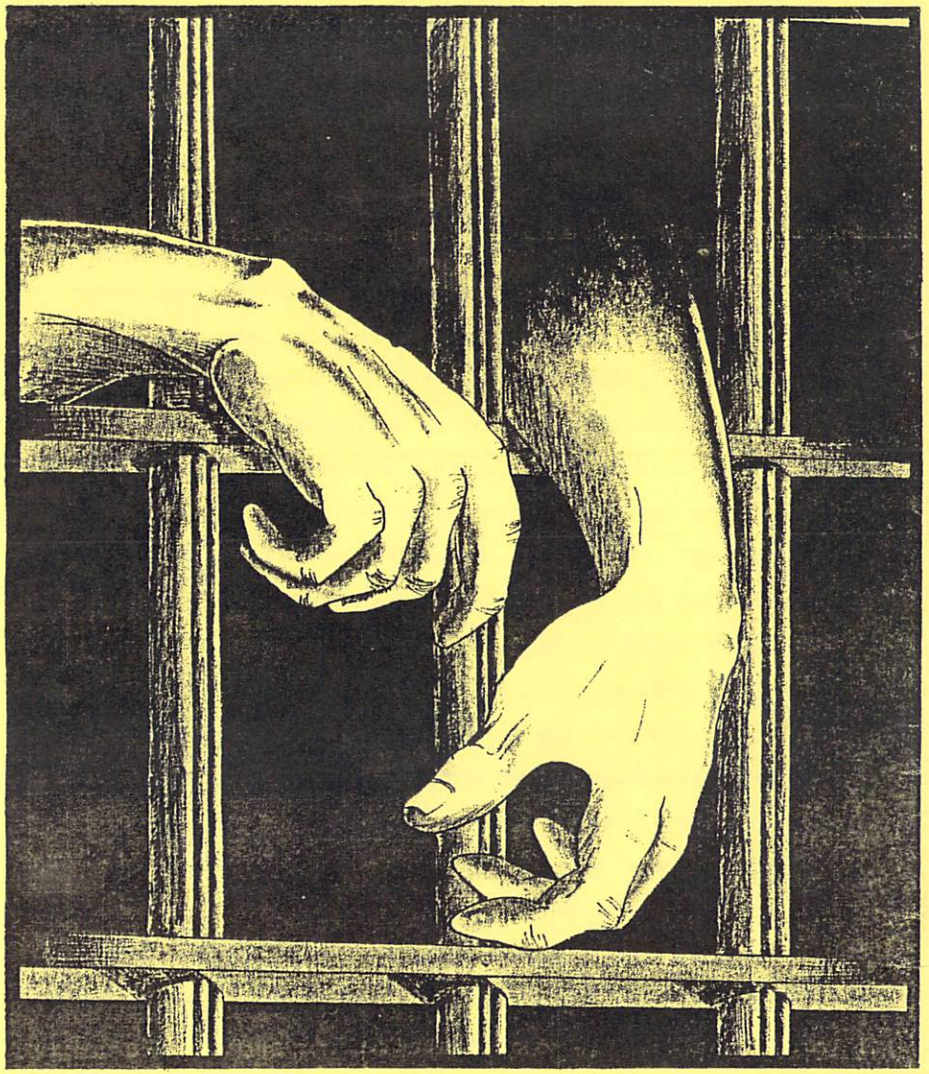

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Issue #1

PRISONERS SPEAK!



Published on April 24th, 2003 Editted by Anthony Rayson

I came up with the idea for this zine maybe two years ago. But I could never seem to find the time to put it together. Sure, I've had many pieces by prisoners in my own zine, Thought Bombs and have done many prisoner zines, including by many of those featured in this zine. I guess if I just keep my mouth shut long enough and let these folks have their say, and miraculously, I have found enough time!

Richard M. Flood's case is now in appeal. Hopefully, his bogus conviction for the "crime" of rescuing his wife from a street assault, will be tossed so he can return to his wife, five teenaged children and our community which desperately needs his vibrant input. Margaret Majos speaks from the soul of all incarcerated women, who have been ripped from the embrace of their families.

Yusuf talks of the increasing restrictions being placed upon prisoners' reading material, here in Illinois. Richard Geffken is a prolific, talented writer and political analyst, who is working up the Realist Party. His work has long deserved to be formatted into zines, but I haven't been able to do it for him. His essays have graced many a fine publication, at least. Aaron Patterson was one of the four Illinois deathrow prisoners pardoned by outgoing Governor George Ryan. Aaron spent 17 years on deathrow for a double murder they knew he didn't commit. He came out highly conscious and ready to lead the charge against the system to try to free the comrades he left behind. What I would like to know is: If Ryan knew he was innocent, why did he wait until his very last day in office to free him? And when will the real criminals who railroaded him and countless others face the wrathful justice of the people???

Ron Campbell is an excellent writer as well. We did Constipation 9 & 10 together, when he was at Menard. He's been out a couple of years now, although he lost his apartment and I haven't heard from him in a while.

I've worked with Khalfani M. Khaldun for a number of years now. He's a topnotch human being fighting from the supermax hell of the Klan-run Indiana gulag system and along with John Balagoon Cole, Jr. and other souljahs, struggles valiantly and articulately for all the Brothers abused so unmercifully over there.

The cell drawing was submitted by a prisoner, whose name I have misplaced, unfortunately. At least the goons can't target him because of it! It is actually more "furnished" and larger than many cubicles the nazis have created for their human victims. Confinement is crime!

with one's antisocial past, an abundance of idle time provides one with many opportunities to reinforce deviant behavior.

Further, densely populate together the nation's most determined drug addicts, and it should come as no surprise to anyone that basic economics will prevail. Someone will supply a valuable product when the demand is significant. When the drugs hit the mainline they are distributed quickly and rather efficiently. The tainted syringes follow the path of the contraband like a Grim Reaper. Prison is a horrible place.

Like with anything coveted or much-sought-after, there is always a price to be paid. In a correctional facility, while the prices go way up, the dosages go way down. Yet, this doesn't deter the hard core addict. Any price, no matter how steep, no matter what the cost, it doesn't matter -- addicts are literally dying to get high.

In such places, among those who share needles, it is not uncommon for a whole line of would-be users to be waiting on the same potentially tainted syringe. Many of whom are HCV and HIV positive. This is how an epidemic is spread. These are not the type of people who weigh risks and make logical decisions based on long-term goals. These are hard core dope fiends -- and they frequently share or borrow needles. A used or worn-out syringe, which looks like an instrument of death to some, has great value placed on it by others.

With the nation mired in budgetary shortfalls, adequate treatment for all those infected is more expensive than correctional administrators care to imagine. In the meantime, the epidemic continues to spread deeper and deeper into the prison system -- and the American prisoner has become one of the most medically disadvantaged demographics in the nation.

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sharing of needles is the unfortunate common denominator in how the virus spreads easily within the American prison system.

While the actual infection rates of those carrying either of these diseases vary from state to state, the disturbing fact of the matter are the prodigious numbers of incarcerated individuals who have one or both of these diseases. For these high risk individuals, unknowingly, diseases are passed around like a bottle of cheap wine. Being a largely uneducated and self-destructive demographic, the numbers of those affected will get much worse before they get any better.

Despite a significant body of information illustrating the dangers of exposure to blood, the message is not getting to the nation's population of hard core drug addicts who share needles -- many of whom end up in prison and continue to reinforce their addiction.

Generally, if available, a drug addict will use drugs. Even for those in remission, relapse is a problem. The incarcerated addict will often go to great lengths to use drugs if they are even remotely available. Thoughts of thoroughly sanitizing a syringe, which is a rather simple process, come a distant second to the immediate desire to "get high."

Moreover, if one uses drugs intravenously while serving time -- which is a rather unfortunate reality -- one has volunteered to be a member of a group whose lifestyle poses the greatest danger to themselves and others. Using a syringe to get high has become a very deadly endeavor -- especially while incarcerated.

Drug Use In Prison: A Closer Look

Prison as an American institution has not been very successful at promoting an environment cohesive with self-improvement. Nor do punitive-correctional methodologies promoted by tough-on-crime lawmakers foster enlightenment in any way, shape or form. On the contrary, with a lack of meaningful programs to inspire one to change or make a break

Patrick C. Noble is a refreshing, gifted artist who drew the cover and centerpiece, among others. It's tough because he suffers from carpal tunnel syndrome. Rashid is explosively revolutionary and seeringly analytic. His collage work is extraordinary, both technically and for the political statements they make. His zine - Art Attack A Vision of Struggle is available through my distro. Todd (Hyung-Rae) Tarselli is another incredibly talented prisoner artist, made to suffer abominably, who with pen, pencil and paper blows away anything you'll find in the mainstream.

Robert J. Zani brings up a rarely discussed phenomenon - the continuing incarceration of a person who the government admits (after lengthy proceedings) that the person is indeed innocent. Nonetheless, they remain in prison anyway, a sort of bonus punishment for the sick-minded prosecutors, who arrogantly refuse to ever admit wrongdoing and have no accountability for their daily criminal livelihood.

Sheik Mark Moore-El explains how modern day U.S. prison slavery works, how our youth are being targetted for this vile enterprise and why we must fight, even though those on the inside face certain and constant repression. Kelly Davis offers a heartfelt poem about the life of a prisoner.

Clarence A. Taylor is a topnotch psychoanalyst. Here he deconstructs the crime of his punishment. In Roger Tillingast's letter, we get a glimpse of how the state ruins the lives of families, starting with the incarceration of children and how state "morality" translates into prison.

Eugene Alexander Dey analyses the dreadful scourge of Hepatitis C which prisoners find almost unavoidable due to the unhealthy manner they are forced to subsist in. We just finished a zine together. He's a terrific reporter, who is a "Three Strikes" drug war prisoner out in California.

Zines by and about Richard, Zolo, Hyung-Rae, Khalfani, Clarence, Eugene, Rashid and many, many others are available through my distro. These and other prisoners face Dantesque repression due to their courage and concern for others in getting these educational efforts out there for us to learn from. Anarchist morality (common human decency) should compel us to take this information and run with it!

This zine is $2.00 / free to prisoners. Please pay with cash &/or stamps. @nticopyright so reprint and distribute far and wide. Learn the truth from the hideous gulags!

— Anthony

"This System Ain't Broke And Can't Be Fixed!"

4

~ Richard M. Flood

"In the government you call civilized, the happiness of the people is constantly sacrifled to the splendor of the empire. Hence the origin of your codes of criminal and civil laws; hence your dungeons and prisons. We have no prisons; we have no pompous parade of courts; we have no written laws; and yet judges are as highly revered among us as they are among you, and their decisions are as much regarded.

We have among us no exalted villians above the control of our laws. Daring wickedness is here never allowed the control of our helpless innocence. The estates of widows and ophans are never devoured by enterprising swidlers.

We have no robbery under the pretext of law."

~ Thayendanegea ~
Mohawk Tribe (ca.1742 - 1807)

With the historical events of the past week, (outgoing IL Governor George Ryan's issuance of pardons and/or sentence commutations for all condemned IL state deathrow prisoners) the current "hot topic" pendulum has swung stateside. This is definitely encouraging news for prisoners, as we have pondered the conundrum of what are the grounds upon which so many Americans protest against U.S. foreign policy while simultaneously acquiescing to fascism here at home.

The primary misconception that we urge people to address is this notion that the criminal justice system has somehow "broken down" and may need to be fixed. As the castaways of this ultra civilized society, we realize that this is reformist rhetoric, and if left unchecked, will only lead to more status quo lip service and not much in the way of any substantive reform, let alone even begin to address the possibility of abolition.

Any realistic study of the past 500 years of imprisonment in America will indicate that "The System" is performing exactly the function it was implemented to perform, namely, the criminalization, punishment, warehousing and murder of former slaves and all other dregs of such a pristine, civilized society.

Notwithstanding the stiflingly repressive conditions of confinement (across-the-board) now being experienced by prisoners, a major factor that is being largely overlooked is that all of the injustices and criminal acts being perpetrated against capital defendants by the "justice" system, (i.e., the set-ups, coerced confessions, inefffective assistance of counsel, prosecutorial misconduct, judicial activism, etc.) are in fact being perpetrated against each and every poor criminal defendant in the U.S., at federal, state and local levels.

Only if people continue to take part in the scam that "The System" was implemented to serve and protect the people and that American courts of law are fact-finding bodies whose purpose is to adjudicate cases by the concepts of impartiality and fairness, can anyone arrive at the preposterous conclusion that the system is broken and needs to be fixed.

When an Aaron Patterson is kidnapped off the streets, tortured by cops, (even though his dad was a cop and tried to intervene on his son's behalf) and sentenced to death without one single piece of evidence, other than a coerced signature to a cop-written "confession," and when a Miguel Castillo was actually in custody at the Cook County Jail serving a 60 day misdemeanor sentence, it

To make matters even worse, hepatitis C is equally fatal. In the U.S., 8,000 to 10,000 deaths a year are attributed to this silent killer, with the totals expected to reach 30,000 a year by 2010 -- twice the toll AIDS claims.

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Even though HCV has outpaced HIV, very few know much about this infection. Until very recently it has not received much coverage. All the intense activism associated with the AIDS movement hit a peak in the mid-90s and has subsequently subsided. Since HCV paralleled HIV, it would have been ideal if the AIDS movement had focused on both viruses.

HCV awareness is beginning to pick-up some momentum, although relaunching another movement has been a struggle. Celebrities going public with their affliction has helped bring the far-reaching implications of the HCV to the attention of the public. Former star of "Baywatch," Pamela Anderson, brought HCV awareness to the front pages when she disclosed to the public that she had contracted the disease from her husband while getting a tattoo. One can contract such viruses through a number of ways: syringes, unprotected sex, tattoo needles, exposure to blood, to name a just a few.

Co-infection and the Prison Intravenous Drug User

In 1996 a research study completed in cooperation with the California Department of Human Services uncovered how widespread are HCV and HIV within the California Department of Corrections.

Incoming male prisoners were testing positive for HCV at a rate of 39.4 percent -- with 61.3 percent of them co-infected with HIV. Incoming female prisoners tested positive for HCV at a rate of 54.5 percent -- with an astounding 85 percent being co-infected with HIV.

These are alarming, troubling, and eye-opening numbers. Both being blood-borne maladies and epidemic in proportions, co-infection can be traced to intravenous drug use within the community of drug addicts who lead high risk lifestyles. The

HEPATITIS C AND THE AMERICAN PRISONER

By Eugene Alexander Dey

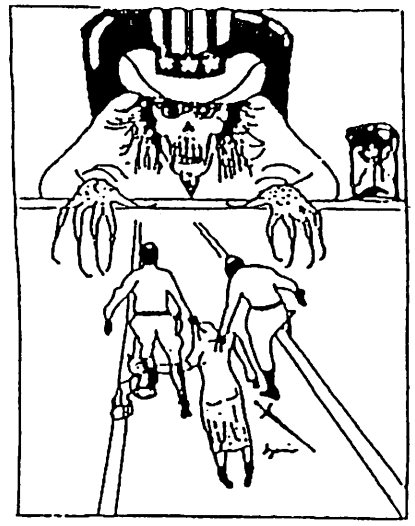
The hepatitis C virus (HCV) has made its way deep into the American prison system. With 2 million men and women incarcerated in America, it is estimated that 20 percent to 60 percent are infected with HCV. The fact that prison systems are notorious for providing substandard medical care -- whose systemic incompetence, neglect, and institutionalized disregard for human life is the premise for innumerable lawsuits -- renders this national epidemic a matter of life and death.

HCV: A Stealth Virus

HCV is often referred to as the "Silent Epidemic." It is the most common blood-borne disease in the U.S. Since approximately half of those infected do not realize they have the disease, in too many instances, treatment doesn't begin until after the virus has progressed to the chronic stage. Hepatitis C can lay dormant for decades. One can have it from 10 to 30 years before they begin to show symptoms. By then it could already be too late.

