Lately, Richard and Rebecca's oldest son, brain damaged Sergio, has been arrested and beaten by the Chicago police, as has Rebecca herself, in separate incidents... The Crete-Monee school district, which my own kids also go to, are trying to deny him to enroll in their programs, and so on. It's an across the board assault on every working family in America!

Please pay close attention to the details of this case. Richard Flood was offered a "deal" that if he'd just plead guilty, he'd have been freed by Christmas of 2001. Obviously, the authorities knew the case was bogus, but pursued it anyway, because Richard refused to participate in a lie.

It truly is a case (if there ever was one!) that "They are in there for us, we are out here for them!"

My friends and those who care about me point out my mistakes, then show me indeed how to correct them.





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The Railroading of Chicago Native Son



Richard M. Flood

The Remarkable Richard M. Flood

Richard Flood is a powerful man, both physically and mentally. But, he's gentle and thoughtful, too. He's sensitive and oh, so giving. He's a big, strong-voiced Irish pug!

Richard has dedicated his life to educating and empowering people and *that* is why he's been so shamelessly railroaded for the non-crime of rescuing his wife from a vicious assault.

Within days of his release from Tamms! he got a job as a Chicago union ironworker. Soon, he became a foreman and helped finish some of Chicago's skyscrapers - the most awesome buildings in the world! He never missed a day of work in the 54 weeks he was "free." His time was a study in singleminded determination.

After work, he'd spend valuable catchup time with his wife, Rebecca and their five children. He volunteered more time in a number of ways, including as a valuable member of **Mr. MALO - Managing Resources to Make Available Life's Opportunities.** His mentoring of gang members was mesmerizing because of his extensive knowledge, analysis, street smarts and genuine empathy for the fates of these kids. He'd been there, done that and somehow transcended it all - even Tamms, something marvelous. He would act as guide, teacher - Father. He was our dear Brother!

His goal, for which Fred Hampton Senior was so viciously assassinated for, is to politicize the gangs, or as he calls them, "Street Nations" and to turn them from the self-hating, often malevolent gangbangers into Malcolm X's and Lil' Bobby Huttons. What a fearless, yet crucial mission! Its realization is the spectre this evil system fears the most! Think of it!

So, when this freaky situation came down and he walked out of that gas station and saw his wife being stabbed and beaten at the pay phone by three lost souls armed with a knife and club, it was inevitable. No matter how "not to blame" he was for taking such a volatile, possibly deadly situation and defusing it with minimal injury and saving his wife, the authorities would twist the facts and make the attackers the victims and Richard the bad guy. They had their ruse to re-incarcerate him for an outrageous ten *years!* He should have been heralded as the local hero that he actually *was* that night! A lot of good that people do is not only not recognized, but actually *persecuted*! We've all seen it!

So, this whole sad drama is really an indictment *of* the system *by* the system. Richard Flood is a huge success story! His life since his long incarceration has been marked by selfless dedication to improving himself, taking care of his family and serving bravely in the Cause, culminating in the heroic rescue of his wife followed by five hundred some days through the catacombs of injustice, first at Will County Jail in Joliet and then in Kankakee County Jail. The corruption and genuine criminality of these places is oozing out for all to see! His "crime" is bearing witness, chronicling this monstrosity and being so affected as to transform himself into something extra special - a man who will *fight* for what is right and relentlessly pursue solutions to oppression. Many, many soldiers of the struggle have been framed into prison. But few have been so principled and strong and insightful and just right there in the moment.

Like the majestic buildings in the Loop that he helped to build and cap off, Richard is a tower of power - Chicago's own!



" MOST PEOPLE REALIZE THAT CRIME IS SIMPLY THE RESULT OF A GROSSLY DISPROPORTIONATE DISTRIBUTION OF WEALTH AND PRIVILEGE, A REFLECTION OF THE PRESENT STATE OF PROPERTY RELATIONS..."

-- GEORGE L. JACKSON

PRISONER ZINES

They functioned democratically, with men and women alike free to express themselves as they chose regarding their ideals and beliefs for their people. They voted on propositions on the spot, and the majority ruled.

During the '70s, the LQs were "officially" formed and became involved in the "business" of illegitimate capitalism with/for the LKs. They were also involved in the gang violence. However, for all intents and purposes they were under the government of the men, as they hadn't formally created their own independent laws or ideology. Some of the larger "cliques" or "sets" of LQs had created their own literature, but it was never carried over to the entire female membership. When a sister named "Queen Lefty," who was "Queen of Queens" from the largest original clique of LQs, was killed by rival gang members around 1977, there followed a murderous bloodbath, after which the word came down from the "jefes" within the prison system that "las mujeres" were to be disbanded, effective immediately, in order to halt any further bloodshed to the women. However, Los Reyes [the Kings] continued to use the females as drug couriers and mules.

The New York faction of Las Reinas [the Queens] is currently in existence and has its own literature, as do Los Reyes. I have not viewed these documents directly, but they have been explained to me as a mixture of the older Chicago faction literature with a different twist to some of the mottos and slogans.

One of the main purposes of my essay is to bring the New York and Chicago factions "to the table," as there are reported rifts between them, with the Chicago faction demanding that all other factions using the ALKQN name must adhere to their original Constitution/Manifesto. This seems reasonable to me. What also seems reasonable to me, however, is that the Chicago faction should practice what they preach and begin following their own laws and stated ideologies—in particular, the elusive revisitation of their Marxist roots. Then we would be on the road towards a theory of revolutionizing street nations.

NOTES

1. The texts of the ALKQN Constitution and Manifesto are reproduced as an Appendix to George W. Knox, *An Introduction to Gangs* (Buchanan, Mich.: Vande Vere Publishing, 1993).
2. George Katsiaficas, *The Imagination of the New Left: A Global Analysis of 1968* (Boston: South End Press, 1987).
3. King "Blood" may originally have been a member from Chicago, but he moved to New York and, without authorization, formed his own chapter, using the same name and some of the same concepts, but parroting an idealism and practice which were not his own.

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The Re-Birth of Humanity in a Pathological Capitalistic Society 4

Richard M. Flood

My entire life has been in struggle - one long, continuous battle; many times for sheer survival; for a long time against myself, and finally, in joining others in striving towards a better world for all people.

For most of my youth, even the most basic human material needs of sustenance, i.e. food, clothing, shelter, etc., often appeared as privilege or luxury. I was always told "We can't afford that," in comparison to families of privilege, whose children are taught early on to elevate their level of thought to *"How can we afford that."*

My father was a drunken Irish ironworker, who earned enough money to provide those basic material needs that we were lacking. He just never brought any money home. What he did bring home was anger, rage, rape, violence, torture and mayhem. I was six years of age when my mother was able to free herself from the psychological stranglehold of my father and leave him - but it seemed that she didn't have much use for me either, as her own lifestyle kept her away most of the time, until one day when she just didn't come back. I would see her from time to time, coming out of or going into some neighborhood tavern, always with a different man. Sometimes when she was drunk, she would call me and try to hug me and tell me how much she loved me, but by that time I was already indifferent to empty word play, although deep down I wished it was true.

The combination of may father's abuse and my mother's neglect and eventual abandonment, left me spiritually bankrupt, psychologically traumatized and emotionally dead. Abandonment to a child is the equivalent of death - for when a child is abandoned, either psychologically or in actuality, they perceive the world as dangerous and frightening, even deadly. From my perspective, I could never imagine forsaking gratification or security in the present for the promise of greater gratification or security in the future, since to me, my future seemed dubious indeed.

The streets of the west side of Chicago raised me, the Humboldt Park neighborhood to be exact, home of *"el Reyes Latinos,"* and they became my psychological family. By the age of eight, I was deemed incorrigible by the Chicago public school system, and delinquent many times over by the police state apparatus. But delinquency was merely an effect. The cause was that I was diseased, for I had contracted the debilitating disease of psycho/socio-pathological capitalist mentality and behavior. The particular strain that I had contracted was exceptionally hazardous as it rendered me socio-politically unconscious, perhaps even comatose, even from an early age. I showed the same symptoms of typical capitalist society - greed, a need for power, conspicuous consumption, conformity, etc. However, because of the conditions of my life up to that point, as *described* above, I employed means of obtaining these things that were deemed "illegitimate" by the power system.

My new psychological family provided me with some of the basic human emotional needs that I longed for - a sense of value, acceptance, comraderie and a sense of belonging. My early horrific years with my father made me a prime candidate to carry out much of the "dirty work" for *la familia*, as all my

Some provisions of the ALKQN Constitution may, on their face, appear to be quite reactionary. The reasoning behind them needs to be understood. One of the most glaring examples is the prohibition of homosexuality within the membership. However, when you take into consideration the epidemic rapes among prisoners—and particularly aginst smaller, younger, and more "non-aggressive" prisoners—it becomes clear that the primary intended purpose of the "Nation" in this instance was to set itself apart from the extremely dysfunctional and sordid "lifestyle" that is so typical of U.S. prisons. At the time that the Constitution was drafted (1972), there were only 15 to 20 members in each of the four maximum security prisons in Illinois (which on average each housed 1,500 prisoners at that time). The Black gangs, such as the Disciples, the Vice Lords, and the Blackstone Nation, were heavily involved in homosexual activity and/or rape, and outnumbered the LKs by some 50/1. Thus it was in the LKs' best interest to minimize opportunities for inter-nation conflicts, hence said prohibition. This prohibition also solidifies my view that it was at this time that the LKs entered the third stage of their development, as the ALKQN began grooming a different breed of prisoner, one who could be stripped down of all pre-incarceration dysfunctional conditioning and re-educated according to the doctrine of the Constitution/ Manifesto.

Next, the prohibition against "cowards" or, better said, cowardice, goes hand in hand with the purpose of becoming an elite "commando-type" fighting unit within the prison walls. The LKs' notoriety for their supremacy in prison riots against the Black gangs, prison riot squads, and even National Guard forces, while being heavily outnumbered, testifies to their skills in guerrilla warfare and to their levels of dedication, commitment, and sacrifice within a system of treachery. The word soon got around, "don't mess with the Kings," as they equally preferred to be left alone to continue training and "grooming" their own. An essentially identical adaptation of the Constitution was sent out to the chapters on the streets within that same year, as the hierarchy envisioned a nation consisting of Natural Allies Together In One Nucleus (NATION).

From the outset of the essay, I refer to the organization as the ALKQN. However, the Constitution governs the Kings only, while the Manifesto does mention "Brown women" and the "Queens" to a lesser extent. As I stated concerning the group's first phase, it began informally. There was no Constitution or Manifesto, either for the group as a whole or separately for the men and the women.

With the Chicago faction of the ALKQN currently involved in a power struggle, as the aforementioned leaders have been sentenced to life in federal prison and entombed at the ADX in Florence, Colorado, it would appear to be the opportune time to approach the new leadership and stress the importance of their position and their opportunity to break the vicious cycle that has been perpetuated for over 30 years. Much more can be accomplished in a struggle for all oppressed people against our real adversary, the power system. Just think of the possibilities, one million so-called street gang members united with Marxists, Anarchists, feminists, environmentalists, labor unions, etc., at events such as the WTO talks in Seattle.

Strangely, there doesn't seem to be much collaboration or even open lines of communication between the New York and Chicago factions of the ALKQN at this juncture, probably because of the difference in practice and ideology. It would seem that the New York faction has surpassed the Chicago faction in their level of consciousness and commitment to their stated beliefs and agenda. However, the New York faction membership is open exclusively to Latinos, while the Chicago faction is open to all ethnicities.

Certainly, today's so-called street gang members have been ostracized and stigmatized as the worst of the worst by the police state apparatus. However, if Frantz Fanon was correct in his view that the lumpenproletariat must be involved in any successful mass movement, whether of nationalistic origin or not, we need to begin to understand the dynamics of these street nations' formations and organizational schemes, and their very existence. We also need to embrace their culture and listen to their grievances. I assure you that they are not much different than those of the rest of us who are involved in class struggle.

Our work at the Mr. Malo Youth Center in Chicago focuses on raising the socio-political consciousness of these so-called gang members while quelling the criminal mentality that is prevalent in them. However, we are merely a needle in a haystack. Nonetheless, I for one will not write off their future as lost. Therefore, we need to develop a definite theory of transformation that includes cultural, social, and economic considerations. It also has to have something to offer up front for the short-term agenda. The long-term agenda should be to create a platform for social, political, and economic empowerment that is inclusive to these street nations as members of a new movement of the Left.

* The author (Richard M. Flood) wishes to thank Victor Wallis for his help and supportive comments. This article is reprinted from *Socialism and Democracy*, no. 33 (Winter/Spring 2003.)

pent up anger, rage, frustration and pain boiled inside of me and searched for release. My spiritual bankruptcy, psychological trauma, and emotional coma soon degenerated into some of the most hideous psycho/socio-pathological thought and bevavior one might imagine. By the age of eighteen, I had put in more "dirty work" for *la familia* than most CIA operatives accomplish in a career.

Eventually, I ended up in prison. I recall my sentencing especially, where thew judge said, "I see no potential for rehabilitation in you, Mr. Flood, even at your young age. Therefore, I hereby sentence you to one hundred years in prison!" I had to be restrained as I nearly went at him, then I shouted, "One hundred years, are you fuckin' nuts? I can't do one hundred years!" The bastard gave me a devilish grin and sarcastically remarked, "Well son, then do as much of it as you can."

Within my first few days in prison, I ended up in the "hole" for assaulting a "robocop-type" guard who was hindering *la familia's* activities behind the wall. So just as quickly as I did on the streets, I made my bones inside prison too.

The "hole" on a segregation unit in the older maximum security prisons are basically "dungeons of doom." You will never, ever see a warden of any one of these joints conduct one of their choreographed "propaganda tours" through these units. For in these dungeons you will find America's most corrupt capitalistic criminality at its worst - it's psycho/socio-psychologically tormented souls at their worst - babbling incoherently, howling, screaming, crying, growling, self-mutilating, etc. This sickening crime against humanity (isolation & sensory deprivation) was held unconstitutional as "cruel and unusual punishment" some two hundred years ago by the United States Supreme Court, in a case involving the old Cherry St. Jail, in Philadelphia. Once again, history seems to repeat itself.

