire society, as opposed to piecemeal reforms. We are dedicated to the abolition of prisons, racism, classism, sexism, and the accomplice capitalist system that supports and perpetuates these institutions of oppression. By the way, abolition is the act of abolishing, or doing away with something. Putting an end to it. What we are striving for may sound impossible, but it is very possible. You have to start the revolutionary process somewhere. **Chain Reaction** is that somewhere. We are already at the bottom of the heap. The only direction left to go is up.

It's clear from the letters we've received that prisoners are looking for ways to change things. Many of you are already involved in courageous efforts to organize and motivate others to work toward change. We applaud your efforts and ask that you take that one extra step to revolutionary action. Revolution is as American as apple pie. It's time to seize our country and our world back from the right-wing fascist tyrants that now control it. Revolutionary ideas have a way of snowballing. Once people begin to see the validity of our ideas they will begin to think and act in a revolutionary way.

In future issues of **Chain Reaction** we will undoubtedly mention some of the projects Texas prisoners are involved in concerning prison conditions and changing fucked-up laws. Some projects could probably be considered reformist in nature. That's cool. We're not trying to knock anybody who has the guts to stand-up and fight for better conditions and laws. However, we hope that through the pages of **Chain Reaction** we can convince them to take the step forward to revolutionary anarchist-socialist ways of thinking.

It's important that prisoners come to understand that most reformist groups are not interested in following the path to a revolutionary society. TIFA, CURE, and all the others are perfectly content to keep the same rotten system humming right along with only a few tweeks here and there so things aren't quite so messy. This ain't us folx. That's why we say that we don't align ourselves with reformist groups. We say trash the whole system.

Reforms, short of complete social revolution, only legitimize and perpetuate a brutal and oppressive system. We see nothing legitimate about a system which is based on the enslavement and exploitation of people. That's what prisons do, and that's what our capitalist society does. Come together and make the revolution!

Solidarity
Ron for the collective.

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TEXAS PRISON BEAST KEEPS GROWING

From a distance, the new high-security addition at the Smith Unit in Lamesa looks simply like a blue roof protruding from a metallic wall shimmering in the sunlight. On closer inspection, that shimmering wall is really miles and miles of coiled razor wire. Behind it lies concrete tombs in which 1300 men will be buried alive for years on end. Prison officials say nobody without an officer's uniform and/or proper I.D. will leave the supermax without bloodshed.

TDCJ unveiled the new 1300-bed monstrosity on October 13, 1999 to a crowd of about 200 that included local officials, civic leaders, and prison officials who are all, no doubt, excited about the economic benefits the new human warehouse will bring to Lamesa.

The Lamesa supermax is the second of five such tombs that the State of Texas plans to have in place as an integral part of the 21st century police state. Touted by prison officials as holding only "the baddest of the bad," the truth is that these units will also be used in an attempt to silence writ writers, political activists, and others who stand up for prisoners' rights.

The recreation areas include a catwalk where a guard with a gas mask and 37mm gas grenade cannon can have his or her own form of sadistic recreation gassing prisoners. Along with that will come the usual abuses of handcuffed prisoners at the hands of the sick perverts in gray.

The great Texas prison beast continues to thrive, and its insatiable appetite consumes thousands more lives in the process. **CR**

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Texas is not a rich state. It's Mississippi with good roads.

—Molly Ivins

It All Belongs To Us

By Gulf Coast Red

Slogging away as a state slave in thep prison kitchen awhile back, we cooks had basically finished our gig for the day. This of course included utilizing to the best of our ability any and all spices, onions, peppers, etc. obtained by hook or crook or silver tongue-all for the purpose of whipping up some decent grub for over 1600 fellow prisoners.

After cleaning up, we were all sitting around kickin' it when all of a sudden we heard our ex Marine Drill Instructor Kitchen Sgt. bellow out,"Comeer Jackson!"

Then Jackson pipes up, "Whats up?"

"I said come here right now Jackson!"

Jackson the new pot-washer, walked up to him grinnin' kinda sheepish,"What!"

The D.I. says, "Git out of 'em Jackson!"

So Jack makes a shrug of transparent innocence, "What!"

"Git out of 'em now Goddammit!"

So our champion pot-washer strips down all the way 'cept for his boxer shorts. A good two feet shorter than the Sgt. towering over him, our boy is standing there with his arms out in the air with a grin plastered across his mug resemlin' the grill on a 1954 Oldsmobile. Doin' his best to look nonchalant despite the mysterious giant bulge protruding from his shorts, he exclaims,

"Howzat?"

The Sarge says, "Goddammit,Jackson,you aint no marsupial and I know yer pecker aint that big. What the hell is that you've got shoved down them shorts!!"

Undaunted, you could see the wheels of optimism turning in Jackson's blinky blue-eyed noggin' as he was considering Plan B.

"Goddammit, Jackson,lets have it!"

Well,Plan B hadn't quite had all of the bugs worked out of it yet.So our boy,trapped like the soldiers on Battan,or maybe Dunkirk,stoically endured fate and proceeded to whip out of his shorts the largest bag of contraband peanut butter known or seen by mankind,or possibly ever stolen from a penal institution west of the Mississippi.

"Jesus Christ,Jackson,guess we're gonna have to call you Peter Pan from here on out(no easy name to endure in prison). "I'm gonna have to write you a case!"

Later, after the commotion had died down,I went back to talk to my pal Jack while he was up to his eye's in dishsoap and pots.

"Hey man,how ya doin!" I knew he was bummed out 'cause that peanut butter lick was goin'to finnance his contraband cigarette habit.

"Ah,I'm alright."

"Man, you almost had him!" I thought when you was standn' there in yer shorts that he was fixin' to fold!"

"Yeah, thirty more seconds and I'd've beat 'im."

"Yeah, win some lose some."

"You know brother,I can't see how they can write you a disciplinary case for stealin' peanut butter that already belongs to you in the first place."

"Howzat?"

"Well, you're a worker aint ya?"

"Yeah."

"That means you're a member of the workingclass!"

"Yeah I reckon. So what?"

"Well, the workingclass of the world produces all of the wealth and useful stuff in the world that nature hasn't already produced, including peanut butter, 'cept the boss class rips us off for most of it. Some call this portion we are ripped off for 'surplus value' or 'profit.' Further, all taxes, whether they are deducted from worker's checks, charged for consumer goods or even taxes the capitalist bosses pay, are payed out of this surplus value we workers produce and are ripped off for. So, the workers foot the bill for the whole state and all it's expenditures,includin' that peanut butter you got snagged for. Jeez how'd ya get that bag in yer shorts!

So, you stealin' that peanut butter was just a classic case of reexpropriatin' surplus value, and when that guard over there took it back from you he was reexpropriatin' the reexpropriated surplus value for there side which don't belong to them in the first place. Capice?"

"Yeah, so what you're sayin' is like when Bonnie 'n' Clyde were knockin' off them banks, they was reexpropriatin' surplus value?"

"Yeah...Ah...Well, that's another story. What we're talkin' about is how the workers of the world get hooked into footing the bill for the state through taxes, much of which goes for things dead against the workingclass' interests.
For instance, you like to smoke,right?"

"Like a chimney."

"Well let's say yer out in the world, yer outta work, can't afford smokes and you, gripped in a massive nicotine fit, see a guy get out of an eighteen wheeler loaded down with Marlboro cigarettes. He leaves the keys in the truck. Swayed by such social forces damn near deterministically, you remember the words, "Carpe Dia!"

"What the heck's that?"

"Seize the goods, Knothead! Then exercising your existential free will to increase your life's intensity, you jump in the truck and take off. You're drivin' gripped with anticipation of that nicotine fix. Hell you're contemplatin' livin' in that truck like a Winnebago and chain smokin' for days.



All of a sudden you're at a stoplight riflin' around on the dashboard for a pack of matches and, Wham!- Smokus Interruptus! Yer surrounded by cop cars, and armoured personnel vehicles. Cops summoned from doughnut shops all over town are there with fully automatic weapons trained on you, and they're **MAD!** The A.T.F.'s there and Eye In The Sky News has got you dead in the spotlight.

"Jeez, that's damn near as bad as what I went through over there with the Sarge!"

"Yeah, I know, but the point is: when the workingclass put upon by capitalist conditions, runs afoul of capital's laws, we've already paid for prisons to be locked into. You don't see many Bill Gates types in these concentration camps. It's a workingclass thing. Many workers think it's O.K., even normal to contribute to this process. This type of mentality that causes workers to unquestioningly act against their own interests is what constitutes a 'false consciousness.'

"False consciousness?"

"Yeah, that comes in part because of alienation."

"Alien Nation? Aint that a T.V. show?"

"Alienation, not Alien Nation, Knothead!"

"Well what's that all about?"

"Well, under capitalism workers become alienated from their true creative spirits and human potential through having to perform dull, repetitious work over which they have little control. We have to perform this kind of labor in order to survive which requires a lot of our life's energies. So much so, it's difficult to have time to tap into our human potetial, and as I said, we're already robbed of our creative powers in the production procss. Further, the profits we generate for the boss class get turned around and used against us in the form of labor displacing technology,an additional alienation from the value we create. Workers are alienated are alienated as individuals and collectively as we have no democratic say in what gets produced, or how it gets produced. Neither do we have any democratic say in how society is constructed. The ruling class, untill we workers decide to change it, has a monopoly on all this, including institutions such as education, and the media. In this way, they promote and instill their ideas and values in worker's minds. All of this militates against workers causing them to become alienated from their own values and interests. In short, false consciousness means workers hold values, principles, and ideas that make us willing participants in our own exploitation.

"Talkin' about taxes again though, many other rotten things get supported by taxes which are against worker's interests. Besides prisons, workers subsidize the very corporations which exploit them. The very same corporations that ship jobs over seas,destabilize and ruin whole communities as well as pollute our earth's ecosystems. Workers also end up footing the bill for the Military Industrial Complex that builds masive weapons of destruction to kill workers in other countries. The Military Industrial Complex has also leaked untold amounts of nuclear radiation into the enviornment responsible for all kinds of cancers."

"Man, that's criminal!"

"Damn right it is! It's a royal scam! But dig this, the workers foot the bill for all wars. We pay for all weapons. So when bosses in one country get into conflict with bosses in another country, it's we workin' stiffs who get to go out and 'kill or be killed' fighting against workin' stiffs of other countries who've been bamboozled the same way."

"So let me get this straight. We pay for the weapons, then we go fight their wars to?"

"That's right, but they get us to fight against workers like ourselves who we've got no quarrel with, when it's the bosses we should be fighting. In fact, by our mutual class nature, we have much more in common with those soldiers of other lands than with the bosses who send us out on battlefields to die for them.

The bosses use nationalism to get us to do this coupled with patriotism, and coercion. But nationalism is the idea that we're one big happy family as a

nation, with identical interests to the boss class.

A if you get killed in one of these capitalist wars, provided you havn't been vaporized, or pureed by a bomb, that flag draped coffin you'll be buried in will also have been paid for by the workingclass.

"Whew! Them capitalists are some theivin' bastards aint they?"

"Thats right, Peter Pan, but one thing is for sure bro, and thats when the workers decide to get organized and solid, we will dump these parasites off our backs and run things right! Then nobody can rob you of your peanut butter or your smokes.

Here Jack, check out this Chain Reaction. Pass it around and help unshackle some captive minds. You know, a fellow named Lao Tzu once said that the flutter of a butterfly wing could eventuate into a hurricane. Maybe this peanut butter event could be the catalyst of the world socialist revolution!

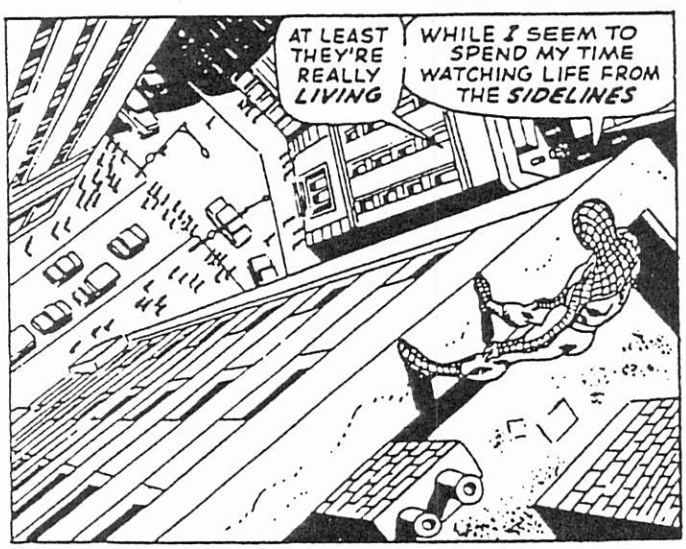
"See ya round Jack!"