HCV is a deadly disease. Approximately 85 percent of those infected develop chronic hepatitis C. Although there is no cure, undergoing treatment has been successful in clearing the virus from the body in about 15 percent of the time. They are the lucky ones. The end stages of chronic HCV involves a myriad of liver problems -- including cirrhosis, cancer, and failure of the liver. The disintegration of a vital organ brings about an excruciating death.

Most associate HIV, the virus which causes AIDS, as being the nation's foremost blood-borne disease. Yet, HCV has surpassed it four-to-one. One million Americans are infected with HIV, while 4 million have HCV. At least 1/3 of HIV patients are also co-infected with hepatitis C. Either virus can exacerbate the other.



must be recognized that these are not merely minor glitches to be worked out, nor are they even major and fundamental flaws, but rather the intended results of an inherently corrupt, classist, racist system that has conditioned people into viewing the torture of others as some sort of spectator sport. Furthermore, these outrageous and blatant examples of corruption and criminality (by the system) are not the exception (as alluded to by the media) but rather, the rule.

Even in my own case, the cops, prosecutor, my well-paid yet highly incompetent defense attorney, and the judge, decided that a radical political activist and former political prisoner should not have the legal right to protect his wife or himself from an armed attack by three drug-addled assailants, and to add insult to injury, that as further punishment I should be sentenced to the maximum intended term, for having the integrity to refuse their "deal" of the minimum sentence in exchange for a guilty plea.

The only break in the system with regards to this event is that, for whatever reason, George Ryan made the radical move of breaking ranks with his former co-conspirators, perhaps because he is feeling the heat on his own back and decided that if he's gonna go down, for merely playing the game as had already been established, he might as well return fire on the way out of the back door. In any event, it cannot be said enough that this is in fact the only break in their system.

Still, we need to move quickly and decisively in support of a nationwide death penalty moratorium and real, concrete changes within the judicial system, as well as some significant level of relief from the extremely repressive conditions of confinement within the prison system. The alternative leaves people in the precarious position of having to bear the brunt of the reactionary backlash which is now being set up by the ultra-right.

Richard M. Flood B#56680
P.O. Box 711
Menard, IL 62259-0711

An 80-paged zine, entitled "THE RAILROADING OF CHICAGO NATIVE SON, RICHARD M. FLOOD" available, thru So. Chi ABC Distro Box 721, Homewood, IL 60430

"MOTHER & WIFE IN PRISON"

Mother and wife is what I wanted to be my whole entire life. These two words mean the world to me. To make a long story short, since 1990 I am a mother and a wife in prison, but these physical walls could never lock my spirit away. I have a loving husband and two wonderful children. The dream can come true. Just don't ever burn it in the madness of this horrible place. The seed is planted, and so it must grow to be fulfilled.

The hardest moments to deal with are, Mother's Day, birthdays or Christmas. When I look at the eyes of my kids filled with tears and full of unspoken questions, my heart is torn. "Why?" is not what crosses my mind anymore. It's, "How much longer?" How many moms have to spend lonely nights crying for the one touch of a child?

I don't understand how anyone can just sit by quiet and passive, saying "Well, you did wrong. You don't deserve to be a mother anymore!" If this world was full of such perfect souls, we would not need the law, or God. I have a heart and a soul. I love my family and one tragic day shattered my dreams. Yet, I fight the good fight of faith and reach out to others who have lost their hope.

We must be strong and brave. The society wants to throw us all away forgetting that there are families left behind. The empty void spot in our husband's hearts, longing for our touch, crying voice of the child who has nightmares about mommy in prison. I wish I could save my children from the pain inflicted on them by the system. Statistics show that there are almost 65% of our kids are with DCFS, because the family can't afford to raise them or their health doesn't allow them.

I can't speak for all, but like myself, I am fighting for my freedom and all the efforts are overlooked, mocked and laughed at. Legal representatives bathe themselves in a summer pool, sleep in a comfortable bed, etc. sitting at their desk hearing your voice on answering machine and totally ignore the plea to do just their job! So sad!

My latest awful experience was I was assaulted by another resident, pushed, hit, verbally abused and according to the I.D.O.C. procedure, even the one attacked must be locked-in in segregation. The cell is cold, empty, hard. It's nothing but you and the walls. You work so hard for all the "benefits" for 13 years, and one day someone snatches it from you by violence. How can we stop crime in the free world, when inside the penal system violence is justified by punishing the assaulted one? Afterwards, the "harassment" does not stop. You lose your job, etc.

decided I would not give my daughter and her 55 mother up to the prisons' that I would have to go through to keep them both. Right now it's hard for me, I'm doing a one and a half-to-three years for the car, my time is not up till May 9th. 2004 at which time I can see my little girl (she'll be 8 years old then) and her mother. I can not write to them because I'm affraid of lossing them, they keep moving every so often to stay clear until I get out.

I have no one to write to so I'm glad I came across your address so I could share my story, I hope that someone will be strengthen in their fight against the enemy of the people. I'm willing to receive letters from readers and I will respond to all letters. You can reach me at the following address.

Roger Tillingast/EV4609
SCI-Dallas
1000 Follies Rd.
Dallas, Pa. 18612

P.S. Can You please send me a copy of The Chicago ABC zine along with The anti-recidivist handbook for the 21st. century and the final release if possible, if not please tell me how I can receive these items.

I look forward in hearing from you in the near future.

Respectfully Yours,
Roger Tillingast JR

I should have been given from the money that was giving to the foster family. My clothes was used for their own kids, because of my juvenile record I was always looking for a good dob, when I finally found one I was forced to pick up and leave because the "so called family services" ~~where~~ were trying to take my daughter away from me and her mother because my girlfriend was only 14 and I was 15 years old when we were expecting our daughter, so as any parent would do, we did not want our daughter born into the prison that I now know is the "legal" slavery to all who are kept against their will so we went on the run. For three years I provided for the young girl and her mother, I took on the role of a man although I had no ideal of what that meant in the true sense, I did ~~what~~ what my real parents would have done - I looked for work, a place to live and I made a life for us in this world by making minimum wage, in July of 2000 I stole a car to put food on the table for my daughter and her mother. I ate a sandwich every two days and drank a lote of water, I ended up getting caught for the stolen car and went to the county jail. I did 6 months and after my release they violated me for not giving up my daughter and her mother, I was sent back to jail for five months and did 30 days on house arrest. I signed myself into a rehab so I could get the probation people of my back. While I got to talk to my daughter and her mother so I did 30 days rehab then asked for an extended 30 days to think about what to do. I had two weeks left when I

Where do we go from here? Who can just turn their ear deaf to the constant injustice, abuse or heartache of so many innocent mothers who are away from their families? And, absolutely no one desires to help!

Even in the law of court, we have the choice to "so called" fair trial. How many tears must be shed? How many innocent lives shattered? As a mother and wife, as a christian woman, I remain faithful and devoted in the midst of pain, violence and abuse, filth and noise. I still can find solitude in my own soul. My hope is in God and people who love justice.

Happy Mother's Day soon to come. You could never imagine the pain, but... Every pain has its purpose. I'm serving mine to the best of my ability.

My kids suffer. My husband and family and they have to live with the thought of the legal system failing me for so many years, (case in court for the last 5 years reopened, but...) Just take a moment, close your eyes and imagine your daughter or sister in my shoes crying out the dead, numb place in your heart, Mom, Sister, ---

IN GOD'S GRACE
Margaret Majos B#49682
P.O. Box 549
Lincoln, Illinos 62656



STOP
VIOLENCE
AGAINST
WOMEN





"THE CURRENT CONDITIONS FOR READING IN ILLINOIS PRISONS" 8

Every since articles of the brutal, cruel, and inhumane treatment / conditions within Tamms Super-Maximum facility began too surface in several of the prominant Hip-Hop publications, The Illinois Department Of Corrections / Corruptions (I.D.O.C) have made every attempt, most successful, to eradicate our access to such publications by not allowing them into the institutions.

For many of us, Hip-Hop magazines and other publications are our only access to our ever changing culture. Without these publications, many of us would be in the dark as to the developments within the culture. The Powers That Be are denying us this much needed access to our culture, under ther pretense that these publications are gang related, or as they call it "Security Threat Group" related material. Moreover, there is nothing written down about this "rule".

Many believe this "rule" stems from the I.D.O.C's Racist Policy to further subjugate, dehumanize and alienate Black Brothers and Sisters from their culture; Divide and Conquer. Not only are Hip-Hop magazines and publications being denied, but even books dealing with Black unity and the betterment of our people through unity / solidarity are a threat and are therefore denied as well.

The embarassment caused by the articles that were born out of the Tamms Prisoners demands for fair treatment and justice gave The Powers That Be an excuse to start a statewide campaign to eliminate our acces to Hip-Hop magazines and other publications. This continuous smear campaign by the Illinois Department of Corrections / Corruptions is criminalizing not only the youth, but also our culture. The very same culture who's people populate the prisons of Illinois. These publications provide us with hope because they highlight our people's successes and progressions. It is in no way related to criminal intent, as the State would have the masses believe.

Notwithstanding this, there's a covert plan to attack the li -fe of the mind of those incarcerated within Illinois. By dictating what a person is allowed to read, you can dictate the level of intellectual growth he/she is allowed to achieve, to a degree.

discovered a long overlooked or long hidden truth about criminality and recidivism. What I have learned, what I know, was born of my determination to never return to prison again, and to fully understand how I became a convict/felon in my youth. 53

If I were a threat to people I would not desire to be free or released to a second sentence. I value the lives and safety of innocent people in society. I see through the eyes of victims, too. I was a victim long before I ever became a teenage perpetrator. But I have never done anything to be treated and punished so much more severely than people who are convicted of crimes more serious than mine, even people who have been in and out of prison two or three times as adults.

Clearly, the sentence I am serving, because of how the Parole Board applies it, does not fit the charge I was convicted of. There is no proportionality. I am still in prison because of human prejudice and abuse of power. And that is why I am asking people to request my release from this excessive sentence and the Parole Board's abuse of discretion.

I can be contacted at the address below:

Clarence A. Taylor #13606 loc: 124R
IDOC / Pendleton Correctional Facility
P.O. Box 30 Pendleton, IN 46064

Please write to Indiana Senators, Representatives, the Governor and anyone else who may be able to be of influence on my behalf. As the saying goes: "Two wrongs don't make a right."

Thank You!

Dear Chicago ABC Zine

My name is Roger Tillinghast JR., I am an inmate at SCI-Dallas in Pennsylvania. I'm 21 years old - my story is like so many others. I have witnessed court kidnapping at the age of five, the courts of Pa. stole my life from me. They took my mother and and father to jail and forced me, my sister and two brothers to testify against them. While my parents were were in jail, I grew up in foster homes until the age of ten. At ten years old I was placed into the youth homes for stealing clothes and food, the things

the meantime, an Indiana defendant who pled guilty to killing two elderly women and burglarizing two homes, is going home this year from a sentence of 55 years. I can't say when, if ever, I'll get to go home, because I have to de-demonize myself to the satisfaction of others.

I have decided that I am not talking to any more psychiatrists under the Board's orders, because they in reality, are only looking for ways to further rationalize their abuse of power and authoritarian sadism. I don't think any person in my shoes would not be angry about not knowing when he might be free to pursue hopes, dreams and the realistic goals inspired by his given potential. The freedom to be with friends, family and a loving companion is being denied me long after I've served my debt to society. No person and no Board or State can morally justify such a gross disparity in sentencing and actual time of imprisonment being forced upon me in contrast to others simply because of a 25 day difference or because human attitudes instead of standard limits of law dictate when I'll be free.

The State of Indiana committed a crime against me when it violated the 8th Amendment by giving me a life sentence for robbery, with no guarantee to ever be free again, while simultaneously in the next courtroom over, sentencing a murder-robber or a murderer to serve only 15 or 20 years in prison. The Parole Board has and continues to perpetuate this cruel and excessive punishment by extending my imprisonment beyond reason because of their characters or what they personally don't approve of in mine. They are further not interested in giving up their "absolute" power to hold or free a small number of prisoners who have already been punished enough.

The very Supreme Court Holding that created the "Doctrine of Amelioration" and says I should never have been given Life, still stands today. But the State doesn't abide by its own Supreme Court ruling.

I have attached two legal documents to this letter. Please read them. I am asking any and all persons interested with a fair, just and humanitarian concern to write to the Indiana Senate and Congress, as well as the Governor of Indiana and ask that they remove the cruel and excessive application of sentencing toward me. Ask that, in light of all the people automatically paroled since 1977, that the Specific Savings Clause be removed from barring just and fair punishment by those who were not sentenced before it came into effect. Ask them why every robbery-murder and murder defendant arrested since October1, 1977 (25 days after me) have been required to serve lower sentences than me? Ask for Justice and protest punishment becoming a crime in itself!

I am *not* a criminal nor am I a person embodying demons, nor do I have the mindset I did when I entered prison at age nineteen. I have devoted a great deal of time and mental labor in learning to understand the hidden reality of criminality and recidivism with the moral and social intent that my insights could and would help all to whom they are relevant, including the parents of delinquent children. I am not presenting the age-old, stale explanations and excuses. I am as empathetic toward the victims of crime as anyone else who understands how and why they feel the way they do. I, in my work, do not attempt to excuse or to appeal for sympathy toward any perpetrator. My work attempts to enlighten prisoners so that they can overcome their criminality and free their minds from the condition of ever influencing them to commit crimes again. The fact that I am in prison doesn't mean that I couldn't possibly have

Many of you have mothers,fathers, brothers, sisters, sons, daughters, and grandchildren trapped within these camps/ microcolonies. You may not care for Hip-Hop or it's many publications, but you should care about what your loved ones are allowed to read is being censored to a large degree.

It wasn't that long ago that Hitler censored what his people were allowed to read by having massive book burnings, and he was not the first one to resort to such tactics. However, I thought he was and might have been the last. Obviously, I was wrong. The State may not be burning books but they are censoring them all th the same. Hitler was wrong and the I.D.O.C is wrong.

In the days of chattle slavery, field slaves weren't allowed to read, and the few that were taught to read, were only allowed to read select passages from the Bible that dealt with obedience to one's master. Have we not progressed as a "Nation" from this form of censorship ? I'd like to think we have, or at least hope we have !!

Approximately 92% of the books approved to enter the I.D.O.C focusses on one's lower self, instead of their higher self. They speak not of change, nor of the betterment of self, nation of humanity as a whole. As a collective we must challenge this unjust verbal policy in it's infancy. For if we don't stand for what's right today, tomorrow will not matter. Prisoners cannot move against this injustice alone!!! We need the help of the outside community... A nation is regarded by how it treats it's prisoners, both foriegn and domestic.

Moreover, we need your help in sending e-mails and/or letters to publications letting them know of the censorship that is being placed on their publications. I doubt that they're aware of what's really going on ...

This is a struggle that we can win and an injustice we can eradicate to work in the interest of our communities together....

DARE TO STRUGGLE, DARE TO WIN !!!

Joseph Smith #B66287
P.O. Box 900
Sumner, IL 62466

Email:
thirst4life@lycos.com

In Solidarity,
Yusuf Sankofa
P.O.C.C

Aaron Patterson: A Profile in Courage
by Richard Geffken

After 17 years on deathrow for a double murder he didn't commit, Aaron Patterson remained defeated. The same cell. The same walls. Only Illlinois Gov. George Ryan had decided Aaron Patterson would be one of those he'd pardon before leaving office.

Mr. Patterson didn't know this. Apparently, however, the notorious killer Dick Devine, Cook County State's Attorney, a man so evil all who voted for him may forever burn in hell, knew. A month before the pardon, he tried to get Citizen Patterson to cut a deal. If Aaron would plead "guilty." he would receive "time served" for the double murders.