Conversely, it is also in these dark dungeons where you will find some of the brightest beacons of humanity and conscious light. It was in these dark dungeons that somehow I rose above the insanity - mine, as well as others - and realized that it was up to *me* to make a change. I was able to diagnose myself as to the disease I had contracted. I had always enjoyed reading and was fortunate enough to have had someone I knew from my neighborhood (who was a member of the Young Lords Party) working in the hole as a runner. He introduced me to Marx, Lenin, Fanon, Guevara, Malcolm X, the Black Panther Party, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Confucius, Sun Tzu, Lao Tzu, Buddha and a host of others.

From there, I immersed myself in psychology, and countless self-help books. Thus, I began my journey of breaking myself down - analyzing mind, body and soul - looking for some sign of hope. It took time, and at first it wasn't much, sort of like a small candle flickering in the wind. Ah, but there it was! *Truth*, the principal of spirituality! I was not who I appeared to be, for that poor, wretched creature was the product of something unnatural - conditioned to perpetuate a vicious cycle of manipulating everything opposed to truth in order to create a different truth, a false truth. It was then that I renounced everything I had contracted and had been conditioned to perpetuate.

My re-birth began with self-discipline, which equates to self-caring. From there, I began to practice what I had learned. As I became more conscious, naturally I became less reactionary. As I became more understanding, I became less antagonistic. As I began to seek higher levels of consciousness and spiritual evolution, I learned a great truth - "Life is difficult." This is the first of the "Four Noble Truths" which Buddha taught. Once we really see this truth, we transcend it. Once accepted, it no longer matters. So instead of complaining of my struggles, I began to embrace them. I saw that life is a series of problems. Now, did I want to lament about them or solve them? In dealing with my problems head-on, I grew spiritually. I began tending to my neuroses and character disorders with the new tools I had acquired. John Wesley's "Rule of Conduct" became the meaning to my life - "Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as you ever can."

My evolution did not come without its setbacks, especially those from the prisonkrats who learned of this "white" dude talking all this Black Panther and solidarity shit to the different organizations. Now I needed more tools to defend myself against state repression, so I entered a paralegal program and graduated at the top of my class! Before long, I became a well-known jailhouse lawyer within the Illinois state system. I am fortunate to have been involved in drafting the original writs that eventually freed two innocent men from death row and countless others from prison, period!

Meanwhile, the contemporary social, political and economic conditions (inside and outside of prison) became the catalyst which inspired me to begin developing theories to raise the political consciousness of the various "street nation" members within the Illinois system, while quelling the "illegitimate capitalistic," i.e., criminal mentality that is prevalent in them, much in the spirit of the late BPP leaders Fred Hampton and George Jackson. The gist of the theoretical mechanisms are fluid and adaptable to the various internal structures of the various organizations. I only touch upon this lightly as anything further would be outside the scope of this essay. (For a further study, see my essay entitled "Towards a Theory of Revolutionizing Street Nations.")

On a global scale, up until the WTO talks in Seattle, I shared concerns with others regarding the fragmentation of the Left. Since then, we have witnessed solidarity between marxists, anarchists, feminists, environmentalists, labor unions, etc. This re-energized movement was not spontaneous initially, (with regards to Seattle) but now appears to have grown legs, as tens of thousands of protestors trek the globe in step with the "Brettonwoods Twins" (IMF & World Bank) and the bunkered down meetings.

Perhaps many progressive people, organizations and movements on the outside, took for granted that this now re-energized movement would find its way behind the walls of America's gulags. Or perhaps there is an oversight among some groups with regards to prisoners. This is no wonder as we have been isolated, ostracized and alienated, even from our own families. However, up until now, the inside movement has been somewhat stalled by extreme levels of repression and censorship. The few political prisoners with instant name recognition - Mumia, Peltier, "Maroon" Shoats and perhaps even myself, to a lesser degree - are fortunate enough to have very effective support systems in place. But what about the hundreds of

eloquent, articulate, and efficient documents that appeal to any oppressed person's natural instincts of liberty. For example, in their Constitution, Article II, [Purpose] states: "our intended purpose is to aid and assist all oppressed, and particularly third world people." The use of narcotics was also forbidden, effective immediately, and the old regime still left on the streets was given the ultimatum, terminate their membership or else. . . Gang warfare was encouraged to the younger members on the street, to "get rid of the enemy," but in fact it seems to have been a ploy to keep fresh blood coming through the prison system so that the leadership in prison could retain and increase its power. In hindsight, it appears that the appeals to "natural instincts of liberty" which are sprinkled throughout the Constitution/Manifesto may have been utopian, considering the practice of the ALKQN at that time—or perhaps they were merely a manipulative recruiting device.

The new literature reflected a medley of different influences. The Marxist component showed up in efforts to provide material aid to members in need (through the institution of a "poor box" in each chapter) and in such radical democratic practices as the removal, via recall vote, of ineffective leaders. At the same time, besides the Constitution/Manifesto, required reading for all members was "The Art of War" by Sun Tzu, and Machiavelli's "The Prince." The end result was a diabolical combination of Marxism in theory and gangster capitalism in practice. However, the ALKQN flourished like never before. By 1980, the ALKQN controlled the lion's share of the drug trade within the Illinois state prison system and in Chicago as well. By 1990, the ALKQN had established chapters in at least 20 U.S. states as well as Puerto Rico, Mexico and Panama.

The New York faction of the ALKQN took on a similar modus operandi initially, until the mid-1990s, when two of their leaders, King "Blood" and King "Tone," ended up in prison for a number of conspiracy and racketeering convictions stemming from their overt operation via the prison mail system and telephones—all the while claiming that they were a political organization, much in the spirit of the original ALKQN in Chicago.[3]

With the release of the movie "Black and Gold," the New York faction gives an in-depth and surprisingly honest assessment of their struggle to rid themselves of their criminal elements while legitimizing themselves through political consciousness and involvement. Also, they have emerged quite well in the pop music industry, with such notable Latin King members as the late rapper "Big Pun," "Fat Joe," "Cuban Links," "The Mambo Kings" and others. These developments are a definite stepping-stone to legitimizing themselves completely.

However, by 1971, COINTELPRO and similarly nefarious state and local operations had not only effectively neutralized the revolutionary factions of both the BPP and the YLP, but had also sent a clear message to the ALKQN and Blackstone Rangers. As a result, these street formations and their smaller allied groups opted for survival via illegitimate capitalism (criminalizing themselves completely), rather than face certain suicide—a "revolutionary suicide"—by maintaining the revolutionary course. This was the beginning of their third stage of development, which was completed within a year.

Meanwhile, by the early 1970s most of the older ALKQN membership had fallen prey to drug addiction and the sordid courses of conduct that accompany that lifestyle. As a result, there was no leadership to train or teach the younger members about the agenda of the movement. The younger generation became prone to gang violence and turf battles as a primary modus operandi. Hence, the same community that once looked to the ALKQN as a source of protection against criminal elements and police repression became increasingly disenchanted by the senseless gang warfare between different groups and by petty crime in the neighborhoods, as, more often that not, innocent people were killed and injured in these skirmishes. Not surprisingly, the police state apparatus capitalized upon the disenchantment of the neighborhood by flooding the media with anti-gang, anti-drug, anti-crime rhetoric to the extent that these street formations were soon alienated from their own communities, the same communities they once served.

The ALKQN was like a great brush fire, consuming everything in its path and leaving as quickly as it came. A number of new Latino organizations began forming in areas once controlled by the ALKQN. By 1971, the ALKQN was nearly on the verge of extinction. However, during that summer, two 18-year-old youths, one Puerto Rican and the other Mexican—unknown to one another but both LKs (albeit from different parts of the city)—were both arrested, tried, convicted, and sentenced to prison for killing rival gang members. These two young men, Gustavo Colón, a.k.a. "Lord Gino," and Raul Gonzales, a.k.a. "B.K.," or "Baby King," together with some of the older LKs who were already in the Illinois state prison system, such as Hector "Dino" Pagán and others, masterminded the transformation of the ALKQN into its third and present stage of existence, of syndicated illegitimate capitalism under the guise of a type of quasi-cultural, spiritual and nationalistic movement.

The creation of the ALKQN Constitution and Manifesto was completed at Stateville prison in 1972. They both are impressively

thousands of unconscious wannabe's, the aforementioned lost souls, not to mention all the truly wrongfully convicted? Most people never hear *their* stories, however. We all have a story to tell, even the dull and the ignorant. *Listen* to us! The conditions of confinement across the board have regressed to pre-Attica proportions.

I was fortunate enough to be able to re-educate myself and others at a time when progressive literature was still available within prison. However, that is no longer the case as the level of censorship has reached "Orwellian" proportions. On the inside, we are being attacked on several fronts. First, any and all politically conscious prisoners, or paralegals, or even prisoners possessing "leadership qualities" are isolated in "Supermax" laboratories under the guise of some perceived "security threat." Next, the agent provocateurs, stool-pigeons and police collaborators are let out of "PC" (protective custody) and presented as leaders to the "fish" (newcomers to prison) by the prisonkrats. In this fashion, they are kept posted as to any possibility of a progressive movement and can quickly neutralize it.

Still, in these difficult and challenging times, there is hope. Brother Harold H. Thompson is legally challenging the censorship of Anarchist literature within the Tennessee state system and Khalfani M. Khaldun appears to be doing similar defense work of New Afrikan literature. I am certain that I will join this legal battle against the Illinois system, if and when the situation presents itself.

PARC, the October 22nd Coalition/Stolen Lives Project, ABC-Chicago, and other prison abolitionists from around the globe are rallying for our cause with benefits, conferences, meetings, art show projects, and other activities in an effort to raise awareness concerning the plight of all prisoners.

One possible missing link appears to be any type of substantial legislative lobbying for prison abolition/reform. From my perspective, there would need to be a transitional stage between reform and total abolition. In any event, we need to continue developing a peoples' movement that includes prisoners, as we are on the front lines of the battle against the *real* "evil empire!" What they are doing to us today, they may do to you tomorrow!

In the words of Walter Scott, *Quentin Durward, 1823,* "Necessity is the mother of courage, as of invention." So now is the time to rise up, settle our differences, unite, organize and move forward, in theory as well as practice.

In prison, many times when negotiations with prisonkrats failed to bear fruit - or they didn't even consider our proposals - someone would always say, "Those people only understand ONE thing!" i.e. Attica, etc. Just as something as simple as a toy will *POP* if it is wound too tightly, so too will humanity. If courage is the ladder upon which all other virtues mount, we all need to call upon our inner selves - our true humanity and do the right thing. I call upon all people, in and out of prison to join our struggle. For "What is thine is mine, and all of mine is thine." - Plautus

I will close this with the words of John Dewey, from **Reconstruction in Philosophy** - "Since changes are going on anyway, the great thing is to learn enough about them so that we will be able to lay hold of them and turn them in the direction of our desires. Conditions and events are neither to be fled from nor passively acquiesced in; they are to be utilized and directed."

HELP SAVE RICHARD FLOOD

8

WHO IS RICHARD FLOOD?



Richard Flood is a former political prisoner, who after serving a lengthy term within the Illinois State Prison System, (during which time his long history of committed political, legal and social struggle for prisoners landed upon him every conceivable form of torture that the system could muster) was only the third prisoner released from Tamms "Supermax" prison in March of 2000. His legal work has helped at least two innocent men gain their release from Illinois' death row and many others to receive new trials and/or reduced sentences. His underground socio-political programs have gained wide support throughout the Illinois system, with particular emphasis on "re-educating" so called "prison gang" members by introducing them to revolutionary political consciousness while steering them away from criminal behavior and mentality, much in the spirit of the late Black Panther Party leaders Fred Hampton and George Jackson. His leadership qualities and respect from other prisoners allowed him the unique position of negotiating several peace treaties between so-called rival prison "gangs". Since Richard's release, these programs have showed much promise with Chicago "street nations" as well, with steady decreases in "intra-nation" aggression and drug-trafficking. He is also a union Ironworker (Local #1, Chicago), grassroots organizer and paralegal.

WHO DO PRISONS REALLY PROTECT IN A RACIST, EXPLOITATION-BASED SOCIETY?

Center, and their progeny), some of which are still in existence today. Thus, it is inaccurate for the so-called "gang experts" to hold that organizations such as the ALKQN and El Rukn are non-political, even while the government simultaneously labels both as "terrorist-threat groups." As a matter of law, membership in the ALKQN, in and of itself, is now a federal crime.

Aside from the FBI's COINTELPRO initiatives undertaken to prevent the establishment of a Black Panther Party (BPP)/Blackstone coalition, one factor not yet considered is that the Stones were not interested in becoming swallowed up by any vanguard-led movement. The Stones had their own dynamic leader in Jeff Fort, who before being sent to federal prison for alleged misappropriation of the above-mentioned federal funds, had his eyes set on a future Chicago mayoral bid.

Both the BPP and the Young Lords Party (YLP) recognized that historically, non-political and quasi-political fighting formations have typically been responsive only to programs focused primarily on fighting for "turf," which is a misguided form of the drive in men to take, hold, and defend a given area. However, it appears that Richard "Cha Cha" Jimenez (the leader of the YLP) and a coalition of ALKQN and other Latino street formations were able to redirect this drive within their respective organizations through some hybrid form of the "eros effect," described by George Katsiaficas as a spontaneous mass movement where various oppressed peoples and groups with various grievances unite and rise up to struggle against their common oppressor.[2] Another unknown dynamic is that the ALKQN, the YLP and the FALN (Fuerzas Armadas de Liberación Nacional Puertorriqueña) actually collaborated for the purpose of clandestine foco strikes against various U.S. Government installations, as well as private corporate interests, in the name of anti-imperialism. In sum, the major distinguishing factor between the BPP/Stone-ALKQN relationship and the YLP/FALN/ALKQN relationship, is that the latter groups, while working together, never challenged each other's autonomy as a prerequisite to achieving that end.

During the summer of 1970, YLP/FALN members joined forces with the ALKQN and the entire Puerto Rican neighborhood in a direct confrontation with the Chicago Police and National Guard forces, over a public (Rodney King type) beating by Chicago cops of an ALKQN member. This free-for-all escalated into the largest Latino riot in Chicago history as the entire community took to the streets to make a stand against extreme levels of police repression and violence. Thus, for a brief period (1968-70), the ALKQN was, in and of itself, on the verge of becoming a revolutionary political movement.

language barrier needs, while at the same time offering an umbrella of protection against racial violence and police repression through solidarity and informal social activities. The ALKQN movement soon spread into the Mexican barrios of Chicago along similar lines.

