REACTION

aptive Minds" Free To Prisoners $1



Who We Are

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

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

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

* 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

Revolution?



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.

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

"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



"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

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

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 kidnapped, enslaved and treated as sub-human.

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 ad-

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

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.

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

Morality

oday--accept the law because it is the aw--slavery might have existed a lot onger than it did.

Racial segregation was also legal. hose laws were passed by democratically lected legislatures and upheld by .S. courts, including the Supreme Court f the United States. Again, no one rgued that racial segregation was llegal; people argued it was wrong and njust.

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

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.

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

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

Many of these antics had prison warders hot under the collar as the cons were rubbing it in that the prisoncrats 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 strobelights. 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.



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

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

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

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.

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,

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!

Book Review by:Daniel L. Knod #805621

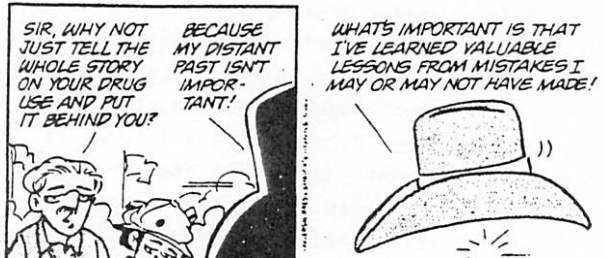
Gripping... "Voices From Within the Prison Walls" grabs the reader and pulls him into a world that strips a man of his self-pride and dignity in an effort to to break him mentally, physically and spiritually (if need be), to conform to the slave master's rule. This book is a true masterpiece!

"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

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.



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 resolu-





ort anarchists imprisoned by V. Lenin subsequent to
s fought against Franco's fascist forces while at
ly organizing libertarian communism in industries and
d by Hitler,unfortunately won out and thousands of
anco's prisons. The A.B.C. once again organized to
es of solidarity and mutual aid, and in the tradition
d an A.B.C. page to support workers/prisoners
some A.B.C. locals in Texas very soon to aid building
the making. We ask all prisoners and workers to read

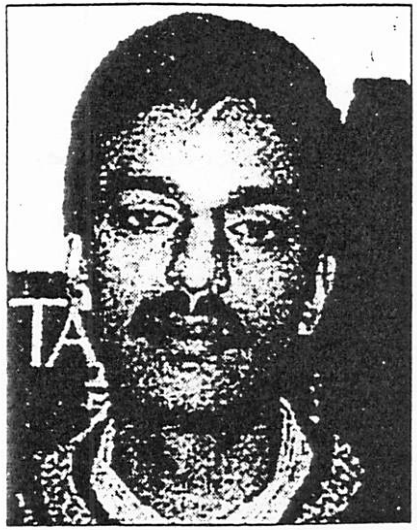
Two dead. One triggerman. No accomplice(s). Guilty says the Neuces County prosecutor. The jury agrees and subsequently sentences Martin Gurule to the ultimate sentence. Forthwith he is sent to the infamous Death Row at the Ellis Unit in Huntsville. He later escapes on Thankgiving Day only to be(allegedly) 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

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

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

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:

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

cates (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

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

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,

antation...

ing 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 super-

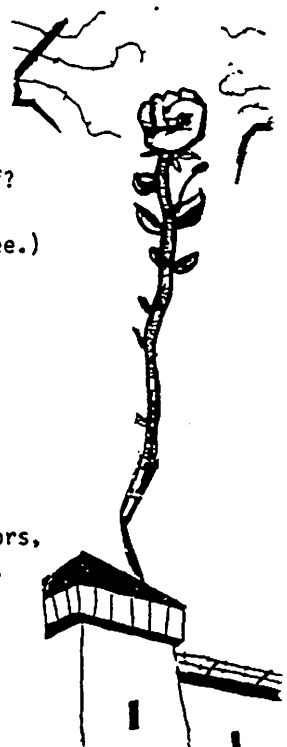
"EUTHANIZE ME"

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,

"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.



NTACTS

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

They took away the rights of the immi
But I didn't care because I wasn't a

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

They took away the rights of the home
But I didn't care because I wasn't ho

Take Action!



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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.)