Imagine hearing a deal like that after seventeen years of living hell! How many of us would have the courage tp adhere to Truth when the devil himself brings the most tempting of all apples: One's freedom!?

Our government never cares about Truth, innocence or morality. It sought a confession it knew waqs false just to save its own face. It simply wanted to look good. Painting a beautiful face on an empty whore is all our government now represents.

Unknown is how many would have the courage to look that whore in the eye to say "I was not guilty 17 years ago. I am not guilty today." Aaron patterson had that courage. For all the innocent men and women who have been executed and all those who've had their lives shattered with no compensation, he told the devil, "No!"

We the People salute you!

Now, We the people need to demand lie detector tests become admissable in court in every state.



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Bushnell, FL 33513

I, upon their request, described the crime's circumstances and how I became involved as a teenager. But, when I say I am not a criminal now, a member insists that I am one because of a robbery 25 years ago. They tell me I'm serving Life, and until I do whatever they want, they'll never let me go. In the meantime, a couple of robbery-murderers made automatic parole today. No questions asked, except what's your address? Even they can't believe how long I've been held.

I have been in front of the Board 8 different times and not released to another sentence. What sane person incarcerated since age 19, twenty-five years behind bars for robbery, watching cold-blooded killers go home all year round, would not be angry about that?

Without prisoners like me, the Parole Board would have no absolute "power" in its function. Everyone arrested 25 days after me eventually goes free without even having to see the Parole Board. So guys like me are constantly denied release, even though we've never killed anyone, because only through our imprisonment does this small group of State bureaucrats exercise absolute power over someone else's life.

One member commented in the Indianapolis Star in February 2001 that: "There are 206 Lifers in indiana. Thirty-eight have no murder cases. Parole is very seldom granted."

They employ the sadistic pretense that it is us as persons, even more than our decades old charges, that keep us imprisoned. But, I finally realized that it is truly about their perverted desire to maintain absolute power over someone else's life. You see, many of the guys serving Life for murder can't be judged by the Board unless the governor grants them clemency first.

Think about it. This is certainly not about crime and character. For a quarter of a century defendants in Indiana have committed much worse crimes and have much worse characters. They have made automatic parole anyway, having come to prison after me, yet have gone home before me - even for robbery with murder, or murder of all types and degrees.

How and why is it then, that less than 40 people, including me, who have never murdered anyone and are not serving 3 strike sentences - are being held in prison decades longer than men with worse criminal histories and worse crimes? How can this be justified? How can the Legislature rationalize having made it (unconstitutionally) "legal" for the Parole Board to never free a robber, while at the same time they enact a law that guarantees murderers their automatic freedom after so many years? Is it not a crime against my humanity that I suffer this punishment with no end in sight, just because I was arrested on September 6, 1977 instead of October 1, 1977?

This is about the abuse of power and bureaucratic politics. While for a quarter of a century every defendant arrested on the same charges as me, even worse, have been automatically released, a Parole Board can force me to die in prison simply because I don't look, act or even think or talk how *they* want me to. Or maybe I don't have the education or vocational certificates they think I should have or maybe they feel I am too angry. Or as the one member, V. Parker said, I've got "demons."

They sentenced me to Life with no promise of freedom at age 19. Then, while still in prison at age 44, I am being told that I won't be released to a new sentence because I've still got demons! This is the old "keep poking him on the chest until he slaps your hand away, then you can say 'he's violent'" routine. In

1, 1977 will be sentenced under the old penalty and not the new, reduced penalty." Prior to this is was called the "General Savings Clause," but the Indiana Supreme Court called the GSC "unconstitutional" under circumstances where a penalty was reduced before a defendant was sentenced, and that defendant was denied the lesser penalty enacted *before* his sentencing (my circumstance.) In effect, the Indiana Legislature changed the word "general" to "specific" as a blatantly unconstitutional way to circumvent the Indiana Supreme Court's interpretation of the constitutional application of the law.

The Legislature, by creating the "Specific Savings Clause" of 1977 said in effect: "Indiana Prosecutors, if a defendant is arrested for robbery w/inflict on September 30, 1977 and another person is arrested for murder or robbery-Murder on October 1, 1977 - the one that did not murder, or rob and murder, has to receive a longer sentence. Give him a sentence that can keep him in prison until he dies, even though everyone arrested 24 hours later for a worse crime 'must' be set free at a certain point."

I have served double the years that nearly every person arrested for the same charges 25 days after me have served, yet I have no promise of ever being released! I have served more time for robbery than most murderers and robbery-murderers have served in Indiana. They have made automatic parole. I have no right to parole, only an eligibility - no guarantee.

In April 2002 a member of the Indiana Parole Board told me I've got "demons" and they aren't going to take a chance with me. I was told that I need one on one therapy to get the demons out, and when I have satisfactorily convinced them of that, then they'll consider releasing me to a second sentence I have (which is on a detainer from 1978.)

The fact that I have followed their 2001 suggestion, completing an anger management course, and talking consistently to a psychologist meant nothing. They claimed to have no record of that, even though I mailed them all the documentation and the counselor right there at the hearing had copies in his possession.

The fact that I have written two booklets on overcoming "compulsive criminality" and combatting recidivism means nothing. I have practiced self-analysis for over ten years, but the Board Member dismisses that as nothing, and insists that I need need to see "someone" one on one. The fact that I have authored seven novels, plus other works, means nothing.

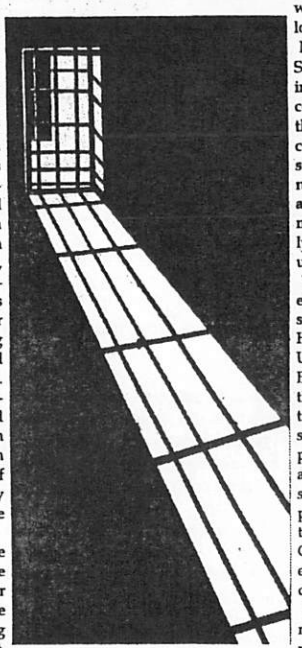
Prison has obstructed my ability to raise resources for me to consistently afford to mail my transcripts. But I am a serious novelist in search of a publisher. All my personal achievements are completely ignored or slighted. In the meantime, since October 1, 1977 the State has been automatically paroling felons who don't even have to know the English alphabet, or have a sixth grade education, let alone discipline, control or an absence of so-called "demons." Absurd!

So, I have actually been told that my possibility of being released from a non-fatal robbery, for which I was sentenced to Life, rests on my ability to convince the Board that I have slain demons. The fact that they've already kept me a decade beyond my earliest possibility of release means nothing. My apology and expression of remorse toward the victim means nothing. My change and growth mean nothing. A falsified pre-sentence report and fabricated, exaggerated or doctored prison conduct charges are said to all be true and I am always lying or avoiding the truth, supposedly.

Prisoners of Ourselves

Ron Campbell

Prisons are not only made of concrete and steel. They are also made of apathy, fear, uncertainty, anger, and a host of other emotional and intellectual barriers. This is a lesson which I have learned through the harsh reality of being imprisoned for most o fmy adult life. However imposing the actual physical prison may be, the real challenge for prisoners such as myself lies in recognizing the emotional baggage they carry as a direct result of their life prior to and during their in incarceration.



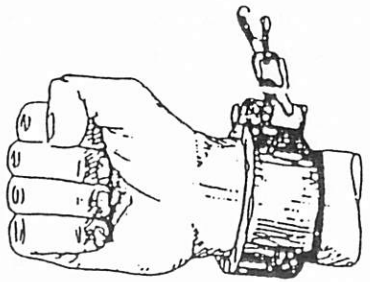
I sincerely doubt that many would argue the fact that prisons are barbaric. No matter the locale, security level, intention, or highly trained the security force, prisons are nothing more than warehouses for the dregs of society. Once within these walls, all rules for survival change. Violence rules, and racism does not hide its ugly face. Prison guards and predatory inmates lie to, deceive, steal, and humiliate prisoners as a matter of course. Prisoners undergo radical changes to their interactions with people, viewing others with suspicion, distrust, and ever with a wary eye for ambush. While some thrive in this environment, others withdraw, or find themselves thrust into a situation where they must choose between being a victim, or committing acts of violence themselves. It is a very remarkable person who can escape prison with their soul unscathed.

Freedom, for those who are fortunate enough to someday be released, is precarious at best. For any who have served a considerable length of time, it is akin to being forced into an alien environment. While it is indeed a joyous occasion, we find that a lot of things have changed. Friends, family, even our neighborhoods are no longer how we remember them. We struggle to reacquaint ourselves with those we love, but stumble on the barriers which we ourselves erected to protect ourselves in prison. It confuses our loved ones, frustrates us, but is inescapable. Only time, and extreme patience can allow us to relax, if we are lucky enough to recognize the problems for what they are. Many become angry at everything, feeling a sense of dread at dealing with unfamiliar things. Some will seek comforting drugs or alcohol, while others will seek out those with whom they feel most comfortable with--other former prisoners or criminals. This is safe, we know how to relate to these people, just as we know how to survive in prison instead of society and we all know that recidivism is likely. Our prisons are full of those who could not adapt to a world they no longer feel a part of.

Not all prisoners fall victim to this cycle. Some are able to shake off the effects of incarceration in a relatively short time. Of course, many more do not. I tend to believe that the majority of those who are unsuccessful fail not because they don't have support, but because they cannot (or will not) recognize how prison has affected and altered them. Those prisoners, much like myself for the past eighteen years, are likely to return to prison, or lead extremely unsatisfying lives.

What is the answer? How to avoid the effects of a prison subculture, and maintain sanity in a decidedly insane environment? How do we avoid the cycle of recidivism? Unfortunately, there are no easy solutions. Each man or woman must first identify those parts of themselves that they find distasteful, and consider how to best rid themselves of the things. Some may find peace in religion, others in political activism. My own solutions have involved substance abuse counseling, psychotherapy, and writing. What we cannot do is continue our previous patterns of behavior. Gang affiliation, drug use, preying on others- you can't change your future if you don't change your present.

WIth only a few months remaining until my release from prison for the fifth time, I make no secret of my fear and uncertainty of the future. I am fortunate enough to have very supportive friends in the activist community, but remember past failures vividly. Only by exercising patience at my transition, and maintaining painfully clear lines of communication during the months ahead will I avoid the pitfalls of prison conditioning. As I am so find of saying--the prisons we erect within ourselves are far worse than any that the state can conceive.



PLEASE NOTE OUR NEW ADDRESS

THE BOOKS 4 PRISONERS CREW
P.O.B. 19065
CINCINNATI, OH 45219

Indiana Prisoners Move to Protest the Conditions of their Confinement

(A Coordinated Press Release)
By Khalfani M. Khaldun and John Balagoon Cole Jr.

The fundamental essence of a Prisoner Support Group is primarily based on and around assisting prisoners who are being forced to endure cruel and unusual punishment at the hands of prison officials. This Press Release is directed to a targeted audience of Prisoner Support Groups who are actively involved in exposing violations being waged against prisoners. Prior to Oct. 16, 2002 some 23 prisoners were being housed on (Administrative Segregation) at the supermax control unit called now (The Maximum Control Facility). On 10-15-02 the DOC here in Indiana transferred 13 prisoners out of this facility to the Pendleton Correctional Facility, leaving those of us behind to believe we would be transferred in the coming days. As we prepare this Press Release it's been close to a month and still there has been no indication as to our classification status. No official authority has been given to us as to what their plans are for us, so we remain in limbo.
We consist of (10) prisoners, (6) New Afrikan (black) prisoners, and (4) North Amerikan white prisoners. Only (3) of us can be considered Politically Conscious Prisoners and the others Socially Conscious Prisoners. We are all long timers, with the exception of a few.
Today our plight remain uncertain, and we need a massive response to be made on our behalf from all freedom loving people who can relate to our internal struggle.
As of right now, we are being held here in a Level (5) Facility punitively, which is a violation to the terms of how we should be confined. Being that each of us are classified as Level (4) prisoners, this facility is supposed to extend more "privileges" that other Level (4) prisoners have. So we are preparing a extensive collective Class Action Law Suit in the Federal Court. We wanted to share these issues with you so that it wouldn't be no questions as to the legitimacy of our claims.

Law Suit Strategy and Tactics

M.C.F. (Maximum Control Facility) imposes the following listed restrictions on the majority of the prisoners housed here:

1. Restrictions on personal gym shoes, wrist watches, and beard trimmers.
Prior to September of 2001, all prisoners on arrival to this facility were allowed to possess their personal gym shoes, wrist watches, and beard trimmers, (provided that they own such properties). In September of 2001, (The major) "George Pane in charge of custody" put out a memorandum prohibiting and restricting prisoners (any prisoner) who arrived at this facility after September of 2001 from having their personal gym shoes, wrist watches, and beard trimmers.
These restrictions are arbitrary, capricious, and unreasonable, and we have every intention of challenging them in a Law Suit.
These restrictions are arbitrary and capricious because they have no legitimate relationship to security concerns at this facility. They serve no legitimate penalogical goal or purpose. These restrictions are discriminatory because they permit half (or some) of these prisoners who are housed at M.C.F. to possess their personal gym shoes, wrist watches, and beard trimmers, and deny other prisoners this privilege or (equal right).

2. Only prisoners who own clear-secure view televisions are permitted to send their televisions out to be repaired if they should stop working for some reason.
Prisoners who own non-secure view televisions are not permitted to send their televisions out to be repaired when theirs stop working, despite the fact that they have warrantees to be repaired.
The restriction that prohibit prisoners from sending their non-secure view televisions out to be repaired is arbitrary, capricious, and unreasonable. It's also discriminatory. This restriction serves no legitimate penalogical goal or purpose.

3. Restriction on group recreation.
Prisoners who are housed on this unit on Administrative Segregation Status are not being allowed opportunity to engage in group recreation with other prisoners or each other. The restriction of group recreation for prisoners who are on Administrative Segregation Status is unreasonable and have no legitimate security relation especially when you consider the fact that M.C.F. is no longer a (level 5#) facility.
It's a Disciplinary Segregation Status unit. The vast majority of the prisoners housed at this facility are doing Disciplinary Segregation time. The prisoners doing Segregation time are permitted to have "requested group recreation" (3) people at a time.
Therefore, allowing prisoners on A/S status to come out for group recreation shouldn't constitute no more of a security threat than group recreation for D/S prisoners do.

4. Prisoners who are housed at this facility on A/S Status are restricted to only ordering seven (7) food items from commissary. This restriction is unreasonable for the following reasons:

An Appeal to Reason

Clarence A. Taylor

To: All persons who have an interest in fairness and reasonableness when it comes to criminal law, crime and punishment. I am hoping to appeal to rational-minded, humanitarian people. Those who, like anyone else, feel that crime must be punished, but who also know from a moral standpoint that when a punishment becomes so *unreasonable* and excessive that it can no longer be viewed as social justice, then that punishment itself becomes a crime being perpetrated by the State.

Re: The State's Crime Against Me

My charge here is that the State of indiana and the Indiana Parole Board are guilty of committing the crime of cruel and excessive punishment against me. This punishment would shock the sentiment of any reasonable, humane person, for it truly violates not only Indiana's Constitution, Article One, sec. 18, but the 18th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. Please read further and decide for yourself.

In September 1977 I was arrested for Robbery w/Inflict under Indiana Law. The penalty by law was mandatory Life. But twenty-five days after my arrest a new law was enacted "reducing" the penalty to 20 - 50 years, meaning the average defendant would receive 30 years and be "automatically" released on parole after 15 years behind bars. On October 1, 1977 the penalty for murder was also reduced from Life to 30 - 60 years with automatic parole after serving twenty years.