Although today there exists little documentation of these earliest days of the ALKQN, it appears that once the members "got on their feet" as far as their housing, employment and other essential needs were concerned, they simply moved on and had no further contact with the ALKQN. This informality, and more importantly, the lack of an organizational structure that emphasized a continuous development of socio-political consciousness for the ALKQN during its first phase of existence (which lasted into the early 1960s), combined with increased levels of police repression and aggression from White, Black, and Latino non-political fighting formations, were primary factors in the socio-political degradation of the ALKQN from its natural Marxist root of striving towards a better way of life for its oppressed membership, to an unnatural "displaced native" mentality of street gang activity. The steadily increasing influx of illicit drugs into their community during this period further exacerbated these degenerative conditions, so that by the mid-1960s the ALKQN took on the appearance of being little more than the largest and most violence-prone Latino street gang in Chicago.

The civil rights movement and the ensuing pre-revolutionary situation around the world, and particularly in Chicago (from 1968 to 1970), began to re-energize the ALKQN into its second (albeit shortest) phase, where it began to show its natural affinity with Marxism. The ALKQN entered into an alliance (which exists to this day) with the Blackstone Rangers (later, the Black P. Stone Nation, and later, the El Rukns), who at that time were the largest and most violence-prone Black fighting formation in Chicago, whether political, quasi-political, or non-political. When the leadership of the Rangers was invited to the White House by President Nixon and was subsequently allocated over $600,000 in federal funds to implement social programs, Chicago Mayor Richard J. Daley (the father), not to be outdone in his own town, immediately followed suit by allocating over $165,000 in local funds to the ALKQN for social programs, while lobbying them for a cease-fire in their bloody war against a confederacy of White street gangs on the near Northwest side of the city.

Both the ALKQN and the Blackstone Rangers utilized major portions of the above-mentioned funds to establish autonomous community organizations (the Humboldt Park Community Center, the Puerto Rican Cultural Center, the Mexican American Liberties Organization [MALO], the Woodlawn Community Outreach

On March 24, 2001, (Richard's birthday) while in route to a meeting with leaders from several of Chicago's "street nations," (in which a definite revolutionary socio-political program was to be voted on) Richard and his wife Rebecca stopped at a gas station. Richard returned from inside the station to find his wife being viciously attacked by three armed persons. Richard, himself unarmed, disarmed one of the attackers, and during the course of the struggle, two of the attackers were injured. And although Rebecca herself was seriously injured, she was denied medical treatment by authorities, who also not only refused to arrest the three attackers, but arrested Richard instead on charges of attempted murder. The circumstance and timing of this incident is clearly suspect, however, it is not yet known if it was a set-up. Nonetheless, Richard is once again fighting for his life. He has no bond while awaiting trial.

THE RICHARD FLOOD LEGAL DEFENSE FUND

Richard needs competent, incorruptible legal representation and we need your help. Do not allow the system to once again bury alive this veteran freedom fighter. Monetary contributions to Richard's legal defense fund are immediately and desperately needed. Please make a check or money order payable to:

Send Contributions to: Professor Victor Wallis
411A HighlandAve. #321 (617) - 776 - 9505
Summerville, MA 02144 zendive@aol.com

Michael Deutsch of the Peoples' Law Office in Chicago is going to work the appeal on this set-up sentence.

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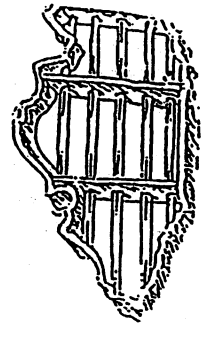

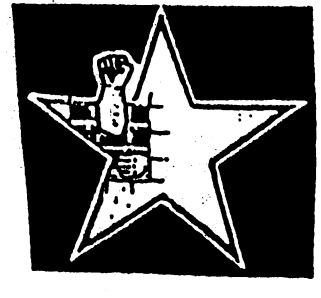

RESIST THE CAGED SOCIETY!

spectr zine

http://www.spectrezine.org/resist/Wallis.htm

Victor Wallis is an historian, teacher and activist and one of the editors of the theoretical and journal Socialism and Democracy.

The Trial of Richard Flood

The case of Mark Barnsley in England has highlighted the way in which state judicial and police authorities can manipulate the law to imprison innocent people for their political beliefs and activities. Below, Victor Wallis writes about a similar case on the other side of the Atlantic.

Richard Flood is a former political prisoner who served a long term in the Illinois State system, the last few years of which were in the Tamms "Supermax" prison, to which he had been sent in reprisal for his very valuable legal and organizing work on behalf of other prisoners. He was released from Tamms in March of 2000.

Upon his release, he returned to Chicago, where he secured employment in construction (as a member of Ironworkers Local #1) and continued his political work. During his incarceration, this had included, in his own words, "'re-educating' so-called 'prison gang' members by introducing them to revolutionary political consciousness while steering them away from criminal behavior and mentality, much in the spirit of the late Black Panther Party leaders Fred Hampton and George Jackson." Since his release, he has worked with a highly regarded community organization called the MR MALO Youth Center [MR MALO=Managing Resources to Make Available Life's Opportunities], whose Director, John Santana, has written a glowing letter in Richard's support.

DO THE STREETS FEEL SAFER WITH GROWING NUMBERS BEHIND BARS?

*Towards a Theory of Revolutionizing Street Nations**

Richard M. Flood

The purpose here is to present a critique of the current political trends of the different factions of the Almighty Latin Kings y Queens Nations, hereinafter the "ALKQN," which is a Chicago-based so-called "street gang." Considering the radical political potential of this type of formation, the Left has a clear interest in helping the ALKQN develop a theory of transformation from illegitimate capitalism (criminal mentality and activity) into an approach that revisits and expands upon their egalitarian, implicitly Marxist roots.

I am writing this essay from a jail cell, with no access to reference materials. Therefore, I will have to rely upon my own experience and recollection of the movement and pertinent literature for the factual basis. I have been involved with the ALKQN (Chicago-led faction) for over thirty years. Although I no longer have a role in the day-to-day operations of the Nation, I still serve "Las Coronas" (i.e., the Nation-wide leadership) in a legal advisory capacity.

Upon even a cursory inspection it should be recognized that the ALKQN is actually a "street nation," in that it has developed its own highly organized legislative, judicial and executive branches (via its Constitution), its own social and political theory (via its Manifesto), as well as an economic agenda and practice.[1] The ALKQN is presently active in at least 25 U.S. states, as well as Puerto Rico, Mexico and Panama, with an estimated membership of 100,000 people.

Historically, the ALKQN began in Chicago in the late 1940s as an informal social club that functioned as a sort of cultural shock absorber, helping to ease the integration of Puerto Rican immigrants into the U.S. and Chicago (which still today is the most segregated major U.S. city). It appears that the earliest members distributed communal property such as household items, clothing, and emergency funds. The members also assisted each other and all newcomers with housing, employment, educational and

He appears to be arrogant and misguided enough to go too far, even by today's standards. However, his is the type of right-wing extremist rhetoric that seems to be hallowed grounds these days.

On the other hand, (Dem. nominee) Rod Blagoyevich has stated that he will effect progressive change within the IDOC. However, he has been very vague as to how he might accomplish this, given the budget deficit which the new governor will inherit.

Blagoyevich did hint, however, that he would be making wholesale changes within the administration of the IDOC. This is no guarantee for progressive change, however. What it amounts to, is one candidate who realizes how many potential votes are represented by the loved ones of Illinois prisoners as well as a growing progressive movement in Chicago that has made prisoner support its primary platform.

It will be interesting to see how this scenario works out as the former candidate's campaign promise, if carried out, may create dangerously repressive conditions, thereby summoning spontaneous reaction from within - or the latter's, which if carried out, could bring some level of relief to Illinois prisoners and their loved ones and constituency.

In Struggle,

Richard M. Flood



Richard's current plight results from a bizarre incident in March 2001, which landed him in jail (without bond) and facing serious charges. Here is the account from a flier distributed on his behalf: "On March 24, 2001,... Richard and his wife Rebecca stopped at a gas station [in Joliet, Illinois]. Richard returned from inside the station to find his wife being viciously attacked by three armed persons. Richard, himself unarmed, disarmed one of the attackers, and, during the course of the struggle, two of the attackers were injured. And although Rebecca herself was seriously injured, she was denied medical treatment by the authorities, who also not only refused to arrest the three attackers, but arrested Richard instead on charges of attempted murder."

Richard is being represented at trial (in Joliet) by the Chicago law firm Wigell & Associates (tel.: 708-754-2000), whose lead-attorney Raymond Wigell writes as follows: "Mr. Flood is charged with multiple counts of Aggravated Battery, a Class 3 felony in Illinois. These charges are particularly serious because Mr. Flood may be eligible for an extended sentence beyond the normal sentencing range if found guilty. Our investigation of the facts
indicates that Mr. Flood was not the aggressor in this altercation, making available the affirmative defense of justifiable use of force. However, as you know, even with a trial by jury, the judicial system is seriously flawed. The presumption of innocence is beset, particularly where, as in this case, the defendant is obsequious to his political views."

Richard was kept in jail while the Prosecution repeatedly delayed the trial-date as it tried to fabricate a case against him. The verdict reached in October was as bizarre as was the pretext originally used for arresting him. Richard's use of force was found to be justified against one of the attackers but not justified against another attacker.

The trial judge, Daniel Rozak, did everything he could to help the Prosecution. He allowed police witnesses to offer hours of unsubstantiated testimony as to statements allegedly made by Rebecca Flood (Richard's wife), but never allowed the jury to see Rebecca's actual written statement, which said:

ASKS ALL THESE QUESTIONS AND MORE.

"We stopped at a gas station. While my husband was inside, I used the phone. As I was on the phone, three people jumped me and were beating me. Next thing I know, I heard my husband telling them to get off me and he was putting me in the car."

During the trial, the three attackers (who claimed to be Richard's "victims") admitted that they were high on crack/cocaine at the time of the incident, and that they were looking for ways to obtain more drugs. It is also known that the particular "victim" for whose minor injury Richard was convicted is a repeat offender who is currently in jail on an unrelated charge.

It is undisputed that Richard was unarmed, was not high on drugs, and did not initiate the incident in question—in other words, that he had no "criminal intent."

Below, we publish a letter from Richard Flood himself, followed by what you can do to help.

Communiqué from Richard M. Flood (April 2):

Brothers and Sisters,

I am no political scientist, and I make no bones about it. I am a member of the New Left movement and a soldier in the war against all class systems, period.

Once again, the power system has entombed my body, simply because I did the right thing. Once again, I respond that although they may entomb my body and eventually kill it, no human power or authority can kill an idea.

In retrospect, considering my many years of committed political activism and direct confrontations with federal, state, and local authorities, it may have been short-sighted of me to marry and have children. I know what the government has in store for politically radical people. In "The Art of War," Sun Tzu instructs us to "know your enemy and know yourself, and in a thousand battles you will not lose." So this is my mistake; I own it. However, neither my wife, nor our children, nor the community I serve should pay the price for my idealism--for my belief that through social, political, and economic change, a better world is possible. It is in this spirit that I now come before you.

I submit to you that all persons have a natural right to protect themselves and others from death or great bodily harm if they reasonably believe that they or others are in imminent danger thereof. This natural right is not subject to discretion; in particular, it cannot be denied to someone on the grounds of that person's political beliefs or any other extrinsic factor.

2) Prisoners can only purchase soap, toothpaste, paper and envelopes. (Interestingly, prisoners are not allowed to purchase even a comb or any shaving materials. On this same note, a prisoner can be punished for not maintaining a proper level of hygiene, or for altering their appearance. I would submit that not being able to shave, get a haircut or comb one's hair for 90 days, would significantly alter one's appearance.)

3) Prisoners are restricted to non-contact visitation only.

4) Prisoners are given one phone call per month. (This is particularly harmful to the prisoner as the first 30 days after sentencing are an extremely critical time; to wit, any and all *Notice's of Appeal* and/or *Motions to Vacate a Guilty Plea must* be filed within 30 days of sentencing. Also, the prisoner is limited to who they might call, hoping that in one call they can get thru, and also that they are able to have messages relayed to other people - all in one 15 minute call.)

This "Phase" system is now being implemented in most, if not all, of the prisons within the IDOC. The only significant difference between the conditions of today's IDOC system and the "pre-Attica" prison system is that the prisoner is allowed to purchase a television and a radio. These tools of psych-socio manipulation are the pacifiers of today's prisoner. It is my hope that the prisoncrats (who are now fully entrenched in their absolute authority over prisoners) make the mistake of confiscating *all* T.V.'s and radios from IDOC prisoners, thus creating conditions conducive to conscious, progressive thought and behavior.)

It is my understanding that (Rep. gubernatorial nominee) Jim Ryan is making noise that if he is elected governor, he will "clamp down" even harder on Illinois prisoners.

6 October 2002

Dear Anthony,

Well, as you may already know, I am down in Menard. The conditions here are the most repressive within the Illinois state system since "pre-Attica" times. For example, there is this so-called "Phase" system, which is purportedly used to "orientate the offender" to "the realities of prison life within the IDOC."

However, upon even a cursory inspection, it becomes easy to see that this new "orientation" process is merely used as a pretext to begin each and every new prison sentence with a "freebie" punishment stint against the inmate. It is also used as a behavior modification tool in that the prisoner begins his/her sentence under extremely harsh and repressive conditions, (for all intended purposes, a disciplinary segregation stint served in general population) and is gradually (supposedly in 90 days) afforded the same privileges as the rest of the population.

It is by this means that the prisoncrats have been able to significantly reduce and/or eliminate most of the rehabilitative programs previously available to Illinois prisoners - in that the significant shift to the right of prison politics has altered the prisoner's perception of what are acceptable conditions to them to the extent that prisoner opinion has become essentially passive, not active.

I will now outline some of the particular rules, restrictions and prohibitions of the "Phase" system.

1) Prisoners are prohibitted from participating in full-time work or educational programming.

I appeal to you to support us in our struggle for my liberty and, more importantly, for true justice--not merely for myself, but for my family, our community, and all of us who struggle towards a better way of life.

In solidarity, Richard M. Flood

Dear Judge Rozak,

We offer an alternative to street gangs through educational assistance, leadership and empowerment training, and self-esteem enrichment programs. One of our valuable assets is Richard M. Flood!. He has a unique ability to communicate with people from many different walks of life. His theory is that by raising socio-political consciousness of teen gang members we can quell the criminal mentality that is prevalent in them, before they end up in prison or dead.