"Check ya later Red!"

After note: In the scheme of prison upward mobility, Brother Jackson shed his former form of prison drudgery and old moniker, Petr Pan...sometimes Skippy.

He now is known as Poppin Fresh. **CR**

REVOLT
is the end of
ALIENATION



When pressed, the bosses can put up our wages or benefits.
But they can NEVER put down our alienation.

War Crimes

The recent bombing of Yugoslavia by American and NATO forces, and in particular, the so-called accidental bombings of civilians got me to thinking of what would happen if the NATO leaders were held liable under criminal law for these "accidents."

As I watched the U.S. State Department spokesperson explain about how the Air Force had precisely delivered 5,000 bombs to their proper target before having a few mishaps, I thought of a similar situation that landed a fella in prison.

This guy had legally owned firearms. He probably fired off 20,000 rounds of ammo target shooting without causing harm to a single person. But then one night something went wrong and he accidentally killed somebody. Under Texas law he was indicted on manslaughter charges and later convicted and sent to prison.

The point is this: Texas law requires that in order for someone to be convicted of murder or manslaughter, they had to knowingly and intentionally commit the act that specifically led to the individual's death. In the case of a handgun, for example, all that the state has to prove is 1.) the gun was loaded, 2.) you knew that it was loaded, and 3.) you intentionally pulled the trigger.

All of these elements were present when NATO warplanes bombed and killed innocent people. The bombs were dropped knowing that they would explode, and the pilots intentionally dropped them knowing that they could kill or maim. On top of all this, these acts were committed while NATO was engaged in what can best be characterized as an illegal action. This would raise the crime to the level of capital murder. In Texas one of the penalties for captital murder is death by lethal injection.

So while we continue to seek the arrest of the Yugoslav president, Slobodan Milosevic, for war crimes, should we not also be issuing arrest warrants for Bill Clinton, Tony Blair, and other NATO leaders? I say we should.

—West Texas Slim

A Patriot's Lament

By James E. Meier

There was a time...

In days of youth when I stood tall with pride at the sounds of America The Beautiful, fierce emotions played up and down my spine bringing chill bumps whenever the Star Spangled Banner was heard.

But alas, down through the years I made the error of becoming educated and seeking truth.

What I have found is deeply disturbing. Now I flee the topic of patriotism or country in shame.

For now I have stood on a hilltop along side the Native American and watched as a single teardrop left his wrinkled eye.

I have felt with him the loss of his lands, the massacre of its game and the herding of his people from their homes to barren, desolate places. The theft of his pride by a glorified coward named Custer who, in the end, got what he deserved.

Not satisfied with raping and pillaging of the Indian Nations, we turned in our greed to the black man.

Ah yes, more easily exploited folk.... We simply enslaved them, leaving no choices. We took all, leaving not even the dignity of retreat.

Is their frustration and hurt so hard to understand?

Now America seeks more victims. In a justice system riddled with this same insatiable greed, where lies and deceit are commonplace all in the name of justice, America seeks to devour its own.

Her latest victim has become the criminal. As America allows her leaders to inflame the citizenry, the cry for blood is once again heard.

Now in ignorance she herds her own into prisons once again finding cheap labor. Will we as a people ever learn?

And what of putting things to right?

Has it been a solution, the payment of large sums to a people whose very way of life was taken from them?

I say not! No amount can begin to repay such a debt. No matter how you try and justify it, bribery has its own distinct odor.

Neither will better jobs or school quotas begin to replace the pride of a people kidnapped, enslaved and treated as subhuman.

Nor are prisons conducive to the rehabilitation of their occupants. They serve only to instill in their "captive audience" a desire not to return. This is achieved through constant degradation and frequent harassment.

The rampant injustices tend only to kill what little respect one may have left for authority. This I know personnally.

No longer will I stand tall for America. I can only turn away from her bigoted ways.

I lament the vision lost. CR

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POLICE STATE TERRORIZES CHILDREN

Ever since the Columbine High School shootings in Littleton, Colorado, school administrators and juvenile authorities across the country have gone off the deep end in repressing the rights of children.

A good example of this occurred on Oct. 28, 1999 when Christopher Beamon, a 13-year-old Denton County, Texas junior high student, was jailed for five days for writing a ghoulish Halloween essay that depicted fellow students and the teacher getting shot. The essay was the result of a writing assignment given to Christopher's English class by the teacher. The teacher gave the setting for the story and said for the students "to make it ghoulish... the most horrible thing you can think about." And that is exactly what Christopher did.

School officials considered the essay to be a "terroristic note" and had Christopher arrested. Juvenile Court Judge Darlene Whitten ordered the boy, a seventh-grader, jailed without bail and a hearing on his case was not scheduled until Nov. 18—almost three weeks after his arrest. Christopher was finally released on November 2, but only after his lawyer contacted a Dallas TV station which publicized the incident. "That judge was stupid," said Jason Ziedenburg, a policy analyst at the Center on Juvenile and Criminal Justice in Washington, D.C. "But this kind of stuff is happening all over the country. It's not just in Texas," he said.

The "war on childhood" is just one more of the strong-arm, authoritarian tactics being used in America to bring about the full control of society through police-state

 (See ...**CHILDREN** Continued on Page 26)

String The Flippin' Puppet

By: Rick Mogan #611278 Walls Unit

In the wee hours of March 19, 1999, while the majority of the population of Pasadena, Texas still slept, the local police agancy executed an invalid search warrant on a residence. The residence was inhabited by an alleged parole violator. Good guy nabs bad, case closed, right? As is usual anymore, guess again.

Indeed, on this particular morning, officers James Anderson and L.D. Candelari slithered up to the home owned by Ted and Lisa Barta at approximately 5:00 AM. Mr. Barta is a Metropolitan Transit Authority police officer. Also inside were the couples eleven year old daughter and Albercio Escobar. The latter was on parole after having been released on a robbery charge he'd received in 1995. He had been on parole only a few months when the above named officers along with their warrant gang stormed the still silent abode. The police screamed, hollered and otherwise wreaked total havoc on the confused inhabitants. At no time did the officers identify themselves as such. Mr. Escobar was sleeping upstairs and thus was roused from a deep slumber into a chaotic din. Orders laced with profanities reverberated off the bedroom walls. When Mr. Escobar failed to respond to their gestapic actions in a manner immediately suited to the jackboots, they proceeded to roughly assist their captive, in his sleep induced stupor, into full obedience. As one can reasonably surmise, Escobar resisted, although he knew not what it was he was resisting. Nevertheless, in real short order, the Pasadena SS slammed their groggy suspect, handcuffed him, and then administered a heavy dose of on-the-spot justice. They pummeled Escobar with their feet and fists, while handcuffed mind you, as the transit officer, his wife and impressionistic young daughter looked on in shocked horror. Apparently not yet drunk with the fruit of their illicit revenge, the officers literally began to drag their barefoot suspect down the odd stairs, across the lawn and sidewalk, and finally into an awaiting police cruiser. Mr. Barta's daughter innocently asked her father, "Do you beat up people too, daddy?"

The warrant was no good, bogus as a racing stripe on an armadillo! It seems as if Escobar had been wearing a faulty leg monitor. On several occasions he had made attempts to have the problem rectified as he was ever cognizant of the probable consequences of his failure to do so... However, a pencil pushing bureaucrat sucking off the tit of the facist Texas state government had issued a "blue warrant" for Escobar's arrest on a parole violation. This despite his innocence. The warrant was eventually rescinded when the problem with the leg monitor was discovered and repaired. Police maintain that their computer did not reflect this information. Moreover, before executing the warrant, a state official alledgedly gave them information stating the validity of the warrant. That is their story anyway.

Mr. Escobar is presently awaiting trial on the following charges: assault on a public servant, attempting to disarm a police officer, and is also facing a revocation hearing. Despite the invalid warrant, and thus an illegal apprehension, law enforcement officials adamantly assert that citizens have absolutely no right to resist police according to state law. Indeed, force cannot be used to resist an arrest whether lawful or not! This is really no surprise to Texan's as state Attorney General John Cornyn believes that the voters don't want their prison system run constitutionally. Rather, he has argued that to do so would be to adopt a stance that is "soft on crime." Thankfully, Thomas Jefferson, James Madison and our forefathers, although nearsighted, didn't think so.

There's more to this story.

The illustrious duo had only just begun. Subsequent to the Escobar incident, the same Pasadenacops were involved in yet another bogus raid. While Arlene Maddux, her husband and three others enjoyed a family barbeque, the storm troopers crashed the party and threw down on all five celebrants. The frightened revelers listened intently as one of the facist rascals hollered to his buddies, "Wrong house!" Still, the would be ass-kickers continued to train their phallic symbols on the five innocent citizens. Twenty-nine days subsequent, Mr. Maddux died from a stress related illness. Both families have retained legal assistance. Meanwhile the jackboots in Pasadena continue to execute their warrants. And this despite their obvious disregard for the very laws they were sworn to uphold.

Crimes of this nature must stop! We must speak out! Apathy on the part of the citizenry only serves to strengthen the tyrannical grasp around our collective throats. Our continued silence will be ever costly. We cannot afford to remain silent. Whenever a story of this nature breaks we must initiate direct action. Protest! Write letters! Do something! If we fail to act, the facists we complain about have already succeeded as regards stringin' the flippin' puppet! From there it will be easy to make you dance to their vitrolic tune. Act now! The local gestapo may be at your home next. Or at grandma's. Either that or get to dancing!



WHEN THE LEGISLATURE'S IN SESSION NOBODY IS SAFE, PARTICULARLY THE WORKING CLASS

A recent survey found that few Texans are familiar with what went on in the last legislative session that ended May 31, 1999. That finding should not be surprising. Few legislators really knew what was in the 1,638 passed bills at the time they voted for them.

Even if senators and representatives had read night and day, they could not have read the text of more than a small fraction of the bills introduced. As a result, legislators come to rely on the advice of highly paid, influential, and unelected lobbyists.

As long as the public pays little attention to legislative matters, and as long as the legislators are willing to cast their votes for bills they know little or nothing about, ultimate power will reside in the hands of the corporate lobbyists rather than with the people. Millions of pieces of legislation are passed nationwide every year. The legislative process is clearly out of control and has become a detriment to the people and their freedom. There is nothing democratic about America's legislatures.

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LABOR ALONE CREATES WEALTH

Can capitalism exist without labor? The answer is a resounding no! Can labor exist without capitalism? Yes, absolutely! Capital can only exist if labor provides the initial work which actually produces wealth. The very instruments of exchange(i.e., stocks, bonds, treasury notes, currency, etc.) used by the capitalists requires labor for their very existence. It's a very simple matter—no labor, no instruments of exchange, no capitalism!

Capital does not and cannot, in and of itself, create wealth. It is merely the method currently supported by the ruling class and its accomplice government to control the means of production and hoard the wealth which labor produces. The long-running myth of capital creating anything needs to be exploded. Capital may be the ruling classes' preferred method of sustaining or expanding wealth-creating businesses (they being wealth-creating only by virtue of labor), but the capital itself was, and is, derived from labor. Everything the capitalist system depends on for its functionality and profitability is created by labor. CR

Laws And Morality

by Jimmy D. Pemberton, CPL

The law cannot protect people against tyranny.

Tacitus, the Roman historian, correctly observed, "The more corrupt the state, the more numerous the laws."

Unfortunately, too many citizens have been seduced by the propaganda of America's overly large legal industry to accept the legal processes as the final word. "We must be a nation of laws," they like to say. Whatever the law is or whatever the courts say the law is, we must obey, our lawyer friends advise.