Now, it's been nearly seven months after countless murderers and Class A robbery defendants were convicted and sentenced for a robbery to *Life* with no guarantee of ever being free again. After twenty-five years, I am still behind bars with no idea if I'll ever get out. In the meantime, in 1994 - 1995, defendants convicted of my same charge, on average, were only sentenced to 25 years presumptive, and only served 12 1/2, because the penalty was further reduced. (It's been raised back to 20 - 50 again.) This is still less time than me. And, even though the penalty for murder has been raised to 65 years, a typical defendant serves 27 1/2 years with automatic parole, which is still less time than my penalty for robbery.

These defendants arrested 25 days after me, although convicted of murder, murder-robbery, rape-murder, arson-murder, burglary-murder, child-molestation murder, etc., have all faced less time than me for a robbery w/injury, but no death. I can not count the number of murderers and felony-murderers that I have watched go free on *automatic* parole, no questions asked, no standards of prison achievement demanded to be met, while myself and about 35 others in my position may never be free again. This is not because we have been convicted of worse crimes, but simply because we were convicted, or in my case - arrested, before October 1, 1977.

The Indiana Legislature created a "Savings Clause" that, in my case, violates the Indiana Supreme Court's interpretation of the Constitution. This savings clause is called the *Specific Savings Clause*: "Anyone arrested before October

more than any other nationality of people and African Americans are eight(8) times more likely to be convicted and sentenced to prison than othe nationalities of youth.

It is clear that a new leviathan of racial inequality has been constructed across this country. The brutal simplicity of the old "Jim Crow" system with its omnipresence of inequality everywhere will soar to unprecendented rates in many respects far more devastating as black are the raw materials in the expansion of the criminal injustice system. It presents itself to the world as a system that is equal with social justice and people should just stand far away from it and remain silent, while millions of the people are being destroyed all around this country.

The proportion of those under this type of immoral, racialized political problem are young people. The economic costs of this systematic process expansion is color blind to racial equality and social justice.

We the People need to get involved and address this widespread crisis and give it the attention it deserves. The criminal justice system is dealing very harshly with young people. Law enforcement officials are given much greater lattitude and funding to create a rapid expansion of a system designed to destroy lives and not to save them.

Who has the most to gain and who has the most to lose? We must change the odds into a percentage in our favor. Any percentage we add to the very low percentages that we already have is an effort to bring our people out of the darkness and into the light of knowledge.

Sheik Mark Moore El
Reg. # 990115
Route 2 Box 2222
Mineral Point, MO 63660

Illusion

Look now if you dare behind these prison walls
Stare into the merciless eyes of a thousand faces...
Can you see the despairty the loss of determination?
A powerful formation without yet unity,
Insignia of my reality...
Many come thru these turbulent walls confuse & content
Some are left behind innocent and extent.
Fertilizing of souls to lure the consistency of prison growth
Trying to turn back the innocent from rebellious revolt,
Seizing my mind into shock convulsions
Accomodating my pain with its mentally torture
Now put your hands upon my chest,
Do you feel the burning of my flesh?
The desire from your touch soothing my heart's frigid neglect,
The throbbing of your puke convicting my thoughts content,
Awaking moans crying release from this scornful sin...
Now look at the palms of your hands
Only silent tears remain; the coaxing of my plea,
Still you don't understand this Illusion that becomes me

~ Kelly Davis 309807
Gater 3R-12 Camp J
Louisiana State Prison
Angola, Louisiana 70712

(1) As a general rule prisoners assigned to "Administrative Segregation Status" all across this State of Indiana, are afforded the same commissary privileges as the General Prison Population prisoners. Prisoners in General Population are allowed to order as much as $ 50.00 of food products per week.

(2) The restriction that limits prisoners to receiving only seven (7) food items from commissary is a "Pre-Administrative Segregation" restriction that applied to prisoners who were assigned to this facility under Level (5) Security Control Unit Status. This facility no longer functions as a Level (5) Security Control Facility.
The commissary restriction imposed on prisoners assigned to this facility under Level (5) Status was done for punitive purposes.
The last remnant of prisoners assigned to this facility under Level (5) Security Control Unit Status were transferred out of this facility in 2001.

(3) Allowing prisoners assigned to this facility on Administrative Segregation Status to order 20 or 30 food items a week will in no way infringe on the security of this unit.

For the aforementioned reasons the restrictions on food items is unreasonable and serves no legitimate penalogical goal or purpose.

5. Prisoners who are housed at this facility on A/S Status are arbitrarily restricted to ordering "only junk food" items from commissary. Such as cookies, candy bars, cakes, and corn chips, popcorn. These food items have no nutritious value.
The commissary list should be expanded to permit prisoners assigned to A/S Status an opportunity to order nutritious food products and items such as Ramen soups, rice, sardines, fish steaks, Jack-mackerel, white canned chicken, Vienna sausage, tuna, red beans an rice, peanut butter, summer sausage, grapefruit juices, and V-8 juices.
To deny prisoners assigned to this facility under A/S Status an opportunity to order nutritious foods is a arbitrary, capricious, and unreasonable restriction. Because to permit them to order such food items in no way infringe on the security of this control facility.

6. Prisoners housed at this facility are only permitted to add or delete people to their visitation list every (6) month. These restrictions were imposed in June of 2002 in accordance to a memorandum that was pasted in the recreation area (pods).
This restriction is arbitrary, capricious, and extremely unreasonable, because it undermines the relationships that prisoners housed on this unit have with their family members and friends. It penalizes prisoners and their relatives and friends by making them wait these (6) months unnecessarily to be approved and placed on their visitation list.
This policy or discretionary memorandum that restrict prisoners from adding people to their visitation list have nothing to do with security concerns, therefore, it serves no legitimate penalogical goal or purpose.

7. Prisoners housed at this facility are only permitted to receive "money" by money orders from people who have been approved and added to their visitation list.
This policy is overly broad, arbitrary, capricious, and unreasonable for the following reasons:

(1) A lot of the prisoners who are being housed at this facility have no immediate family members. This is to say, their mothers, fathers, brothers, and sisters have all died.
Therefore, their friends as well as the people that they routinely communicate with, "outside in the free world", function as their extended family.
The people that they routinely communicate with, outside in "the free world," are often times former prisoners, or have criminal records.

(2) "The Indiana Department of Corrections" as a general rule, does not allow individuals with criminal records or who were once incarcerated within their institutions to visit other prisoners.

(3) Because of this policy that M.C.F. have that restricts prisoners who are housed here to receiving "money orders" from approved visitation list visitors, this policy is one that infringes on the prisoners ability to take care of his day-to-day survival needs. No one with a criminal record will be allowed to send a prisoner financial assistance due to such a discriminatory process.

For all the aforementioned reasons this policy at M.C.F. that restricts prisoners to only receiving "money orders" or "money" from people who have been approved and placed on their visitation list is extremely overly broad, arbitrary, capricious, and unreasonable. It therefore serves no legitimate penalogical goal or purpose.

8. Prisoners who are housed at this facility are being restricted from bringing their phone books or (address books) (which contain their relatives' and friends' phone numbers in them), and playing cards out to recreation with them.
This is arbitrary, capricious, and unreasonable for the following reasons:

(1) Prisoners are allowed to put "25" persons on their approved phone list. Very few prisoners have mental retention to memorize 25 separate phone numbers. Therefore, they must write them down and refer to their address books prior to making a call.

(2) Playing cards is no way an infringement upon the safety and security of this unit. If they were, prisoners would not be permitted to order them off of the facilities commissary.

For all the aforementioned reasons, this policy at M.C.F. prohibiting prisoners from bringing out their address books to the recreation with them is arbitrary, capricious, and unreasonable. This policy serves no legitimate penalogical goal or purpose.

9. Prisoners housed at this facility are allowed to receive mail from any source, publication, or publisher, and personal letters. This facility operates on (2) policies, one is considered a Mail Correspondence Policy, the other is a Security Threat Group Policy. Currently prisoners' on A/S Status at M.C.F. incoming correspondences are being confiscated, withheld, and read in violation to these mandated policies. They are reading prisoners' publications and letters, making arbitrary determinations based on violating the very policies, which only allows for such to be "scanned" and not read, in search of contraband or anything illegal. Their confiscations are personal, arbitrary, capricious, and unreasonable. None of the confiscations by this M.C.F mailroom are justified by security concerns.
For all the aforementioned reasons, these (2) policies at M.C.F. allowing this facility to confiscate prisoners' letters and books, magazines, are extremely unreasonable. They serve no legitimate penalogical goal or purpose.

These are our concerns we wanted to enlighten the Support Groups on. We are serious. We want to force the hands of The Indiana Department of Corrections to give us access to the things prisoners of (Level 4) Status have all across this state. We ask and pray that you use every available avenue or resource you have at your deposal to ensure our message have been conveyed to you, and that as our outside voice you want some answers. Those who we ask that you contact are the Governor who runs the State of Indiana, The Indiana Department of Corrections' Commissioner, who is over the whole (IDOC), and the Superintendent of this facility, the Maximum Control Facility. We ask that calls, faxes, letters, and even e-mails be sent if possible on behalf of the following prisoners:

(1) Leonard McQuay #874304 (Khalfani Malik Khaldun) A3-102 A/S
(2) John Cole Jr. #14658 (Balagoon) A4-204 A/S
(3) James Pharms #935122 A4-206 A/S
(4) Arelious Buchanan #854024 A4-202 A/S
(5) Roger Jaske #1983 A3-105 A/S
(6) Larry Spikes #22037 A3-106 A/S
(7) Rodney Jones #906119 A3-104 A/S
(8) Ricky Burnett 900177 A4-203 A/S
(9) Shaw Sills #24141 A4-205 A/S
(10) David Taylor #31700 A3-103 A/S



Our demands are as follows:

1. We request to be transferred to a Level 4 prison or that we be given the privileges given to Level (4) prisoners.

2. Prisoners who were sent to (M.C.F.) from Pendleton Corr. Facility demand to know why they weren't returned after the renovations have been completed.

3. We demand to be allowed to have group recreation with the person we deem necessary if their plans are to keep the (10) named prisoners at (M.C.F.)

4. We demand that the Governor Frank O'Bannon make a visit to M.C.F. to inspect the orderly runnings of this A/S unit.

5. We demand that control office staff and IDOC Commissioner send someone to (M.C.F.) to address the issues outlined in our Law Suit Strategy.

6. We demand that all A/S prisoners on this unit at (M.C.F.) be given a hour and a half recreation daily.

Anyone who reads or receive this Press Release, we hope you help our cause by contacting the following authorities as soon as possible:

The meaning of struggle and the need for respect is far too great for most to comprehend because it is not a way of life to them. The power over the common poor people is a destructive influence and its source originated from the holocaust of oppression which has stripped the people of their dignity, rights, and the will to struggle. This has been done through an intense psychological indoctrination. The common poor people have not fully realized yet that they are part of a process and system that is against them and not for them. It is against them because of who they are, where they came from and what their children will become.

It is very important for people to exercise action and not patience with those who are less culturally aware, socially active, economically educated and politically conscious. It is very imperative for the people to look at the image and conditions of our people who are being held back from the basic things. This denial of the basics has caused many adverse ramifications and problems and will affect generations to come, causing a vast expansion of crime and incarceration throughout the United States.

Over half of our people who are incarcerated are in their teens or twenties. Our leaders are not coming together like they should to address these problems, even though they see it developing right in front of their own eyes. The issues and concerns of young people has never been at the forefront of the peoples' agenda in this nation. We give more attention to the wealthy than we do the problems of our youth.

Too much focus and attention is given to incarcerate our youth. None is given to understand our youth. Do people think our youth should be incarcerated? We need information to try and understand what we can do to stop the mass incarceration of our youth. Why haven't our leaders reached this point?

We must come up with strategies to dismantle the indoctrination of our people who have accepted this process as a way of life. We are becoming more and more victims each and every day as part of the expansion of this system. The statistics tell the story. Twenty-three (23) percent of all African American youth are either awaiting trial, in jails, prisons, on probation, parole or house arrest. From this rate we see a systematic process of laws that gave the common poor people probation before, but now sends them to prison with more severe sentences than ever.

This has surpassed (doubled) the incarceration of blacks who lived under South African apartheid at its worst. Young people are increasingly viewed in court as adults and subjected to harsher penalties, eliminating all possibilities for probation. Juveniles with the same records and crime(s) are treated radically different - depending on race and class. There is a statistical pattern of bias even in the process system for juveniles.

The Department of Justice study shows caucasian American youth offenders are referrred to juvenile court at a rate of 70% while only 29% of African American are so referred. Fifty-nine (59%) of African American youth are detained in juvenile jails, while thirty-three (33%) of other nationalities of youth are detained in juvenile jails. Forty-eigth (48%) of African American youth make up all who are tried in adult criminal courts, while thirty-one (31%) of other nationalities are tried in adult criminal court. Sixty-one (61%) of African Americans are warehoused in adult prisons, while forty-four (44%) of other nationalities of youth are warehoused in adult prisons.

African America youth are arrested and charged more than six (6) times

The Twenty-First Century System
by
Sheik Mark Moore El: National Coordinator
Missouri Prison Labor Union
Web Site: http//www.Banfound.U-Net.com/MPLU.Him

There's a driving force based in the ideology that rationalizes and justifies mass bias and the abuse of common people in America through stereotypical perception of race, culture, financial status and criminal behavior. Society has been made to believe that these things are generally associated with poor, underprivileged people - those involved in hate and violence. Stereotyping occurs by those who are culturally unaware, racially uneducated and who bear a deep resentment against those they target.

This type of stereotyping influences the wrongful judgement of poor blacks and causes the severe criminal judgement of conviction with long prison sentences that are different from those sentences given to others who have committed the same crime. They are treated differently because they are not looked upon as hostile, aggressive, violent, uneducated, unemployed or poor. For instance, in capital cases, when these types of people have been stereotyped and accused of "MURDER!" they are much more likely to receive the death penalty. "These people" of course, are African Americans.

The young and poor are targeted and thus are the greatest victims of the United States judicial process of "unequal justice" that is known to man. The year 2002 offers data from several foundations which show that the racial disparity is such that this disadvantage for common poor folks cannot be overcome.

During the mainstream Civil Rights era, these ideas now were not as severe, as the nation focused on civil rights issues, social issues, cultural issues, human rights issues, economic and political issues. The civil rights movement diverted the attention from focusing on the young and common poor people, who were unable to become empowered and assimilated into this society that was supposedly the goal of "integration."

What has occurred has been the creation of an illness of disempowerment, which has led to an internalized anger, coupled with an unconscious and conscious fear of power, making the fear in thought too great to be challenged, when people know that it is wrong. The fear that the people felt during the civil rights movement still exists today. The common poor people are feeling the same fear and these same fears are being transferred to our children. This fear is intensifying the indoctrination to not challenge the power of this wrongful process.

Instead people are taught to support this process, know their place in the process and stay in their place in the process. These people will constantly be regarded as second class citizens.

The structure of this psychological act has created a threat of hostility, aggression and violence against the supremacy of this process and movement. It shows that the people more and more are accepting their conditions - wrongful they may be - as a way of life, which they feel as a means of survival. We are raising a generation of young people who do not have a consciousness of a struggle, nor any respect.