John Santana, the executive director of Mr. MALO, youth center

To: The Honorable Judge Daniel Rozak,

By way of introduction, my name is Clay Patton. I am the president of Chicago Steel Erectors and Fabricators in Chicago, IL. Our company fabricates and erects structural and ornamental steel in construction projects throughout the Chicago land area. This letter is in regards to and in behalf of my colleague, fellow union member Richard M. Flood. Up until the time and date of Richard's arrest in this matter, be was employed by our company as a journeyman ironworker. Due to Richard's high level of skill in our crafts as well as his dependability and experience, he held the position of foreman on several of our job sites. Richard comes from a well-known and respected family of union ironworkers and he takes pride in his work as well as our craft, and we are fortunate to have him as a member of our team. Our company wants and needs Richard and would put him back to work immediately upon his release. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Very Truly Yours,

Clay Patton, President
Chicago Steel Erectors and Fabricators M.B.E.

NEWS & LETTERS, August-September 2002

Reverse unjust conviction of Richard Flood!

Chicago--Richard Flood is a former political prisoner who served time in the Tamms Supermax prison, to which he had been sent in reprisal for his legal and organizing work on behalf of other prisoners. Upon his release in March 2000 he secured employment in Chicago in construction (as a member of Ironworkers Local #1) and continued his political work.

He told us in a recent interview, "When I was in prison I decided to further the work of Fred Hampton and George Jackson by raising the political consciousness of gang members. If we could get them to focus on social change, I decided, it would be a real plus for our movement. The system doesn't want gang members to become political. That's where all the trouble began. I ended up in Tamms because of my political work."

After his release, he worked with the highly regarded Mr. Malo Youth Center in Chicago. "I went to this organization to do volunteer work. I was doing paralegal pro bono work, on landlord tenant disputes, at the time. The Mr. Malo organization is on the Southeast side of Chicago, a very depressed area. I saw it as an opportunity to continue my work with gang members, to try to instill in them a need for social change."

Only a year after being released from prison, however, Richard again found himself in jail on trumped-up charges. On March 24, 2001 Richard and his wife Rebecca stopped at a gas station in Joliet, Ill. He returned from inside the station to find his wife being attacked by three armed persons. Richard, himself unarmed, disarmed one of the attackers; during the course of the struggle, two of the attackers were injured. His wife was seriously hurt, but she was denied medical treatment by the authorities, who also not only refused to arrest the three attackers, but arrested Richard instead on charges of attempted murder.

The verdict (in October 2001) was as bizarre as the pretext for arresting him. Richard's use of force was found to be justified against one of the attackers but not justified against another attacker! During the trial, the three attackers admitted they were high on crack cocaine at the time. It is undisputed that Richard was unarmed, was not high on drugs, and did not initiate the incident.

Richard's legal counsel did not mount an effective defense. When Richard moved for a retrial, they were unwilling to develop arguments regarding prejudicial conduct on the judge's part. The issue of the judge's conduct was placed before another judge, who denied Richard the opportunity to develop his argument and simply returned the retrial motion to Judge Rozak, who summarily rejected it.

Richard has been subjected to an extraordinary level of harassment in jail. He has been given bogus write-ups for alleged disciplinary infractions and has been hampered in his efforts to file a complaint. The apparent intent is to develop a record of alleged misconduct in order to justify giving him a harsh sentence. On July 12, he was transferred from Joliet to the Kankakee county jail, where he is now being held in isolation. His sentencing is scheduled for August 26.

Richard urgently needs effective legal representation for his appeal. Michael Deutsch of the People's Law Office in Chicago, who has worked with the Center for Constitutional Rights, is willing to take the case. Richard must now raise the necessary funds. Please give whatever you can to his defense. Checks can be made out to the People's Law Office Clients' Fund and sent to Victor Wallis, 411A Highland Ave, Somerville, MA 02144.

--P.H.

News & Letters
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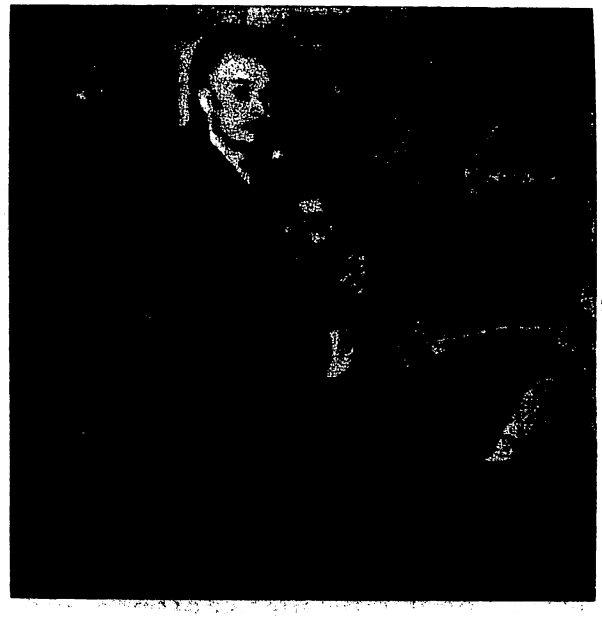
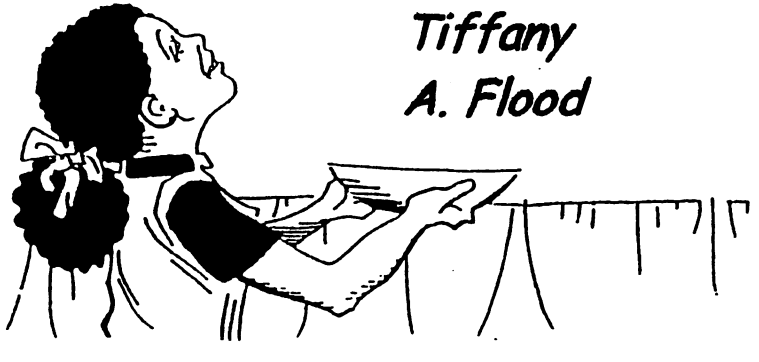
WHEN
WAS THE LAST TIME A COP SERVED
AND PROTECTED YOU?





Cell livin isn't
great. Can you imagine death
as your destint Fate.
or some horny cell mate
takes you From being
Straight. Your a big
guy but I know in
your heart you to break
down & cry. Buit when you think
of me no more tears no more lies.
I try a try, of not thinking of
your cell livin but as time goes by.
There's no desition. Without you
dad life aint worth livin. Dad
Soon it will be your release from prison.

2: Dad



Tiffany
A. Flood

Richard Flood's Phone Calls From Jail

Noelle Hanrahan / Prison Radio
info@prisonradio.org 415-648-4505

1) "Update from Kankakee County Jail" 8/02

Richard: I'm alive! I'm hangin' in there. You know, it's a the Irish in me. I'm gettin' tougher.

Well, the latest is, I'm supposed to be sentenced on July 8th. The judge ordered another pre-sentencing investigation and legally that isn't warranted because nothing has changed since the first investigation. I've been in custody ever since... my family status hasn't changed, my educational background hasn't changed.

What they're doing is grasping at straws. They're trying to find something to hang their hat on to justify giving me a harsh sentence. They transferred me from the Will County Jail to the Kankakee County Jail because Michael Deutsch got involved and wrote some very threatening letters to the Warden, that if they continued the harassment of me there, his office would sue them.

Noelle: What was the nature of the harassment?

Richard: Uh, bogus write-ups, they wouldn't let me use the Law Library. They were threatening me. They, actually, surrounded me and threatened to beat me up at one point. I made various complaints about the jail. I got some inspectors involved. They came down there and I guess they raised some concerns with the administrators there and the staff found out and I just became a target, basically.

Noelle: So, what are the charges that you are currently facing that you are going to be sentenced on?

Richard: Uh, two counts of aggravated battery, which is a class 3 felony in Illinois. But, I'm eligible for an extended term. That's the judge and the prosecutor are interested in giving me an extended term.

The mitigating factors substantially outweigh thefactors of aggravation. I went through the statutory charge and I can afford 12 mitigating factors while the state can only proffer 4 factors of aggravation. So, the judge doesn't want to look bad. if the state recommends a low number and the judge goes against that and recommends a high number, when it comes back at Appellate Review, it makes the judge look bad.

So, what they do is the judge will tell the prosecutor, you know, behind closed doors, "Hey, look! I want to give this guy some big number, so why don't you recommend some big numbers?" But, they have to have something to hang their hat on to do that. That's why they're writing up all these bogus charges. My current attorneys are Wigell & Associates.

Noelle: So, they're still on the case?

Richard: They're still on the case, but I'll be firing them at the sentencing hearing. So, I'll proceed with that, myself. Right now, we're trying to get some money raised, so we can get Michael Deutsch and the People's Law Office, involved for my appeal.

Noelle: So, what sentence are you facing? What range?

"Cell Livin"

You sit in a cell while
your children are growing
you never
Knowing what's happening
to your daughter,
With out you in her
Wild and disasterest
life. I can see you
Spend your days in
Stench and dust.
Know you are always
thinking us Mom's long
lost touch. You must
be strong dad. Dont
ever stop hoping. 10 yrs.
is soon to be there
as long as you know
I love you and will always
care!

PRISONERS FREEDOM

Played by these
Rules or laws called
Injustice - I guess it's
Something we all go threw - but, the
Only thing we have to do is
Never give up on anything and
Everything we do - my
Reasons for this is very
Strong.....

For if you or I do we
Reject ourselves from our
Eminent right in life
Endorse this father and you'll see what the
Dulcet neglect what the weak can't
Obtain and what we so
Much have inside.....



Richard: It looks like they're going to give me from anywhere from 10 to 20 years.

Noelle: My name is Noelle Hanrahan and you're listening to Flashpoint, KBFA's Investigative News Magazine and we are speaking to Richard Flood who is calling from Kankakee County Jail in Illinois. He's facing a sentencing hearing for a parole violation and an assault. He's facing up to 30 years in prison. He's a political prisoner, who's served time in the notorious Tamms unit in the Illinois Correctional Department. That is a Supermax Control Unit and he's a political activist.

I became familiar with your case when you wrote to me because you were in correspondence with the editor of *Socialism and Democracy*, while you were doing time at an AD Seg program. Tell me, what were you in jail fo originally and what put you back?

Richard: Well, my original sentence, although not on face, was not political, but it became political. It was a property-related crime.

Noelle: And how long did you serve?

Richard: I served approximately ten years.

Noelle: And then you were paroled?

Richard: Yes, Ma'am.

Noelle: And what happened to get your parole revoked? Our audience needs to have a sense of what happens to people when they're on parole and the Kafkaesque situations that can happen to them.

Richard: Well, you are sentenced to a determinant amount of time and you serve that

time and your sentence should be completed. But, the system is designed to insure that you return and that's what the parole system is about.

Noelle: So, you've been held in this County Jail since March of this year (2001) without bond. What happened on March 24th, 2001?

Richard: Well, actually March 24th is my birthday. My wife and I were going to meet another couple to go out to dinner for my birthday. We pulled into a gas station to purchase gas, get a bottle of water. While I was inside of the gas station, three people attacked my wife, as she was using a pay phone. I came out of the gas station and saw three people assaulting my wife and I came to her aid. Two of the people were armed. I disarmed one of them and during the course of the struggle, two of those people were injured. My wife was also injured, as I was. Not as seriously as my wife or the other two people.

2) "Will County Jail" w/ Rebecca Flood

Noelle: Now, we are joined by Rebecca Flood. Rebecca, you were at the scene of the alleged crime. What happened?

Rebecca: Well, as my husband was saying, it was his birthday and we were going out. We were going to meet with another couple and go get something to eat. But, we stopped and actually it was the bottle of water and cigarettes that I wanted. When my husband went in to get that for me, and I was going to use the phone. At this time, some people came out and I heard a noise and some people came out and jumped out of a truck. They began to attack me. I remember hearing my husband say, "Get off my wife!" I

Dear Dad

How are you doing?? Me fine! I have not talked to you since my birthday. I'm in 9th grade now. It's not as scary as I thought it would be. You were right! It's alright. I guess I just don't like my English teacher and I think she don't like me. Well, I guess I'll cry later about it.

Man, I'm sick - got a head cold and a bad cough. So , you heard any new rap songs by any rappers lately? Or, how about in there? Any good people with talent, you sometimes or briefly hear when you are walking by or something??

It's not as easy as it seems. Neither are poems. I was reading a book on U.S.A. great poets. They're pretty good, but my favorite is a guy from Chiily named Pablo Neruda or something like that. Eager Allen Poe is good, too.

I'm sort of looking into what you and my Mother are doing. It seems good to be helping people fight against the injustice that was brought to them. All these people are helping you. I bet you feel sort of relieved now that you got a team behind you that know what they're doing!

I got a little bit of "writing" little bit beneath this. Hope you like it.

Well, I got to get off now. Mom needs to write something. Bye!



Chicago Steel Erectors and Fabricators- M.B.E

9317 South May Street Suite #2
Chicago, IL 60620

Phone: (773) 238- 1706
Fax: (773) 238- 1706
Email: Chicago Steel @aol.com

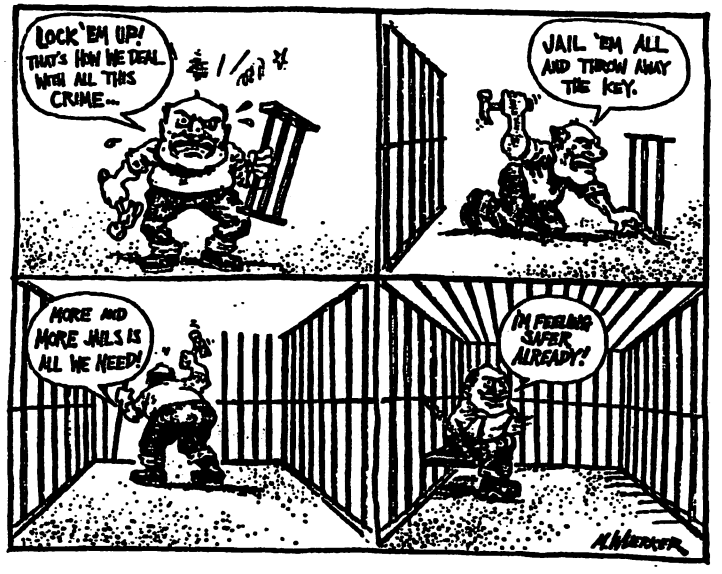
December 13, 2001

To: The Honorable Judge Daniel Rozak,

By way of introduction, my name is Clay Patton. I am the president of Chicago Steel Erectors and Fabricators in Chicago, IL. Our company fabricates and erects structural and ornamental steel in construction projects throughout the Chicago land area. This letter is in regards to and in behalf of my colleague, fellow union member Richard M. Flood. Up until the time and date of Richards arrest in this matter, he was employed by our company as a journeyman ironworker. Due to Richards high level of skill in our craft as well as his dependability and experience, he held the position of foreman on several of our job sites. Richard comes from a well known and respected family of union ironworkers and he takes pride in his work as well as our craft, and we are fortunate to have him as a member of our team. Our company wants and needs Richard and would put him back to work immediately upon his release. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Very Truly Yours,

Clay Patton– President Chicago Steel Erectors and Fabricators M.B.E



was really dazed, you know. From that point on I don't remember. He got me in the car and um, you know, that's what actually happened.