The legal process, however, may produce a result that is either just or unjust; the process itself may be corrupt or used corruptly; and finally, the law itself may be an abomination.

A few examples will suffice to prove the point that the law is no protection against tyranny. Nazi officials broke no German laws when they sent people to their deaths. Neither did the Soviet officials. George Armstrong Custer operated with complete government approval. FBI and BATF officials were executing a court-issued warrant when the Waco tragedy erupted. Tyrants, in fact, have always used the law to accomplish their oppressions.

"Law, logic, and mercenaries may be hired to fight for anybody," says an old proverb.

If Americans continue to drift toward authoritarian rule they will find themselves legally oppressed. Their liberty will not have been stolen by an army at the point of a bayonet. Liberty and freedoms will have been stolen by legislation passed, signed, and upheld by the courts--in short by the law and enforcement of the laws.

Slavery was legal, recognized in the U.S. Constitution, upheld by the United States Supreme Court. There were many laws on the books governing slavery. No abolitionists ever argued that slavery was illegal. They argued that it was immoral and unjust. Yet, if people in those days had done what lawyers want people to do today--accept the law because it is the law--slavery might have existed a lot longer than it did.

Racial segregation was also legal. Those laws were passed by democratically elected legislatures and upheld by U.S. courts, including the Supreme Court of the United States. Again, no one argued that racial segregation was illegal; people argued it was wrong and unjust.

Even when the Supreme Court got around to reversing itself on school segregation, it did so on the basis of sociological ideals, and only indirectly on the legal issues. In its decision the Supreme Court implicitly recognized that separate but equal schools satisfied the law in theory but said sociological evidence demonstrated that separation itself resulted in inequality.

Again, abolitionists of the death penalty do not argue that execution is illegal; they argue that it is immoral and unjust. American courts everywhere have said it was legal, but not one has addressed its morality.

The taxes imposed on the American patriots who rebelled against England were legal taxes. The Patriots never argued that taxes had been illegally imposed on them; they argued it was unjust to levy taxes on people without giving them a voice in the decision.

No one denies it is the law in Texas to deny the American Indian prisoner the right to worship according to tradition; but we do argue that it is unjust and immoral.

I can't think of any great event in history that materially improved the welfare of humankind and that resulted from mere legislation or a court decision. After revolutions, lawyers come in and codify the results, but the revolutions are accomplished by people acting on their own sense of what is right and wrong, and what is just and unjust.

[Adapted in part from the Huntsville Item]

BOYCOTTING RACISM AND NEO-NAZISM



Remembering Strangeways

By Gulf Coast Red

Prisoncrats in every country subject prisoners to dehumanizing conditions. The total hubris, one-upmanship and abuse prisoncrats display towards prisoners illustrates well the axiom that when people are placed in positions of authority and power over others, that power and authority necessarily leads to corruption and callous disregard for humanity. The one-upmanship and disregard for human beings is not limited to prisoncrats alone, however. These attributes extend to other individuals, and institutions of the ruling class including politicians who use crime and workingclass prisoners as a stepping stone to political office, as well as media elites work incessantly to turn public opinion against prisoners. Judges, members of this elite, sit on their haughty perches and generally turn a blind eye to prisoners legitimate civil, and criminal litigation.

Curtailments in what were the few existing prisoner rights in the U.S. has made it increasingly difficult for workingclass prisoners to get a fair shake in the courts of the land. The story that follows is about some of our comrade prisoners in Manchester England who had the lid shut tight and the pressure turned on high. Having little recourse in the courts there was little left to do but explode!
This is the story of the Strangeways Prison Uprising of 1990.

On April Fool's Day 1990, a riot broke out in the chapel at Srangeways Prison located in the middle of Manchester. This was the day after massive clashes between anti-poll tax rioters and Manchester police had erupted. Prisoners had assembled for church services, but seething bitterness over the deplorable conditions at Strangeways prevented services from getting very far. The following was excerpted from a tape recording probably meant for distribution to a prayer group, however it later became used as evidence at the Manchester Crown Court.

Chplain Noel Proctor: "After that remarkable message that has..."

A Prisoner: I would like to say, right, that this man has just talked about blessing of the heart and a hardened heart can be delivered. No it cannot, not with resentment, anger and bitterness being instilled in people. (General noise over which)

A Prisoner: "Fuck your system! Fuck your rules!
(Applauase)

Proctor: "Right, lads. Sit down."
(More Noise)

Proctor: "Right lads, down. Down. Come on this is no way to carry on in God's house." (More Noise)

A Prisoner: "Fuck your system!" (More Noise)

Proctor: " Right lads.Sit down. This is completely out of order. Sit down."

A prisoner: "Why is it? It's been waiting to happen forever. It will never change."

Proctor: "Come on. This is terrible."
(More noise, banging. and cheering)

Proctor: "Allof you who want to go back to your cells go to the back of the church, please."

A prisoner: "What? You're a fucking hypocrite you!"

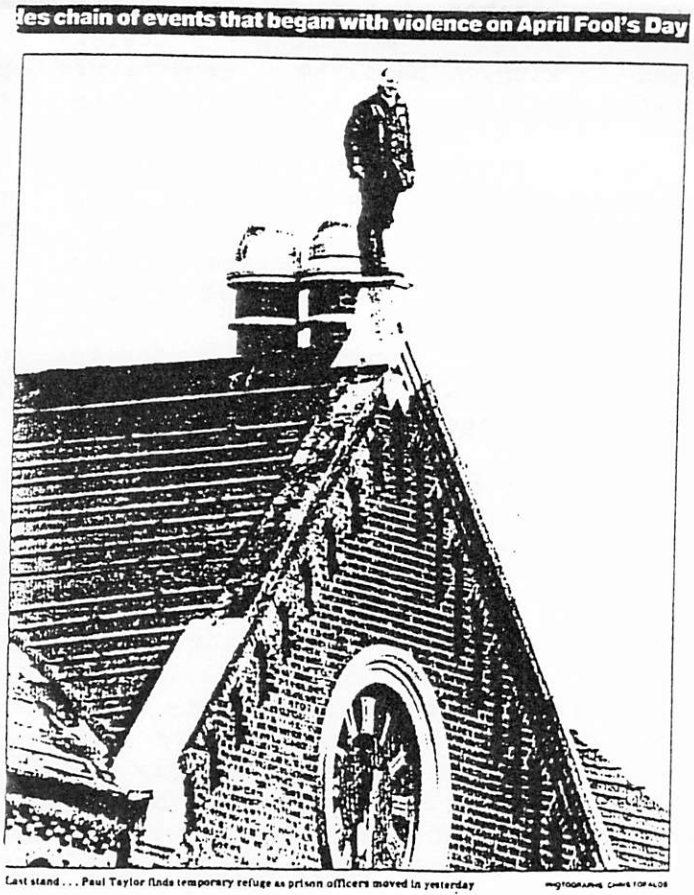
"Proctor: "I'm trying to help you, to keep you."

Prisoner: "Leave it mate!"

Within minutes prisoners began expressing the feelings inside their hearts.

Paul Taylor: "Keys which had been taken from a prison officer were passed to me. The doors at the back of the chapel leading into the chapel from the central rotunda were then opened and I shouted, "It's time everyone had association and communication!" I proceeded then to unlock all of those prisoners not already unlocked,throughout the prison, to free them from the restraints of being locked in a prison cell without sanitation or washing facilities."

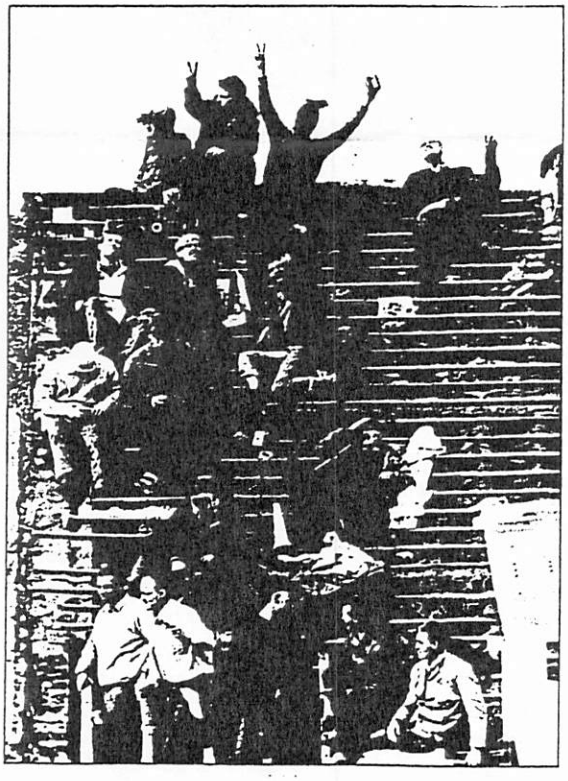
The prison staff completely fled the building and prisoners who'd been locked away for years in wretched holes roamed about the prison and celebrated some freedom.



Last stand . . . Paul Taylor finds temporary refuge as prison officers moved in yesterday

Strangeways prison is divided into two sections. One houses remand prisoners yet to be sentenced, and one side for lifers and cons doing alot of time. During the riot, remand prisoners had their cells unlocked as well. Prisoners wearing balaclavas, or masks with eye holes cut in them, some even wearing prison officer's uniforms, used keys, iron bars and fire extinguishers to open cell doors and set their comrades free. Remand prisoners participated right alongside lifers in the uprising.

For two days prisoners trashed the prison, set up barricades to keep screws at bay using all sorts of debris, and bluffed said screws into believing that booby-traps had been set using barbell weights and H.I.V. infected syringes.Prisoners then went to the prison kitchen and proceeded to load up on food provisions. From there they busted out onto the roof of Strangeways overlooking Manchester. It's estimated that some 350 prisoners were out on the roof that first night. The protest lasted for 25 days in total. Prisoners progressively surrendered little by little during that time, with the last five surrendering on April 25..



For those 25 days there evolved a sort of festive scene in the city with mothers waving up at their prisoner sons on the roof, and music and people celebrating in solidarity with the cons on the roof.

Eric Allison who had done time under Strangeways' strict regimen notes his surprise. For him April 1rst 1990 was an ordinary day.

"It couldn't have been more ordinary in fact; not an inkling of the momentous event to come, nor how that event would dominate my life for years to come; cooking and eating breakfast with my kids, then driving over to North Manchester to see my mam and dad. A very ordinary Sunday.

Then things altered. As I returned from my parent's home, I pulled up outside our house and my lad came rushing out to greet me. He shouted "Dad, it's gone bang off at Strangeways! There's hundreds of cons on the roof!" For a second I thought he might be trying to April Fool me, but he knew my views on Srangeways and I knew he wouldn't kid about such things. He said he'd heard the news on the local radio. We decided to drive down there right away.

"Looking down on the *gaol* as we approached, it was a sight I'd seen many times and which in the past had never failed to depress me. Iknew the pain and misery those wretched walls contained. But this time was different; my heart sang with joy and my eyes filled with tears. We pulled over and I let the vision engulf me. It's hard to estimate how many lads were on the roof- certainly a hundred, possibly two. Equally hard to describe what they were doing, but I could feel the exultation they were feeling, the sense of defiance and pride. We parked the car and tried to walk to the enterance of the *nick* in Southall Street, but the police, who were already there in large numbers stopped our progress. There must have been acouple of hundred people there. Many clearly had a vested interest; their tattoos told the tale as did the gleefull expressions on their faces. Police were arriving by the coachload (plenty of overtime there) and were extending their cordon around the gaol and trying to marshal the ever increasing numbers of spectators. There were several fire engines and ambulances.

For the next couple of hours we wandered around the streets surrounding the prison. The streets of Srangeways are mean streets, filled with mean looking factories and warehouses and in the very centre of them - with it's giant domineering chimney was the meanest of the lot. Strangeways prison was both a warehouse and a factory, storing only humans and producing only hate. And there we were watching it's take-over by the mainly young lions of men on the roof."

During the 25 days protest, the cons on the roof wired up speakers to boom boxes for music and engaged in antics for the benefit of the workingclass spectators and media vultures.