Danny McBride
Superintendent of M.C.F.
P.O. Box 557
Westville, IN 46391

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Evelyn Ridley-Turner
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Frank O'Bannon
Governor of Indiana
206 State House

Indianapolis, IN 46204

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Fax. 319-881-6711



We want a massive response, copies of all letters you send, e-mails, or faxes. Please send copies of such to the following prisoners. You may contact us with any ideas or questions you may have about any of these issues raised in our Press Release. We will respond to all letters sent to us. Please take special care out there. This is a call to solidarity to all Support Groups across this country. The struggle continues. We can be contacted at:

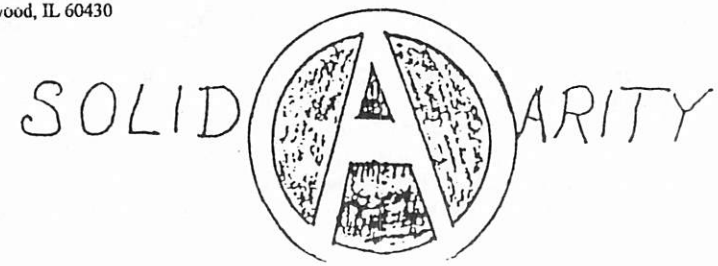
Bro. Khalfani Malik Khaldun #874304
(Leonard McQuay) A#-102
P.O. Box 557
Westville, IN 46391-0557

James Pharms #935122 A4-206
P.O. Box 557
Westville, IN 46391-0557

John "Balagoon" Cole Jr. #14658 A4-204
P.O. Box 557
Westville, IN 46391-0557

Note: Please add this to the Internet, websites. Send it to News publications, and get it in the hands of all the right people. Anyone looking to learn more about how the (IDOC) functions where it concerns control units can send $ 2.00 to the below address for a copy of The Epidemic of Control Units from:

South Chicago Anarchist Black Cross
c/o Anthony Rayson
P.O. Box 721
Homewood, IL 60430



KHALFANI MALIK KHALDUN REFUSES TO SURRENDER

On the occasion of transfer to the notorious Indiana SHU Control unit at Carlisle, IN

In prison, commitment to revolution has a very special meaning and a special price paid. To be identified as a revolutionary by prison authorities means an almost permanent denial of parole, separation from the other prisoners, solitary confinement (usually in the maximum security wings of the prison) transfers from one prison to another, beatings and bad food. It brings down on you the entire punitive and repressive force of a completely totalitarian system.

-George Jackson-

TRANSFER TO WABASH VALLEY CORRECTIONAL FACILITY

In light of the many contradictions at the Maximum Control Facility in Westville, Indiana, and in conjunction with the collective effort on behalf of the prisoners challenging those violations of policy and procedure which currently exist on the administrative segregation pod {A-pod A/S}, I believe I have been moved as part of the attempt to separate those of us promoting these challenges.

On January 30, 2003, MCF staff approached my cell and advised me to pack up my things, as I was being moved. This was about 6 a.m. I screamed out to advise the comrades of this move, and began packing up my property, contemplating my destination. This transfer was coming on the heels of my two years spent at MCF, having been sent there from Pendleton Correctional Facility on January 16, 2001, under "temporary status," due to renovations being made on the cell house. This latest transfer came as a surprise, since two days earlier my sister had been advised by the commissioner's office that I was appropriately placed. On second thought, though, this is the usual deceitful procedure followed by the prisoncrats when contemplating a change in status.

My property was placed in the van and we began the journey, a long and exhausting one, close to 4 1/2 hours, and deep into the heart of Klan territory. All I saw on the journey was endless stretches of land and cornfields. As we approached the facility, a murky fog emerged from the ground, and I felt I was on my way to and Angola styled prison straight out of the Black Belt south, where racist white folks run the show.

ENTERING THE SHU

The atmosphere within the units receiving area was very disturbing. I was placed in a non-contact visitation booth, told to strip, and given new clothing. Many of the white officers were coming to look at me, like I was a prize catch who ran away from the slave plantation. Some of these big corn-fed white male officers couldn't miss their chance to say they'd been waiting to see this guy they all called the correctional officer killer. This is my first time housed in the WVCF, and my first time in the "horror house", the notorious SHU. So of course I was primed for almost any form of disrespect to be directed toward me. Three red-faced S HU officers escorted me from their receiving area to cell A-201, in what is considered the SHU units' administrative segregation long-term section. There are three other prisoners housed in this area. Next door to this section is A-1 section, considered Administrative segregation short term. Twelve prisoners are housed in this section.

After screening my cell , and cleaning up the sink and the toilet, I noticed they had a camera on the wall trained on my cell. Several prisoners confirmed to me that the camera had been recently installed. Whenever I am in my cell, I am being watched to the advantage of those who operate this unit. This is an ugly hell-hole, designed to strip ones of their hope, sanity, determination, and, ultimately, to steal one's life. Solidarity is a must between like-minded revolutionary prisoners to combat the obvious intentions they have to slowly break ones down.

Acknowledged Innocence, something most extraordinary is happening. It definitely brings out the worst in most people.

And consider this:

With all the PhD's, D.D.'s, theologians, scholars and religious writers, where is there in the past 2000 years, ONE book that deals exclusively with this specific and precise subject? ONE?

Who knows about Jesus, yet knows nothing about *Acknowledged Innocence?*

Robert J. Zani #328938
Michael Unit
P.O. Box 4500
Tennessee Colony, TX 75886



Acknowledged Innocence is a separate and distinct category, not simply one step above innocence. Jesus was an *Acknowledged Innocent* prisoner. John 18:38, 19:14, 19:6. Paul also, Acts 26:231-32. At the same time, we know that even then, such a status was not unique because nothing is new under the sun. Ecles. 1:9-10. Still, it is very unusual and calls attention to itself.

Two thousand years ago *Acknowledged Innocence* was simple. You were pronounced innocent and then incarcerated or executed. John 18:38 ET SEQ. Nowadays in a much more complex legal society, *Acknowledged Innocence* (A.I.) can come about a half dozen ways, all of them equally valid, and each sadly revealing a criminal justice system that has neither advanced, nor altered human nature, which is the same as it was 2000 years ago...

On January 3, 1995 the state of Texas after *acknowledging* that Jesse Jacobs was innocent of *capital* murder, executed him. Did that slip by you? Well, you can look it up. Jacobs v Scott 115 S. Ct. 711 (1995,) in the *US Supreme Court Reporter*. Three justices on the U.S. Supreme Court spell it out in black and white. Prior to his Texas state murder, who spoke for Jesse Jacobs, an A.I. prisoner? Lisa Lambert is, I am, Medell Banks Jr. are all A.I. prisoners. *New York Times* columnist Bub Herbert wrote a column about Banks on 8/15/02 titled *"An Imaginary Homicide."*

So although you have never heard about it specifically, this particular situation has been around for well over 2000 years, but it has two inherent problems: 1) It always points to corruption and dishonesty on the part of the criminal justice system, and 2) "Locking up" or executing an A.I. prisoner is a continuous, ongoing, daily evil act. Pure evil! It is as powerful and diabolical a thing as you may encounter... It's like looking sheer evil in the face every day as it roams around behind human masks. *Who exactly is it who wants to keep Acknowledged Innocent prisoners locked up?* Where are the Christians? Is Rene Girard right? Are Christians, beneath their veneer of Christianity, gleefully enjoying each scapegoating? Has nothing changed in 2000 years? The more things change, the more they stay the same, but it goes deeper than that. Prisoners are *acknowledged* innocent in the face of God, but are defiantly and diabolically kept locked up or executed by the state and its slave servants. Exercising raw state power. In your face!

On a daily basis, it is almost surrealistic and beyond desrciption. Not the being innocent. That is bad enough for anyone. But, it's being *Acknowledged Innocent,* facing the faces and forces of pure evil in the guise of the state, that is so outrageous!

How much did the Catholic Church spend on *Acknowledged Innocence* last year? Zero.

And all the Protestant Churches? Zero.

And Amnesty international and Human Rights Watch? Zero.

It's deja vu *2000 years ago!* With the religious and non-religious folks, heading for the hills. But *why?* It does not take a Rhodes Scholar to determine that with

BLATANT HARASSMENT AND RACISM DURING THE IVENTORY OF MY PROPERTY

ON January 31, the second day after my arrival, the SHU property room officers brought me my property, or what I had hoped was everything that came with me. After scanning the approved inventory list, I noticed that many things were missing. This was the point at which they handed me a second list, a "confiscation list" describing what they deemed I could not possess. The following are the items that were restricted :

(1) Fifty-four revolutionary political science books (2) Eight magazines (3) Three toothbrushes 4) Six toothpastes (5) Six deodorants 6) Two fingernail clippers 7) Two bottles of baby oil 8) One bottle of mouth wash (9) One skin cream (10) One bottle of Drakken cologne 11) Seven pencils and two pens 12) One jar of Vaseline 13) One face trimmer (14) One can shaving cream 15) One radio (16) One watch (17) Four hundred and thirty one family pictures (18) One address book 19) Two headphones

I am convinced that the Department of Corruption are working real hard to stagnate and arrest the political development occurring in these prisons. The confiscation of our books to me is an indicator that their aim is to breed a reliance on video pap (all the police shows on the tube and cop propaganda like "Cops"), and thereby interrupt the natural progression to consciousness that comes from reading.

I have filed a complaint about the confiscation of *all* my books and revolutionary literature and the cosmetics. If we are going to be sanctioned to long term segregation status we should be allowed to have full access to all property. They gave me only five books and five magazines, selecting those they deemed fit. Blatant racism.

THE DISORGANIZATION OF ADMINISTRATIVE SEGREGATION AND POLICY VIOLATIONS

There are a lot of contradictions and violations existing unchallenged in the A/S sections. The first day I was here I was privileged to read ad seg policy 02-01-111. This revealed to me many things we are supposed to have by policy. There are sixteen A/S prisoners on this unit. Per policy we should be provided group recreation, two prisoners at a time inside or outside.

This unit is not in compliance. We are being escorted to and from recreation and the showers in handcuffs. They are extremely disorganized in the operational functions of this newly opened unit. They are blatantly denying us our guaranteed rights and privileges that this policy clearly outlines. For instance, they fail to provide sufficient exercise outlets, and do not provide jump ropes, board games, hand balls, exercise bikes, etc. We are being sanctioned to do long term segregation ; if they feel the need to keep us in the unit, then they must provide all the necessary exercise gear provided to other A/S units.

Policy says A/S prisoners will be provided an option of indoor or outdoor rec. We are allowed only outdoor rec, subjecting our immune systems to colds, germs, infection.

CELL SANITATION VIOLATION

In this unit, there are porters who are released to sweep and mop the floors outside the cells. They will allow us to do our cells with their equipment. However, as is practice in cells all over the state, whisk brooms and security-ready hand-held johnny mops should be made available to prisoners to clean their cells thoroughly as needed, especially during lockdowns.

Every prison housing unit where human beings are held must follow all Indiana Health Code regulations. I have encouraged ones to contact by mail the Indiana Board of Health concerning our denial of mops and brooms. *Unit mops (from porters) are often used to clean up body wastes and urine, and mopping our cells with these mops would spread germs.*

This SHU unit does not have any windows and appears damn near like a basement. It is void of any sunlight on a permanent basis. One of the first things I became aware of after I arrived was how they use the heating and cooling systems as behavior modification controls. As I write, it feels like my hand are buried in a foot of snow. By manipulating the temperature in the units, I assume they want us to resort to staying in be as much as possible, wrapped in wool blankets to keep warm.

I have rarely been in an A/S unit without windows. If one is not careful, one can slip away from or become detached from reality. In addition, there is two flood lights in our cells that remain on even when one is cut off by a motion hand switch

We are all non-contact visitation, which helps to further erode family ties, emotional relationships and support we have on the outside. I have been fighting for two years to be returned to Pendleton C.F.as was outlined to me, requesting my outside help to write the I D.O.C. and support this claim. To now be transferred to yet another facility will tend to burn out people who see what appears to be arbitrary capriciousness in assigning me to this, that and the other cage.

If this is their plan, then I will expose the contradictions and attempt to fall off the radar long enough to make a push for general population. This seems unlikely, but the possibility now is grater than ever.

Another thing I see as low-intensity psychological warfare is their limit of one twenty minute phone call per week. This is the only unit I know of that limits like this. Other units allow an hour exercise period during which one has unlimited access to the phone. The twenty minute sanction has been used for rule violators on Disciplinary Segregation. A punitive application. To extend this to all A/S prisoners seems just a further attempt to de-humanize and isolate and break down the prisoners here on this unit.

I have already mentioned this in a letter to the Superintendent, and the others are joining. I refuse to accept this.

HIGH INTENSITY PSYCHOLOGICAL WARFARE AND RETALIATIONS FOR COMLAINTS FILED

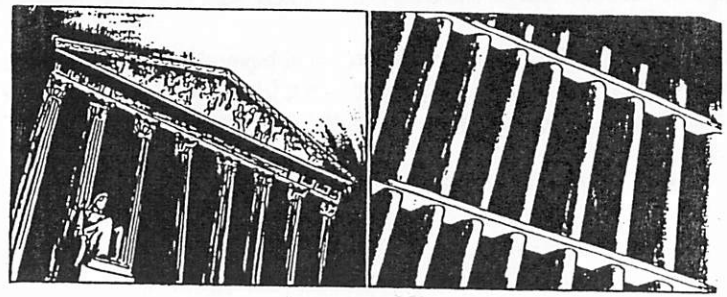
After only five days in this facility, I have been given a crash curse in the racist politics of this SHU unit by some of the prisoners. I have been told of several outright murders by these racist ones. They run in groups to dehumanize prisoner. A few big white cornfed officers were forced to resign or were fired after their involvement in these deaths were reported. In one case a rag was stuffed down ones throat, yet cause of death was stated as "blunt force trauma" to the head. These people seem to feel they are above law, and I am beginning to concur.

They have a crew of five male officers who have been witnessed violating the content of prisoners' trays, spitting and putting cigarette ashes, urine and cleaning fluids in their food. They remove chicken and other items from the trays, stating that " you don't deserve to eat like this." This news is particularly disturbing to me because I have the label of "murder of a DOC officer" in this facility. So it is no question of the possibility of poisoning, and pushing my buttons to make me lose control. These are a bunch of reactionary, emotionally-driven racists.

Thus far things have been cool, but today at 2:30 pm the shift supervisor and several other officers came to see who I was. One had the nerve to ask me if I was alright and situated. I'm eating only bread and crackers, hoping to secure resources to purchase commissary, so I will not have to eat off trays they are playing with. Having the camera on my cell, I don't think they will try to get too silly. But they prepare the food outside the range of the camera. Many complaints have been filed, but rumor has it these ones have the green light to run the unit as they see fit.

I have read several of these complaints, and it is not surprising to learn that there have been severe retaliations. Many ones are becoming afraid to challenge the contradictions, fearing they will come under attack. Recently, an eight-inch steel shank was planted in a prisoner's cell, one

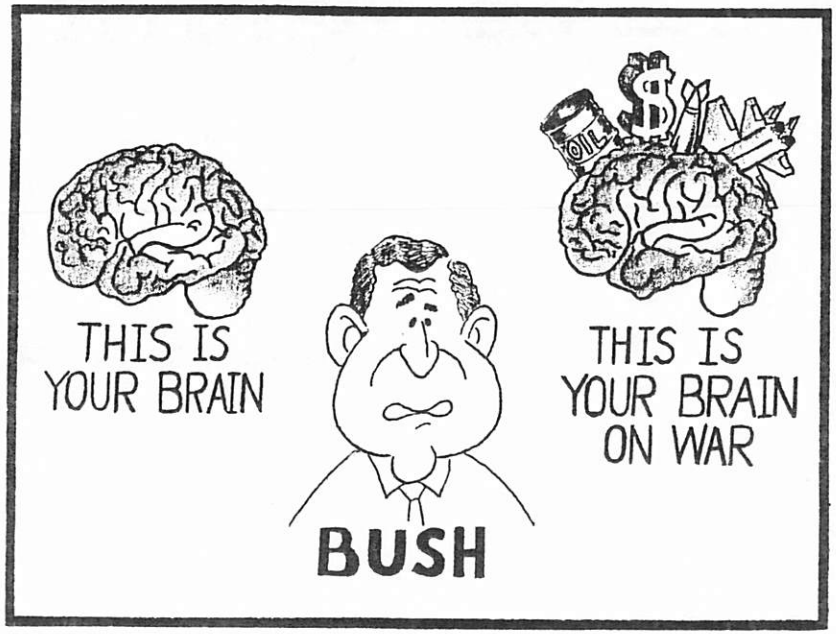




IN JUST US



MIDDLE EAST RESOLUTION



who was filing grievances. He was found guilty of possession of the weapon and sent to disciplinary wing. I will reach out to him in an attempt to get his story out to the public. It is imperative that we begin to build solidarity, so that they will never feel comfortable isolating and violating us on an individual basis.