Noelle: What were your injuries?

Rebecca: I had a concussion. I was cut on my arms. My legs were bruised up. I was bruised up all over my body, basically.

Noelle: And why didn't the police believe you?

Rebecca: I felt that, um, my husband! You know, I felt that because he has had trouble with the police in the past, that has a lot to do with it.

Noelle: And Rebecca, how long was your husband out in the free world?

Rebecca: Um, one year and approximately two weeks.

Richard: One year and two weeks to the day. And you know, Noelle, in one year and two weeks, I didn't miss one day of work. I got out of prison on March 10th of 2000, which was a Friday. The following Monday, I went to see the Parole Officer and next Tuesday, I went back to work and I haven't missed a day of work, since. I became a foreman. After all those years in prison, I went back to my trade union as a union iron worker, Local 1 Chicago. Within a couple of months, I had regained my status as a foreman and during my spare time, I was doing volunteer work with Mr. MALO Youth Center. I was also doing pro bono paralegal work for indigent people in landlord / tenant disputes, contractual drafting, etc.

Noelle: Could they give you probation?

Richard: He could give me a suspended sentence! I mean, there are mitigating factors, here. 20

This place is so... There's a Sheriff here, a Deputy, that went to talk to the Prosecutor in my case. He said, "Hey! What are they going to do with this guy? This guy seems like he's a pretty nice guy. He's done a lot in the community. Uh, what do you think is going to happen?" And he said, "Well, we don't want to recommend a high sentence, but the Judge really wants this guy."

I think the Judge has a file in front of him that even the prosecutors don't even see. It's what you call a "red flag" case. The file probably comes from the federal government &/or the Department of Corrections.

Noelle: Given that this was obviously a situation where you had witnesses. Why is the prosecution pursuing this case?

Richard: Obviously, when the police learned of my identity and they ran my name through the system and it came up that I was incarcerated in a Supermax... I have a red flag on my name, as anybody who is progressive and political and possibly revolutionary. There's a data base in Quantico, Virginia and within the FBI data bases as well as the NCIC, certain individuals, when their name comes up, I mean, you know, it's what they call a "red flag."

Noelle: Now, you served a number of years of your sentence in a notorious Supermax in the Illnois State Prison System - the Tamms Supermax. What got you into the Supermax and what do you mean by being "political."

Richard: Well, Illinois, for one, since the 1960's, since the time of the Black Panther

He remains in Will County Jail over a year later, with still no resolution to the case. Two of three assault charges have been dropped. At a court date I went to, I found the judge in this case to be exceptionally interested in wielding his authority and repressing defendants harshly. Richard needs our support. We need him back in the community. He has a unique ability to connect with any kind of person, is fearless, articulate and totally dedicated to the cause.

Mr. Malo Youth Center

Board Members

Deborah Emerson
Chair Person

Ana Escobedo
Secretary

FredVega
Treasurer

Richard Carrillo
Deputy Sheriff

Tirso Villalva:
C.A.P.S. Beat Facilitator

Gerald Garcia
Community Representative

Fred Sosinski
Detective Area 2

Brigitte M. Robinson
Director Garmana Mitigate

Executive Director
John Santana

(773)768-7750
Fax(773)768-7523

December 13, 2001

To: The Honorable Judge Daniel Rozak,

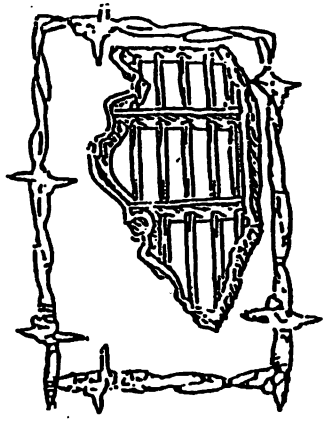
My name is John Santana, I am the Executive Director of Mr. Malo Youth Club Center in Chicago. Mr. Malo specializes in gang intervention for the Southeast Side of Chicago. We work together with Community Churches, High Schools and the Chicago Area Police Department. We offer an alternative to street gangs for Area Youth 's through educational assistance, leadership and enpowernment training and self esteem enrichment programs. One of our valuable assets is Richard M. Flood. He and I met many years ago at a rally against gang violence and drug intervention, where there he was a spoke's person. He has a unique ability in which enables him to communicate with people from many different walks of life and educational background. His theory is that by raising the socio-political consciousness of teen gang members we can quell the criminal mentality that is prevelant in them, before they end up in prison or dead.

Since Richard's release from prison, he has continued his committed activism through his volunteer work with the Mr. Malo Youth Center. He spends his spare time tutoring understanding their well being as disabled adults and children. He is good at mentoring and counseling troubled teens. He has been blessed with the ability to reach people who have given up on hopelessness. He also does free paralegal work for the poor. I can't say for certain what happened at that gas station on March 24, 2001, I was not there. But I can say this I know Richard Flood is no liar. He explained to me what happened. I believed him. Also, the surrounding accusations made against Richard and Rebecca are incredibly preposterous. I'm confident that in using your experience, wisdom and common sense you will see through all the absurb and do the right thing. Please don't send Richard Flood to prison. We don't want to lose him and I humbly ask that you show mercy on his liberty so that he can continue teaching us and leading our youth's to a better way of life. Thank you and god bless.

Sincerely,

John Santana

John Santana
Executive Director



I've had the distinct pleasure of corresponding and discussing ideas of a very seriously important nature with Richard Flood for a few years now - since he was still locked down in that southern Illinois torture chamber, simply known as Tamms.

Incredibly, he was released - only the third person ever released alive from Tamms. He and his fiance came to visit with me and he had a plan to actively work to enlighten and politicize the so-called "gangs."

This, he went right ahead and did. He got married, got a job as a steelworker and began to spread his knowledge and advice freely and prolifically. He worked with John Santana of Mr. Malo Youth Center (Managing Resources to Make All Life's Opportunities.) He counciled mostly hispanic youth and worked to empower them and help them gain self-respect, acquire skills, and learn how to avoid as best as possible the body snatchers of the state and stay out of prison or if released to remain out of prison and work to fashion a productive life - despite the ongoing incarceration frenzy.

Then one fateful day, he and Rebecca were at a Joliet gas station. Richard was inside while his wife was using the pay phone. She was assaulted by three crack-addled lost souls. Richard beat hem off, after they ignored his warning of them to desist. The cops came and arrested Richard for saving his wife! She had been stabbed and beaten!

Party, the Chicago Chapter, Fred Hampton and Mark Clark, uh, Fred Hampton was trying to politicize the street gangs of Chicago, which I think... the *original* street gangs! You know, it's the "Bloods" and the "Crips" that get all the notoriety, but it's the Blackstone Rangers, the Gangster Disciples, the Latin Kings of Chicago that are the forerunners that laid the groundwork for these California gangs and other gangs. It all started in Chicago.

Fred Hampton and Mark Clark were executed for trying to turn and raise the consciousness of street gang members... to turn their mentality from a criminal mentality to that of a political and revolutionary nature. They were exterminated because of that fact. What I try to do is I try to carry on the tradition of Fred Hampton and George Jackson and I try to politicize the street gangs, through my legal efforts and my socio-political programs (underground programs) throughout the Illinois prison system.

Combining that with the legal work I've done on behalf of inmates of the Illinois system, and so I was being a "threat" by the Department of Corrections and I was isolated from the rest of the prison population. I was buried alive in the Supermax. They didn't want me out. But, my time was up and they had to release me.

Noelle: Now, since your release, you've worked at the Mr. MALO Youth Center. What is that?

Richard: Mr. MALO Youth Center... Mr. MALO first of all is an acronym for Managing Resources for Making Available Life's Opportunies. We offer an alternative to area youths who are involved in street gangs, through mentoring, instruction, social activities, empowerment training and drug intervention.

We're tryin' to give high risk kids a chance, before they end up dead or in prison. 22

Noelle: Now, you're still in prison. You're facing charges. Tell me, what, how much time are you facing and what are the charges.

Richard: Well, I was originally charged with several counts of attempted murder, armed violence and aggravated battery.

Noelle: And these are the parole violations.

Richard: Yes, Ma'am. My parole has been violated. However, they dropped those most serious charges. I went to court on several counts of aggravated battery. I was acquitted on the charges on one of the "alleged" victims but I was convicted on the charge against another of the "alleged" victims. Now, these people testified and admitted in open court that they were high on crack cocaine for several days, they were driving around, they were broke and they were trying to figure outta way to come up with more money to purchase more drugs.

I mean, it's not a long bridge to gap, to say that they were in that gas station, tryin' to rob somebody! And, trying to rob my wife!

Noelle: And how much time are you facing, and when is your sentencing hearing?

Richard: My sentencing hearing is December 13th. We are in a legal battle right now. The sentencing hearing carries with an extended term up to 10 years, at 85%. However, the state and the judge are pushing to enhance the sentencing grade, to sentence me up to an additional 30 years at 100%. I'm forty years of age, so with an extra thirty years, I'll be seventy by the time I got out.

"LET OUR PEOPLE GO!"

COOK COUNTY JAIL RALLY OCTOBER 20th, 2002

SLOGANS

1. STOP THE RACIST ROUND-UPS!
2. TEAR DOWN THE WALLS!
3. STOP THE WAR ON THE POOR!
4. SHUTDOWN CROOK COUNTY!
5. DOWN WITH DALEY'S DUNGEONS!
6. MURDER IS *NOT* "SUICIDE!"
7. JUNK THE JUDGES!
8. DEAL WITH *REAL* CRIMES!
9. PUT DICK DEVINE ON DEATH ROW!
10. FRED HAMPTON / MARK CLARK!
11. NO BOMBS / NO BARS!
12. GEORGE JACKSON LIVES!
13. FEED THE NEEDY NOT THE GREEDY!
14. CHILDREN NEED THEIR PARENTS AT HOME!
15. QUIT KIDNAPPING OUR KIDS!
16. RELEASE THE MEN FROM THE PEN!
17. THE *GOVERNMENT* IS GUILTY!
18. GUARDS! GO HOME!
19. DEATH TO THE PENALTY!
20. FREEDON NOT FASCISM!
21. LAWS LOCKDOWN LIFE!
22. LET OUR PEOPLE GO!
23. LAWYERS ARE LAMPREYS!
24. STOP RAPING & KILLING SLAVES!
25. ATTICA! ATTICA! ATTICA!

Ralph Waldo Emerson said "Nothing is at last sacred but the integrity of your own mind." Let our example attract 58 brothers and sisters to our spirit, and they will take up the cause. Now is the time to shake off the chains of apathy, and become a catalyst for change.

Illinois
Department of
Corrections

George H.
Governo

Donald N. Sn
Directo

Pontiac Correctional Center / 700 W. Lincoln Street / P.O. Box 99 / Pontiac, IL 61764 / Telephone: (815) 842-2816 / TDD:

October 17, 2002

Ms. Rebecca Flood
27026 Knacke Rd.
Crete, IL 60417

Re: Visiting Restriction Rev

Dear Ms. Flood:

Be advised that I have reviewed your request for restoration of your visiting restriction fo infraction that occurred July 25, 1996. The results of this review are as follows:

__X__ Restoration of your permanent visiting restriction at this time has been **DENIED** the seriousness of the violation. You may request another review in writing after year of restriction or on an annual basis if denied after a year of the restriction.

____ Your permanent visiting restriction will be restored **effective** immediately. You that any future violations may result in permanent restriction with repeated restri into consideration at the time of review.

____ Your visiting restriction is temporary and no reduction appears warranted at this

____ Your temporary visiting restriction has been adjusted to reflect restoration effecti You are cautioned that future violations may result in permanent restriction.

Sincerely,

James G. Cox
Asst. Warden of Operations
Pontiac Correctional Center

cc: Warden Mote, Pontiac Correctional Center
Warden Walls, Menard Correctional Center
Master File – B56680 (Menard)
Inmate Flood – B56680 (Menard)
Chron File; File

Noelle: How can people do something that may influence this judge and get more information. Can they send a letter? 23

Richard: Yes. obviously, when people do things that they know aren't right, they move in secrecy. So, I want to get publicity for this case. I want people to let this judge know that they're aware of what's going on. This judge, Judge Daniel Rozak, has a reputation in this county. He has a nickname. He's called "Dirty Dan." He's not very much different from Judge Sabo in the Mumia case. He has a long history of taking these kinds of cases and slamming people - fixing the cases and during sentencing, sentencing people and exceeding the maximum term allowable.

Throughout the proceedings of this trial, the State's Attorney and the Judge let me and my attorneys know that we were outsiders, with such comments as "Maybe we shouldn't let the defendant and his attorney know how we do things out here in Will County and the defendant's 'prestigious' attorney from Chicago."

Noelle: Were you arrested in Will County?

Richard: Yes, Ma'am.

Noelle: And, people are asking for letters to be written to Judge Daniel Rozak, the Twelfth Judicial Courthouse, 14 West Jefferson Street, Joliet, Illinois 60432. And, if you'd like more information, you can email info@prisonradio.org

WHO GOES TO PRISON AND WHY?