Many of these antics had prison warders hot under the collar as the cons were rubbing it in that the prison-crats were clearly not in control. During the protest police tried to use psychological warfare on the rioters in one instance trying to blast them off the roof with the police's even louder music accompanied by strobe-lights. The prisoners simply danced to it.
Prisoners would come out and do their morning exercise routines to keep fit. The M.U.F.T.I. goon squad tried to blast the prisoners off of the roof with waterhoses. The prisoners simply showered in it. Then after a couple of rioters had gotten sick from food poisoning and surrendered, the police tried to convince them they would all die of food poisoning if they didn't come down.

Eric Allison, "One of the lads appeared on the roof, bade the city of Manchester a booming and most healthy sounding "Good Morning," then proceeded to eat his breakfast in full view of the cameras. After each mouthful, he puts his fingers to his lips after the fashion of a gourmet sending his complements to the chef. It was pure theatre; Chaplin at his best. Following his meal, he took out a small cigar, rolling it under his nose appreciatively before lighting it. Incredible!"

The cons made many banners which they unfurled, one reading,"Plebeius of the Common People." Another read "We fight and stand firm on behalf of humanity," accompanied by a quote from Hamlet, "To thine own self be true, thou cannot be false to any man." Reportedly, a banner was also displayed expressing solidarity with anti-poll tax rioters.

As prison staff gradually gained more control of parts of the prison, and more prisoners left the roof in surrender often to face brutal beatings, the five remaining die hard rioters had planned to bring up a ping pong table and play some table tennis on the roof..."To put the iceing on the cake." Screws had retaken too much of the prison to make this plan a reality however, and on April 25th, 1990, Paul Taylor, Mark Williams, Glyn Williams, Martin Brian, and John Murray collectively decided to end the protest. They were hoisted down from the roof in a cherry picker giving clenched fist salutes to the people below. Hundreds of people clapped, cheered, and cried.

Strangeways prison was built in 1865 with very little modernization over the years. The place had no toilets. Often, three men were locked in a cell together for hours with only a bucket to use for a toilet. Emtying, or "slopping out" was only allowed at certain intervals. From six at night till morning prisoners were not allowed to slop out, so prisoners, out of mutual respect were reduced to defecating in newspapers, rolling them up, and sliding them underneath the wooden cell doors into the hallway. This Catch 22 situation, however, would result in a loss of goodtime for the prisoner caught doing this.



Many prisoners were only allowed one shower per week and cells lacked sanitation or washing facilities. Random beatings of prisoners by sadistic screws were commonplace as was excessive and arbitrary use of body belt restraints. Food at Strangeways was rotten, prisoner's clothes were a shambles. Prisoners were forced to wash their clothes as best they could with no proper washing facilities.

The practice of seizing prisoners and forceibly injecting a strong psychotropic drug "Laractyl," called Liquid Cosh by the prisoners, was a fairly widespread practice and had horrendous disorienting effects often lasting weeks after each injection.

Barry Morton on Liquid Cosh: "It's a powerful drug that can ruin any human being for the rest of their life. The effects are as follows: it slows you down and makes your mind hallucinate and makes you lose

your memory and slows down your speech. When you don't know you're doing it, you talk to yourself but you find it hard to hold a conversation with anyone for a long period. Seven prison officers held Andrew Kazim and injected him several times and turned him into a cabbage. It's a brown, thick liquid that affects you the minute it's injected into the body."

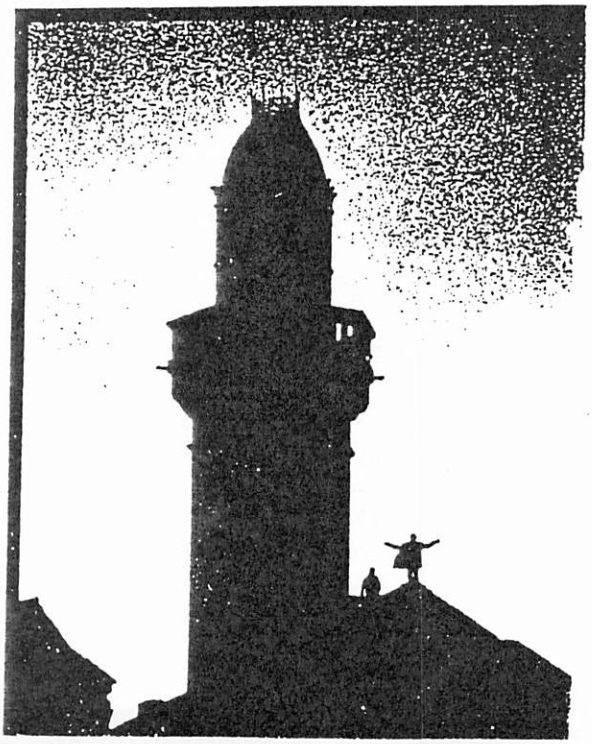
Many prisoners were locked up 22 hours a day with no sunshine and recreated in a covered area also without sunshine. Strangeways lacked decent visiting facilities and allowed no physical contact with family and loved ones. There was also no place for children to play at visitation. Lack of telephones to call home, censorship of mail, and the inability to receive food parcels from home were all issues that contributed to the Stangeways uprising. Some thirteen other prisons in England kicked off in a similar fashion after Strangeways over the same dehumanizing conditions.

The Srangeways uprising resulted in quite a few needed reforms. The prison sustained such extensive damage, it nearly had to be completely rebuilt. Many of the rioters received serious extra time for their efforts, yet they stood their ground for humanity knowing full well the consequences.

This story is dedicated to my comrade David Bowen who spent four days onthe roof of Srangeways. He was a remand prisoner waiting to be sentenced for a petty theft. He ended up doing 9 flat calandar years for his part in the revolt. David just made parole in May.Salutations of Solidarity brother, to you and all the Srangeways 'rades!"

gaol British spelling of jail.
nick British slang for prison.

Sources, Srangeways a Serious Disturbance, by Nicky Jameson and Eric Allison ,F.R F.I., BCM Box 5960, London, WC1N 3XX England
and personal correspondence.



FORMER EAST GERMANS THINK CAPITALISM SUCKS

A poll published November 8, 1999, ten years after the fall of the Berlin Wall, found that only 45 percent of East Germans viewed the new capitalist political system as better than the old Stalinist state before German unification.

Only 27 percent said they felt better in society, and 67 percent said unification had worsened the next generation's chances. The poll was published in the Berliner Zeitung newspaper.

When you consider that these people lived for over 40 years under Stalinism, the poll numbers show a stunning refutation of the ruling class claim that people are better off under a private enterprise capitalist system.

Political freedom is just an empty shell in a capitalist society where low wages, high unemployment, and a shrinking welfare state spell deprivation for millions of people.

Free speech and free elections are of no use to someone who is starving, naked, and homeless. You must first have life (i.e., food, shelter, clothing, healthcare) before you can enjoy liberty and pursue happiness. Only an egalitarian socialist society can provide life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness for all the people in a truly democratic society. CR
[Source: Houston Chronicle]

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MORE CONTACTS
(Continued from page 29)

Worker Solidarity Alliance-I.W.A.
339 Lafayette St., #202
New York, NY 10012
(Anarchist syndicalist union. Send for info on their aims and principles)

World Socialist Party of the U.S.
P.O. Box 440247
Boston, MA 02144
(Libertarian socialist party. Send for info and socialist literature)

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A RIGGED LIFE

Your porkchops, your children, your honor, your freedom, your very lives are being rigged every day. you know it. But you don't do anything about it. You're too damned busy worrying about your entertainment. You deserve what you get.

—Slim Brundage

From the trenches...

LETTERS

[Letters may be edited for length and clarity. When you write, please specify whether or not you want us to use your name. Views expressed are those of the writer and do not necessarily represent the position of **Chain Reaction.**]

OPPRESSION IN SEG

In the past few years there has been numerous excessive use of force and a very high percent of prisoners receiving more time on the Hughes Unit. The psychological oppression in Administrative Segregation is regular; from refusing prisoners meals for days to denial of showers. There are tactics of intimidation so prisoners will not come out for recreation or exercise their basic rights.

—Shakir Jihad, Hughes unit

RIGGED SYSTEM

It seems to me as if the System is set up not to allow us to integrate back into the freeworld as human beings, but as animals who have had everything taken away from us: Our pride, our dignity, and even our faith in our fellow human beings. The torturous isolation in the Ad-Segs and the Supermaxes is only going to create wild animals. We need to rehabilitate, not isolate and warehouse, TDC prisoners!!!

—W.G., Daniels unit

LACK OF PRISONER SOLIDARITY

I'm over here at Connally Unit killing zone. Seems that over here everybody is trying to kill each other, and will do their best to do so. It seems that this system is going crazy, and all prisoners think of is how to hurt each other.

—"Old Timer", Connally unit

TIME FOR REVOLUTION

I think the paper [**Chain Reaction**] is a great idea because we need to unify and stop the mistreatment of prisoners. This capitalist system that the government so-calls The Department of Correction is only a sophisticated tool of oppression used against the working class of the world.

It's not about rehabilitation nor punishment as the government and the legislators would have the public believe. Because they are removing all forms of education and anything that has to do with rehabilitation away from the prison system. At the same time, the same lawmakers who have stocks and bonds in the private prisons can get free labor from the slave, as they call us, who they warehouse and make a large profit from. Something is going to have to be done before the whole working class is locked up in concentration camps under martial law and elitism.

The governing bodies don't want anyone to build political consciousness within the system. The legislators and elitists don't want the public to learn that to make a person or a prisoner socially responsible you must first include him or her in your society. You have to understand that few political leaders do that. There are working class people like myself, in prisons and on the streets who have contributions to make to society.

You have to first include people of every class in the struggle for human rights. America calls itself the world's greatest democracy, when it allows the public humiliation of American citizens just because they are of a working class.

I think it's time for a change and to bring it about I think it will take a world uprising, just like the Attica prison uprising. It's time for a world revolution. Revolution is not only possible, it's necessary.

—Stan Taplin, Coffield unit

ROGUE DOCTORS NO HELP

I'm at the Robertson Unit and need your help. I have Hepatitis C and cannot get the medical help I need. Dr. Shaffer, the unit doctor, will not help me get the medical I need.

—Brian Baker, Robertson unit

[Ed. Note: Your letter was forwarded to a group which has filed a class action suit on behalf of TDCJ Hep-C prisoners. The court has appointed a lawyer and it's slowly making its way through the court. You should be getting contacted in the near future.]

A CALL TO PROTEST THE PRISON LITIGATION REFORM ACT (PLRA)

On September 16, 1998, I filed a suit in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia on the U.S. President, William Clinton, and congresspersons. This case is entitled Vinson v. Clinton, et. al., Civil Action No. 98-2201. This lawsuit seeks to declare the PLRA unconstitutional. I will

seek class-action certification to cover the nation's prisoners if you support me. For further info and to send copies of your letters in protest, and to physically protest, contact: XShakur 2XAfrika, S/N Derek Vinson, 703 Rampart, Columbus, TX 78934. Letters in protest should be sent to Judge Aubrey E. Robinson, Third Street and Constitution Avenue, Washington, DC 20001. And to Michael Johnson, Asst. U.S. Attorney, 555 4th Street N.W., Room 4231, Washington, DC 20001.

—XShakur 2XAfrika, Estelle SHU

GUILTY UNTIL PROVEN INNOCENT

Due process and fairness of law does not put innocent people in prison and on death row. It does not unjustly take away our home, car, money, and children. Fairness does not clog our courts and turn our institutions into huge man-eating machines with no heart or guts. Fairness does not break down our doors and drag our family from their beds in the middle of the night. It does not shoot unarmed people in their doorways. It does not beat chained and handcuffed prisoners, and it does not gas people at a whim. These issues need to be addressed. Answers are available for those who look. Issues can be resolved for those who try. The American Justice Center is on the cutting edge of these problem-identifying and issue-resolving matters.

The American Justice Center is being formed to curb this activity. Among our intended goals is that we will seek to free innocent people from jails, prisons, and death row; and we will legislate for changes to protect against innocent people being imprisoned. We want to unite families of prisoners everywhere in an effort to make those changes. If you are willing to join efforts in launching the American Justice Center, please contact me: Jimmy D. Pemberton, CPL, #415018, 2101 FM 369 North, Iowa Park, TX 76367-6568. [Ed. Note: Jimmy is fighting his own battle against being imprisoned for a crime he didn't commit. You can write him on the Allred unit at the above address for more info.]