This is why it is so important that outside activists keep a close eye on this unit and its bloodthirsty nature. I am going to come under attack, because I will be organizing around any violations that I can prove by focusing on standard policies and procedure.

There was another prisoner who wrote the I.D.O.C. His complaints were legitimate and along the lines of requesting release from A/S because of a clear conduct report. A copy of this request was returned to the SHU unit officers, who immediately launched a barrage of bogus conduct reports on him to make it appear he was a problem prisoner. They seem to think that we will be pacified with access to tv and radio and commissary, and can be defeated by threats and retaliations. Many here who have never been engaged in constant internal struggle with the administration will not take a committed stand when they fear being poisoned, set-up or written up with trumped-up conduct reports. There is a big job ahead of us.

THE WELCOME WAGON

On 2/05/03, I was told the SHU unit team wanted to see me, and was escorted to their office. They went off into a conversation about welcoming me to this facility, and to discuss my status. Since I had already sent my complaint to the Superintendent, he asked them to address me personally and answer my questions. They advised me that I was sent here on intra-departmental transfer status per central office, to be placed on long-term administrative segregation, because the SHU offers proper security restrictions to control my movements.

They had two officers in the room in plain clothes and five other ranking officers standing outside around the door. One of them asked how long I had been on A/S status, then said there is one more unit (at Miami Correctional Facility) that I will no doubt see before my tour of duty on A/S units is complete.

We discussed cleaning supplies, jump ropes, hand balls, and the guaranteed privileges we are due on this unit. They assured me that by summer they would be up to speed, including new basketballs. They also claimed that the Superintendent have no authority to deal with me, unless word is given to him, a blatant fabrication.

All of the so-called tough guys they use for goon squad duty made their rounds to see who they were making all the fuss over. I have been professional in my expressions and approach here. But I will not remain cam in the event of DOC sanctioned repression. The struggle is real on this front.

BREAKING ONES MIND AND SPIRIT

Much of what I mention next will be available in a widely-disseminated and no doubt familiar pamphlet on the methods of behavioral control developed at the federal prison in Marion, Illinois. The purpose of SHU units is human experimentation designed to control revolutionary attitudes in the prisoners and as a result *in society at large.* It is used to silence prison critics, religious leaders, economic and philosophical dissidents.

In 1962, at a Washington, DC a meeting of social scientists and prisoncrats, one Dr. Edward Schein presented a monograph on brainwashing techniques. He said " In order to produce marked changes in behavior and attitude, it is necessary to weaken, undermine or remove the supports of patterns of behavior and old attitudes." Because most of these supports are the face to face confirmation of present behavior and attitudes provided by those emotional ties which exist, it is often necessary to break these emotional ties. This can be done either by removing the individual physically, and preventing any communication with those whom he respects, and destroying this respect and convincing them they indeed should be actively mistrusted.

The techniques they use to accomplish these ends are listed in the literature I mentioned above, and are widely available on line. These are all techniques currently being used in prisons throughout the US. We must be creative in resisting these attempts to break us down, destroy our minds and rob us of our spiritual strengths. I'm going to keep fighting and keep refusing to surrender in the face of this repression.

STRUGGLING ON TWO FRONTS

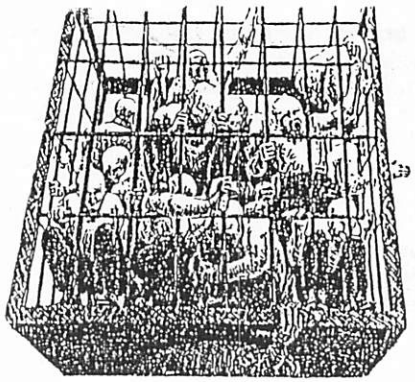
While I am confronted with many contradictions on this new front, I am yet concerned about the men I left behind at M.C.F., who are also engaged in a battle for the privileges others have access to around this state. We sent out a press release on all these issues, and I believe the central office moved me from M.C.F. in an attempt to disburse the solidarity and shatter outside support. I am requesting that those of you who have helped me on an individual basis and are in rotation with me to find time and energy to assist the remaining men at M.C.F. One can do this by contacting Bro. John C. Cole, Jr. (Balagoon), #14658, cell A4-204, at P.O. Box 557, Westville, IN 46391-0557.

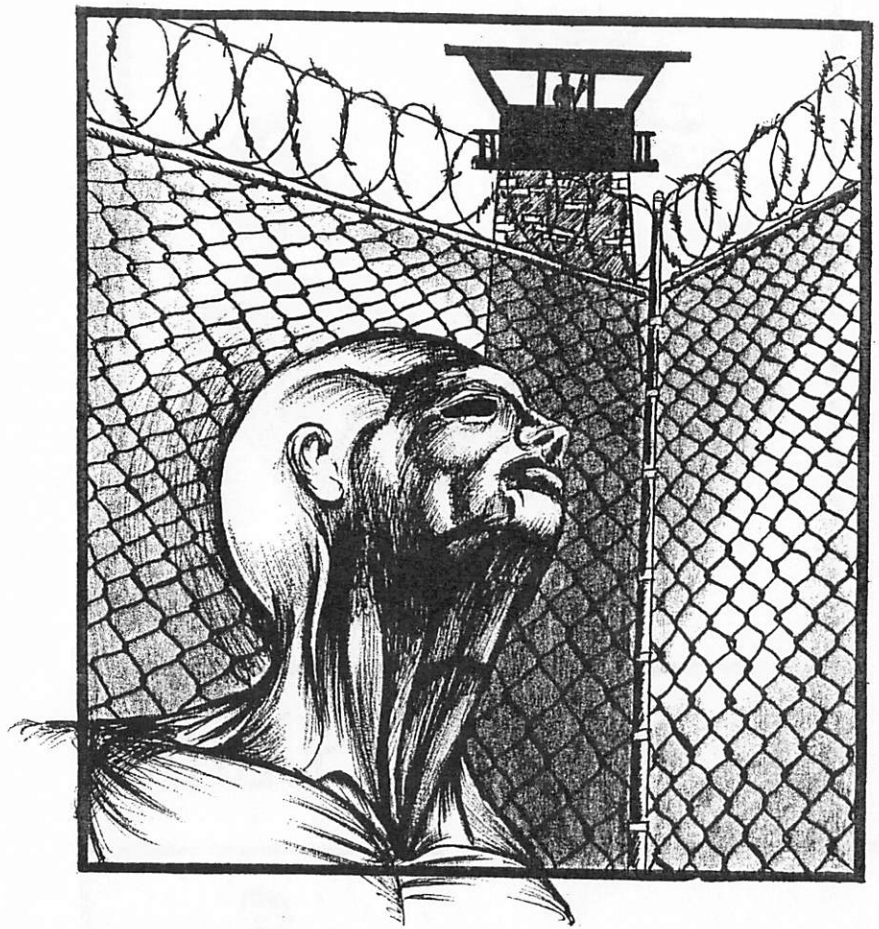
In conclusion, I hope that the present work help pave the way for the next generation of prisoners who sit in these A/S cells. The following list is what I have encouraged long term and short term A/S prisoners to stand with me and challenge :

1. The current restriction against group recreation.
2. The current restriction against inside recreation.
3. The current policy of only one twenty minute phone call per week.
4. Lack of equipment : hand balls, jump ropes, board games.
5. The denial of johnny mops, soap balls and swish brooms to clean cells on our own.
6. The ten-book limit from property room staff.
7. Classification status assignments to this unit.

May we all find some level of struggle and fulfillment in this new year. May you all walk in the balance.

In solidarity,
BRO. KHALFANI MALIK KHALDUN
(LEONARD McQUAY) #874304 A-201
WVCF/SHU A/S
PO BOX 1111
CARLISL, IN 47838





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Comments & Correspondence Welcomed





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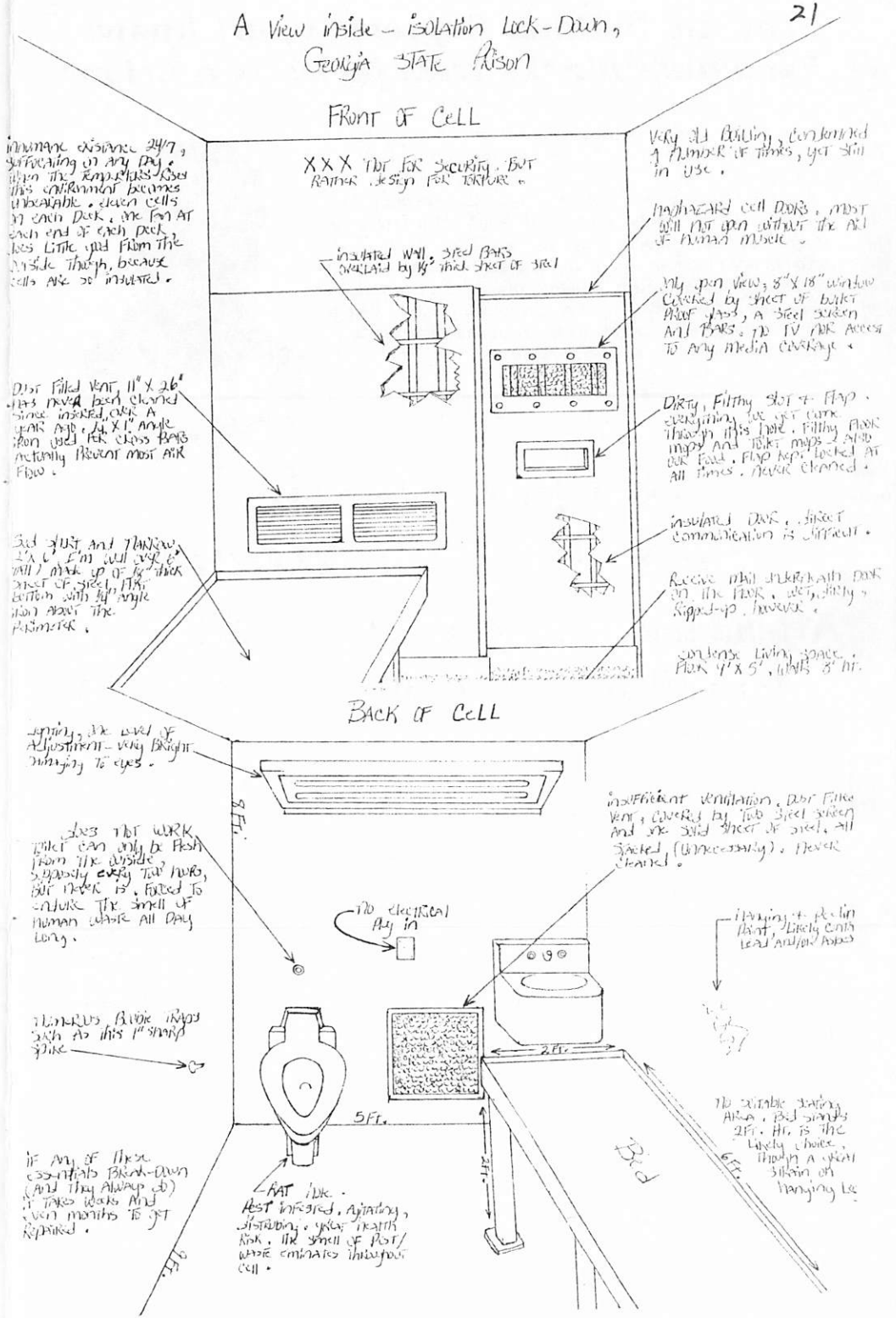
Of course, anyone of the progressive movement is welcomed to use any of my art they might find interesting and hopefully, useful. ~ Todd (Hyung-Rae) Tarselli ~

A View inside - Isolation Lock-Down, Georgia State Prison



Let the Indiana Supreme Court know: Excluding Blacks from juries is a Crime!

*Zolo Agona Azania was sentenced to death by an **all white jury** in Allen County, Indiana in 1996. A few months after he was sentenced, it was revealed that Allen County's computerized jury selection program had **systematically excluded** 87% of Wayne Township, the largest and most diverse township in Allen County, from any chance of serving on a jury. Wayne Township is home to 75% of Allen County's voting age African American population. After this was discovered, all criminal defendants with pending cases were given the opportunity to postpone their trials until a new system could be put in place. Presiding Judge John F. Surbeck stated it would have been "**absolutely unfair**" for anyone to proceed to trial. Why wasn't Zolo, who was sentenced to death a few months prior, given a new trial?*



Support Justice, Support Zolo Azania!

Attend the oral argument:
from 10:40 until 11:40am
Thursday, May 2nd
Indiana Supreme Court
200 West Washington
Indianapolis, Indiana

The Fort Wayne Journal Gazette published an editorial on March 14th, 2001 calling for a new sentencing hearing for Zolo because of the systematic exclusion of Blacks from the Allen County jury system:

"A jury that reflects the makeup of the community is a right, not a luxury to be discarded when it becomes inconvenient. The death penalty makes it all the more important that Azania receive a sentencing hearing untainted by errors in the jury-selection process."

For more info contact:
Zolo's Freedom Campaign
CROSSROAD Support Network
3420 W. 63rd Street
Chicago, Illinois 60629
Voice/Fax: 773-737-8679
e-mail: crsn@aol.com

http://www.prairie-fire.org/freezoloazania.html

Write: Bro. Zolo Agona Azania, #4969, Indiana State Prison, PO Box 41, Michigan City, Indiana 46361-0041

MEDIA PRESS STATEMENT DECEMBER 2002

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.

My name is Todd (Hyung-Rae) Tarselli despite the name "Tarselli" I am actually a 27 year old Korean American. Presently incarcerated at Pennsylvania State Correctional Institution Greene (where Mumia Abu-Jamal and Russell "Maroon" Shoats are also imprisoned,) Pennsylvania's only Super-Max and currently housed in one of their control units.

I came to the United States in 1980 to be adopted by an American couple in a small rural town and like most other youths, I was very apolitical. However, even in such a small and protected environment certain realities of life in the U.S. such as racism, prejudice...etc. were obvious. Despite being one of only a handful of Asians in the area, life was fairly typical.

I came to prison in 1992 and am now serving a life sentence for a senseless murder. I have suffered dire consequences as a result of my responses to the world that surrounded me. But over the years (due to extensive study, being in the company of conscious people, and quality self-reflection,) I have managed to develop a clarity of mind and politics, have matured and realized that growth occurs not only in body but also of the mind.

I began doing art as a means of relaxing which soon evolved into also expressing my ideas and beliefs. I was further encouraged by people as Russell "Maroon" Shoats to use my art not only to relax but also as a means to speak out. Having the benefits of being in the company of such people, I grew consciously. I began using art to speak out politically, to try to bring attention to the obvious faults within the system as a whole in hopes of trying to help change the system. My outspoken criticism of not only prison policies/laws that effect society as a whole has resulted in harassment and even retaliation by the guards at S.C.I. Greene.