3) "Awaiting Sentencing" w/ Rebecca Flood and Victor Wallis

Noelle: My name is Noelle Hanrahan and you're listening to "Flashpoints" KDFA's investigative newsmagazine. We're joined on the phone by Richard & Rebecca Flood. Richard is calling from the Will County Jail in Illinois. He's been convicted of assault and is awaiting sentencing. A former U.S. political prisoner in the notorious Tamms Super Maximum Control Unit. Flood could be sentenced to probation or time-served or he could be sentenced to up to a ten year sentence.

We're also joined on the phone by Victor Wallis. He's the co-managing editor of *Socialism and Democracy*. He's a longtime political scientist who taught at Indiana University, in Indianapolis. He now teaches at the Berkeley College of Music, in Boston. Just one month ago, we spoke to Richard Flood about his impending case.

Now, Rebecca Flood, remind our listeners what brought Richard to this point, in terms of the incident.

Rebecca: Well, Noelle, on March 24th, the day he was arrested, was Richard's birthday and we decided to go out. We were heading to meet some friends. We were going to get something to eat, see a movie... But, uh, I wanted to get some cigarettes at an Amoco gas station. Richard went to get my cigarettes. As Richard went to get my cigarettes, I went to use the phone. As I was using te phone, I heard a loud noise of a car and as I turned around, I was hit in the head. Then, I started being attacked by three people. At the time this was going on, I hear my husband say, "Get off my wife!" In a matter of seconds, things were out of control, trying

opportunities, apply to nearly all of us, while other problems exist only at a facility or two. Whereas many of the younger men and women are unaware of the committment made in the past to rehabilitate us, our memories are still fresh, our minds strong. It is our responsibility to educate both the public and this subsequent generation of prisoners how Illinois' prison system not only is failing to meet their needs, but is intentionally programming them to reoffend in the future. Unlike the federal prison system, which gradually reduces an inmate's security rating, so that the person can spend his last few months in a work release program, the odds against a "C" number prisoner ever being allowed into such a program are exceptionally high, at best. We need to bring this to the attention of anyone and everyone in a position to affect the program implementation process, such as the legislative committees in charge of overseeing the Department's programs; additionally, we need to continuously write critical but objective articles ou tling the Department's shortcomings, and present them to sympathetic journalists for publication. Lastly, we need to recognize that each and every one of us is viewed by the Department of Corrections for the contribution our skills bring to a prison. By working as an electrician, plumber or carpenter for a monthly pittance, we save the state upwards of $50,000 a year for that one particular job. Every skilled assignment we fill allows the prison system to hire another unskilled security guard, whose salary now approaches $40,000 a year for a job requiring only a high school diploma and driver's license, while contributing nothing to the rehabilitative process.

Campaign In Support of C# Prisoners
773-871-3938

C/O
Uptown People's Law Center
4404 North Broadway
Chicago, IL 60640

According to Stateville Warden Kenneth R. Briley, "there are no college courses available for Level 1 inmates, only mandatory basic education and G.E.D. preparation classes." while Warden Donald S. Young appeared pleased to announce that the Shawnee Corr. Center has seen a "termination of certain recreational activities such as the runner's club, arts and craft program, chess and drama clubs and intramural programming." Although such a dimunition of services comes as no surprise to those of us on the inside, these reductions in programming were previously hidden from the public; no longer. Although the Department's "Mission Statement" indicates that it "maintains programs to enhance the success of offenders' reentry into society", it would appear that Director Snyder's attention lies elsewhere. Though the state's financial woes are well-known, and the few remaining educational and vocational programs have been targeted by Governor Ryan as a way to reduce expenses. The Associate Press has reported that Snyder spent $9,000 for the purchase of dishes and silverware for top brass' use when they visit prisons, and an additional $4,700 to equip 11 state vehicles with CD players. According to USA Today, he was chastised for using a state plane to attend a political rally. As a cost-cutting measure, he ordered all state prisons to issue less toilet paper to inmates. Probably most indicative of the state of the prison system today, the legislature has indemnified the Department of Corrrections against suit, in the event that an inmate attempted to hold it liable for failure to provide rehabilitative programming.

The issue before us then is, what can we as "C" numbers do to rectify this situation. As we are spread out all over the state, some of the issues, such as the loss of educational

to get these people off of me. I don't remember a whole lot after that. I just know that my husband came probably in time.

Noelle: What were your injuries?

Rebecca: I had a concussion. My body was badly bruised. My legs were real bad. Just a lot of bruises all over. From the knife, they were trying to stab me. There were a lot of cuts on my arm.

Noelle: Now, Richard. You were on probation. What did it mean for you to be before the courts and for you to be in this situation and how is it that you are facing serious time?

Richard: Well, first of all, being on parole, recently released from prison, and being on the end of that unfortunate situation, number one, the presumption of innocence in my situation, is abscent, and particularly in my situation, with a person with my political views.

Noelle: Now, Richard. How many years did you spend in the Supermax?

Richard: I was there for a little over two years.

Noelle: And how is the Supermax used to suppress peoples' political organizing or their leadership qualities? Give our listeners a sense of what it means to be in those conditions.

Richard: You're talking total isolation. The Marionization of a prison and we're referring to the United States Penitentiary in Marion, Illinois. Uh, the Federal Prison, which was the

first Supermax. We're talking Control Unit situation, where you are totally isolated from any other human being. Uh, and then that in and of itself is psychological torture. This has been established in this country since the original Cherry Street Jail in Philadelphia, in the early 1800's, with total isolation was found to cause serious mental deterioration among the prisoners.

Then, when you add into the mix, the various forms of harasssment and torture that the staff exercises on the inmates, a lot of people break down. The program there has one purpose and it is to break you - to break you down. So that whenever you finally do get out of there, you are going to be, as far as they're concerned, you are going to be useless to your cause, you're going to be so far gone, that you won't be fit for society.

Noelle: now, you mentioned before about the isolation, but I don't really think our listeners can quite grasp what that means. Can you describe it, in real intimate detail, what it means to be in an isolation unit?

Richard: You're locked in a six by nine box. Forever! When you are deemed a "threat to the security" of a prison system, you are sent to a Supermax. They have the Pelican Bay rule, from the infamous Pelican Bay Prison in California. It's called "Parole, Snitch or Die." The only way you can get out of a Supermax, is to parole out, to snitch, or you die.

The rest of your life is spent with no human contact at all. There's no telephones. There's no contact visits. There's no shaking people's hand - things that people take for granted. There's no looking out a window and seeing a tree or a bird flying, uh, basically,

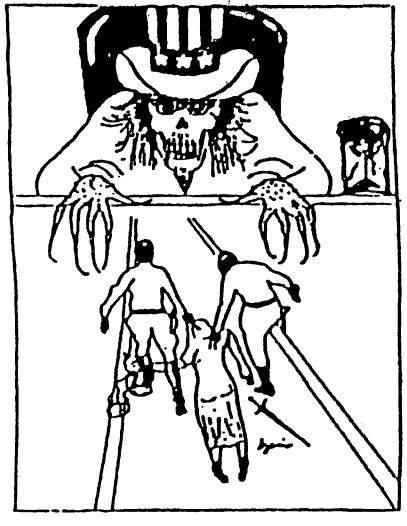
I receive is a request to compare the present day penal system with that of 1967, when I first arrived. At first blush, one would make an assumption that life on the inside has to be markedly more humane and rehabilitative, with "Shawshank Redemption" style rapes and beatings but a distant memory, with educational and vocational programming available to all at the state's prisons; however, nothing could be further from the truth.

Within a week after being placed into Stateville's general population, I was called to the college administrator's office, where I was presented with a smorgasbord of college classes from which I could choose, and shortly thereafter, I was attending my first class. For those more mechanically inclined, a large scale vocational program was there to teach useful skills one could use upon their release, such as auto mechanics and body repair, electronics, and culinary arts. In addition, there were a plethora of musical groups one could join, several art classes were being taught by resident artists, and the United States Jaycees had been allowed to form a chapter within the walls; they in turn were teaching a variety of leadership training classes. In essence, one could build a foundation upon which an individual could improve their likelihood for success upon release, if they chose to do so.

To ascertain the extent of rehabilitative programming now available within the prison system, I would like to direct your attention to the Department of Corrections' latest Annual Report. In the past, the Department used this publication as a vehicle to convince the public of its effort to successfully rehabilitate offenders; no more.

Those cruel, harsh words of a guard in that Skokie courtroom still pierce through me like a needle, "You are a cold criminal, and you're going to die. You deserve it!" She confirmed that by kicking my pregnant stomach. Well! She kicked my baby then! Does that make her a criminal, too? I didn't see her on trial?! Where is the justice? Is there any for those in uniform? Awake!

Cook County Jails are overcrowded cages. Yet, Dear inmates, stand tall! God spared me. There is hope and help. Example. Anthony Rayson and people like him. Have courage and pray - God is there! Peace! Margaret Majos





George Peter, Jr.
Reg. No. C-01434
Menard Corr. Center
P.O. Box 711
Menard, IL 62259

A Call To Arms: Catalysts For Change

As one of the state's longest-held prisoners, I am frequently asked a variety of questions relating to the history of Illinois' prison system by fellow convicts, department of corrections employees, and the individuals whom I correspond with. One of the most often-asked queries

you're locked in a six by nine box. Your shower is rolled up to your door. You don't leave the cell for anything. They might as well weld the door shut, 'cuz you're stuck in there.

Noelle: What about exercise?

Richard: The walls, the walls start closing in on you. I've seen strong, strong people who I had a great deal of respect for, totally break down. One day when they were bringing me somewhere, a medical unit or something, as they were walking me down the gallery, I saw a man who taught me a lot about the law. He had been in the system for over 25 years. I saw him sitting on the floor in his cell, completely naked, rubbing his own feces all over himself. And, uh, this man, in all the years that I'd known him, had never shown any indication of any type of mental disability or impairment. And that had happened within two years of isolation at the Tamms Supermax. And, that's a typical story of any isolation, Supermax or Control Unit, anywhere around the country.

Noelle: What put you in the Supermax?

Richard: I would say, it was a number of incidents in the Illinois prison system. In 1996, an inmate was shot and killed in the Pontiac Correctional Center. That's when they decided that they were going to "clean house" of the three maximum security prisons - Stateville, Pontiac and Menard and get rid of "gang leaders" the people who staff assaults, etc.

Then, they went further down the list to get people with political affiliations, paralegals, jailhouse lawyers, spiritual leaders - anybody with leadership qualities or capabilities. Obviously, because of my

underground socio-political programs within the prison system, I would be a threat to the Illinois system. 28

Noelle: Now, I would like to bring into the conversation, Victor Wallis. Could you tell us from your experience, what types of people are put into control units and why?

Victor: Well, there can be a number of explanations, but they can include a number of disciplinary problems, but one element that has been important in my mind, is that the control units are used as a way of disciplining people who have been politically active, people who have been organizing, any kind of constructive work to raise the awareness of people *in* prison. And, I think that's an issue independent of any disciplinary pretext that the authorities might have for using those units.

Noelle: Now, how did you become aware of Richard Flood and what was your first interaction.

Victor: Richard Flood, when he was imprisoned in Tamms, wrote a letter to *Socialism and Democracy*. I answered him and we began a correspondence that way.

Noelle: Now, Richard. Now, you were free for one year and you worked at the Mr. MALO Youth Center. What did that mean to you and how did you translate what you learned inside with what you did outside.

Richard: Well, what Mr. MALO is trying to do is to provide a positive alternative to the drugs and gangs and violence that our families face, particularly on the southside of Chicago... the

Stones, the Vice Lords, and the Latin Kings, all have a history of POSITIVE community activism - which thru treachery, propaganda, deceit and greed got turned around into the negativeness which they all now foment. The communities which these organizations once served have turned their back on their own youth - and vice versa. This self-hate has got to be recognized, identified and eliminated for us to ever have a chance at a future.
I extend my greetings to Anarchists, Marxists, feminists, the elderly, the handicapped, all so-called gang members - and EVERYONE in attendance today. There ain't no money here, but doesn'y your spirit soar when you become a part of humanity at its best? Money can't buy the feeling of people helping one another - of the force of the human will to seek out truth. I look forward to this event becoming the start of a renewed Chicago movement. Not withstanding all the world events of importance, such as all these wars going on and being sponsored by this corrupt, evil system - we have our own war - right here at home. Let's settle our differences, unite, organize, and move forward. In Solidarity, Richard Flood

Margaret Majos B#49682 Lincoln Correctional Facility
P.O. Box 549 Lincoln, IL 62656

You may not even remember my name after this event, but I hope and pray that what you will feel is the "fire" in your soul, longing for a change in our nation. Crime is nothing else but "reversed hurt." Well! Yeah. You say, "Oh, you must pay for it." Often, we don't even know what the "it" is!

Media talks, people believe it. But when are the leaders going to stand up for justice?

I myself spent 5 years in Cook County Jail and the living conditions are horrible. I was forced to live in an overcrowded cage, where my life was slipping away. I've experienced mistreatment, sicknesses, etc. I'll never forget the death of my best friend, Sandra. I waited for my trial for five years! It's absurd! But, it's a reality! I still can see the filth, floods, mice in our food, tears not heard, sleeping on a cold floor, being stepped on - pregnant and suicidal already.

My cry and pledge is to those who have alive souls and spirits to awaken the sleepy feeling on the inside of you and ask yourself a question: "What is justice? Can I make a change in the society I live in?" Surely, it can't be done by standing by and watching people caged-up and put away. Even an animal would die. We have souls. We are humans!

So we must come together to continue the fight against unjust laws throughout our nation. I thank you all for your time and support.

In Solidarity,
Richard and Rebecca Flood

PRISONER STATEMENTS FOR COOK COUNTY JAIL RALLY 10-20

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

Brothers and Sisters,

I am no political scientist, and I make no bones about it. I am a member of the progressive Left movement and a soldier in the war against all class systems, racism, and the prison-industrial complex - period.

Once again, the power system has entombed my body in one of their dungeons - for the "crime" of protecting my wife. Once again, I respond that although they may entomb my body and eventually kill it, no human power or authority can kill an idea. It is this spirit that I now come before you.

This gathering is a small but vital link and reminder of solidarity that exists worldwide among people who participate and struggle for a better world through social, political and economic change. We know it exists, but it is better when we share. This is our opportunity to rebuild a once strong Chicago movement, which has been somewhat fragile since the assassination of Fred Hampton and Mark Clark over 30 years ago. Since that time, the police state apparatus has ostracized and stigmatized all poor people - and particularly people of color, with their various wars, on "crime, on drugs, on gangs, on YOU!"