MURRAY UNIT A CONTRADICTION IN TERMS

I live here doing time on the Dr. Lane Murray unit and it really contradicts itself because medical care here is the worst. You can actually be dying and they send you away. Last year a 40+ woman complained about her chest hurting, walked into the infirmary and they screamed at her, yelled at her, and humiliated her when she was barely able to walk. They sent her back to her dorm. Three hours later they discovered body fluids in her cubicle and the woman was dead. I have worn glasses since I was 12 years old. I have tried over the last two years to receive my glasses and they say here that I don't qualify. Did the carrots work or what??? We call doctors here veterinarians that we wouldn't take a rabid dog to. The dentist pulls the wrong teeth and things aren't real good here.

This place is criminally run itself. I see it everyday, but the golden rule... speak up and go down!!! What about all the rubbers that get pulled up from the sewer trap everyday? There's some bull in the game somewhere.

Hmmm, makes you think. You see, the women are scared to speak up and reach out to the right place for help. We are not so much like the men. They stick together a lil' more, but the women don't. Most don't, that is. Too much retaliation on the part of officials.

So much more, but I will end this here. So where do we seek help and what do we do about retaliation? By the way, who is going to make my bond after I send this out??? Well, freedom of the press is what I say....

—Kimberly Freeman, Murray unit

DEHUMANIZING CONDITIONS IN SEG

Today an officer (allegedly) got stabbed by a prisoner on 12-building's F-pod. I'm not sure yet what the motivation behind it was, but I'm sure it's either got to do with prisoners getting assaulted by officers while they're handcuffed, or being denied meals because they won't kneel on the floor.

The latter is a new "policy" made by the Ad Seg Major, Talmage Dever, purtaining to the opening of Level 2's and 3's tray slots. Of course, if we sat on our beds it would have the same degree of safety, but would not be degrading enough for them (the pigs).

—Kang-Tegi, Hughes unit

JUST A THOUGHT...

The hope of liberty and of opportunity is the only incentive to life, especially the prisoner's life. Society has sinned so long against him— it ought at least to leave him that. I am not very sanguine that it will,

FROM THE TRENCHES ...

(Continued from previous page)

or that any real change in that direction can take place until the conditions that breed both the prisoner and the jailer will be forever abolished. [Emma Goldman, "Prisons A Social Crime And Failure, 1911] That was written 88 years ago and today the same, if not worse, problem still exists.

—Jay, Allred unit

Against The Machine

I am giving these folks Hell in Federal Court. I filed a Civil Action on 7-2-96 styled: M. Lathum Et. Al. v. P. Lopez Et. Al., P-96-CA- 059 in the Western District of Texas, Pecos Division. I have a First Amendment claim of "DENIAL" of Freedom of Speech, Association, an Redress of Grievances, alleging harassment, retaliation, and a "MURDER FOR HIRE" scheme against me for filing this action.

This lawsuit grew out of an incident that started after I filed a grievance against guard Rick Sutherland. He retaliated by tearing up my cell three times in one afternoon. After filing a lawsuit against him, he approached three different affiliations offering tobacco and weed to "TAKE ME OUT".

From there it has snowballed with cover ups and false reports by IAD's Richard Romono; destruction of video evidence by Warden Foster, along with intimidating witnesses; interference with my access to courts; and increasing incidents of harassment and retaliatory disciplinary cases by several other guards and employees of TDCJ.

The state has tried to get rid of this case, almost made it too. It was dismissed with prejudice in the district court, but I appealed to the Fifth Circuit court of appeals and got it reversed. See: Lathum v. Lopez, 124 F.3d 191. I'm back with a vengence.

I'm interested in corresponding with other prisoners who plan to file, or have filed, against TDCJ and/or its employees. I remain in solidarity with ALL those who "FIGHT" for their "RIGHTS" not selling out for a Johnny. My address is: Michael Lathum #634529, Clements Unit, 9055 Spur 591, Amarillo, TX 79107-9696.

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THE CHICKENS COME HOME TO ROOST

Jeremiah Engleton, a Black citizen of Pleasanton, Texas, shot and killed two sheriff's deputies and a DPS trooper, and wounded two other officers all on October 12, 1999. Mr. Engleton then shot himself in the head and died. Pleasanton is about 30 miles south of San Antonio. The San Antonio NAACP has issued warnings for African-Americans to avoid travelling through Pleasanton if possible. This warning came after a Black businessman and his son from San Antonio were acousted by PLeasanton cops, DPS, and Texas Rangers, and jailed on bogus charges soon after the Engleton incident.

Several hundred cops from across the state turned out to bury their dead cohorts. Apparently a few of them have sensitive feelings when it comes to citizens of color who are outspoken opponents of the cop's murderous ways. Too bad!

Not too long ago a white Houston police officer, Derrick Iozzio, murdered his Black neighbor Richard Davis and received 10 years probation after being found guilty of first-degree murder. You didn't hear much condemnation from the thousands of Texas police thugs when that outrageous incident took place. It seems that the cops think that the life of one of their own cronies is more valuable than that of a private citizen, especially one of color.

The violence which the cops zealously inflict on unarmed civilians is being reflected back on them for a change. Nobody, particularly the "gang of blue", should be surprised by this turn of events. What's surprising is that there aren't many more such actions taken against terrorist cops. Given the increased frequency of rogue, murderous cops killing civilians under dubious circumstances to say the least, it's only a matter of time before the people say enough is enough and begin to retaliate.

After John F. Kennedy was assasinated in 1963, Malcolm X said that the chickens had come home to roost. A government that perpetrates murderous acts against the people should expect retribution in kind. Even George Washington wouldn't have stood for it.

—West Texas Slim

* * * * * * * * * *

Any coward can fight a battle when he's sure of winning.

—George Eliot
English Novelist 1819-1880

Serial Killer Runs For President

As we Texas prisoners are painfully aware, George Bush Jr., more aptly dubbed "Bloody Bush" the Exe-cution Governor, is after presiding over more than 100 executions in this state, intent on swindling his way up the ole campaign trail all the way to the Whitehouse to be Chief Exe-cutor of these United Snakes. The man is a hypocrite and has done his best to make things tough Texas prisoners, many who are doing time for no more than what George Jr. did committing his "youthful indescretions."
He has recommended we prisoners should live in more spartan enviornments-as if we didn't already-because he thought we had it to good in Texas' concentration camps.

It's rumored as well that another reptilian character, Gov. Tom Ridge of Pennsylvania, responsible himself for signing more than 100 death warrants, may possibly be George Jr's. Vice Presidential running mate in the upcomming polecat fest, better known as our national election. Tom Ridge is set on executing framed radio journalist Mumia Abu Jamal and as most politricksters, hasno sense of justice, right or wrong, or moral integrity. Both Bush and Ridge have shown that they nothing whatsoever about the working class. In fact, they've built their careers upon the graves of workingclass people.

If elected, Bush will continue to use workers in this manner, for his own personal aggrandizement, and to protect the interests of his elite class pals. The man is even dumber than Bill Clinton but if he is unable to name the leaders of a few foreign countries when queried, that in no way will prevent him from getting us in a war with them once in office.

When I think of the word Bush, many nasty things come to mind like, N.A.F.T.A., The War On Drugs, Iran Contra, C.I.A. Contra Cocaine Connection, Right Wing Deathsquads, S&L Scandals, Shady Oil Deals and OIl Wars. As well,a sweet person comes to mind whom was shown no mercy. Karla Faye Tucker. George Jr. claims he should be exempt from law because he has evolved into a different person from his old drug ingesting self. Why was he not willing to apply this philosophy to Karla Faye Tucker who had metamorphized into a better person than G.B.Jr., and why is he not willing to extend that philosophy to the thousands of Texas prisoners who have changed for the better? Truthfully, we at **C.R.** could give two fucks about what G.B.Jr., or anybody else puts up their nose to get high on 'cept for the hypocrisy factor. We think the drug laws are a sham anyway. But we are very concerned with the real acts of criminality perpetrated by the Bush clan with complete legality, just like Hitler's Final Solution was.
If you wish to express your distaste, or merely vent your spleen to this ruling class family, feel free to write: Prez. Gov. or Mom Bush, 10000 Memorial Dr. Houston Tx. 77024.

C.R.

Book Review by:Daniel L. Knod #805621

Gripping... "Voices From Within the Prison Walls" grabs the reader and pulls him into a world that strips a man of his self-pride and dignity in an effort to to break him mentally, physically and spiritually (if need be), to conform to the slave master's rule. This book is a true masterpiece!

"Voices" is a non-stop, page turner that is short but powerful, and to the point. It leaves the reader coming to the only logical conclusion, that the prison industrial complex and prisons across America are the tools of government oppression, modern day "legal" slave plantations and projects of tyranny.

This book is a warden's nightmare!
It sparks fire in a prisoner's eye by bringing the big picture imto focus, thus awakening the revolutionist in all of us. News media beware! this book tells it like it is and exposes TV, radio and all forms of mass media for just what they really are: propaganda! Within this book the reader learns how the masses are duped into believing what the tyrant politicians and ruling class want them to believe.
This well thought out book by David Sheldon is a must read for prisoner's rights activists inside or out.
Order from: Sonia Bergonzi
News and Letters
59 E. Van Buren Rm. 207, Chicago IL. 60605



ACTION ALERT!

Mumia's case has been assigned to Federal District Judge William H. Yohn, who issued a temporary stay of execution on Oct. 26 and has said that all sides in Mumia's case can send letters and petitions to him stating their position on the case. International Family and Friends of Mumia Abu-Jamal is asking that you send messages in support of Mumia to his attorney Leonard Weinglass:

Judge William H. Yohn
c/o Leonard Weinglass, Esq.
6 W. 20th St.
Suite 10A
New York, NY 10011

Mumia Abu Jamal, framed for killing a Philadelphia cop faces state murder. He is the victim of a racist court which used coerced testimony and withheld crucial evidence. Mumia is a revolutionary with more compassion in his little finger than those who wish his death have in their whole beings. Please get those letters out folks!

BUSH'S YOUTHFUL INDISCRETIONS

George "Dubya" Bush revealed on August 19, 1999 that he has not used drugs since 1974. But he balked at any questions about drug use before then, saying, "I made mistakes years ago. I've learned from those mistakes." Bush insisted that to discuss it further would be harmful to the political process. "I believe it is important to put a stake in the ground and say enough is enough when it comes to digging up people's backgrounds in politics," he said.



Why do politicians feel justified in claiming irrelevance of past mistakes with drugs while hundreds of thousands of Americans—equally guilty of such "irrelevant youthful indiscretions"—must live daily with destroyed lives, jobs, and families, thanks in large part to laws created by those same politicians.

George "Dubya" remains oblivious to the blatant hypocrisy of having escaped arrest for past crimes while his fellow Americans must suffer harsh legal consequences. Justice department statistics bear out that over 600,000 Americans are arrested every year for marijuana offenses alone. The criminal injustice system won't let them put their youthful indiscretions behind them. As long as that's true, George "Dubya" shouldn't expect the public to forget about his. CR

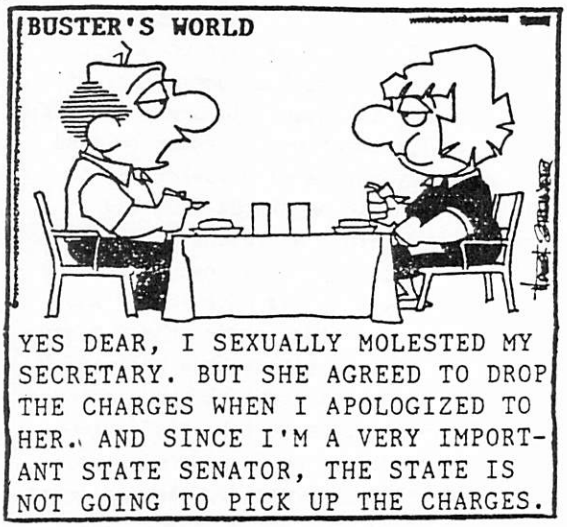
POLITICAL CRONYISM SAVES BUSTER'S BUTT

Texas Senator J.E. "Buster" Brown, one of the most vocal proponents of harsh prison sentences, recently apologized to a 20-year-old woman who complained to police that she had been molested by "Buster" while working as a clerk in his Lake Jackson law office.