My current placement is a clear example of both blatant racism and retaliation. I am currently in the control units for having art supplies... i.e. black felt, in which security believes I "could have" made a "ninja" suit and that I "could have" used this to try to escape with. I'm not in the control units for anything I actually did, rather for something someone else thinks as Asian could do. It is blatant racism to equate because I am Asian to ninja, and of course this is also retaliation of my criticism using art as a medium.

long as such economic opportunism and exploitation exists no one can claim with any degree of honesty that the Amerikan system is based upon principles of liberty and democracy. In fact, it is the social majority - the poor workers - who are the very slaves of the society, upon whose backs the economic and ruling class is saddled. As one writer observed "True liberty is based on economic opportunity. Without it, all liberty is a sham and lie, a mask for exploitation and oppression. In the profoundest sense, liberty is the daughter of economic equality."

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Two jury trials were rigged against me, in addition to false material evidence was planted against me by police. Even though DNA has gained credibility as a tool in criminal investigations, even in decades-old cases, my case does not involve DNA testing.

Both all-white (with one Mexican woman) jury trials were rigged and corrupt evidence was falsified against me, in gross violation of my human right. Even though they've been caught lying, they'll merely fabricate more lies to cover up for being found out. The deputy prosecuting attorney whom had obtained the original death sentence against me admitted in writing on April 18, 1986 that "There was no pre-trial identification procedure utilized with respect to Rufus Averhart (as i was known then) in connection with the August 11, 1981, robbery of the Gary National Bank." Moreover, a police administered paraffin gunshot reside test showed i had not fired a gun.

The Indiana Supreme Court threw out the first death sentence in 1993, citing ineffective assistance of counsel. A new judge and jury penalty phase was held in 1996 in Fort Wayne, Allen County, Indiana, where the original trial had been held because of pre-judicial prejudice and pre-trial media coverage in Lake County. The new jury again recommended the death penalty and the judge sentenced me to be murdered by lethal injection.

Six months after i was sentenced to die and long after the county public defender had begged court administrators and the Chief Judge to figure out why Black people were being underrepresented in every courtroom in the building, Allen County finally checked the system and publicly admitted the underrepresentation. All criminal defendants with pending cases were given the opportunity to postpone their trials until a new system was put in place because, as the Chief of the Board of Judges of the Superior Court testified last year, 2001, it would have been "absolutely unfair" for anyone to have proceeded to trial under that jury selection system. Yet no one notified me who was sentenced to the penalty of death by a jury chosen from the exact same system a few months earlier. Despite all of this, the Attorney General of Indiana maintains that i, who had contemporaneously moved to strike my venire, should be executed.

A Black man name James Charles McGrew was prodded to identify me at trial as the man he saw place some items in some bushes. James, now a college teacher in Illinois, testified in a 2001 videotape at a successive post-conviction relief hearing in Allen County that after repeatedly telling prosecutors that he could not identify who it was he saw place the objects in the bushes, that turned out to be a pistol and jacket. James was placed in a small room prior to testifying when a large, red-haired law enforcement officer entered the room, told him to identify me, and pointed to me in the courtroom. James further testified that he never saw the face of the man running from the police and that he identified me in court because of fear for his own safety. Indeed, James' hesitation in making the critical identification of me in the courtroom was so apparent that it is noted in the trial transcript. Given the critical nature of James' identification testimony and the fact that none identified me in any of the 308 bank camera photographs taken during the armed robbery, i should be granted a new trial.

On Friday, November 22, 2002, in a 3-2 ruling, the Indiana Supreme Court overturned the death sentence for the second time. They agreed with my appeal claim that the jury pool selection process was fundamentally flawed when i was sentenced to death for the second time in 1996; but they rejected the false testimony claim. The state's highest court has twice stopped short of overturning the entire conviction. They sided with the prosecution that the evidence against me was overwhelming. That isn't true because there was never any pre-trial identification of me in this case by anyone.

James Charles McGrew, the sole identification witness for the prosecution honestly recanted his testimony and finally admitted that the police told him to lie on me. But the court on November 22nd said that "Captain Michael Nardini interviewed McGrew the day after the murder in an interview room at the Gary police station. Nardini testified that McGrew told him McGrew could identify the man who placed the objects in the bushes....This issue turns on credibilty of witnesses. The successive post-conviction court viewed McGrew and the other post-conviction witnesses and found that his recantation was not credible. That finding is not clearly erroneous, and is accordingly affirmed."

The policeman, Captain Nardini lied under sworn oath because James did not say that.

Truth is often bitter to the taste of those who live on falsehoods and shams and profit by them. They hate the truth, and plot against it.

So now i'm in the process of preparing for another jury trial on the death sentence part only. i wanted the whole case to be thrown out of court, or at least be granted a complete new trial! Even though i'm happy to receive some measure of relief from the court, they did not render a good opinion because they've gotten the facts of my case screwed up. They will not listen to me as a lone individual. They only respect the power of the people, organized in unity.

i would like to receive your support to garner attention for my plight in any way that you are able and willing to offer or provide. Injustice is an abuse of power. Some people are afraid to stand up for what is right and speak truth to power. If you fail to help me then who's next? You may not be in jail now, but tomorrow you could be arrested and placed in front of a judge, and then what? Some people are reluctant to get involved because they erroneously think it doesn't concern them. But they need to think again. If you don't step forward it could be you next! What has befallen me can easily happen to you or to your loved ones. People generally want to give a helping hand to those in need, but are often physically and financially unable or unsure exactly what to do. Others don't care and look the other way.

We are asking you to write or call the Lake County Prosecuting Attorney and request that he not refile for the death penalty. Send copies of your letters to my defense team, and to anyone else who may help. The news media needs to hear your voice about this. Thank you very much.

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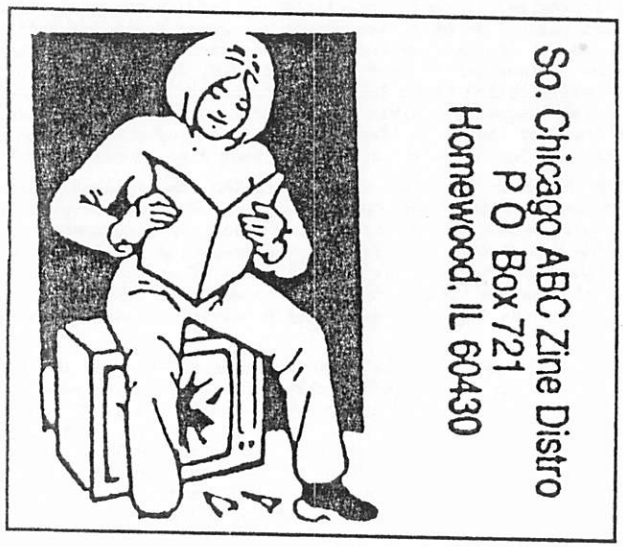
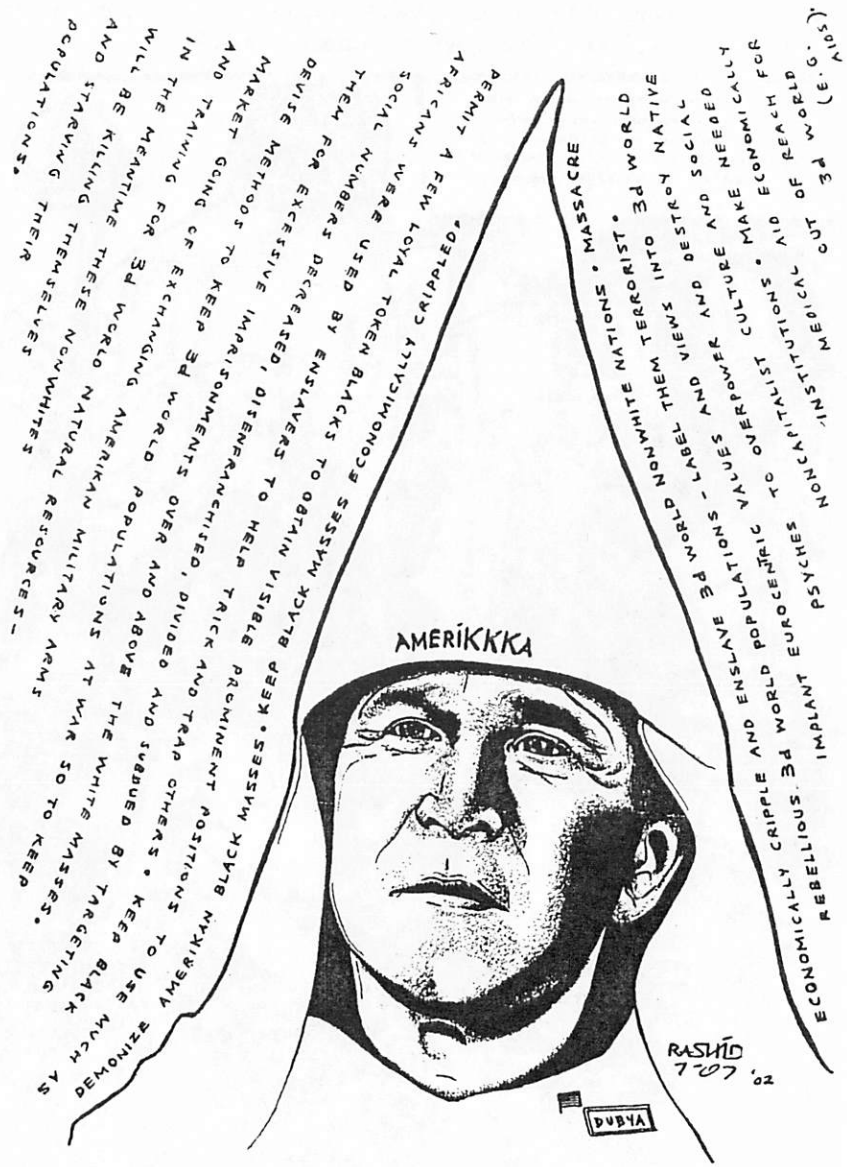


As the foregoing demonstrates, the oppressive social contract of Amerika is organized around slave labor, while it professes to be based upon principles of liberty and self-determination for each Amerikan. Amerika's character as a society of slaves and enslavers did not change with the close of the Civil War. (1861-1865)



nor in the enactment of the 13th Amendment (1865). Indeed it has rendered the *entire* labor class into slaves with no alternatives for acquiring "freedom," except that these slaves may compete against one another to acquire more privileges and a small increase in wages with which to gain more diversionary toys and tokens. So

business runs your life; if you are dependent on this owner. He organizes your work, the work upon which your whole life source and style depends. He indirectly determines your whole day, in organizing you for work. If you don't make any more in wages than you need to live, you are a neoslave. You qualify if you cannot afford to leave California for New York. If you cannot visit Zanzibar, Havana, Peking or even Paris when you get the urge, you are a slave. If you're held in one spot on this earth because of your economic status, it is just the same as being held in one spot because you are the owners' property. Here in the black colony the pigs still beat and maim us. They murder us and call it justifiable homicide. A brother who had a smoking pipe in his belt was shot in the back of the head. Neoslavery is an economic condition, a small knot of men exercising the property rights of their established economic order, organizing and controlling the lifestyle of th slave as if he were in fact property. Succinctly: an economic condition which manifests itself in the total loss or absence of *self*-determination. Only after this is understood and accepted can we go on to the dialectic that will help us in a remedy."

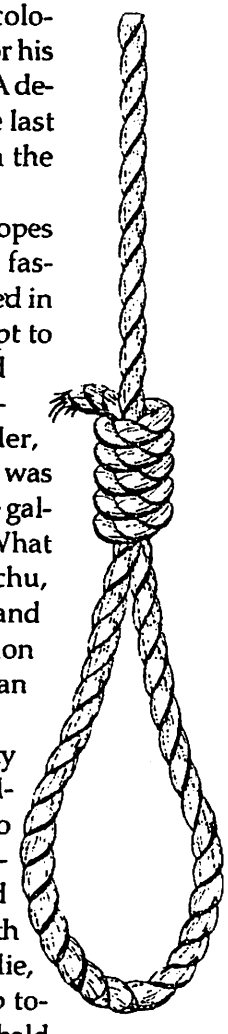
Labor Forced

This all brings us to the central contradiction betwen Amerika's economic arrangement and the political rights it professes to give its citizens, demonstrating that the highest laws of Amerika take a back seat when opposed by the ruling class's interests in exploiting the masses for private profit That contradiction is found in section one of the 13th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution which holds that all slavery and involuntary servitude is forbidden except in cases of those convicted of crimes. I here quote that provision: "Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction." It must then follow that *every* so-called minority and poor working class Amerikan is presumed by the government to be guilty of some criminal violation, and without any opportunity to prove their innocence. We might now have an explanation as to why those who overflow Amerika's prisons are near exclusively members of the so-called minority and poor white working classes.

If the average Amerikan worker took the notion to refuse to participate in the wage slavery economic arrangement, he will inevitably be left and forced by the system to become a vagrant and resort to other "criminal" acts in order to survive. And if a large number of workers elected to also abandon the wage system, they are subject to being forced *by the government* back to work under such laws as the Taft-Hartley Act (29 United States code sections 141 et seg) under penalty of imprisonment or fines should they refuse to obey. The worker has *no* discretion in the matter. Amerika's economic system rides upon the enslavement of over half the population, who've been conditioned by the corporate media, universal compulsory educational system, political mouthpieces and the indoctrinated nuclear family from birth to believe that their slavery is freedom and that the erosion of their minds under divided labor is conducive to strength.

On Friday, the 18th of May, 1781, colonial officials executed Tupac Amaru for his revolutionary activities against Spain. A descendant of the Incas, Amaru was the last of nine rebels killed that morning in the square of the main plaza at Cuzco.

After removing Amaru's tongue, ropes were tied to his hands and feet, then fastened to four horses, which were urged in four different directions in an attempt to tear the Inca apart. The horses pulled mightily, but to no avail. The revolutionary leader hung there, like a spider, until the spectacle was too much, and he was beheaded. His body was laid under the gallows and his hands and feet cut off. What remained was taken to the city of Picchu, set afire and the ashes cast into the air and a nearby stream. And then, the execution was done. The Spaniards wanted the man dead, you see.



The debate about the death penalty is strangely antiseptic, bleached bloodless by the peculiarly American reflex to cloak everything distasteful in euphemisms. This compulsion to not offend anyone with the realities of life and death takes almost-comic turns — we don't die, we pass; we don't have sex, we sleep together; we are neither short nor fat nor bald but vertically and horizontally and follicularly challenged.

24 Feb 03
Mon.

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Dear Anthony,

How're you doing "old man"? (I just read you're approaching 50!) I received your letter and Thought bomb #19.5 today. It's outstanding so far... You are doing one hell of a good job on the zine! Keep up the fight Brother! Remember 50 ain't so old, I'm not too far behind you, take a break, get your health back on track, spend some time with your wife and kids, then come back and attack the zine again. A weak warrior is of no use to the fight. We all would understand a gap of time between issues, well that's my sermon for today ☺. You are doing a good job!

I'm sending a sketch that I did the other night for you. I'll try to do something for your prisoner mag you are doing on march 1st, I can't promise I'll get it to you in time but I'll have something done soon for it or maybe another zine. I've had a couple of setbacks that are "hindering" me from getting a lot of drawings done. One is, I've got carpal tunnel syndrome, so at times I can draw and write all night long and then there's times I can only last for a few minutes. but anyways... enough whining and crying.



Brother, if I do get hooked up with that job in Chicago when I get out, you've got another "helper" for your zine and a new "bodyguard" for your personal appearances on all of these speaking engagements.