The system, thru their media propaganda machine, has turned once beautiful community movements into self-hating and violent so-called street gangs. I grew up on these streets, right here in this neighborhood, as well as Humboldt Park and the South Side, and I bear witness that all the major nations in Chicago, the Disciples, the

level that they can understand. I'm familiar with their literature. I'm familiar with their leadership. I've developed a reputation. My sincerity, my honestness, my credibility with them has been established.

Noelle: Now, Victor Wallis. You wrote a letter to the judge that is about to sentence Richard Flood. Why do you believe that Richard would be better off outside of prison, rather than to be incarcerated, again?

Victor: Well, first of all, I believe the so-called offense, which is being used as pretext to put him back in prison, represents a gross miscarriage of justice. So that would apply, no matter who it was. If that was the incident that happened.

But, above and beyond that, I think in Richard's case, the timing and the type of work he is doing with gang members, which he has just descibed, is one of the sources of hope for bringing about some kind of positive change in the conditions for people in this society. People have to get organized. They have to organize around their grievances. They have to have some kind of vision of a better kind of social situation. And, I think that Richard is contributing to providing that. So that's why I think in his case, that it's even more important that it would be in another.

Noelle: Now, Rebecca Flood, I'd like to bring you back into the conversation. Why would it be important for you to have Richard outside and we're going to ask people to express their opinion to the judge. So, I'd like to hear from you about what it means to be missing Richard and have him for such a short period of time.

Rebecca: Well, Noelle, um, as you know, Richard served a lengthy time in prison. And for the year, I got to have with him, it was real positive for our children. What it means for me personally and for my family? I miss my husband! I need his strength. I need his leadership. I need him *home!*

But also, Richard has done a lot for the community, for Mr. MALO, for the youth around here. A lot of these young kids respect Richard. They listen to him. You know, they go to the Youth Center. They want to hear what he has to say.

Noelle: Can you share with us some of the letters of some of the letters you've received or a quote from some of the letters you received?

Richard: Sure. From our last program, I can give you an example. I can read you a short letter from one of youre listeners. This is a listener from Santa Rosa, California, who writes: "Honorable Judge Rozak, I'm writing to request that you exercise your discretion not to send Richard Flood to prison.

I heard his story on radio yesterday and from what I understand, Richard Flood is an asset in the community, where he has been working with young people to teach them to avoid the pitfalls of gang and criminal activity. If you will take into consideration the type of repuation Mr. Flood has built, since the time hew has been out of prison.

We need more people with the knowledge and experience he has. He's willing to turn that knowledge in the interest of our youth, who are headed down the wrong path, and help them turn towards productive behavior."

these hardships enough to satisfy our justice department's thirst for empowerment?

Convicted felons already continue to be penalized after their release. It's a well known fact that the majority of employers do not want to hire ex-convicts. Most families do not survive the prison term, and even if they do, they often suffer irreversible damage. I think that is more then enough payment to society. It should also be more than enough to satisfy these politicians who are so eager to destroy our families in order to boost their political status.

With all this in mind, you really must consider how hard it is for those who have been imprisoned for a period of time--whether short-term or long-term--to be released back into this society, to regain faith and trust within the family and society, to begin the healing process for lost time with their children and spouses, and most of all to try to find a place in our society, where forgiveness is rare, and understanding and compassion almost non-existent. When prisoners are released, they need to find a place where they feel they can fit in, without being pulled back down into the never-ending cycle of injustice that has plagued our society for many generations.

* Complete info on these prisoner cases & initiatives is available, as is a wide assortment of dynamite zines from South Chicago ABC Zine Distro. Drop a line.

My name is Rebecca Flood. I am here in behalf of my husband Richard Flood, who cannot attend this rally today due to severe injustice that was brought upon him and me. On March 24 2001 my husband was arrested for protecting me from harm's way. Last month, he was sentenced to ten years in prison. I am also here to join in the fight against racism, police brutality, and unjust laws that happen to everyone everyday.

This rally is for those who have been violated by our legal system or who have been harassed because of their political beliefs, for the families who have felt the pain of a loved one's misfortune as a result of injustice. I stand here to tell all of our supporters and whoever might listen--our government and our law makers: you must take a closer look into our seriously flawed legal system.

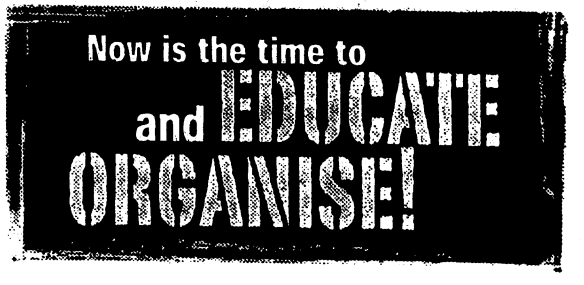
There are many people who are suffering because of laws that are not thought through properly, such as the extended-term law. If I remember it correctly, a criminal who is convicted and who has served a prison-term is said to have paid his debt to society. But as it now stands, the new extended-term law abolishes that idea. Prisoners are already being punished for their past mistakes; they pay dearly for them with their freedom. The loss of time with their children, their severely damaged marriages: aren't

Noelle: Can you read a quote from the director of Mr. MALO Youth Center?

Richard: Sure! "To The Honorable Judge Daniel Rozak, My name is John Santana. I am the Executive Director of the Mr. MALO Youth Center in Chicago. Mr. MALO specializes in gang intervention in the southside of Chicago. We work together with community churches, high schools and Chicago area police departments. We offer an alternative to street gangs, where area youths, through educational assistance, leadership and empowerment training and self-esteem enrichment programs. One of our valuable assets is Richard Flood.

He and I met many years ago at a rally against gang violence and drug intervention, where he was the spokesperson. Richard has a unique ability which enables him to communicate with people from many different walks of life and ededucational backgrounds. His theory is to raise the socio-political consciousness of teen gang members to quell the criminal mentality that is prevalent in them, before they end up in prison or dead."

* On September 9th, 2002, "Dirty Dan" Rozak sentenced Richard Flood to 10 years in prison. On a 2 to 5 with probation as an option, he chose 5 + 5 = 10 (previous conviction, used to double the sentence.) Richard is now at Menard. He and Rebecca have five children, aged 12, 13, 15, 16 & 17.



Richard Flood Gets "Sentenced" in Rozak's Courtroom
Joliet, Illinois August 26th, 2002 32

At the Will County Fair yesterday, I noticed a sign for "Rozak" for Will County Board. Is it him? I've been to Rozak's courtroom before. He's a thoroughly inculcated judicial nazi. He even likes to bully the bailiffs! He'll trash your cell phone, if it goes off. He maximizes sentences and fines. He's Richard's Flood's judge - biased as hell and totally entrenched. A few days ago, I read in the Chicago Tribune that he sentenced a repeat DUI to 11 1/2 years!

A while back, a motion was filed by Richard to replace him with a judge who was less biased. It was, of course, quickly dismissed.

The main road I took, Route 52, leads directly to the Will County Courthouse. It dominated downtown Joliet. The Metra stops a block away. Silver Cross Stadium is right there, too! Joliet is known for its prisons - Stateville, Joliet, but not much is known or said about Will County Prison, where Richard has spent most of the last 521 days...

I had to park several blocks away, for every Monday morning, it's like the movie "The Time Machine" when the sirens go off! Everyone - the "defendants," their families and friends, the smarmy suited lawyers, unctious prosecutors, judges, cops and other workers are filling the courtrooms and halls. A large sign over the railroad viaduct proclaims: "If it's fun...It's in Downtown Joliet"

I wore a suit because that, stupidly enough, is what separates those tied to the system (and thus "respect") and the sub-human ilk they will feast upon today. As I was going through the metal detector, a cop said, "Here comes another 'expert witness!'" I could pass for a lawyer. My wife cut my hair, I shaved and am clearly so-called "white." I wanted the judge to know somebody "important" was in court, writing and a part of Richard's defense team.

This is such an evil place, as are they all. Poor people, heavily weighted as to skin color, await their dreadful, in some cases catastrophic fate. A SWAT tactical unit is in the hall, menacingly.

The first few cases seem routine enough, whereas the defendants aren't making their payments fast enough. So the judge is acting as a sort of bill collector with the threat of imprisonment if his somber pronouncements aren't obeyed quickly enough. Juice loan thugs use strong arm methods and baseball bats. The state (and county) have a whole elaborate, multi-layered punishment *industry*! Their corporate stock is thriving. It's a risk-free enterprise, whose sole product is human misery. It's *the* connection for rapid advancement in politics and business - underwritten totally by hardworking taxpayers.

Rozak called Richard's case at 9:56. I can't believe it! But Richard has not been escorted in handcuffs and orange jumpsuit from his cage,

bloody tyranny! An injury to one, is an injury to all!

Chicago is the proud birthplace of the Haymarket Martyrs and Fred Hampton. We must overcome our fear and fight against this locked down monstrosity, even though we must live in the *belly of the beast*.

Join with our Brothers and Sisters who have been snatched from us! Liberate the Death Kamps of your mind! As Archbishop Romero said before *his* U.S-sponsored murder: "Stop the Repression! Stop the Killings!"

Kristen M. Brazelton #K94482 P.O. Box 3035
Decatur, IL 62425-3035

I am planning on going to Law School when I get out to help familiarize myself with prisoner's rights. I want to devote my entire life to helping others. I want the world to know about the good people I've met on the inside.

We live in a world of hypocrites and fascist pigs. I want to change the way America thinks. Everything has to do with money. The Department of Corruptions is just another money-making scheme to help overflow the pockets of people who are already rich.

I may be only 21, but I know how the world works. I've seen scandals and it's so amazing that they have the balls to call *us* criminals! I will never give up my fight and I hope you won't either. One day I will be the inside voice and one day people will read *my* zines. I hope you don't forget about us in here, and I hope you don't forget about the mothers who will never be home with their children again. They will watch them grow up from a visiting room; if they are one of the lucky ones who get visits. Please try to send more zines to women in Dwight to let them know that there are people out there who *do* give a damn about them. Don't forget about me in here! With hope & peace, Kristen



Rich people and corporations loophole out of paying taxes and instead are awash in corporate welfare. 48

In today's economy; poor people can't be exploited just as workers. So, they developed a punishment industry. Each prisoner brings in up to $40,000 per year - that's more expensive than a Harvard education! It's an industry profitting shamelessly from dreadful, daily human misery!

Josef Mengele's experiments on prisoners, have taken a quantum leap in Amerikkka, with the supermax torture chambers. In Illinois, if a prisoner developes a social consciousness and tries to help his or her fellow prisoner, they are sent to Tamms. Even minimum and medium security prisons are basically continuously locked down, without hardly any rehabilitation, vocational or recreational opportunities. Prisons are in the business of killing hope and producing recidivism with a vengeance! They worsen crime terribly! The goal is to ruin people, forever! It's slow death fascism. They try to drive inmates insane!

To make political points to a select, brainwashed, fear-induced electorate, politicians "get tough on crime." This means writing draconian laws and having the police round up young men and women on flimsy "parole violation" charges or for petty drug possession. Cook County Jail has around twelve thousand prisoners for a facility made to crowd like sardines, 8,500. The Dick Devine, is even talking about having to erect a "tent city" to house the overflow. I'd like to see him live in a tent during a Chicago winter! Bury my heart at Wounded Knee! Genocide is *still* going on!

Indeed the never-ending war that the U.S. has waged on the world since WWII, has come home. It's a top down war on the poor, here in America. The world gets bombs and we get bars! This evil system of greed and power is now feeding on it's own people - like something out of Stalin's Russia!

The rest of the world needs to know that American citizens reject this madness - even in the face of such a Darth Vader military police presence. We are not all gutless, oblivious gluttons, who fear our own shadow, but rather human beings with dignity for ourselves and those around us! We want a real life for ourselves and our children, not a

yet. He's to be sentenced today for his non-crime of defending his wife from attack by three crack-addled assailants.

The system acts like a dangerous drain. Have you heard of the little girl who had most of her intestines sucked into a pool drain? It's what the judicial system does to those who cross its path - and aren't in on the game. They have many types of agents to collect people for them, mostly off the streets of city ghettos and barrios, who feed them before such a Judge as Daniel J. Rozak, to "legitimize" massive, money-making incarceration.

They go nowhere near the causes of crime, or deal with real crime, nor attempt to grapple with the actual problems of society. They just take out people, put 'em in cuffs and jail 'em. They then seize their property and take all their money. Talk about a *Criminal* Justice System!

An air of feigned respect for this judge is insisted upon. If you don't stand when he enters, you can be hustled out of court - or worse! You could be cited for contempt and taken to a cage yourself, just for expressing an honest opinion!

Richard fought off three attackers, who were choking and stabbing his wife, as he came out of a gas station, in Crete. When they refused to desist, Richard sprung to her rescue, with minimal damage. After all, look here, these crackheads had attacked his wife with a knife! A few second rescue mission, bravely improvised, was thankfully, sussessful! Anybody else would have been in next day's paper, as a hero! But since Richard is also a creative thinker, activist, writer and organizer, he was targetted. He is also a longtime, serious political prisoner, recently released from that uniquely psychotic hellhole, known as Tamms...

The police tracked them down at his relatives' house, where everyone knew he was going to. His wife was not afforded medical treatment. Even their sadsack attackers admit to these facts! But, like the U.S. Supreme Court said in a ruling, "The facts of the case are irrelevant!"

Three charges of assault were reduced to one, by a cowered and confused jury. An asssailant, a woman, was wounded superficially during the fracas and that's the charge the jury felt coerced to convict on. The prosecution jumped all over it. A *woman!* They treat poor, mostly black women horribly as they force them into the Maws of Moloch - and then come for their children, ala Galtieri of Argentina!

They have it out for Richard, because he is a courageous community activist, as well as a husband, father (of five!) and volunteer social worker. He's close with John Santana and his courageous program, MR. MALO, standing for Managing Resources to Make Available Life's Opportunities. John gave terrific, common sense testimony in support of Richard, this day. They're trying to educate, empower and help mostly Hispanic young men, survive and somehow thrive in this profane

society and avoid prison &/or fashion a productive life after prison.