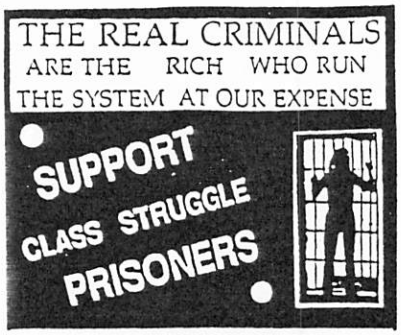
"Buster", who is married, was facing a possible charge of official oppression, a Class A misdemeanor that could have landed "Buster" in the slammer for up to a year. But never mind that. A very compliant Brazoria County District Attorney, Jeri Yenne, said, "Based on the admission, Acknowlegement and apology ... we will do nothing further with this matter."

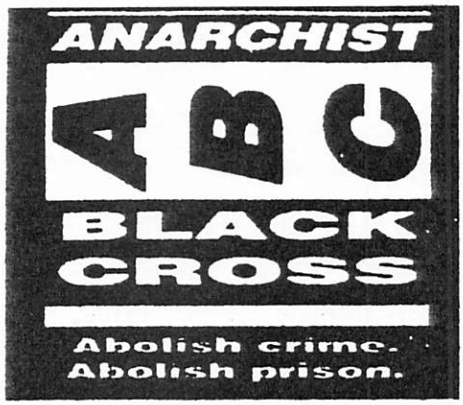
If it had been an ordinary working class citizen, however, the state would have picked up the charges and pursued them whether or not the victim was satisfied with resolving the matter outside of court. But, hey, political power has its privileges. It's another example of how political privilege protects the ruling elite from the same oppressive system they have built for the working class.

That puts ol' "Buster" right down in the pig pen with his other two-faced law-and-order cohort George "Dubya" Bush. These two political charlatans have removed any doubt as to the existence of a double standard. It's time to put them all out of business. CR



YOUR DONATIONS of cash or stamps gives a revolutionary voice to Texas prisoners. If you don't help, who will?
See page 2 for address.







The Anarchist Black Cross was first organized to support anarchists imprisoned by V. Lenin subsequent to the Russian Revolution of 1917. In the 1930's, anarchists fought against Franco's fascist forces while at the same time conducting a social revolution, successfully organizing libertarian communism in industries and farms throughout about one third of Spain. Franco, backed by Hitler,unfortunately won out and thousands of anarchists faced firing squads, or were imprisoned in Franco's prisons. The A.B.C. once again organized to support these revolutionaries. True to anarchist principles of solidarity and mutual aid, and in the tradition of the Anarchist Black Cross, Chain Reaction has included an A.B.C. page to support workers/prisoners brutalized by the capitalist system. We hope to generate some A.B.C. locals in Texas very soon to aid building social justice in this reactionary state. This may be in the making. We ask all prisoners and workers to read these pages and get involved.

Local

Walter Bell is the longest living Black Man on Texas Death Row. He has been on D.R. since 1975 when he arrived there at the age of eighteen. Walter has been certified as being mentally retarded. Walter Bell was framed up for the brutal murder of his boss and boss' spouse, the latter whom was also raped. Police beat a signed confession out of him and threatened to turn him loose on the streets of Vidor Texas at night (a known K.K.K. stronghold) as a further terroristic measure of coercion.

Walter Bell passed three lie detector tests as well as extensive rape tests. Much pertinent evidence was conveniently lost by police, including D.N.A. which could have cleared him. Still, Walter has a good case and the state knows it. They have fought to make this innocent man go to the death chamber. It would be politically inexpedient for our judges to do justice by Walter, and they have even gone so far as to rule on his case back in Oct. of 1998 without notifying him , or his lawyer untill Aug. 1999. This act on the courts part could place Walter's life in peril. Walter Bell has had three reversals on his case, and has come within six hours of execution on one occasion. He is in dire need of financial support for legal expenses. Please help prevent yet another innocent person from being murdered by the state of Texas. Send contributions to: Praise God Foundation, 1214 Sterret St., Houston Tx. 7702-1141 Please write at the bottom of checks, For Walter Bell.

Chris Plummer

677345, Rt. 2, Box 4400, Gatesville Tx. 76597

Chris Plummer is an anarchist political prisoner doing time for anti-fascist activities. He has been held in ad. seg. for years facing perpetual harassment from guards, and has been attacked by racist gangs in the past. Chris formed the Texas Anarchist Lending Library for Texas prisoners. He has also organized anarchist books collections along with other aid in solidarity to be sent to comrades in Kenya and Tanzania. He has been ceaseless in his efforts to help fellow prisoners, and he needs our support folks. Please drop him a line!

Dale Pennington

William Dale Pennington asked a drug dealer to please sell his drugs elsewhere than on Dale's property. He asked this on two occasions, in a friendly manner. The drug dealer copped an attitude and a struggle ensued. During the struggle, said drug dealer pulled a pistol. Dale divested him of his pistol and told told him to "hit the road." Dale Pennington figured that was the end of the confrontation. He was mistaken. The drug dealer returned and this time attacked Dale with a Buck Knife. Dale, using split second reasoning, shot the drug dealer fatally with his own pistol.

Dale was no-billed by the grand jury, yet the state prosecuted him anyway without even indicting him . His attorney sold him down the river and now dale has done over ten flat years in the Texas Concentration K.K.K.amp. He is 67 yrs. of age, and has a wife and family who needs him.
Dale asks that in solidarity, we write to protest his treatment to : Attorney General Janet Reno 10th St. & Constitutional Ave. N W, Washington D.C. 20530. Also, write letters of solidarity to Dale Pennington, #524720 , 815, 12th St. PO. Box 32, Huntsville Tx. 77348-0099

Two dead. One triggerman. No accomplice(s). Guilty says the Neuces County prosecutor. The jury agrees and subsequently sentences Martin Gurule to the ultimate sentence. Forthwith he is sent to the infamous Death Row at the Ellis Unit in Huntsville. He later escapes on Thankgiving Day only to be(allegedly) shot dead in the process. But there is another victim in this mess who has rarely been heard from. Enter a young womyn named Malisa. Although she was never at the scene of the crime, nor had she knowledge before or after, the prosecution is able to obtain a conviction on her. The D.A., along with the Corpus Christy Caller and other Media, portray her as a criminal mastermind, a dope fiend and other lies. These fallacies cry foul from the pits of hell! Sadly, young Malisa had only recently occasioned on Gurule. In fact while she was at a local hospital after having lost her child, a charming Gurule wins her over. At her trial she is viciously attacked by two spectators. No charges are ever filed. Then a womyn is apprehended smuggling a file in for the likely attempt on her life. And finally, a bullet is shot at her jail cell window and yet no perp is ever captured. Subsequent to these murderous plots, Malisa is sent to Gatesville, a victim of Gurule, of an over zealous prosecutor, and of a system biased against poor people. She now languishes there, no longer the naive type, and yet thankfully, not hardened either. The stench from this political devilry, bureaucratic mismanagement and other hijinx still nausiates today. It isn't difficult to understand how Malisa was duped by her court appointed attorney that to appeal her case wasto enrage the D.A. and thus to merit the very same fate as Gurule. And thus she takes a twenty and twenty-five running concurrent and the attorney files no appeal and no post conviction remedies. Now she wants to fight back, but without your help that may be impossible. A defense fund has been established for the purpose of obtaining competent councel to assist in pursuing all avaiable avenues to win her freedom. Please lend a hand.
To donate cash, stamps, leather goods or art suitable for resale, send to: Ms. Beverly Mc Anally,PO Box 1083 New Caney Tx. 77357
For more info, write to: Rick Mogan #611278 PO Box 32, Walls Unit, Huntsville Tx. 77348

National

Ali Khalid Abdullah is in need of our support. He has been consistently knocked back for parole at a time when the state of michigan is building more and more prisons. (Ring any bells Texas prisoners?) Pisoners in Michigan who have been knocked back are taking the parole board to court. They need cash to fund a lawyer. Any contributions can be sent to Cynthia Ritsher, PO Box 554, Lincoln MA., 01773 Ali Khalid Abdullah is also a member of the I.W.W. and has formed the Political Prisoners of War Coalition P.P.W.C.. We strongly recomend people write Ali Khalid for more info on P.P.W.C.

Albert Cinque' Woodfox #72148, C.C.R. Isolation LA State Prison, Angola, LA 70712

Cinque (Albert) was this winter convicted of a guard murder that occurred in the early 70s even though there was no material evidence, and the only witness was on prison pay. Prosecutor tried to portray the Black Panthers, of which Albert and another Angola prisoner Herman Hooks Wallace started a branch as a racist 'hate' group. Since sentencing, Cinque was involved in a tier wide stay in cell, completely peaceful hunger strike along with many others. It was in response to increased repression and militarization and was blamed all on Cinque, Herman Hooks Wallace, and three others, who were all sent to punishment camps and isolation. One of those punished since the April hunger strike, Barbette Williams, has since suffered a heart attack. Contact Cinque (Albert) for more info..

International



Mark Barnsly is a Sheffield man on june 8th, 1994 while out with his baby (then just 6 weeks) and a family friend, was attacked by a gang of 15 drunken students. He was badly beaten up and injured with a bottle, or glass and knife. To stop himself being killed, he disarmed one of the students and tried to run away. The students chased him however, and continued to kick and beat him. Because of their reckless and agressive behavior, 15 of them were injured with the knife. Marks own injuries and the views of every single independent witness to the incident were ignored. After a trial characterised by lies, perjury, and the withholding and planting of evidence by the police and prosecution, Mark was convicted of wounding 2 of the students with intent and unlawfully wounding the other 3. He was sentenced to 12 yrs.. For more info, please contact: Justice for Mark Barnsley- c/o 145-149 Cardigan Road, Leeds, LS6 ILJ, England

Lori Berenson



American citizen Lori Berenson was arrested in Nov., 1995 in Peru for allegedly supporting the Tupac Amaru Revolutionary movement (M.R.T.A.). She was tried by a hooded, secret military tribunal. The president of Peru, Alberto Fujimori is an authoritarian dictator who runs a brutal regime. Peruvian prisons are veritabble torture chambers. Fujimori has instituted police state measures to squash any opposition to his regime including a fascist military court for the purpose of imprisoning anyone the state considers even remotely suspicious. Judges are masked, the trials are secret, defendants are not allowed to present evidence in their defense, and the conviction rate is 97%.

Lori, a long time fighter for social justice, has maintained her innocence throughout. She was in Peru to research and write about the political and economic situation in that country. She queried Peruvian congress persons on some uncomfortable topics and incurred the wrth of the state. Lori is in a real jam and she needs our help in order to generate national and international pressure for her release. For more more info, contact the Committee to Free Lori Berenson, PO. Box 339, Berkeley CA.94701 Letters may be sent to Lori in care of her parents 320, E.25 #2AA,New York, N.Y. 10010. Letters must be in Spanish and cannot contain anything political or mention anything about her case.

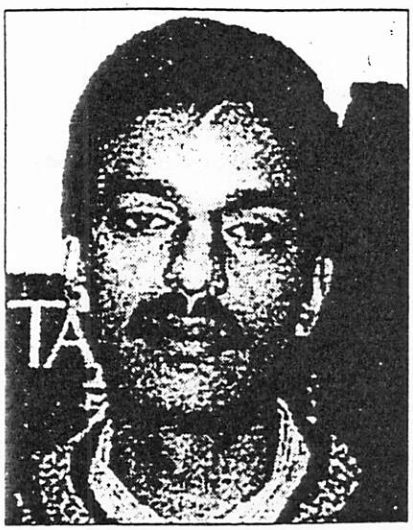
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SPENDING TO KILL

In the U.S.A. we'd rather spend a dollar to kill somebody than a dime to buy milk for a starving kid.