New Unionist
1821 University Ave. W., #S-116
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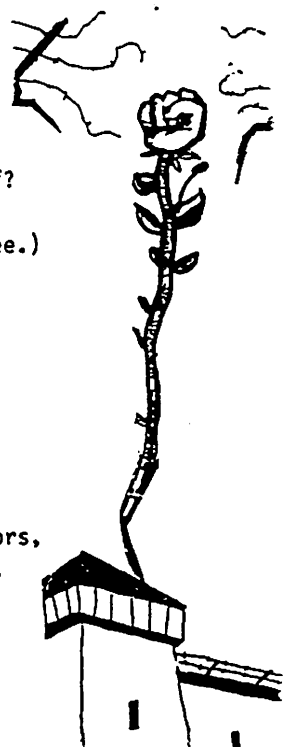
"I DO NOT TRUST YOU"



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.

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



ing 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 super-

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,

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. cates (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

M—OR THE SOLUTION?

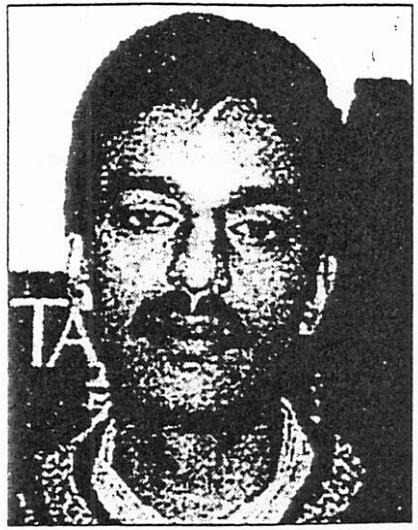
Imagine that we're living in an old, run-down building in a poverty-stricken neighborhood and that some of us in this building decide to do something to make our living arrangements better. So, we start cleaning up the trash, painting and making repairs; BUT, at the same time, some of us are throwing 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

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

Saptal Ram

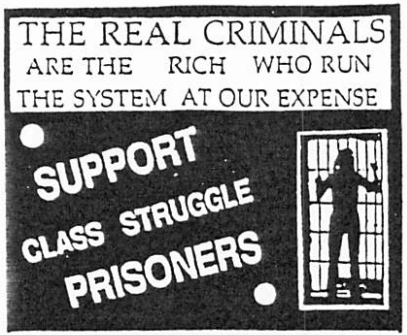


Saptal Ram was assaulted again 19th of August 1999 by prison officers in the segregation unit at Frankland prison. The latest attack began when Saptal went to go on exercise and was jostled around by screws as he left the shower area to put on his

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







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.

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 resolu-

Serial Killer Runs For President

As we Texas prisoners are painfully aware, George Bush Jr., more aptly dubbed "Bloody Bush" the Execution 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

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

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!

FROM THE TRENCHES ...
(Continued from previous page)

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 in-

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.

ches...

LETTERS

arity. When you write, please specify whether or
expressed are those of the writer and do not
ain Reaction.]

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.

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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 Esco-

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 govern-

's Lament

kidnapped, enslaved and treated as sub-human.

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

* * * * * * * * * * *

POLICE STATE TERRORIZES CHILDREN

Ever since the Columbine High School shootings in Littleton, Colorado, school ad-

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

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

"Well, under capitalism workers become alienated
rom their true creative spirits and human potential
arough having to perform dull, repetitious work over
hich they have little control. We have to perform
his kind of labor in order to survive which requires
lot of our life's energies. So much so, it's difficult
o have time to tap into our human potetial, and as I
aid, we're already robbed of our creative powers in
he production procss. Further, the profits we generate
or the boss class get turned around and used against
s in the form of labor displacing technology,an
dditional alienation from the value we create.
orkers are alienated are alienated as individuals
nd collectively as we have no democratic say in what
ets produced, or how it gets produced. Neither do
e have any democratic say in how society is constructed.
he ruling class, untill we workers decide to change it,
as a monopoly on all this, including institutions

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!"

"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

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.

* * * * * * * * * * *

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

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.



Though our coverage is international in
ope, our primary focus is on the social,
onomic, and political issues confronting
xas prisoners and workers. We believe,
wever, that these issues and their reso-
tion are relevant to all prisoners and
rkers worldwide.

We encourage you to submit articles, art,
ippings and other information concerning
isoner and worker issues. All submissions
come permanent contributions to **Chain**
action collective and cannot be returned.
don't make any money off this and don't
ply that any payment of any kind is
fered for submissions. We reserve the
ght to reject any material contrary to
e goals and purposes of **Chain Reaction**
llective. Send all submissions to:

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

CHAIN REACTION

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