

MORE EFFECTIVE PRISONER SUPPORT



OWENS, JIMMIE, JR. / POST DISPATCH
Handcuffs and leg irons are used to shackle prisoners each time they leave their isolation cells at the prison. Several officers escort



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The monstrous U.S. gulag system is the crystallized essence of the class war being waged by the super-predators who control this country and genocidally menace the world. It is ground zero in the struggle against authority, coercion, racism, sexism, homophobia, injustice, brutality, state criminality - everything! It's the most venal institution of all and dominates all others, domestically. Everything funnels into it like a sinister black hole. It's the linchpin component of the international slave trade.

So, for domestic activists - especially conscious, fearless, motivated anarchists, this is where our focus has to be, to maximize our effectiveness. Think about it. If you want to fight racism, what is more racist than the drug round-ups in the black community? This is where 1/3 of young black men - 1/2 in inner cities (and more!) are ensnared in some form of the government's punishment industry. You can't stand slavery? Slavery is openly spelled out as part of the U.S. constitution (13th Amendment) as "legal" for prisoners - in the very Amendment that supposedly abolished slavery!!!

You wanna fight for women's rights? What about the exploding population of women prisoners who are overwhelmingly poor, black mothers? Children's rights? How do you like the state's kidnapping of these women's children for their own terrible purposes? Do you detest bonehead Nazis? The real Nazis run the prisons and the government. The Indiana gulag system is basically run by the Klan and this is typical!

Do you want to abolish capitalism and create genuine worker's control over their own lives? Think about slave prison labor and the efforts of the courageous prisoners in Missouri who are trying to create a union for simple, basic protections for prisoner laborers and are being beaten, stabbed and thrown into the hole and mostly ignored by outside activists. We must support their principled activism! It goes at the heart of this heartless system.

Do you wanna fight police brutality? Medical experimentation,

neglect and murder? Do you think free speech is important? Freedom, justice - Life? The worst predation in this country happens constantly every hour of every day in the hidden, unreported about, torture chambers incarcerating 2,000,000 of our brothers and sisters. Do you care about the so-called mentally ill, forced drugging, the handicapped, hepatitis or the AIDS epidemic? Where do you think the **3** breeding grounds are for these and every other abomination occurring throughout Amerika?

All the corruption of politicians and the greed of corporations are suckling and gorging on this human meat market of misery. All the lies and cover-ups emanate from these state-run death centers.

I'll give you a brief example. A lady I work with named Virgie Jackson is an African-American with two sons in prison. One son had been complaining for weeks of a medical problem down in Pinckneyville Prison in southern Illinois. He was refused a visit to the prison doctor. These doctors, like all prison employees, are the dregs of their profession.

One day, this 35 year old father of five had a heart attack and died. They found he had advanced, untreated diabetes. When my friend looked into the prison records about her son, she found out they listed him as having been paroled. He had left the prison, alright - as a murder victim of the state! Nothing was done or even contemplated to the perpetrators of this awful crime.

In fact, prison work (like the police forces) attract sexual perverts, predators, racists, sadists because they know they can get away with assault, rape, theft, even outright murder! Idi Amin and Josef Mengele could only dream of such a scenario and no one gives a damn because the government has everyone brainwashed into demonizing these people (like us dreaded anarchists). Others who may be somewhat aware of the monstrousness of the situation are catatonic with fear.

That is why we have got to be relentless. We've got to blow the lid off this whole huge living nightmare. For their dungeons are their Achille's heel. Why do you think they are so intent on

suppressing ideas to and from prison? These are the breeding grounds not just of pain and misery, but also of advanced consciousness and the desire to revolt! The most brilliant people - the articulate analysts - the most fearless rebels are also the most locked down. It is where we hafta go to find the boiled down truth of the prisons and of the outs!

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Voltaire once said the most dangerous thing in the world is the 50 paged pamphlet. The Communist Manifesto was what? 48 pages? Abraham Lincoln once told Harriet Beecher Stowe, author of Uncle Tom's Cabin, "So! You're the lady who started the war!"

We have to step up the level of our propaganda several notches, along with our dedication and effectiveness, if we're serious about abolishing the prisons, the state and all of the other abominable institutions.

Young people are not afraid to learn. They want to learn! They want a genuine future based on truth instead of lies, sharing instead of greed, love instead of hate. They know this is not going to be allowed to happen if the greed gone wild, ever more repressive fascist regime in power is allowed to dictate all of our futures.

It is our job to draw the blueprints for a genuine future of freedom and equality for all of the children of this world. To do this means we must go to the main source of truth and insight about this horrible system and what we must do to stop it. We must work hand-in-glove with the most conscious prisoners, who are being held captive by the world's main enemy - the U.S. government and the states.

Prisoners can help us in many ways. They can educate us, befriend us, guide us, offer emotional and psychological support, show us true comradeship when we really need it, humor us, enliven our publications with articles, poetry and artwork and so on. We can do the same for them. We all need eachother.

But, we're here today trying to learn from eachother how to become more effective prison abolition anarchists. The most important

thing each and every one of us can do is to resolve to cross the fear line, get off the dime, overcome inertia and propel ourselves to become what we are capable of becoming - ever evolving, real time beings striving to maximize our loving potential. This to me means a full, vibrant life of genuine mutually beneficial personal relations, a full range of interests and pleasures, a panorama of desires and adventures and emotions and a life of dedication to the realization of anarchy. Despite having my nose quite often to the grindstone with work, ^{my life} is a joyous, daily discovery - a thrill ride of life - despite being mired in a death glorying culture. S

Here's a few things that keep me anxious to awaken every morning.

1. Music. I blast music all day long no matter where I am or what I'm doing. Smash the television, the computers, the video games and the movies and play, sing &/or listen to music.
2. Write. Write hand-written letters to loved ones everyday - inside and out.
3. Read voraciously.
4. Talk constantly and listen respectfully and engage in serious conversations frequently.
5. Think and develop your ideas relentlessly.
6. Develop positive attitudes towards necessary work. Sing while you clean the house. Do two, three or four things at once. Be positive, helpful to others. Be kind and honest. Never tolerate predation.
7. Knock off and just have fun, planned or unplanned, but never be lazy or let people down. Do what you like to do. Try not to let stress fry you out.
8. Don't sell yourself short. You can accomplish what you set out to do, but you must persevere. We all make mistakes but can make amends and improve ourselves.
9. Remain a child, pursue your dreams and surround yourself with actual children, who live in wonder.

10. Above all love yourself. This beyond profane society tries to make us handcuff our lives with deep-seated self-hate. "We're shit! You can't do this, can't do that. You'll never be able to do anything so don't even try. Wait until you die and if you didn't screw up too much, you might get to go to Heaven. Everything sucks. The only thing in life is to sell your soul for the almighty dollar so you can buy a bunch of crap and become an obese couch potato. 6

That's the real bullshit, of course, because each and every one of us is a marvelous creature capable of incredible things. All it takes is the confidence and determination to become whatever you want. Once you overcome self-hate you can love others and fight for truth and beauty with a smile in your heart. A selfless purposefulness is self-love in action.

Mindset of Purposefulness

This society relies on the so-called base instincts to function - follow the leader, you are insignificant, the only thing you can hope to accomplish is the accumulation of material wealth.

All that has to be overcome by a lifetime of serious, personal struggle. We all need love. We must learn how to love self and others. If we can't effectively overcome self-hate our work cannot be genuine. For, Anarchy springs from love and a love for life amidst a world of hate and death.

We can never ever let that flickering ember of love and life and belief in ourselves die out. If we do, our development will be based on arrogance, bitterness and malvolence. We have to live our entire lives in childlike wonder and find happiness in simple things.

We have to be reflectively honest and want to work to help others. We need to want other people to love us. Like John Lennon said "Love is wanting to be loved." For love is the freedom to act as ourselves being ourselves harmoniously and productively with other people.

I call it the fear line that we must cross to be able to do this.

All the atomic bombs and lies and police and brainwashed robots plugged into hideous systems create a lot of fear in us. We must attain our rightful fearlessness to live for real. This doesn't mean we should be reckless or foolish. Our thoughts and actions cannot be harnessed and our potentials and desires need to operate in harmony with our infinite universe. 7

We've all got unique talents and a huge part of our personal happiness and satisfaction is in developing these talents in such a way that not only keeps our personal curiosity and interest stimulated but also contributes to the good of our society.

It's a fine balance. Sometimes we must do things that need to be done and overcome several times daily, inertia, not gripe and do it! Develop a mindset that helps to make it more fun than it may actually be. For example, today is the day of three other events I would also like to be at. My best friend, Richard, is getting married for the first time today, the Bughouse Square Debates are going on in Chicago which my main collaborator Jane Doe is part of and a community outreach program in a nearby black community is taking place which I spoke at last year and would like to do again this year. My wife and children don't like it when I travel out of town but I determined that this conference was the most important place for me to be this weekend.

I read somewhere that 40% of young people in the U.S. don't want to have children because the world is such a terrible place to raise them into. That's a surrendering to despair and hopelessness. People throughout the world live in squalor, oppression - even starvation amidst epidemic diseases, but they still try to live, have families and struggle to survive and seek meaning and happiness.