Where have I heard the name Sean Lambert? I did time with a Lambert while I was in KY. (I've been "coast to coast" with this B.O.P. machine! ☺)

you have to subtract at least another four for transportation. Then you are left with thirteen to fifteen hours to yourself. If you can afford three meals you are left with ten to twelve hours. Rest is also a factor in efficiency so we have to take eight hours away for sleeping, leaving two to four hours. But one must bathe, comb, clean teeth, shave, dress - there is no point in protracting this. I think it should be

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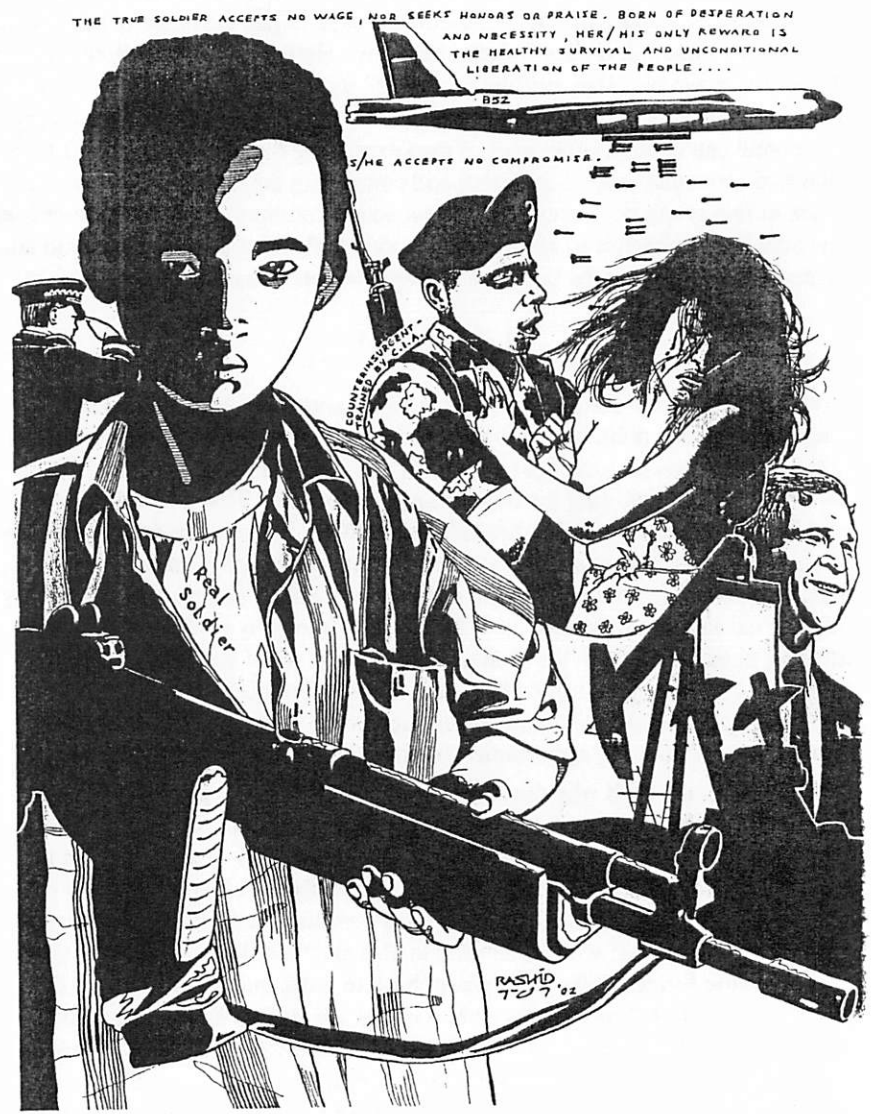


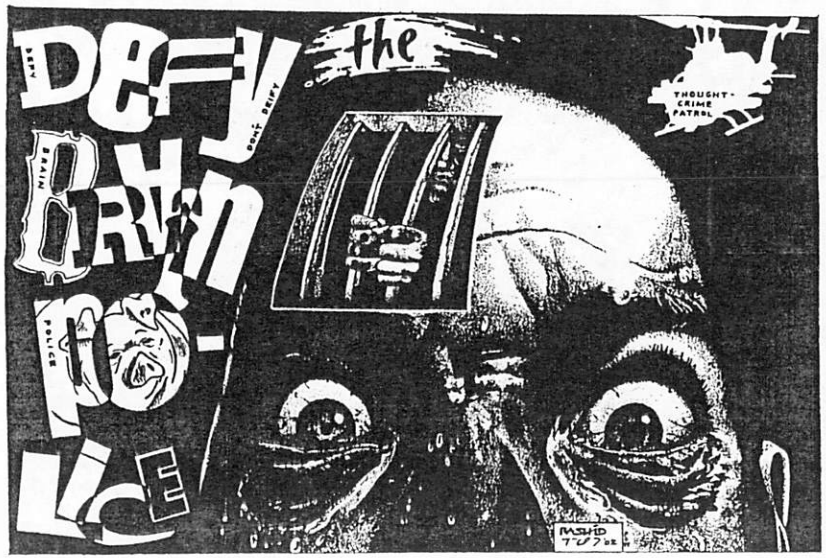
generally accepted that if a man (or woman) works for a wage at a job that he doesn't enjoy, and I am convinced no one could enjoy any type of assembly-line work, or plumbing or hod carrying, or any job in the service trades, then he qualifies for this definition of neoslave. The man who owns the factory or shop or

These points are brought into much clearer focus by another writer who was dedicated to the common man and opposed to the labor bosses enough to make the wage worker's conditions of bondage clear and plain. In his book, *"Soledad Brother"* George L. Jackson makes the connection between the system of bondage of past agricultural chattel slavery and modern industrial wage slavery here in Amerika. I quote him at length:

"Slavery is an economic condition. Today's neoslavery must be defined in terms of economics. The chattel is a property, one man exercising the property rights of his established economic order, the other man as that property. The owner can move that property or hold it in one square yard of the earth's surface; he can *let* it breed other slaves, or *make* it breed other slaves; he can sell it, beat it, work it, maim it, fuck it, kill it. But if he wants to keep it and enjoy all of the benefits that property of this kind can render, he must feed it sometimes, he must clothe it against the elements, he must provide a modicum of shelter. Chattel slavery is an economic condition which manifests itself in the total loss or absence of self-determination.

The new slavery, the modern variety of chattel slavery updated to disguise itself, places the victim in a factory or in the case of most blacks in support roles inside and around the factory system (service trades) working for a wage. However, if work cannot be found in or around the factory complex, today's neoslavery does not even allow for a modicum of food and shelter. You are free - to starve. The sense and meaning of slavery comes through as a result of our ties to the wage. You must have it, without it you would starve or expose yourself to the elements. One's entire day centers around the acquisition of the wage.

The control of your eight to ten hours on the job is determined by others. You are left with fourteen hours to sixteen hours. But since you don't live at the factory



I'm just starting the Thought Bomb's (19.5) article on Richard Flood. I noticed the name of his "judge". I know all about him, From when the Feds kept me in Cook County Jail then Statesville while I was awaiting federal trial. He's the one who handled a friend's of mine's case. Then I got transferred to M.C.C. Chicago for trial. This friend told me all about him and his side kick Judg Norgal (Fed). Well, that's a different story....

I'd redlly appriciate the The rail roading of Issues on Richard Flood; When Love is by Chance Instead of By Choice (did he do time at Pendleton, IN?), Tenacious; and your catalog of all the Zines. I'm interested in women and their stories of incarceration because we really don't ever hear about them!

Brother, I have a lot to say but will wait until my next etter. Keep up the outstanding work, you are making a big difference and are our strength.

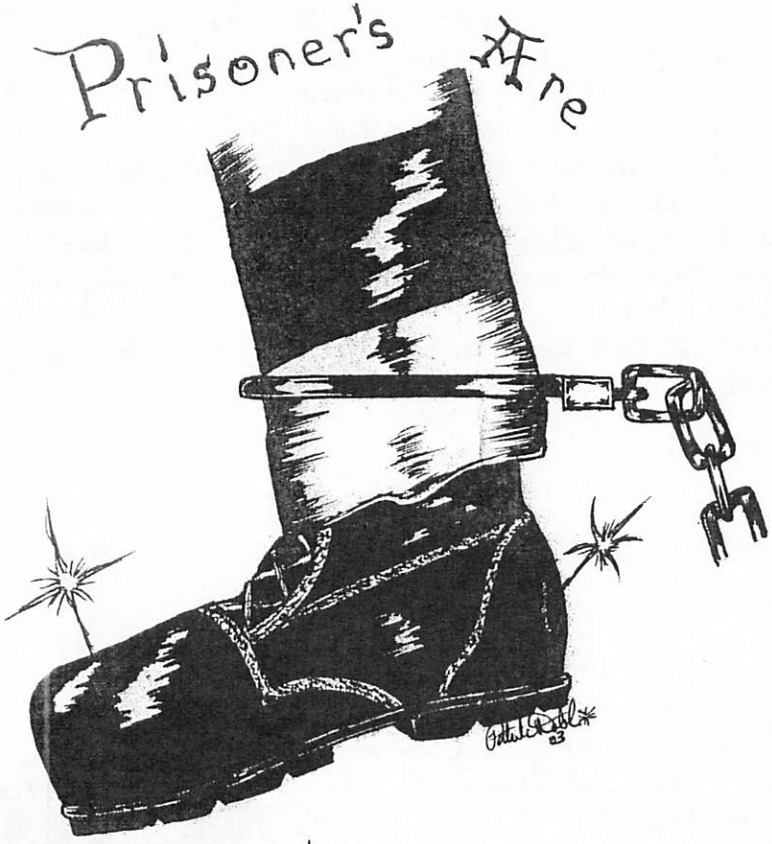
Take care,

Yours in the Fight

P.S. Are you still in contact with Margaret Majos; if so, do me a favore and drop her my address and tell her I'm thinking of her! (Tell her to write)







The above quote from Smith establishes that the modern working conditions of industrial nations is that of slavery (monotonous, menial and drudge work) over which arrangement the labor class has no power to change or avoid (involuntary servitude) and therefore renders the labor boss's position one of total power over the employed workers' livelihood.



KEVIN (RASHID) JOHNSON

Amerika - Freedom is Slavery, Ignorance is Strength

Introduction

It is my purpose to demonstrate that the typical Amerikan wage worker is both a slave and a victim of involuntary servitude. In demonstrating this, I will refer primarily to 'established' authorities which are not subject to dispute by the 'mainstream.'

Definitions of Bondage

We first begin with the definitions of servitude, slavery and the like. The following definitions are taken from the Merriam-Webster Dictionary:

1. Slave: 1. A person held in servitude as property.

2. Slave: DRUDGE

Drudge: to do hard, menial or monotonous work.

The following definitions are taken from Black's Law Dictionary (7th ed. 1999):

Involuntary servitude: The conditions of one forced to labor - for pay or not - for another by coercion or imprisonment.

Slavery: 1. The situation in which one person has absolute power over the life, fortune and liberty of another. 2. The practice of keeping individuals in such a state of bondage.

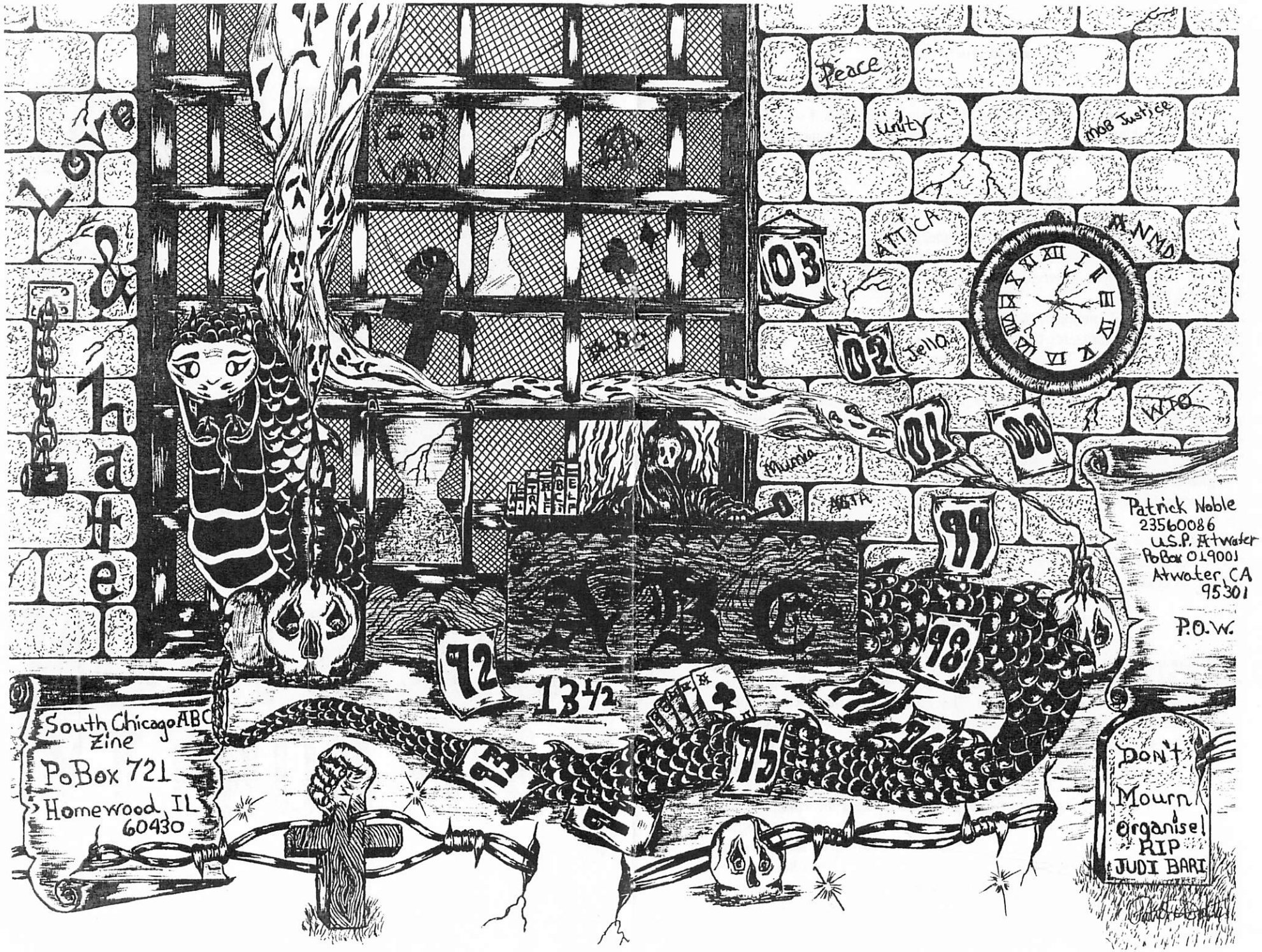
In the case of United States v. Kesminski, 487 U.S. 931 (1988) at page 932, the U.S. Supreme Court defined servitude as follows: "Servitude means 'a condition in which a person lacks liberty especially to determine ones course of action or way of life.'"

In the remainder of this thesis I will show that the condition of labor under which the American wage laborers find themselves, conforms to all of the definitions of bondage.

The Amerikan Conditions of Bondage

In his famous treatise "The Wealth of Nations" Adam Smith makes three things clear about 'developed' societies, viz: 1) that the industrially compelled practice of division of labor is indeed drudge work, 2) That this sort of drudge work destroys the workers' mental faculties, and 3) that this drudge work is a form of labor into which the poor working majority is *forced*. Smith stated as follows: "The understandings of the greater part of men are necessarily found by their ordinary employments... the man whose life is spent in performing a few simple operations, of which the effects are perhaps, always the same, or very near the same, has no occasion to exert his understanding... And generally becomes as stupid and ignorant as it is possible for a human creature to be... But in every improved and civilized society this is the state into which the laboring poor, that is, the great body of people, must necessarily fall..." While Adam Smith is hailed as the fountainhead of modern economic thought, this observation made by him is always avoided in mainstream discussions and writings on him and economics.




Love & hate
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