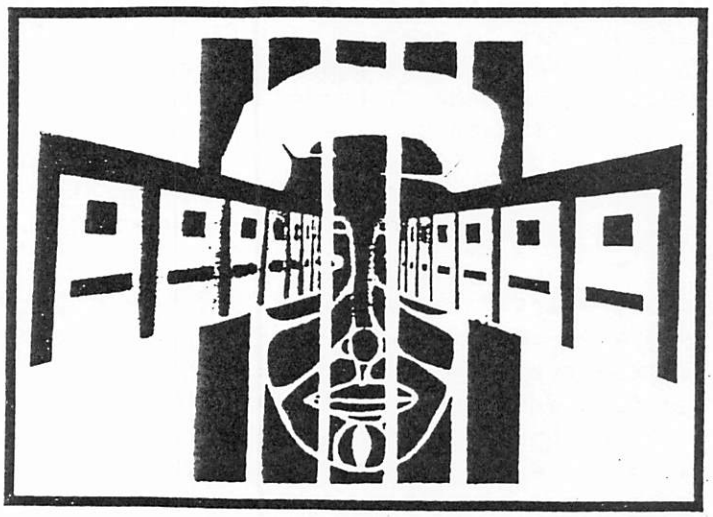
—Slim Brundage

Saptal Ram



Saptal Ram was assaulted again 19th of August 1999 by prison officers in the segregation unit at Frankland prison. The latest attack began when Saptal went to go on exercise and was jostled around by screws as he left the shower area to put on his jumper to go outside. When he returned from exercise, five or six screws came to his cell and subjected him to a torrent of verbal (particularly racial) and physical abuse, resulting in numerous injuries, pulled ligaments, tendons and internal bruising.

Saptal has been on a segregation unit for a long time. Further harassment by screws includes (Incident 1) Wed. June 16th Saptal's cell was trashed by prison warders. (Incident 2) Wed. June 30th, Saptal was taken from his cell, dragged down to the block, stripped naked and tossed into a segregation cell. Send letters of Solidarity to: Saptal Ram #E94164, H.M.P. Frankland, Brasside, Durham DH1 5YD England. Send letters of complaint about the assault and Saptal's general treatment to Governor Ivor Woods at same address.



PART OF THE PROBLEM—OR THE SOLUTION?

CARL HORNE;
TEXAS PRISONER

If we prisoners are ever to make positive changes in our situation/environment then we must first make positive changes in ourselves and our fellow prisoners; for if we don't improve ourselves, we can never hope to improve our surroundings.

There's an old expression which goes, "If you're not part of the solution, then you're part of the problem," and this couldn't be truer than for prisoners. Often times we're part of the problem without even knowing it. Here are a few questions which will point out whether or not you're unintentionally part of the problem rather than the solution:

—Do you treat members of other racial/ethnic groups differantly than you do your own?

—Do you regard other racial/ethnic groups differently than your own?

—Do you automatically distrust a person of another racial/ethnic group solely because of their race/ethnicity?

—Do you automatically judge a person according to what their religious beliefs are?

—Do you tend to believe or spread rumors about other prisoners?

—Do you treat prisoners with differing degrees of respect/consideration according to their crime?

—Do you tend to ignore fellow prisoners who are in need of assistance you can give? (NOTE: This does not refer to carrying 'leeches', but rather to giving true assistance such as educational or legal help).

—Have you ever, in any way, 'crossed out' a fellow prisoner with the guards?

If you answered 'yes' to any of the above—particularly to the last two—than you are—in at least a small degree—a part of the problem, and whatever good you may do is offset by the harm done; whether or not the harm is intentionally done. Taking a positive step forward, only to turn and take a negative step backwards is foolish; YET we're all to some degree guilty of at least one of the above offenses against our fellow prisoners.

Imagine that we're living in an old, run-down building in a poverty-stricken neighborhood and that some of us in this building decide to do something to make our living arrangements better. So, we start cleaning up the trash, painting and making repairs; BUT, at the same time, some of us are throwing food wrappers on the ground and stealing the materials used in the repairs and selling them. If any real progress is made, it certainly won't be much! BUT, if everyone—or at least most folks—cleaned and made repairs without littering and stealing the materials, alot of progress would be made, and most likely others in the building, as well as the neighborhood, would be inspired to either pitch in to help, or start a similar project of their own.

The bottom line is that we are all in the same boat together—black, white, red brown and yellow. The only colors which matter to us are white & grey (for those unfamiliar with the Texas system, prisoners wear white, guards grey). Until enough of us begin PRACTICING this—rather than merely paying it 'lip-service'—true progress will continue to elude us.



Legal Slavery

There is some confusion among Texas prisoners concerning good time and whether or not the state has to pay us something for our labor. The Thirteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution says that prisoners can be made slaves of the state. Section 1 of that amendment says:

> Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction.

The phrase "as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted" leads some prisoners to believe that a judge must specifically sentence them to labor before this applies to them. Wrong!

All a judge in Texas has to do is sentence you to TDCJ and you automatically become a slave of the state as permitted by the Thirteenth Amendment. The judge doesn't have to say a thing about labor. Texas Government Code, Section 497.090 says it all for the judge:

> The department [TDCJ] shall require each inmate to work, to the extent that the inmate is physically capable of working (Vernon's 1998).

The procedure that turns you into a slave works like this:

> 1.) The Thirteenth Amendment says prisoners can be enslaved as punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted.
> 2.) A judge duly convicts you of a crime (either rightly or wrongly) and sentences you to a term in TDCJ.
> 3.) State law mandates that each TDCJ prisoner shall work to the extent they are physically capable of.

Do you see how that works? The state doesn't have to pay prisoners a thing. Our glorious constitution makes our enslavement "legal." Three Texas prisoners litigated this issue over eleven years ago. In Wendt v. Lynaugh, 841 F.2d 619 (5th Cir. 1988), the federal appeals court, using the same outline just shown, said basically that all Texas state prisoners are slaves and it's at the state's discretion as to whether or not it wants to pay prisoners good time, money, Walmart gift certificates (writer's pun), or nothing at all. This ruling still holds today, nothing has changed. The Thirteenth Amendment is still in affect.

There is an ancient myth among Texas prisoners that once upon a time the state gave the old cons an ultimatum of either getting good time or getting pay. As the myth goes, the ancient ones chose good time. Perhaps there's some truth in it, perhaps not. What is true, however, is that up until 1977 good time awarded to Texas prisoners actually went toward reducing your sentence. This is where the term "shortway discharge" came from, because you did in fact discharge your sentence when flat time and good time equaled your sentence.

But all that changed in 1977 when Mandatory Supervision came into existence. This is nothing but a mandatory form of parole that takes place when a prisoner's flat time and good time equals his or her sentence. There are some people out there who will argue that Mandatory Supervision is not a form of parole. However, Texas Code of Criminal Procedure, Article 42.18, Section 8(c) states:

> A prisoner released to mandatory supervision shall, upon release, be deemed as if released on parole.

The state legislature pulled a fast one so that good time no longer actually reduced your sentence. Between 1977 and 1996, the Mandatory Supervision law was constantly being watered-down, eliminating more and more prisons from mandatory early release. Finally, effective September 1, 1996, all mandatory supervision was ended for prisoners convicted of crimes that occurred on or after that date.

In place of Mandatory Supervision is what the state idiotically calls Discretionary Mandatory Supervision. A contradiction in terms, just like the state itself. All the new law does is require the parole board to review you twice in a two-year period. But there's nothing to prevent them from giving you a set-off. It's no longer mandatory that they release you, only that they review you. Theoretically, they can make all the people who caught their time under this new law do their entire sentence flat.

For all the prisoners who don't have a mandatory out, good time is "good for nothing." It's an illusion designed for you to

believe that you have something, so mind. That's how the state controls your be havior. Even when good time counts for something, it's primary purpose is to control the prison population, not to compensate you for your slave labor. As a management tool it controls prisoners' behavior by giving them an incentive to work and obey the rules with minimal disruptions. Good time is also used as a way to control prison populations and reduce overcrowded conditions when necessary. But Texas good time, while still trying to control prisoner behavior, no longer offers anything to the prisoner in return. They got you thinking that you're getting something for slaving and minding, and you ain't getting shit!

Even those prisoners who caught their time before September 1, 1996, and are otherwise eligible for Mandatory Supervision, all that good time only counts for getting released early, not discharge of sentence. That's all. At least you are getting something, but once you walk out the gate all those years of good time don't count for shit. All you've got is your flat time. You still gotta finish out what's left of your sentence, minus the flat time, reporting to a parole officer. You're still under the gun of possibly being violated and sent back to prison. So for you too, the good time is just an empty scam. Come back on a violation and see how much good time you have to show for all those flat years you already completed—zero!

So here's the real deal. The State of Texas is conning all of you cons into believing that you're actually getting compensated for your slave labor. It's a sick joke and we've all been played the fool. Getting back to that old convict myth, many prisoners are under the assumption that if the state doesn't pay us with good time then they will have to start paying us money. Wrong! It's all been litigated and that slave owner's document known as the U.S. Constitution says you're the state's slave and how they want to compensate you, if at all, is entirely up to them.

There's a bunch of hard heads who probably still don't get it. Some people never do in more ways than one. The only way to get rid of slavery is to get rid of the constitution. Sounds drastic, even downright Unamerican. Well the Constitution was never suppose to be anything more than a document outlining governmental operation. The Bill Of Rights was added after adoption of the Constitution to calm fears that the new document would actually allow greater governemnt infringement on freedom and liberty of the people. Those fears became reality. The founding fathers, ruling class elitists that they were, were afraid of the "people" wielding real democratic power. There was much dissention among the population about the constitutional convention of 1787. Many people didn't like the idea one bit.

The rights of humanity are universal in nature. They are not derived from a piece of paper. It is a fallacy to believe that the U.S. Constitution "gives" us rights. It is nothing but a political document designed and implemented by ruling class slave owners to keep the great mass of the people from ever exercising real democracy, but that's a whole other story in itself. The U.S. Constitution was a slave owner's document in the beginning and it is still one today, protecting the ruling masterclass while guaranteeing an endless supply of slaves. WAKE UP SLAVE! CR

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(...CHILDREN Continued From Page 8)
control of society through police-state oppression. This goes right along with the "war on drugs" and the "war on crime" as one more backdoor tactic being used to bring the American police state to complete fruition, stripping away all our freedoms in the process.

Most Americans seem oblivious to what is happening in this country and appear to be perfectly content in allowing the police state to take complete control of their lives. "Safety" is the catchword being used to justify this mad dash to repression of freedom. There is, however, no safety in having the heavy boot of police-state authoritarianism weighing down on our necks.

Believers in freedom and democracy must not allow this sad state of affairs to continue unchallenged. Act now! CR
[Source: Houston Chronicle]

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OUR GREAT ADVERSARY

Whether the mask is labeled Fascism, Democracy or Dictatorship of the Proletariat, our great adversary remains the apparatus—the bureaucracy, the police, the military....
—Simone Weil

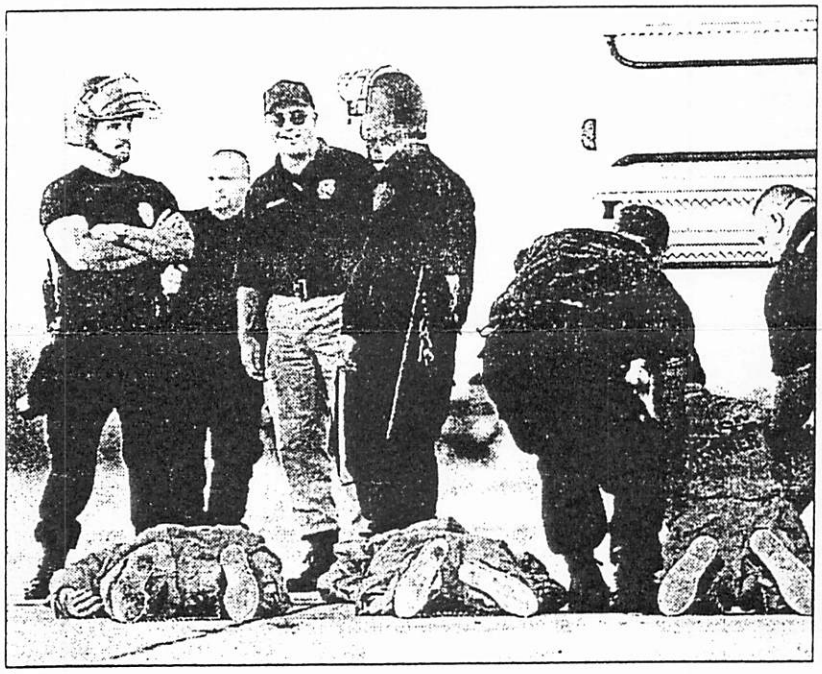
On The Plantation...