Everyone on the face of our Earth deserves a full life filled with love, promise and accomplishment. We have to take it and make it so and not let the evil bastards that lord over this world smirkingly manipulate us to limit our own lives.

Making Connections

If you approach people in a friendly, non-threatening manner, they generally will respond positively. For example, I always make it a point when I am at CopyMax to assist other people with the 8 machines and explain the work I'm doing if they show their curiosity and pass out free zines. The workers there appreciate this, as they don't have to deal with the then frustrated customers. I also make sure to give the workers plenty of zines for them to read. They in turn take a blind eye to all the printing I do and the small amount I claim to have done, but keep an eye out for any troublesome bosses. I've gotten printing done at a big union hall, a psychiatric prison, at schools, businesses - wherever. You've got to keep an eye out for these types of opportunities and act like this type of work is the most natural and rightful thing in the world, which it is instead of something somehow illicit. You should maintain a relaxed determined confidence and be ready to maximize your time to make copies without an air of suspiciousness. You can collate the papers later.

I'm not too big on the internet or computers in general, so I'll skip talking about that. I know email is an important organizing tool and I use word processing a lot to transcribe and edit pieces by myself and others, mostly prisoners. Very very few prisoners have access to a computer. I see people who have become sort of virtual-so hooked up to their computers are they. I cannot use the computer at work, so I must do productive work differently. I write a lot of handwritten letters and essays while I am being paid at work. I can also do a lot of cut and paste zinemaking there on my breaks. Another important organizing tool of course, is the telephone. I use phone cards because I have access to a regular phone, but can't make calls from it. Phone cards register as an 8 00 number and thus, aren't recorded.

I am big on carrying notebooks to jot down notes, ideas or contact information. I like to make phone lists, address books and other lists of contacts. It's important to keep in touch by

word or letter to those you are working with, frequently. I often collaborate with people far away and find email inadequate for this. I like to work on several projects at once, taking a few weeks for 9 each to finish, allowing for back and forth snail mail correspondence.

Paying for all of this is an ongoing problem. I like to maximize my money's worth in mailings. For a one ounce letter, I put in five sheets - even if some of them are blank pages, for prisoners appreciate them and the thoughtfulness they represent. Anything more than five ounces should be brought up to a pound and sent as media mail at \$1.42. You can buy a little postal scale that is quite accurate at a garage sale for a dollar. Another thing I do for my distro is have a bulk rate permit. It costs a one time fee of \$150 and a yearly fee of \$150. You must mail at least 200 pieces, but if they are under 3.2 ounces, they only cost 26.8¢ apiece. Regular first class mail costs 37¢ for the first ounce and 23¢ for each additional ounce. Mailing overseas is tough. Each ounce to Europe costs 80¢. But a 20 paged zine digest size (five sheets) in a regular envelop is an ounce. The trick is to maximize the paper (margins just big enough to copy, print big enough to read) but still make the zine fairly clean, easy to read and crafted in such a way as to hold the person's interest and respect for the effort put into making it.

Zines are extremely important, especially to prisoners. It is often the only way they get to see the unbridled truth about what is happening in the world and is the big reason that Bush's prison gauleiters have been ordered to try and suppress them. Many new rules are being implemented to disrupt correspondence and suppress ideas. Zines fill many roles - information, specific instructions, updates, useful contacts and empowerment. They are the voice of sanity, fearlessness and revolt. They are today what Thomas Paine's Common Sense was in his day.

Distros are important because they are a legitimate publishing source that the prisons must accept even though they hate them. A quality distro (of zines) actively pursues collaborating with others

who have something important and useful to say. Distros collect other good zines for reprinting and distribution and often craft their own excellent zines or produce them in collaboration with others. It a good source of hard to find seriously good zines.

Attaining zines and other publications from around the world is always important and can be accomplished by trades of zines, a subscription, going to events with zines, ordering them through distros, going to underground bookstores, conferences and so on. Glean through them and make some connections through them, trade ideas, use eachother's graphics to emphasize your points and spread the word in general.

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There are usually poetry slams, public debates, opportunities to speak, put on workshops, speak to classes and address rallies if one is persistent and prepared to offer something significant. We should be out front and working to get our message out. Even mainstream events can offer a chance to table, talk to people and maybe say a few words to some people. We should always be ready to reach out to people at rallies and demos that people won't be asked to pay for, but striking and vivid enough so they might actually read them and think about what is being said. It's painstaking and often frustrating work, but very necessary. Occassionally you will run across someone who may become a lifelong comrade and dear friend.

I try to write a lot of letters to the editor and send them to several newspapers, zines and magazines. The local papers sometimes print them and even the Chicago dailies have printed some. When they do, over 1,000,000 people might read that letter. People read the letters more than the news. Also getting quotes in these papers is important, even though they often butcher them. Many people ave no idea of an underground press and this may be one of the few times they read something they can finally identify with. Every little bit of exposure helps to make us less demonized and more credible for we have the truth and clear sighted awareness on our side to help make our convincing case.

Similarly, I think it is important to work with other groups fighting for similar goals, such as groups fighting against police brutality, against the death penalty, for justice, equality and freedom, in whatever manner they are working with. We should attend their meetings, introduce them to the concept of free zines, speak, be active as can be and make connections there. Many serious activists may be doing the same thing or connected to a group that they aren't satisfied with. Often, even mainstream grant money progressive groups have dedicated anarchists doing the street level work. It's a great way to learn what people are thinking and meet people to work with. It's part of the benefits of genuine solidarity work. We have to connect with so many people and give them empowering brain food and it seems like we have precious little time to do it, so we must be diligent.

We also have to live our lives and relate to people with our time and activities. We must learn to be flexible in our everyday lives. Get up early to make coffee and do some work, then have breakfast with people, do something someone else wants to do, do some other kind of necessary work, going someplace, relaxing, reading, writing, making phone calls, visiting people - whatever it is you do during the course of a day, but all the while, surreptitiously and unobtrusively working away on your project. Blend it into your daily activities. Sometimes you won't work on things much, other times you'll feel compelled to focus at length on your task. Life should be a lot of fun and doing good work makes the times you knock off and party out with your friends more deserving.

Working With Prisoners

Working with prisoners is very serious business but also a lot of fun. All the emotions come into play and are even heightened because of their forced confinement and the Nazi-like control their captors have over their lives. Working with them on writing projects is doubly difficult because of the meddling of the authorities and

often prisoners are punished for having the audacity to speak their minds through zines. Usually, the gutless tactic of fabricating ¹² bogus conduct tickets is used. Then, they ransack their cell, take their writings and other possessions and throw them into the hole for an unspecified time, threaten to lengthen their time and make it more miserably spent, more deprived and so on to try to silence them. Authorities may assault prisoners either directly (the prison goon squad) or have a traitor prisoner assault them for them.

So, it takes uncommon courage and dedication from the prisoners to send these reports out and give the OK to have them published in anarchist zines, for they know sooner or later, they will be made to suffer because of their selfless decision. So, it doubly behooves those of us entrusted with their work to deal with it, responsibly. This is not always easy, as so many prisoners have so much to say about the rapidly changing-for-the-worst conditions in the U.S. gulags. You must at least, provide an update on the status of their project, if you can't get at it, in a timely fashion. Maybe someone else in the ABC Network can deal with it, especially if that prisoner is incarcerated in their area. Coordinating this type of serious prisoner support work among the various ABC's is of paramount importance, especially in the face of increased governmental crackdowns on prisoner's rights, and by extension, our own rights. Several states (maybe all of them due to federal dictates) are banning "anarchy" that vaguely demonized buzzword of today, in the content of written material received by prisoners. "Anarchy" of course, can be defined as anything that authorities do not like. Orwell and Kafka would have a tough time believing the madness emanating out of Washington and their hundreds of dungeons these days!

We have to respect them and be sensitive to them. They have so little and are under tremendous repression. But, it must be a mutually respectful relationship. We cannot "tell" them what to do or what not to do and vice versa. A lot of predation goes on in prison and

some unprincipled convicts are into "gaming" people for things they need or think they need, like money or attention. Some become 13 highly politically conscious without making the personal changes that bring their actual being, their real personality in tune with their professed beliefs. Many prisoners have been criminalized and are imbued with self-hate, a criminal mentality and an inability to deal with people on an honest level of mutual respect and honesty. It's not an easy thing to do - overcome a lifetime of being so conditioned, to be legitimate and genuine among such dishonesty and official predation, corruption, lying, glorified violence - even readily acceptable and encouraged genocide. Bitterness and hopelessness and a cynical seething malvolence and hatred often take hold of people's hearts and souls. But we can't allow ourselves to fall prey to that and if we do, we have to get out of it and help others be forewarned against these people.

Prison authorities also actively try to drive the most conscious prisoners insane. They drug them, torture them and try to make it seem like nobody cares about them. They rampage through their possessions, feed them garbage, humiliate them a thousand ways and sadistically punish them for sport to make it seem like their living hell is eternal. So, on a basic human level we have to connect with them to offer our humanity and show them we care about them.

Incarceration and forced prisoner labor is domestic, modern-day slavery. None of us are free because of it, as workers and as human beings. It's happening all over the world - the sex slave trade in Thailand and other places, the contract slaves in India, Pakistan, Brazil and elsewhere and the countless millions of slaves forced to work for companies and individuals throughout the world on every populated continent. They all get their "legitimacy" from the U.S. example. Just as Hitler found his justification for the Nuremberg Laws and his vision of Lebensraum and how South Africa patterned their system of apartheid after American Jim Crow Laws, so too do the modern slavers get their protection from the U.S.

slavers of today who pose as respectable businessmen and politicians.

So, like the days and years before the Civil War, we must ¹⁴ develop an abolitionist movement with the fervor and intensity of William Garrison and John Brown to challenge and overthrow this hideous system and help create worldwide anarchy. The very future of life on this Earth is at stake. Will we struggle for freedom, justice, equality and genuine liberty for all or will we accept this repulsive system of worldwide slavery and give up our children's future and go down with Mother Earth?

The Maws of Moloch

"America means prison." - Malcolm X

"My time will be here for me to be released from this cage. But the sad thing about the whole deal is the day I leave, this cage will be filled right back up." - Lawrence Bell

This is an important point. Prison is a human meat market - a very profitable, highly racist punishment industry that uses human beings at its raw material to be exploited. The only "product" this industry creates is human misery. Unlike many U.S. corporations that use sweatshop child labor from overseas, the punishment industry uses domestic slave labor that it body snatches off the streets of America's ghettos and barrios.

Like the whole system itself, it must be abolished and the slaves must be set free. Slaves thirst for and deserve liberation!

"Freedom" "Democracy" "the free press" "liberty" are sick lies in Amerika and, like everything else in this extreme capitalist society, are dependent on the amount of money you control and the color of your skin. "Who do you know?" "Where do you live?"

Amerika doesn't want nor thinks it needs a large section of the population - the poor people of all colors - the darker the more targetted. The rulers can and do use foreign labor at pittance wage levels and domestic "illegals" for the drudgery work. Workers willing to be sufficiently brainwashed and assimilated into the industries are put into wage-slave positions at various levels of pay.

It's true that a relatively high percentage of workers receive living wages and even a comparatively high amount of money. This is the "trickle down" from stolen wealth inheritance, establishing a sort of wage caste system, and the residue of the fact that per capita, the U.S. usurps over six times it's share of the world's resources.

CEO's "earn" hundreds of times the amount of the company employees who do the actual work. This "comfort" is exchanged for their soul, their ability to understand social reality or even to care to do anything about it! They live a life trying to avoid fear of the government, which rampages worldwide! Unable to overcome fear, they accept the lies amidst a vacuous, death marching culture of pornographic triteness! It's a life of Big Brother bludgeoned lies!

The poorer the worker is, the harder and more dangerous the work becomes and the closer to homelessness - and prison - they become.

The richer you are, the less real work you do. I don't consider exploiting and manipulating (coercing) people as work. The more money and power you wield, the more criminal and dangerous you become. The truly rich and powerful are beyond the laws their lawyers and politicians have crafted for them.

They are free to mass murder workers and peasants around the globe, enjoy the best of everything, wallow in obscene decadence and luxury, have every whim catered to, stockpile astronomical wealth, have thoroughly trained, unbelievably powerful and ruthless armies at their beck and call with a bought and sold brainwash press fawning all over them incessantly.

It's Adolph Hitler's dream come true, embodied by the ungifted yet thoroughly evil, George W. Bush.

We are sick of walking on eggshells with our words beseeching these monsters to be slightly less cruel and murderous, here or there, while they obliterate whole countries, destroy the infrastructure, poison the environment and force the survivors to suffer through endless, gruesome - even society-wide infanticide! - death.

It's so insane, that mass slaughter and world domination are no longer good enough for these enemies of us all. Now, they talk matter-of-factly about and are planning nuclear annihilation of certain countries who do not submit to their satisfaction. Implementing these "policies" will inexorably lead to the extermination of every living creature - great and small - on Earth!

Remember who we are dealing with here! George Bush considers Ariel Sharon - that hideous, colossal butcher for decades - as a "Man of Peace!" This is Nixon / Kissinger at the height of murderous lunacy!

So we must realize that world war is upon all of us already and ground zero in this slavocracy is thy nation's dungeons. As natives of Amerika, it behooves us to fight for freedom and life in the belly of the beast. For the world gets bombs and we get bars. We are all prisoners until all slaves attain genuine freedom! A just world is a world without exploitation, without slaves and without prisons.

Revolution is Never Begun Anew, It only Continues where others Left off....





ON THE MOVE. THE PURPOSE OF MOVE IS TO INSTILL DIRECTION, ENFORCE COMMITMENT AND REVOLT AGAINST THE INACTIVITY OF THIS SYSTEM, THE GOVERNMENT, ALL GOVERNMENTS THAT HAVE TAKEN THE GOVERNING POWER INHERENT IN ALL PEOPLE AND PLACED IT IN THE HANDS OF THE EXPLOITATIVE FEW. THE MOVE ORGANIZATION IS A DEEPLY SERIOUS, LOYAL, TOTALLY COMMITTED VANGUARD OF REVOLUTIONARIES, SWORN TO RIGHT THE WRONGS OF OPPRESSION, AND FIGHT THE INJUSTICE OF EXTERNAL GOVERNMENT. THIS SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT HAS TWISTED PEOPLE'S MINDS, CONDITIONED PEOPLE'S THOUGHTS AND BEHAVIOR THROUGH SYSTEMATIC TRAINING, IN ORDER TO KEEP PEOPLE ENSLAVED TO THE SYSTEM FOR EXPLOITATIVE PURPOSES. GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN MERCHANDISING PEOPLE'S POWER OF PURPOSE, POLITICING THE WAY OF PEOPLE'S FREEDOM, EXPLOITING THE GOVERNING POWER OF ALL LIFE EVERY SINCE THE EXPLOITATIVE EMBEZZLEMENT OF POLITICS WAS INVENTED. THE WAY OF THIS SYSTEM IS WRONG TODAY, AND WILL BE WRONG TOMORROW UNLESS PEOPLE COMMIT THEIR SELVES TO MAKE THINGS RIGHT.

WE ARE FREEDOM FIGHTERS, COMMITTED TO FIGHT THE OPPRESSOR, WHO IS WAGING AN ALL OUT WAR AGAINST ANY RESISTANCE BY THE OPPRESSED. THIS GOVERNMENT HAS LOCKED THE MOVE 9 IN PRISON FOR 21 YEARS KNOWING WE ARE INNOCENT, THEY TOOK OUR SISTER MELRE'S LIFE AFTER DOING 20 YEARS IN JAIL, THEY BOMBED AND MURDERED 11 OF OUR FAMILY MEMBERS 14 YEARS AGO AND THEY ARE STILL TRYING TO ANNIHILATE THE MOVE ORGANIZATION BECAUSE WE WILL NOT STOP FIGHTING THIS SYSTEM. WHAT THEY ARE DOING TO MOVE AINT NO DIFFERENT THEN WHAT THE OPPRESSOR HAS DONE TO RESISTERS HISTORICALLY; LOOK WHAT NAT TURNER, GARBRIEL PROSSER, JOHN BROWN, GERONIMO, SITTING BULL, PEDRO ALBIZO CAMPOS, EMILINAO ZAPATA, AND MANY MORE EXPERIENCED, WHAT WE ARE EXPERIENCING NOW AINT NO DIFFERENT THEN WHAT THEY EXPERIENCED. PEOPLE SHOULD DEMAND THIS GOVERNMENT EXPLAIN HOW JUDGE MALMED SENTENCED 9 MOVE PEOPLE TO 30-100 YEARS EACH IN PRISON FOR THE SHOOTING OF ONE COP, WITH ONE BULLET, FROM ONE GUN, THEN ADMITTED ON PUBLIC RADIO A DAY AFTER SENTENCING MOVE TO PRISON, THAT HE DIDNT KNOW WHO SHOT THAT COP 8/8/78. UNDERSTAND, THIS AINT JUST A MOVE ISSUE THIS IS AN ISSUE OF THE OPPRESSED AGAINST THE OPPRESSOR, EVERYBODY IN THIS FIGHT SHOULD LEARN TO NEVER LET THE OPPRESSOR, THE ENEMY, CONVINCHE THEM THAT RESISTERS, FREEDOM FIGHTERS, THE OPPRESSED ARE CRIMINAL AND BELONG IN PRISON. WHENEVER PEOPLE FIGHT AGAINST OPPRESSION, THE OPPRESSOR HAS HISTORICALLY USED THE SAME TACTICS; BEAT THEM INTO SUBMISSION, AND IF THAT DONT WORK, EXTERMINATE THOSE COURAGECUS ENOUGH TO FIGHT, AND THOSE THAT ESCAPE BEING MURDERED ARE LABELED CRIMINAL AND PUT IN JAIL UNTIL THEY ARE TOO OLD TO FIGHT ANYMORE, OR FOR THE REST OF THEIR LIVES. DONT BE FOOLED BY THIS GOVERNMENT, IT'S A CALCULATED PRACTICE THEY HAVE BEEN USING SINCE THE INCEPTION OF EXTERNAL GOVERNMENT, TO BRING ABOUT CONFLICT AND DISAGREEMENT TO CAUSE SEPARATION WITHIN THE PEOPLE. THE SOUTH AFRICANS DIDNT LISTEN TO THE OPPRESSIVE GOVERNMENT OF SOUTH AFRICA WHEN THEY LABELED THE FREEDOM FIGHTERS IN THAT COUNTRY AS CRIMINALS, THE BLACK SLAVES IN THIS COUNTRY DIDNT BELIEVE THE SLAVEMASTER WHEN THEY SAID NAT TURNER WAS CRIMINAL, AMERICANS DIDNT