BE A HAPPY SLAVE

The August 1999 issue of the censored Texas prison newspaper, The Echo, lists some of the economic benefits Texas prison slaves have been forced to provide:

* 3 million hours of slave labor, with a minimum wage value of $15.5 million, provided annually to local communities and charities.
* 253 Habitat for Humanity houses built since 1994 using "volunteer" prison slave labor.
* 2 million pounds of produce for Texas food banks were picked or gleaned in 1999 using prison slave labor.

What did the Texas prison slaves who provided all these wonderful things get? Nothing!



The Echo editorial staff, which provided this news, is under the assumption that Texas prisoners should "feel good" about their slave labor helping to keep local budgets in the black. Forced slave labor is nothing to feel good about. It's not even economical, since taxpayers spent $2.5 billion in prison system operating expenses for a few million dollars of slave labor in return. What a deal!

It only goes to show that this disgusting practice of slavery, which should have been abolished long ago, is still alive and well in our capitalist society. Shame on all the so-called "charitable groups" who help keep the slave trade alive into the 21st century. And double shame on the taxpayers of Texas who are gullible enough to be suckered into paying for a monster of a prison system at the expense of their childrens' future. Not to fret though. The State of Texas is also expanding the Texas Youth Commission prison system and lowering the age at which children can be sentenced as adults to prison. Thus ensuring that the future of many of the state's youth will be spent as slaves in the Texas gulags.

SLOGANS OF OPPRESSION

The slogan "Working For A Better Texas" was recently seen painted on the side of one of the many TDCJ community service slave buses. A more fitting slogan would be "Slaving For A More Oppressive Texas!"

PRISON SLAVES BUILD THEIR OWN TOMBS

Texas is currently building four new high-security supermax units using prison trusties to perform much of the construction. [See: 'Texas Prison Beast Keeps Growing," Page 4.] This use of prison slaves to build high-tech tombs for their fellow prisoners is expected to save TDCJ over $8 million in construction costs.

These same prisoners (the trusties that is) will be wondering why the state won't give them parole or pay them for their labor. Hell, they got you building their prisons for free and providing plenty of space to keep you locked up longer. Why should they bother to give you parole or pay you? CR

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THE WAR ON CRIME

If the government was to openly advocate a police state, the people would not stand for it. So in order for the minions of authoritarianism to get the people to accept repression of their freedom, a "back door" technique had to be developed. That technique is what we today hear called "the war on crime."

"EUTHANIZE ME"

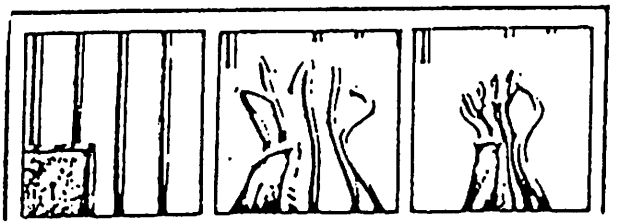
From the beginning I was told I was
lucky,
Just to be alive.
As I was growing,
They explained that I could do anything
All I had to do was strive.
But, in my maturity, I came to know,
The pie in the sky was not for me,
That having the cake and eating it too,
Was reserved for the bourgeoisie.
I was given pyrite,
And told that it was gold.
I was promised true happiness,
For the price of my soul.
The system got me,
With a low-down, old trick;
They told me to keep working,
And I'd get the carrot-on-the-stick.
They beat me and stomped me,
Treated me just like a dog.
They hoarded the good food,
And gave me the scraps for the hogs.
Now they seek to enslave me,
Saying I committed a "crime."
Never mentioned the horrors
They have put me through in time.
Like certain diseases,
For which there are no cures.
Or, the fact that water,
Is never quite pure.
Who am I? What is my name?
I'm called lower class, you see.
At least, in this capitalist system,
Thats what they've labeled me.
And, I have one promise left,
(I know still believing is odd);
Maybe now they can euthanize me,
So I can Question this "God."

By: Kang Tegi Nickerson

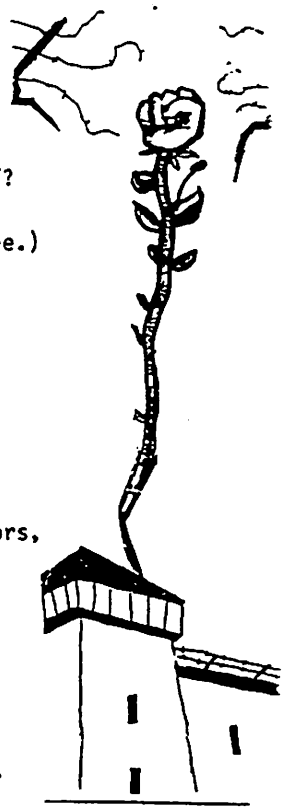
"Rage"

Careening emotions, abyssmal swirl;
deep raging forces;
reason sent atwirl.
-oOo-
Temper blazing w' supernoval heat;
terminal meltdown;
self-imposed defeat.

—C. Horne; 10-24-93



"I DO NOT TRUST YOU"



Have you met Uncle Sam?
Sometimes known as "Sam, I am"
Fully stated, "I am the thief,"
In red, white and blue, American chief?
Do you know the A.N.C. ?
(They supposedly make South Africa free.)
How about the Parliament?
(The Queen of England's government.)
Well.. I do not trust you Uncle Sam!
You say you want me? I'll be damned!
I do not trust you A.N.C.!
You are no friend of those like me!
I do not trust you Parliament!
I do not trust any government!
I do not trust your friends or neighbors,
The ambassadors or secretary of labor.
Nor the F.C.C. or the F.B.I.,
Secret Service, secret spies.

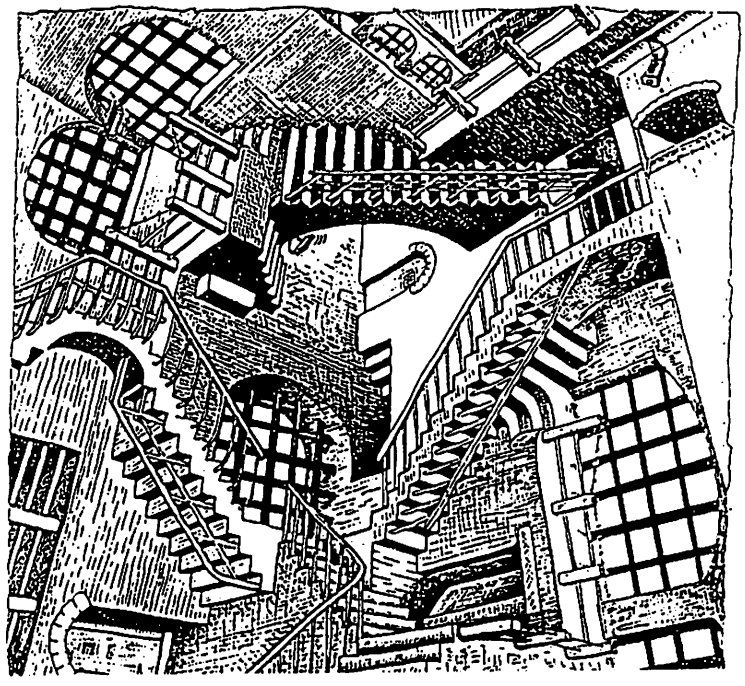
I do not trust you oligarchy,
Hierarchy or Monarchy.
You get on TV, say you care,
Take all the money and will not share.
I do not trust you, for you see,
All my friends believe in Anarchy!

By: Kang Tegi Nickerson, #636514 Hughses Unit

"Emotional Exile"

Emotions a turbulant fury,
bitterly bound...
chained.
-oOo-
Raging passions churn within a heart,
coldly hidden...
pained.

—C. Horne; 2-17-93



CONTACTS

Active Transformation
P.O. Box 11508
Detroit, MI 48211
(An excellently produced Direct Action anarchist newspaper. Free to prisoners.)

Albuquerque ABC & IWW
2300 Central Ave. SE, PMB 122
Albuquerque, NM 87106
(Supports prisoners & puts out a bulletin.)

Anarcho-Syndicalist Review
P.O. Box 2824
Champaign, IL 61825
(Quarterly journal of anarcho-syndicalism. Prisoner subs $5/year)

Books Through Bars
4722 Baltimore Ave.
Philadelphia, PA 19143
(Free books to prisoners. Supports prisoners' rights.)

Break The Chains
P.O. Box 25706
Eugene, OR 97402
(Provides anarchist literature. Publishes a zine called "Revolt".)

Claustrophobia ABC
P.O. Box 1721
Baltimore, MD 21203
(Prisoner support group. Puts out anarchist newspaper and literature.)

Discussion Bulletin
P.O. Box 1564
Grand Rapids, MI 49501
(A bi-monthly bulletin of anarchist-socialist discussion & debate. $3/year.)

Industrial Workers of the World (IWW)
103 W. Michigan Ave.
Ypsilanti, MI 48197
(Revolutionary syndicalist union. Publishes "The Industrial Worker". Info on revolutionary industrial unionism.)

News & Letters
59 East Van Buren St., Room 707
Chicago, IL 60605
(Publishes monthly Marxist-Humanist revolutionary newspaper. Contains lots of stuff on prison issues. Free to prisoners.)

Prison Legal News
2400 NW 80th Street, PMB 148
Seattle, WA 98117
(Monthly zine focusing on prison news & issues, and prisoners' rights litigation. Prisoner subs $15/yr.)

New Unionist
1821 University Ave. W., #S-116
St. Paul, MN 55104
(Libertarian socialist labor group. Publishes monthly newsletter. Supports prisoners.)

Raze The Walls!
P.O. Box 22774
Seattle, WA 98122
(Anarchist newsletter "Off Our Knees". Puts out a resource guide. Write for info.)

Socialist Party of Texas
P.O. Box 2640
Austin, TX 78768-2640
(Publishes "Lone Star Socialist". Supports prisoners.)

South Chicago ARA-ABC Zine Distro
P.O. Box 721
Homewood, IL 60430
(Provides revolutionary anarchist literature and zines to prisoners. Distributes **Chain Reaction**.)

******* ATTENTION PRISONERS *******

All prisoners **must** return this order form to continue receiving **Chain Reaction** in the year 2000. If you are a prisoner and do not return this form by March 15, 2000, we will assume you are no longer interested. Regular free world subscribers can use this same form. Subs can be paid for with stamps or cash. No checks or M.O.s please. **Chain Reaction** is Free to prisoners but we need donations of stamps from those who are able to contribute to keep it going. Thanks!!!

Mail to: **South Chicago ARA-ABC Zine Dist.**
P.O. Box 721
Homewood, IL 60430

Name_____

I.D.#_____Unit_____

Address_____

City_____State_____Zip_____

Check one or more:

__Regular Sub ($4/4 issues)

__Prisoner Sub (Free)

__Sustaining Donation of $_____
(Helps keep **Chain Reaction** going.)

MORE CONTACTS ON PAGE 15

I DIDN'T CARE

They took away the rights of the immigrant,
But I didn't care because I wasn't a immigrant.

They took away the rights of the poor,
But I didn't care because I wasn't poor.

They took away the rights of the homeless,
But I didn't care because I wasn't homeless.

They took away the rights of the drug dealers,
But I didn't care because I wasn't a drug dealer.

They took away the rights of the prisoner,
But I didn't care because I wasn't a prisoner.

FINALLY, they took away the rights of everybody,
But it was too late to do anything about it.
BECAUSE NOBODY CARED!

Take Action!  **Take Action!**

S. Chicago ARA-ABC Zine Distro
P.O. Box 721
Homewood, IL 60430