LISTEN TO THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT WHEN THEY SAID THE AMERICAN
 REVOLUTIONARIES WERE CRIMINAL FOR GOING AGAINST THE KING OF ENGLAND.
 IT'S NO WAY. THE OPPRESSED SHOULD BE TAKING THE WORD OF THE OPPRESSOR OVER
 SOMEBODY WHO IS BEING OPPRESSED JUST LIKE THEM. IT'S LIKE A JEWISH
 PERSON TAKING HITLER'S WORD OVER ANOTHER JEWISH PERSON DURING THE
 HOLOCAUST, LIKE A CHRISTIAN TRUSTING THE ROMANS OVER ANOTHER CHRISTIAN,
 WHILE BEING THROWN TO THE LION'S BY THE ROMANS, IT'S LIKE TRYING TO
 CONVINCED OPPRESSED PEOPLE THAT LEONARD PELTIER BELONGS IN PRISON, THAT HE
 IS A CRIMINAL, MURDERER, WHEN THE PEOPLE SAYING THIS ARE DIRECTLY
 INVOLVED IN STEALING HIS WHOLE COUNTRY AND SLAUGHTERING HIS PEOPLE INTO
 VIRTUAL EXTINCTION, EVEN UNTIL THIS VERY DAY THEY GOT HIS PEOPLE; THE
 INDIANS, THE NATURAL INHABITANTS OF THIS LAND ENSLAVED ON RESERVATIONS.
 THE OPPRESSOR WILL DO ANYTHING TO HOLD ONTO THEIR POSITION OF OPPRESSION.
JOHN AFRICA TEACH THAT THE WEAPON THIS SYSTEM USES TO DO THIS IS "DIVIDE
 AND CONQUER". AS LONG AS THEY CAN KEEP PEOPLE DISJOINTED AND FIGHTING
 AMONG EACH OTHER, THEN THEIR ENERGY WILL BE DIVIDED AND THE FOCUS WILL
 NEVER BE ON THE REAL ENEMY, THIS SYSTEM. PEOPLE MUST LEARN TO TAKE
 CONTROL AND RESPONSIBILITY FOR THEIR SELVES AND UNDERSTAND THAT WE SHOULD
 NEVER LET OURSELVES BE CATEGORIZED, DIVIDED, DESPITE ANY SO-CALLED
 DIFFERENCE BECAUSE FINALLY WE HAVE THE MOST IMPORTANT THING IN COMMON,
 THE ENEMY

ANY SO-CALLED DIFFERENCE BETWEEN US IS SECONDARY TO THAT. THE
 ONE THING THIS SYSTEM FEARS IS UNITY AMONG THE PEOPLE BECAUSE THEY KNOW
 THAT UNITY IS THE KEY TO PUSHING THEM TO DO WHAT IS RIGHT. IT IS TIME TO
 UNITE, TAKE A STAND, DONT GIVE THIS SYSTEM YOUR STRENGTH, DEMAND ANSWERS,
 PUSH THEM TO DO WHAT IS RIGHT,

THE REVOLUTION MOVE SPEAK OF AINT NO MYTH OR CONVERSATION PIECE, THERE IS
 A WAVE WELLING UP THAT'S BEEN WELLING UP FOR YEARS THAT IS SOON TO BE
 RELEASED AND WILL SUPPORT ONLY THOSE WHO CAN SWIM WHEN THE TIDE SEEMS LOW
 IT AINT SAFE TO FALL ASLEEP AND ASSUME THE TIDE AINT COMING IN, THE SMART
 THING TO DO IS MAINTAIN AWARENESS BY KEEPING YOUR MIND ON THE PROBLEM
 CAUSING SYSTEM SO WHEN THE REVOLUTIONARY WAVE DEALS THE FINAL BLOW YOU
 ARE CARRIED SMOOTHLY AS A FIGHTER, RESISTER AND NOT DROWNED AS THE
 UNAWARE. THE RESPONSIBILITY OF MOVE IS TO MAKE PEOPLE AWARE OF
JOHN AFRICA'S REVOLUTION, FOR THIS PROBLEM SYSTEM MUST BE WASHED CLEAN
SWIFTLY, UNCOMPROMISINGLY IN ORDER FOR TRUE FREEDOM TO BE FELT.

IN THE WORDS OF JOHN AFRICA- WHILE THE SO-CALLED EDUCATORS TALK OF LOVE,
 MOUTH THE NECESSITY FOR PEACE, ASSERT THE POWER OF LOVE, COMPREHEND THE
 URGENCY OF FREEDOM, THE REFORM WORLD SYSTEM CANNOT TEACH LOVE WHILE
 MAKING ALLOWANCES FOR WAR, FREEDOM WHILE MAKING ALLOWANCES FOR THE
 INCONSISTENT SHACKLES OF ENSLAVEMENT FOR TO MAKE ALLOWANCES FOR SICKNESS
 IS TO BE UNHEALTHY, TO MAKE CONCESSIONS WITH SLAVERY IS TO BE ENSLAVED,
 TO COMPROMISE WITH THE PERSON OF COMPROMISE IS TO BE AS THE PERSON YOU
 ARE COMPROMISING WITH... LONG LIVE JOHN AFRICA'S WISDOM

THE POWER OF TRUTH IS FINAL

LONG LIVE JOHN AFRICA

FREE ALL POLITICAL PRISONERS

ON THE MOVE JANET AFRICA
DEB AFRICA
JANINE AFRICA

Janine Phillips Africa #006309
Janet Holloway Africa #006308
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451 Fullerton Avenue
Cambridge Springs, Pennsylvania 16403-1238

Native Prisoners: The New Trail of Tears
by, John Two-Names

Prison is being used by the government of the United States (and Canada) as a means to continue the campaign of genocide launched against the Indigenous Peoples of Great Turtle Island, over five centuries ago.

At the present moment, there are over 2 million people encapsulated within the Iron Houses of what is now coined "The Prison Industrial Complex." It is well known that the disproportionate number of "America's" inmate population consists of Black and Latino men. What is not so widely known is that "Native Americans" constitute the largest group per capita of the entire inmate population! In essence, state and federal prisons are now the fastest growing reservations in the country.

As the trend of "rehabilitating" slips to the vengeful Calvinistic philosophy of punishment within the prison system, many of the already existing programs such as drug prevention, rehab., educational trade studies, motherhood/fatherhood groups, visiting programs and Adult Basic Education training (G.E.D.) classes are declining at an alarming rate. For many, this creates a cause for redress. For Indigenous people languishing within the penal colonies, it is a matter all too familiar.

Considering that the traditional philosophies of the various Indian Nations conflict greatly with their Euro-American counterparts, how is it then that the Native prisoner can be rehabilitated using Euro-American standards to reform herself? They cannot! Yet, it is expected by correctional officers, parole board members and other agents of the system. They expect Native people to enroll in these dwindling programs, but at the same time, these supposedly "caring" people, enforce and endorse policies which eliminate traditional practices which, if allowed, would prove to be genuinely rehabilitative. Indigenous People are subject to "enforced grooming standards" which requires one to cut off his or her hair, in violation of our religious convictions.

The cutting of the hair by force is nothing new for Indian people. It was also a mandatory act in the barbaric Indian Boarding Schools of past times. When the hair is forcibly cut, it sends one message:

"You are not good enough. Your culture and traditions are inferior to ours, and to survive, you must be like us."

Considering that many gulags go out of their way to suppress Native spiritual practices behind the walls, the message is received loud and clear.

Now that the hair is cut, it symbolically is cutting away Indigenous heritage and Indigenous religious practices, which are subject to suppression, while the prisoner is not allowed to seek rehabilitative methods through traditional Indigenous practices. There are two choices left: assimilate into the overall prison culture, further eroding all traces of humanity, or join rehabilitative programs which are designed by, for and about Euro-American people - again bleaching us further.

Indian people are stigmatized by having to live in two worlds. This can become confusing and frightening for us as we try to survive. Many turn to drugs and/or alcohol for the illusion of escape. This is the main factor in incarceration, suicide, and the other ills that plague Indian Peoples at a rate that supercedes all other racial or ethnic groups.

What is needed is a return to the old ways, and an education about herself, not a forced standard of western values and goals. We do not need an education in greed, selfishness, bigotry and falsehood. We have learned that way of living for over 500 years. It's time we break this cycle of colonization. 21

Native people cannot be rehabilitated using programs designed for someone else. It is up to us as a people to keep the traditions alive and promote Native religion in the prisons. Until this happens, until we begin to teach and learn OUR WAYS in the Iron Houses, the revolving door of recidivism will continue to be our new Trail of Tears.

Andy "J2N" Riendeau
#193786 C - Dorm
S.C.F. P.O. Box 56
Elmore, AL 36025-0056

Step by Step

It starts even before birth... an intermittent supply of poor quality food, a taxed, overweight mother's body, stress, odd hours of sleep, jarring sounds, discomfort, no medical check-ups or vitamin supplements, a difficult birth. Bottle-fed neglect, drafty, cold, rathole, noisy apartment, children crying and angry adults screaming, police sirens wailing, gunshots popping, doors slamming, sickness untreated, neonatal stimulation uncolorful, drab and drowned in offal television.

Dangers lurking, insects biting, tender moment of attention a missed opportunity, bruises and cuts, sprains and cracks, open sores, unclean hair and skin, ill-fitting clothes and shoes, so little money in a house of hopelessness. Daddy's in prison, adults on dope, despairing, full of self-hate, never having learned, never gotten a chance to be taught..

The buildings are ugly concrete and rust, with burglar bars, latches, padlocks, chains, angry signs, cracked, busted, bottle-strewn streets of joblessness. Broken windowed schools of drab filth without supplies - just a few cops and distainful, bored teachers. Cheap, stale white bread, watered down juice and off-colored mushy "food" to maybe, eat.

And the cruelty of siblings and adults, as if you're the cause of their seething pain. The fast food dissatisfaction - the high point of the day. Filthy fleabag mattress shared with a mangy dog. Precious little cheerful music or non-bitter laughter. All the melanin in the world can't protect you from anything but the sun.

Sinister prison builders are working up the high-tech, fully locked-down blueprints for your future home - a 6' x 9' cage.

Mom has to "work" to get a shitty check that is already gone the first week of every month. No nursery school or kindergarten, no day care, just older kids who are restlessly preoccupied with their own fantastic means of escape. It's just you and the television...

As you turn into a toddler, you get dragged around and humiliated and fed despair instead of love. All around you is a never relieved depression and glassy-eyed haze. You gradually become aware of a whole nuther world - a "white" world, where you will never be allowed to be.

The older kids instill their bitterness, rage and hate and play cat and mouse with the cops and throw precious eggs at cars. You see the cops poking their heads in your mom's car or in the apartment, always looking for somebody... The older kids, the teenagers, you see get ambushed by the cops on the corner, handcuffed and taken away, for a day, a week or forever. That's your looming fate.

In school, same thing. Rules, lovelessness, hunger, despair. You finally explode and smash something and begin your tracking to the big house. You've been born into a "gang" because that's where you live - in that quadrant of city blocks. That's just the way it is, like your belly button.

You've been to court already several times with your momma and aunt and grandma. You see all the people - black people - and a few chicanos. The white people sit behind the big fancy furniture and pronounce judgement. The people have to give up a lot of money or be taken away, sometimes it doesn't matter. They just get grabbed, already handcuffed and taken, even though people cry and tell them not to do that and let them go.

Innocence? There is no youthful innocence. Sex is grossly introduced as part of the

never-ending desperate game to try to get that green paper with the numbers in the corners and the old slaver's picture in the middle... 22

You've even been to prison - that horrible place - to visit "Daddy." But, you don't know who he is. He's never been allowed to even touch you. You don't know what he smells like or what it feels like to be picked up by him or to fall asleep in his arms to his soothing, protective voice.

You run with a sort of junior gang and learn how it feels to be despised and deprived. You're accused of all kinds of things. What you did and didn't do, all melt together. You learn how to lie to survive, after a fashion.

You get a whiff of adolescence. Girls... and the need to have something to show. The days of suffocating nothingness, punctuated by the exhilaration of dancing in the broken fire hydrant and trying to scatter from the cops, give way to a heightened hunt and a sense of fatalistic resignation to the inevitable.

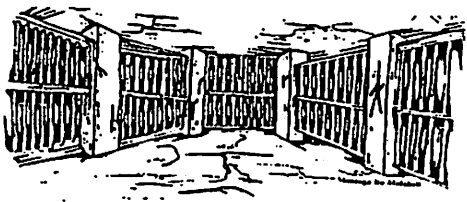
You're in cars now, getting pulled over. Some in your crew are taken. Then, you get a ticket. You miss your court date. Now, there's a warrant out for your arrest. You're becoming a "criminal" now! Pretty soon they'll get you and tack on more charges. And you're "black!" And you're a "gang member." And your Daddy's a prisoner. And now, so are you!

Auschwitz or Cook County Jail. You're brutalized and shoved into a crowded cell and given a number. You'll make money now, whether you work or not. But not for yourself or your family. The money goes for the system - the police, prison officials, prison builders, suppliers, court system, lawyers, prosecutors, companies who run prisons, invest in them or use your slave labor - and those who invest in prison stocks - all paid for by hard-working taxpayers.

It's the massive cradle-to-grave criminal enterprise known as the punishment industry. It's a hideously racist war on the poor whose sole product is human misery. As Malcolm X once said :

"America means prison!" To the system, you're a born criminal. It's modern day slavery and must be abolished. It's ground zero in this world-wide struggle for life, love and freedom against the forces of greed, cruelty and death. Liberate the death kamps!

Anthony Rayson



"Low Income Housing"

Above & Below

I think it is important to communicate to people on a level that they can best relate to, in plain English, about subjects that concern them. I try to help raise the awareness of folks on specific issues as well as the bigger picture. I endeavor to educate, entertain and help people get past their lethargy and fear. The hope is to be a good, productive and useful anarchist propagandist and be an integral part of the worldwide effort to get folks thinking and acting along the lines of effective anarchy.

Mark Henderson #78163 Admin. Seg. Iso. cell 416 14 BKs

P.O. Box 500 Grady, AR 71644

3 / 14 / 2002

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TESTIMONY BY A MALE PRISONER IN AN ARKANSAS DUNGEON

I am a prisoner currently being housed at the Cummins unit in Arkansas. I am seeking relief from the persecution of organized hate groups currently in control of the prison system, as prison officials and their agents.

These hate groups covertly are seeking to commit genocidal acts against the American people. By direct acts or purposeful inaction, they are currently maintaining prison conditions and practices which amount to unlawful testing of biological (germ) warfare agents and are responsible for the release of biological germ warfare agents against free American citizens.

Prisoners are being used to clean up hazardous waste materials, without requiring strict health and safety standards of protective gear. Prisoners are being used to remove debris from drainage ditches, which act as a release valve for wetwells, cesspools, animal holds, sewage systems, etc.

This practice brings prisoners into direct contact with disease causing agents, dangerous chemicals and other hazardous waste, such as herbicides, pesticides, fertilizers, etc. Stinging insects are also present and swarm prisoners as they interrupt breeding grounds. These conditions breed diseases and may spread potentially infectious diseases such as West Nile Virus, Yellow Fever and many other viruses.

There are also concerns about hepatitis, small pox and other such disease causing agents that could cause strep throat, 1,2 & 3 septic throat staph infections, ecoli bacteria, herpes and many other disease causing agents. Local health officials are refusing to acknowledge these factors as prisoners may be becoming host carriers of these diseases. For we can spread these diseases as carriers without initial symptoms while our skin comes into contact with this dangerous waste for as long as an eight hour stretch.

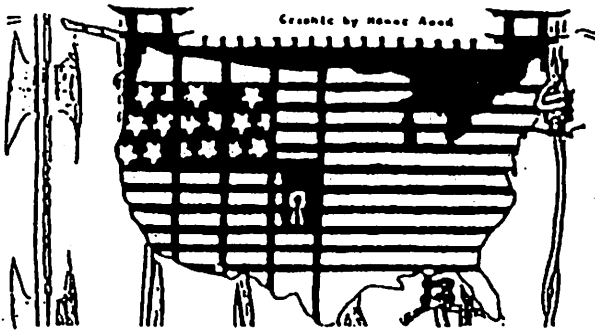
We are forced to do this under gunpoint and threats of isolation punitive cells, the elimination for the possibility of parole, corporeal punishment and even death sentences, as if you refuse to get in water or in an area where water is being splashed, you could be shot for "trying to escape." Or you may be repeatedly assaulted by fellow inmates who may be required to work harder because of your non-compliance.

And so your work may require that you please both the security agents and their arbitrary prison work gang boss/prisoner, who wield direct control over your life. I have repeatedly been disciplined and denied medical benefits for epilepsy for affending their way of life - Southern Jim Crow civil rights abuse of people of color as not being human, etc. Whites also receive the same and in some cases, worse treatment, as they are often prone to sexual attacks from stronger prisoners for their non-compliance.

Mattresses are infected, never sterilized, even with plastic covers on them.

After many years of use, these mattresses are infected with many prisoner's body fluids, germs, waste, etc.

All prison agents who are sworn to duty to uphold the law, refuse to take sufficient acts to stop these dangerous practices. At this unit, every agent assigned to administrative segregation isolation and their supervisors, all the way up to prison director Larry Morris, have been notified by legal actions. They



have still failed to take sufficient steps to protect prisoners, such as myself, their families and indeed, the American people.

Consider the programs in which the American government targets "undesirables" within this country. These include germ warfare, such as giving blankets infected with small pox to Native American women and children. Black males were injected with small pox and small pox was also placed in the ventilation systems of prisons, etc.

Here at this unit, the isolation and admin seg. wing's ventilation system is infested with rats, rodents and their diseased waste. Materials which are constantly blasted into the air are infected with rodent waste and hair, undermining its quality. Children from schools from this area come through here two or more times a week, breathing in these potentially lethal contents.

The prison authorities, the Department of Health, the F.B.I. the State Police, Attorney General's Office, etc. all offer no response to these dangerous conditions. We are trying to bring an investigation and initiate steps to protect these young American citizens (and ourselves!) Evidence of these deplorable conditions is available through the actual videotapes from the security monitoring system.

Consider when a soldier is captured by enemy forces and they infect him with contagious diseases. He is then allowed to "escape" and returns to his fellow troops, only to expose them to disease. Prisoners, their families, children and the communities they came from are thus likewise, exposed to germ warfare class agents.

Dear Brothers and Sisters! I know that there may very well be little you can do to assist us in this matter. Within the Delta area, people are not very educated and do not understand the forces that are at play here. I have received death threats and the constant harassment of prisoners who see my complaints as adverse to their immediate interests.

However, I am at this time seeking to enforce constitutional protections at my disposal and they will just have to kill me! As I will not give up. I guess what I am asking is for you to spread the word and protect yourself from similar government actions within your area.

Please send me something to read about you. And finally, love me as I would love you if you need someone to love you. I'm looking forward to hearing from you. With much love and respect, potentially an anarchist in the works.

Much Solidarity, Mark Henderson

FEATURE

Youth, the Mental Health System, and Activism:

We Need to Organize Ourselves Against Psychiatric Oppression!

by Katherine Hodges

Katherine Hodges is the 24 year-old founder of MadLib in Chicago, a sponsor group of Support Coalition International.

It's never been more urgent to expose the psychiatric war against youth. For the first time, dozens of mood and behavior drugs just for kids are in development... Chicago's public transportation is full of ads urging parents to enroll their teens in psychiatric drug testing... The drugging of so-called "pre-schizophrenic" children with toxic neuroleptics is now a reality... Rare incidents of students shooting classmates at school bring calls for more psychiatry for kids, conveniently ignoring the fact that most of the shooters had already taken psychiatric drugs, and those drugs are linked to erratic, violent behavior in some users.

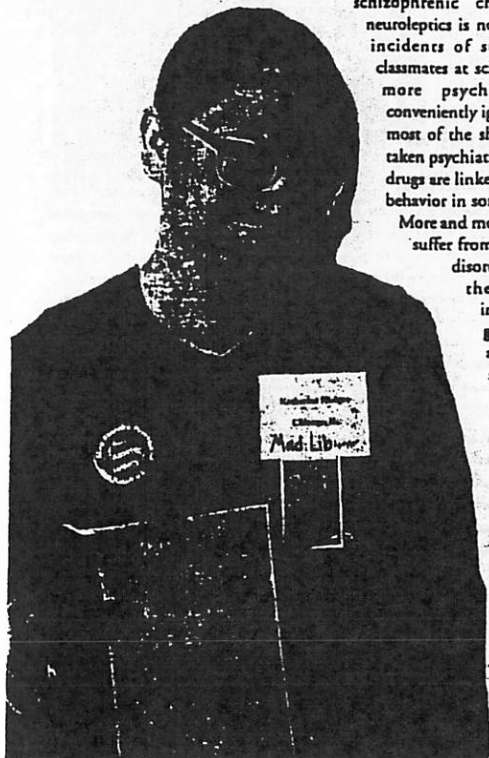
More and more youth are said to suffer from various emotional disorders. Psychiatry and the pharmaceutical industry are directly going after them along with other supposedly "underdiagnosed" groups: racial minorities, men, elderly people. Magazines for teen and pre-teen girls regularly run articles on depression, obsessive-compulsive behavior, self-cutting, and other problems.

Many

youth are emotionally suffering, but these articles only put forth the label-drugs-hospitalization approach, encouraging them to seek out and accept their abuse by psychiatry.

The epidemic of children being drugged with stimulants for the invented "illness" of "attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder" has been questioned more and more, but the media still accepts ADHD as a definable disorder, rather than a label to describe all sorts of children's behavior that annoys adults. Many conservatives call this epidemic a "war on boys." That's partly true, but have they noticed the vigorous campaign by the drug industry and groups it helps fund, like Children and Adults with Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (CHADD), to diagnose millions more girls with ADHD, for symptoms such as "procrastination" and "daydreaming"? The industry is also pushing ADHD/drugs on "underserved" Black and Latino communities. So it's not so-called "innate male behavior" that psychiatry and the schools are after, it's *any* behavior that disrupts the functioning of schools, which despite the efforts of many dedicated teachers, are often crowded, boring, and authoritarian.

America's "war on drugs" is incredibly hypocritical: mind-altering drugs have been arbitrarily divided into "good" and "bad" kinds. Since psychiatric drugs are often similar — Ritalin is pretty much an amphetamine — or worse than the illegal drugs that kids are constantly told not to use, it's fair to ask: As long as any children are on psychiatric drugs and told it's "medication," do they have reason to believe adults' warnings about illegal drugs? And a well-known unwanted effect of most



popular antidepressant drugs is diminished sexual feeling. Among the many risks of psychiatric drugs to growing brains and bodies — changes in brain structure, stunted growth — is it possible that young people will be denied normal development of their reproductive systems and sexuality?

Best-selling authors have recently enthused about drugging moody children ("baby bipolar") from toddlerhood on (*His Bright Light*) and electroshock for kids (*The Bipolar Child*). The widespread idea that emotional disorders are "genetic" puts kids with relatives labeled mentally ill at risk of being treated for the disorder as soon as they show any troubling behavior. And "new, improved" electroshock still frequently causes brain damage and severe memory loss. Will children's memories be wiped out before they barely have any?

All this is happening amid widespread child abuse, and millions of children growing up in poverty, while politicians and the media say we're in a time of "peace and prosperity." And the legal and social repression of teenagers worsens. Mike Males, in *The Scapegoat Generation and Framing Youth*, has shown how Americans consider teens to be adults in some circumstances, children in others, always in the most repressive possible way [see an interview with Males on page 24]. So the media-hyped problem of "youth violence" brings demands to try young criminals as adults; meanwhile youth are subject to unwanted psychiatric treatment, denied civil liberties and reproductive rights. Curfews, school uniforms, censorship, drug testing, and compulsory religion in schools have all been promoted as quick-fixes for the complicated problems of violence and (illegal) drug abuse.

Generation Dosed

The millions of Americans who have grown up in the past few decades have been completely surrounded by the mental health industry's view of emotion and behavior problems. We've heard constantly in "alternative" and "progressive" media as well, that our extreme emotions and

MadLib Breaks the Silence in Less Than One Year: You Can Too!

What can we do to counteract mental health industry misinformation and the lack of attention paid to human rights in psychiatry? I'm most interested in simply *breaking the silence*: discuss biopsychiatry's flaws everywhere you can.

I started a Chicago-based group, Mad Lib, with other Support Coalition members in May 2000. Mad Lib is an information and direct action group for anyone affected by psychiatry, challenging forced treatment and promoting non-medical alternatives.

- We protested the American Psychiatric Association's convention in Chicago just five days after our first meeting.
- In November 2000 we protested CHADD's annual convention — as the head of Chicago Public Schools, Paul Vallas, was a "welcoming" speaker there.
- We put on well-attended events for the first-ever World Mad Pride Week — which I discussed on an international BBC radio show.
- We held a talk with Support Coalition's David "Oaks" in

November, which

was covered by

excellent articles in

Chicago's major

alternative weekly,

The Reader, and a

homeless newspaper,

Streetwise.

- I gave my first workshop July

2000 at the Southern

Girls' Convention in

Louisville, KY.

conference for young feminist activists, and met a diverse crowd of people who'd been

affected by psychiatry.

- I was the only person representing the psychiatric consumer/survivor movement (as far as I know) among the thousands protesting at the Republican

Convention in Philadelphia and Democratic Convention in Los Angeles.

- At a rally held for "Mental Illness Awareness Week," we debuted "Creative Psychiatry Awareness Week,"

pointing out that mental health funding should not fund forced treatment, which I often

does.

- I flyers outside Rush-Northwest's Child Chicago campus, pointing out its

links to pro-force psychiatry. We got arrested for handing out leaflets.

- Chicago Bar Association, which we had longtime links to, several conferences. I've

been a guest speaker at an "Abnormal Psychology class" at a local university.

- Some future ideas:
 - More to have tables, workshops, and flyers. Or have

journalists and columnists (a variety of people) interested in exposing psychiatric

oppression) at the very least, we need to write letters to the editor, write progressive

magazines, promote biopsychiatry, and do whatever we can to

counteract the biopsychiatric advertising all around us. We need counter-conferences to

drug industry funded events like "International Screening Day" for "Genetics

suckers, information tables, and film screenings." I'm trying to link up with activists in many

different struggles so far I've had the best luck working with the disability rights movement

and the disability caucus of the Green Party. Also Chicago's disability rights movement

and the internet-based RALF (Rage Against Lies and Freedom) movement.

You can find out more about MadLib through the last two websites I'm working on:

www.MadLib.org and www.psychiatry.org or write Mad Lib, PO Box 642222,

Chicago IL 60661 USA.



excessive behaviors are "real illnesses," that we must "destigmatize mental illness," that "effective treatment" is available, and the only problem is not enough people receive treatment.

Actually, the facts are very different. There's simply no legitimate evidence that any emotional disorder (depression, schizophrenia, bulimia, etc.) is the result of "genetic defects," "brain disorders," or "chemical imbalances." The physical treatments, mainly drugs and electroshock, are much less effective and much more risky than we're told, and don't "correct" anything in the brain. And forced psychiatric treatment is a human rights abuse inflicted on thousands of Americans every year.

It's crucial both for psychiatric oppression to become a major concern of social change activists, and for the psychiatric consumer/survivor movement to pay special attention to what the mental health system is doing to youth. After all, all minors are technically involuntary patients.

Unfortunately, psychiatric human rights violations are rarely an issue among other activists. Far too many see psychiatric treatment as "health care" and want more money spent on it. I know of hardly any independent media besides *MindFreedom Journal* and other survivor publications that have clearly criticized forced treatment, the medical model, electroshock, and the drugging of children. In my activist experience, anarchists are about the only ones I've seen criticizing forced treatment — since they're against coercion, especially by government. Among political parties, the Libertarian Party is the only one I know of that had a platform against forced psychiatry. During the Green Party Ralph Nader presidential campaign that energized many young activists, Support Coalition International was possibly the only organization discussing Nader's ties to the extremist pro-fo psychiatrist E. Fuller Torrey.

"We can show how coercive psychiatry also is a form of violent social control, and counteract the line put forth by the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill (NAMI) and others that psychiatric treatment is a humane substitute for punishing 'mentally ill' offenders."

Resisting Psychiatric Globalization

There's been a significant activist resurgence in the past two years, from the huge protest against the World Trade Organization in Seattle, to demonstrations against the World Bank, International Monetary Fund, Republican and Democratic conventions, Organization of American States, etc. Tactics and goals in the anti-globalization movement have been hotly debated, but a few things are clear:

- This activism has made a significant statement against corporate and state control of people's lives.

- It has produced a big growth of independent media (to participate in the Independent Media Center nearest you, check www.indymedia.org).

- And many young people are eager to change the world.

It's also clear that psychiatric oppression must be on the agenda. Anyone challenging the status quo is at risk of being called "crazy." The police repression many activists experienced at these protests may drive people into the mental health system, willingly or otherwise. I can say from experience that that police repression at protests was quite emotionally stressful.

Psychiatric diagnoses often cover up

social injustices, for example, homelessness may be blamed on "mental illness," instead of the lack of affordable housing and adequate jobs. And, we can link a critique of psychiatry to many other issues.

How many activists know about the World Bank's involvement in promoting the current corporate, coercive psychiatric system to developing countries? We must insist on globalizing choice in mental health, not drugs and force. An active movement now questions the corporate promotion of genetically modified foods — how about an equal outcry over the questionable substances millions of people are ingesting via psychiatric drugs? I'd like to propose making July 14, a longtime holiday in the psych survivor movement, and now part of international Mad Pride Week, an International Day of Action Against Corporate Psychiatry, with protests at drug company headquarters.

We Can Make Psychiatric Oppression an Issue

Police brutality, the prison-industrial complex, and the criminalization of youth of color have become major activist issues. We can show how coercive psychiatry also is a form of violent social control, and counteract the line put forth by the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill (NAMI) and others that psychiatric treatment is a humane substitute for punishing "mentally ill" offenders. NAMI talks about the "criminalization of mental illness"; I insist that institutional psychiatry is the *criminalization of emotion*. Involuntary Outpatient Commitment involves forcibly drugging people in their own homes, which NAMI gets drug company money to promote. I call the practice of Involuntary Outpatient Commitment on the basis of past psychiatric diagnoses *mental profiling*. While many people justly criticize the "war on drugs" as ineffective, racist, and a denial of individual freedom, we must show that there's a war being waged *with drugs* too.

Emotional and behavior problems among youth may be a reaction to abuse, harassment, poverty, or just the fact of

being young in a culture that sees children as the property of parents, schools, and government. However, millions of kids are growing up falsely being told that their emotion/behavior problems are the fault of their malfunctioning brain. Kids are not being taught to turn to others to support, to take steps to solve their problems, to trust their emotions, and to challenge — or even be aware of — injustice. Instead, the mentality is "children should be drugged and not heard." Being "fixed" with

pills often adds to the previous problems and creates new ones.

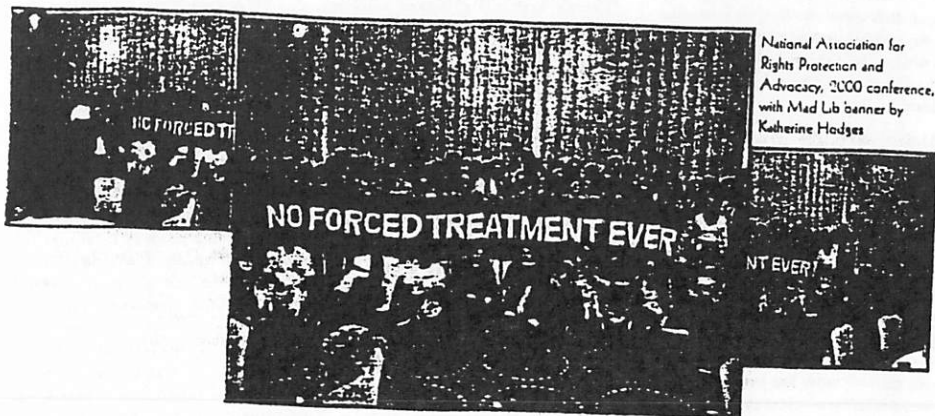
Psychiatric oppression threatens all of us, but especially youth who have the fewest legal rights to fight it. I was fortunate that my encounter with psychiatry happened when I was 22 and on my own, it was fairly brief, and it was "voluntary" — not forced, though I *did* feel pressured into seeking treatment. Many of my behaviors as a child could have gotten me into the mental health system, if my parents had been

under the pressures to label and drug faced by parents today.

Youth are the future, and deserve to grow up free of forced mental health treatment and risky psychiatric drugs. But youth are also the *present*, and young people need to organize *themselves* against those who profit financially and politically from their oppression.

Contact Katherine Hodges by e-mail at <Hoydenish@aol.com>.

Mad Lib: Good things come in small packages. Mad Lib has timely info sheets printed on brightly colored paper. Short and to the point, they provide facts on psychiatric oppression, questioning the idea of "mental illness," the harm done by forced treatment, IOC and neuroleptics, psychiatry's war on kids.



National Association for Rights Protection and Advocacy, 2000 conference, with Mad Lib banner by Katherine Hodges

To learn more about the international movement against psychiatric oppression, contact Katherine of Mad Lib at 773/227-9374 or hoydenish@aol.com
 Mad Lib * PO Box 642222 * Chicago IL 60601 *** www.MadLib.org

I'm a bit twenty something boy who just happens to be a prisoner, ex-junky & life-long rebel. I'm a fortunate soul, for I have found love & comfort in the arms of what could be considered by a mass majority as an unlikely place, that of another man, here in this prison, in this enslavement. It is an interesting story, but I wish to share it with you. I've been aware of my bi-sexuality since a young teen, but I was another closet case, such a well known tale, & such a tragic truth of the society we all grow in. But my sexuality was the least of my problems, I was riddled with such disorders as depression, suicidal intentions & drug addiction. By the age of 14 I was becoming a regular visitor to the echo halls & lonely nights of the LA County Juvenile halls, an outcast emotionally fucked up kid found buried in a violent existence of constant war between races, gang loyalties & power struggles. Fist-fights & rat paddings in the corner won me countless black eyes & planted in me a hatred for all who would hurt me. Many did. And I ate it all up. Saving it all, to one day unleash it.

By 17 I had fallen into the shaved head ranks of the white supremacist gangs that were the white boy's answer to the Mexican Familias & the black gangstas. We were all taught to see every written like tattoos in any skin not our own color. That was the conditioned mindset. And it showed in all of our eyes. We grew into young men twisted by distorted ideals, false loyalties & identities that were violent & pride filled. We were split up by lines drawn in the prison concrete decades before by a malicious & racist system & by the older men who fought each other to gain footholds or political power over cell blocks, penitentiaries & dope, using their homemade crushing shanks & the anger that was in us all. We were the offspring, young & mixed up, fighting to survive in a world that condemns, a system that kills, a place that if you belong to nothing then you are a victim to all, & inner insecurities, rage & the ultimate lie that was told, that our reputation as a man was the only thing that made us. The Grissons colored themselves with Aztec warriors' spanish slogans, the black men with street numbers, black panthers & cartoon nicknames, & the white boys had sautons & lightning bolts. That was just the way it was & you didn't dare break the mold or forget the rules.

Well, I did. I had to. The hatred that fueled my life & the unending battle had seeped into my heart to become the pounding ache of shame, guilt & remorse. I saw what it all was, a massive plot laid out so many years before to keep us, the exploited & oppressed, divided, to keep us fighting each other to forget the power that stomped us down to the lowest levels of humanity where we tore at each other with the fangs of a mouth of lies. Dividing instead of relying, our brains chained to ignorance, our souls staid down. The ego was the image each built to hide in, so the violence & pain that growing up in the system of state institutions dished out couldn't kill you. All the death & apathy, all the insanity, it infected like a virus until feeling true emotion would mean cracking the walls built around you there to protect all you were within from all that hated it without. And no one questioned it seemed. But I knew it was wrong, to hate & wish death upon one another, I knew the system promoted our segregation by dividing cells by ethnicity & constantly pushing the race card, the white cops always hassling the black inmates, the black cops fucking with the whites, it was a sickness, & is, a sickness beyond healing it seems.

Turning my back on the circles of white brotherhood, forsaking all the lies & bullshit keeping those mouths full of alms & eyes dull with gray hate, I flung myself into a position of further weakness, I would probably never be trusted by the other races, I had sautons deep black in my pale skin, & I could never be embraced by white arms without feeling holes ripped into my lungs to bring my death as a traitor. But not only did I step out of the deathrip of racial idealism, but also into a new found freedom to finally realize exactly "who" I was. As an ex-convict with well known enemies & an eternal place on their list of death, my wide eyed newborn awareness came to find an inner freedom in the safety of a protective custody yard, a prison full of drop-outs, victims, all around snitches, rats, pieces of shits & many more that were affiliated with the prison reputation game at one point & now were here. For many this was the low point of their lives, for myself it meant for the first moment I was free to pursue the strands of life inside myself. And realize what reality meant for me, to feel love & emotion conquer hate & fear, & most of all for the restraining jacket of "identity", "image" or "reputation" to be dissolved by the willingness to be a being of carefree attitude & a boy of healing. My soul has become a sun in a summer noon & my heart a porch into a whole world of community, not an exclusive box or a chained chest in forgotten waters.

And my bisexuality that had always been a suggestion at my contradiction as a "father", had waited impatiently for me to become comfortable as a man who was attracted to both sexes, & somehow he found me when I was ready. We knew instantly. They called him Bandit, his name was Ricky Martinez, ex-old school Chicago gangster, the guy was a lifer, had lived a hard one. Had scars on his body & in his eyes, & none were self inflicted like my own. Our brown eyes brought us to a new place, & as people looked on at us, breaking the "rules" of serhood, a white boy & a brown man, one with hated racist tattoos & the other with gang names, soon living together, forsaking the unwritten law that said we shouldn't, proving that racial

unity can join together two worlds, we fell into a love that was not expected. We saw just what our souls truly were, & our souls clung to the other's, & in a prison cell we touched with adoration & a tenderness we can begin to fully understand. And we let ourselves become free. And people have continually judged us as we are.

We walk the prison yard with hickies on our necks, with that look in our eyes, we say "I love you", & we tell people. Homophobia towards us, the "interracial fag couple" is definitely always going to be there. But it cannot touch our freedom. Fuck a reputation, its a lie that says I can only be happy if people think I'm a "cool" guy. So, call me fag, or queer, & I will smile in your face & feel sorry for you. Because those chains that locked me away from myself for so long are still binding others. You know what I did - I live my life, as one unchained, & hope that not only do I stay free, but that someone sees me & realizes how powerless those chains are. Because even though I'm hated, I can smile.

Its been almost a year now that Ricky has been my lover, & I've grown into a new & secure man. Remember those hate tattoos I mentioned? Now inked over with true skin art, my body purged of those lies. And on my right arm, one of the darkest spots, its three letters, Ricky's initials. We helped each other find ourselves. I'll never forget.

The homophobic hate will always cast its degrading eye at us, & as people, not just men, or even queers, we know that through our own self-belief that the negativity cannot steal our optimism. So, the battle that is fought is not that of hatred but against. And we are winning them over. One by one. Through being real people, honest & good natured, by claiming no loyalties but equality, we make friends more often than enemies. And those guys that still refuse to accept, let them boil away their own power to be free, let them nail shut their coffins. We all choose. But its never too late to realize that wrong choices can be changed to right decisions. Evaluate & get free.

I want to thank Francois Herrero for contacting me for this project, for Black Cross for doing it, for APLAN for putting me in touch with them, & for Ricky for being so delicious & for growing with me. Live your fucking heart out. Be a lover, not a hater. I do a zine called Wiener Society, you can get it for a buck & 2 stamps, or free if you are a prisoner, from: Justin Rhody, 9605 Deer Trail, Haslett, MI, 48840, USA...its all very personal about my life. Please, get in touch. Write me or write to Ricky, we love pen-pals & meeting new friends. Fuck hate! Fuck stereotypes! Up the punx & queers!

IN SOLIDARITY

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Dear A B C Zine:

I am writing with the hope your program could send me your news letter that you publish. I also understand you accept articles from women in prison, I am enclosing an article I wrote along with an article of the things I am doing. I am serving a life sentence and try very hard to promote self-esteem in the women here, I truley believe that if they realize there worth they will succede!

I am always looking for anyone who will come in the prison and speak. I try to find people who will speak on self-esteem and battered womens sendrome, parrenting, and leagle issues and rights. If there is any resource information I would greatly appreciate your help. I would like to thank you for your work and concern for those of us spending time in prison your efforts don't go unnoticed. I hope I can also make a difference from here.

Most Sincerely,

Rhonda Leland

5-30-02



TO: Editor/Publisher
FROM: Zolo Agona Azania #4969
RE: Press Release

LAW ENFORCEMENT INJUSTICE

The wanton abuse of police power is not a mere thing of legend. It's a fact of life in these United States, and elsewhere.

From the moment any awful act of police misconduct came to light via the news media, or testimony in the courtroom, an entire police department stood by and let it happen—and then clammed up about what had taken place.

Whatever happened in the past is not merely history. That is to say, injustice of today is directly related to injustice of yesterday. People who are concerned for fairness and the appearance of justice will not be able to dismantle police corruption and abuse of public trust, if they assert to be neutral while looking the other way. Clearly the challenge is that if you stand neutral or deliberately indifferent because you have not personally been the recipient of injustice and abuse in the courts and on the streets by the sworn enforcers of the law, then you have to walk in the footsteps of people, like myself, where and to whom these things happened. 31

On August 11, 1981 i was illegally arrested by political police and accused of killing a police officer during an armed bank robbery. False evidence was invented and used as a ruse against me, calculated to provide a wrongful conviction and death sentence, cloaked with improper acts with the state prosecutorial machinery and resources to give it the appearance of propriety. The credibility of every witness who testified for the state is in question.

The police made intentional false reports about when, where and how i was captured, among other things, to make the charges against me sound plausible. The autopsy report about the cause of death of the police officer was falsified in relation to the ballistic test-firing of the weapons.

Two hand-guns, a .38 and .44, were planted by police and presented to the all-white jury as incriminating evidence, which mislead and influenced the decision of the decision making body to which it was addressed. Prosecutors claimed the .44 was the murder weapon. Donald McDuffie Sr., a well known loan-shark, testified he sold me a .44 pistol. The .38 was traced back to the Gary police department by B.A.T.F. (Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms) agents.

On May 25, 1982 i was sentenced to the penalty of death. After years of contesting the bogus charges, the death sentence was reversed by the Indiana Supreme Court in 1993. But after a second trial on the sentence only, it was put on me again in 1996.

My case does not involve D.N.A. testing. There was a reasonable likelihood that the knowing use of admitted perjured testimony, tainted evidence, and police misconduct in both trials, could have affected the judgment of at least one juror, and the outcome would have been different. The jury trials were rigged against me.

People of Afrikan ancestry (whom i call New Afrikans) were systematically excluded from the pool from which my jury was selected. Rather than monitor and repair a jury selection system that was not working properly, county officials tried to cover up the flaws by destroying material evidence and lying about the problem. Every human being who serves on a jury have the power, and moral responsibility, within a small specified group to express, affirmatively, the true meaning of democracy.

By Zolo Agona Azania

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BRUTALITY IS UGLY



IN THE WORLD WE LIVE IN
IT IS NOT ACCEPTABLE TO BE BEATEN
FOR NOTHING.
FOR BEING A HUMAN BEING.
THE PEOPLE WITH THE POWER ARE DOGGING PEOPLE
FOR NOTHING.
NOW THAT'S UGLY.
YOU SEE THE TIME IS NEAR
WHEN PEOPLE'S BACKS ARE AGAINST THE WALL.
SO WE GOT TO BE TALL
AND BRING THIS MADNESS TO A HALT.
MANY LESSONS MUST BE TAUGHT
FOR THE FUTURE IS HERE.
WE HAVE TO WANT BEAUTY IN OUR LIVES.
BEAUTY ... THAT IS THE GREAT ESCAPE TO THE FUTURE.
FOR ALL THE PEOPLE TO TRY TO BE HAPPY.
THAT MEANS UNDERSTANDING LIFE'S UPS AND DOWNS.
IT'S REALLY MUSIC WE HAVE BEEN IN...
A CERTAIN FRAME OF UNDERSTANDING...
NOW IT 'S TIME FOR A DIFFERENT KEY TO BE.
AND BRUTALITY IS NOWHERE IN THERE.
IT'S A YESTERDAY THING.

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