Since Richard was a twenty year prisoner, paralegal and all around aware nuisance in the Illinois gulag system, the plan was to punish him for his past, using this conjured felony charge, as the justification. They padded it with the obligatory bogus conduct tickets, and even moved him to the backwash, Kankakee County prison, in corrupt Governor George Ryan's power base. In court, the five-o'clock shadow of a prosecutor, presented a 3,000 paged stack of papers, supposedly documenting Richard's criminal history.

Richard had made a remarkable recovery into society, after his lengthy incarceration. He got married to Rebecca, got a job as an ironworker (and quickly became a foreman,) became a father to five children and started working with John Santana. It's an amazing story, really. He's also recently written a very perceptive essay entitled, "Towards A Theory of Revolutionizing Street Nations." Now you know why they want him so bad and why a guy like Rozak is handling his case!

Those he was able to summon from the gallery, sentence, have handcuffed and secreted through the back door to their journey through hell, he did. But where is Richard?

The eleven o'clock call has come and still no Richard. Another prisoner, Robert L. Ferguson, convicted of car theft has "negotitated" a "deal" for two consecutive six-year terms. Twelve years! Since he had a prior conviction and the car was valued at over $10,000, the sentencing guidelines stipulate a sentence from 6 to 30 years, for each count! Rozak rattles off a bunch of rotish legal mumbo-jumbo and pronounces him guilty. Let's see... 12 x $40,000 = $480,000 he is worth to the imprisonment industry. He's 32 years old.

At 11:30, Rozak excuses himself for a few minutes. Two minutes later, they bring in Richard. The Will County Sheriff's were playing games and had refused to go to Kankakee and pick him up on time.

An uncomfortable quiet descends as we wait for Rozak's return. The seedy prosecutor makes a big stink about his huge pile of papers, which supposedly paint a picture of Richard as an incorrigible "gang member." He is accused of refusing to disassociate himself from speaking with known gang members, while in prison.

John Santana takes the stand and plainly explains what genuine rehabilitation work, which he and Richard had worked on entails. You talk, mentor and educate "gang members" to develope useful skills and an empowering consciousness to help them transcend the street life, stay out of prison and turn their lives around. Seen in this light, "talking to gang members" is a very positive thing. Everyone knows the state does not care for rehabilitation, as each inmate is worth so much to them - in prison!

Every day, the prison goon squads do their dirty work. For, the U.S. police forces are the only one in the world who undergo military training and many officers "earned their stripes" by slaughtering people in places like Vietnam, Cambodia, Korea, Panama and elsewhere. They kill with impunity. They trained the monsters who crucified El Salvador, Guatemala and a whole litany of decimated countries. It's now starting to become open season on U.S. citizens who don't goosestep to their insane world war!

Justice is a joke! If you're not rich and so-called "white," you're guilty until proven guiltier. If you are already filthy rich with stolen wealth, you can loot the Savings & Loan, Enron, Tyco - you name it, for hundreds of billions of dollars and the politicians will make good these losses with taxpayer money! Meanwhile, all social services for the poor and disabled have been gutted. Peoples' *life savings* are gone! All they get is a pink slip! That's "Justice" U.S. - style.

The heavy drug use in this country is a reflection of a very sick society, like the high suicide rate, ammorality, obesity, the awful serial killers and snipers. For theft and massive murder are the bedrocks of this system and always were. You just don't *get* to learn the political truth in school!

Drugs are a social problem, *not* a criminal offense. There are no victims, other than the user. Meanwhile, tobacco kills 300,000 per yer, alcohol kills 100,000. "Illegal drugs" like cocaine and heroin, kill maybe 3,500. Marijuana kills nobody. Yet the prisons are stuffed with hundreds of thousands of people who were caught with pot! The punishment is way more criminal than the possession. Two million children are forced to take ritalin because they are non-compliant and restless trying to live through this insane society. But, it is benign, medicinal marijuana that's a felony! It's a war, alright, but not on drugs. There's more drugs now than ever! The banks are making billions off of it.

Slavery is and always has been built right into the Constitution. It says so right in the 13th Amendment. This is the Amendment that allegedly abolished slavery! Prisoners are bought and sold through a vast, nationwide gulag system, also paid for by working peoples' extorted taxes!

Address at Cook County Jail Rally, Oct. 20, 2002
by, Anthony Rayson

46

We're here today to show our support to the men, women, boys and girls who have been kidnapped from our communities, and railroaded through a corrupt court system. Many of them are still awaiting their sham trials, even years after their arrest and incarceration!

This monstrous place is nothing but an urban concentration camp - the headquarters for Murder, Inc, Chicago Style! Official crime occurs here every sinlge day!

Locking people up and abusing them does not deter crime! It *is* crime! Poor people are in there. Black and Latino people are in there! The mentally ill are in there! Welfare mothers are in there and the homeless are in there because of who they are! For, the real criminals run this 2,000,000 person slavocracy! Human beings are the raw materials in this punishment industry meat market.

Women are torn from their children by the U.S. gestapo for crimes of poverty and despair and then the state comes for their children! Remember the "Dirty War" in Argentina? There's a filthy war going on right now, here in America!

Governor Ryan, one of the biggest political criminals in Illinois history, is building an 1,800 bed women's prison down in Hopkins Park, Kankakee County. Those poor black farmers need a community center, a laundromat, a grocery store and a playground - not to have a hideous prison full of their sisters, mothers, aunts and cousins from Chicago, living near them in cages like dogs! Yet, these madmen in power act like they are doing these people a huge *favor*! Hitler would be deliriously happy, here! "Freedom is Slavery," indeed! Orwell! You don't know how bad it's gotten!

The police have become a paramilitary occupying force *in this country*. Like the judges and prosecutors, there is no accountability for the abuses that go on behind the bars. People die from heroin withdrawal and the guards think it's funny! A rash of so-called "suicides" are occurring in there, but the sheets ar so thick, you can't wrap them around you.

The prosecutor tries to label Richard for being forced to go to Tamms, for "gang activity." Richard explains to the judge, he was sent to Tamms because he did political organizing among prisoners and acted as a paralegal for them on their legal cases. He turned the proceedings on their ear. By his patient, lucid unafraid statements, he was indicting the system, substituting the prosecutor's lies for the facts.

Richard's lawyer did a halfway decent job arguing for Richard, especially as compared to the "throw the book at him, Judge" arguments of the prosecutor. The judge mentioned that he has "received a tremendous amount of mail about this case" which he hadn't read. He said he didn't know if he should have or not, so he didn't.

Then Richard made his statement. It was a 1/2 hour long masterpiece! It totally transfixed everybody in the courtroom. Even the judge was involuntarily mesmerized. A statement this powerful, passionate and persuasive is rarely heard (or allowed to be heard) in U.S. courtrooms these days. He totally deconstructed his case, carefully explaining the facts, giving proper weight to actions and motives. He coolly, yet passionately defended himself and in the process, basically indicted the prosecution of this case and the whole system in general.

I looked over at Rebecca. Tears were streaming down her face because Richard had proclaimed his love for her so absolutely and felt so strongly about his actions being justifiable - even *required* by the situation, he was confronted with. The judge was at a loss. He said he would wait two weeks, to give him time to actually read all of these support letters and maybe thumb through the huge stack of junk the out-argued prosecutor lugged into court.

So, his sentencing is scheduled for Monday, September 9th at the 9:30 call in Judge Rozak's courtroom. *NOW* is the time to flood him anew with support letters!!! Write him at:

Judge Daniel J. Rozak
Twelfth Judicial District Circuit Courthouse
14 West Jefferson Street
Joliet, IL 60432

These letters should be respectful (I *know* it's hard!) and point out how important Richard is to his community and his family. His union wants him back on the job as soon as he is free. Richard pointed out during his statement that he was offered a "deal" that would have freed him, last Christmas, but refused it because he is innocent. With his prior incarceration, the door is open for a lengthy sentence, as well. So, it is crucial that we somehow manage to influence and persuade Judge Rozak to see to it that justice is finally done in this case.

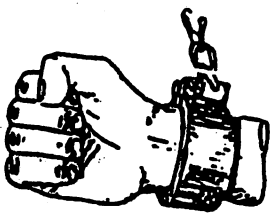
After the court was adjourned, I spoke with Rebecca and Richard's lawyer. I also spoke to the Bailiff and told him I wanted a copy of Richard's statement and that I was a reporter. I talked with the court reporter, too. She said it would cost between $50 and $100. I spoke with Richard, now back at:

Richard Flood #62119
Kankakee County Jail
400 E. Merchart Street
Kankakee. IL 60901

He'll send me a copy of his statement which I will then spread far and wide. Stop this outrageous injustice and help free Richard Flood!

DOING TIME





To: **The Honorable Judge Daniel J. Rozak**
Fr: **Richard M. Flood**
Re: **People of the State of Illinois v. Richard M. Flood, No. 2001 CF 514**

Judge Rozak;
Ladies and Gentlemen of the Court,

If it pleases the Court, allow me this opportunity to make a statement of allocution before sentence is imposed in this matter. First and foremost, I extend my most sincere apologies and sympathies to Ms. Guthrie, Mr. Peters and Ms. Schreiber. Truly, it was not my intention to bring harm to or hurt them in any way. Before I proceed, let me say that I do agree with the prosecution to the extent that I was capable of causing injuries that were much more serious to these persons that attacked my wife on the time and date in question. However, that was not my intention, as I only wanted to get my wife out of harm's way and defend us from further attack. This fact is supported by the testimony of four of the five people that were involved in said altercation that I had neither met, nor even heard of these three persons prior to said incident. Therefore, I could not have, nor did I, harbor any ill will or animus against them whatsoever. Granted, some may contend that my judgment may not have been perfect, but my belief that both my wife and I were in imminent danger was altogether reasonable to me given the circumstances when I arrived upon the scene. Still in all, I give thanks to God, my family, and my mentors for instilling in me the principles and values of right and wrong that compel me to accept responsibility for my actions, both legally and morally when I am wrong, and to defend myself as well as others when I believe that someone else has wronged. With this said, I can now only ask for their forgiveness and hope that they will move on with their lives in a more positive way.

Jane Doe, fiery prison abolition anarchist and surrealist, who had been in Cook County Jail herself for a month last fall (for speaking the truth in open court,) gave an electrifying call to revolt and liberate each and every captive held prisoner - everywhere! Jane's embarking on a speaking tour of Europe, soon.

Then a lady spoke about her son, a drug war victim, who'd recently been convicted of the nebulous, snitch-driven, catchall, non-crime of "conspiracy" and given 20 to 40 years. This effectively ruined his whole life and that of his family. Multiply that scenario two million fold!

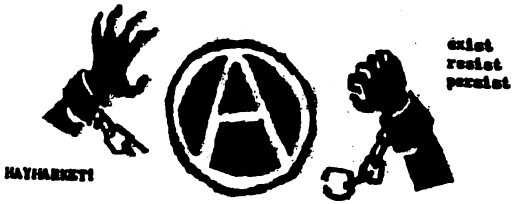
Andy Thayer of the Anti-Bashing Network, spoke strongly about a recent court case they filed and won against some County Jail guards who had harassed and assaulted a gay prisoner there. Goon squad beatings, medical neglect deaths, and even murders staged as "suicides" go on in this sadist's paradise, regularly.

Prince Yisrael, spoke at length in a very insightful, charismatic manner about the racist predatory society that manifests itself in world war abroad and these vile institutions here at home, along with the oppression and virtual police occupation of the black community. He speaks passionately and knowledgably, for he had been a state trooper himself for fifteen years, before quitting, disgusted by the racial profiling and arresting of his own people he was forced to conduct.

Arriba of the RCP (Revolutionary Communist Party) and the October 22nd Coalition, summed things up about the connection of capitalism, incarceration, racism and police brutality used to keep the system in place. She called for everyone to attend the October 22nd rally and march that took place two days later, through Chicago's loop.

Chicago ABC had 200 envelopes with prisoner addresses on them that were passed out. Inside were packets of info, including several slogans, contact information, statements read at this rally and so on. People were urged to write that prisoner a personal letter - to strengthen the connection between those on the "outs" and these conscious Brothers and Sisters who have been ripped away from us by the police apparatus of the state and forced to live in cages.

Later that evening, a vegan dinner was held at the Autonomous Zone as a benefit for Chicago ABC, who had organized this rally.



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National Day of Protest to Stop Police BRUTALITY, Repression, and the Criminalization of a Generation:

Tues. Oct.22, 2002 -- 12 Noon -- Federal Plaza (Adams & Dearborn)

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"Let Our People Go!" Rally & March Cook County Jail, October 20th, 2002

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On a cool, sunny Sunday afternoon, several dozen people converged in front of the most hideous edifice in Chicago - Cook County Jail. Some folks had loved ones in there or some other dungeon, had been held there themselves or just felt compelled to join the call to shut this symbol of systematic oppression down!

Anti-racists, Marxist-Humanists, New Afrikans, Communists, Anarchists, Black Israelites, anti-war partisans, queer activists, Surrealists, Punks, Prison abolitionists, socialists, animal rights activists, Greens, anti-psychiatry organizers and other crusaders for social justice, mingled with unafiliated concerned citizens and family members of their incarcerated loved ones, in a genuine demonstration of solidarity and support for the prisoners held here and across the vast U.S. gulag archipelligo.

Anthony Rayson set the tone with a scathing denunciation of the punishment industry in general and this urban concentration camp in particular. He extended the group's love and support for those forced to exist behind the razor wire topped walls of this massive kidnap station and read a statement by Kristen Brazelton, a young Illinois prisoner. Cook County Jail basically serves as a gruesome way station to all the other penal colonies throughout the state.

Before we circled this Dantesque place to connect with the prisoners, Rebecca Flood also spoke. She is the wife of the remarkable Chicago political prisoner, Richard Flood, who was sentenced in September to ten years for the "crime" of rescuing her from a vicious assault. She read her own eloquent statement and then Richard's address to the crowd. Although new to this type of public activism and somewhat nervous, her voice gave us a powerful personal clarion call, infusing us with a purposefulness for this day's action. One of their five children, Rich, aged 15, also came and had a poem entitled, "Prisoner Freedom" along with a letter for his father, now imprisoned at Menard, 300 miles away.

Among the many placards and signs was a huge, maybe 35 feet long banner, created by Sear of Chicago Anarchist Black Cross, that read, in huge boxcar graffitti like letters, "Let Our People Go!"

This banner and our top of our lungs voices saw the prisoners respond by pressing against any windows available with a view of us, several deep to call back their response of militance and appreciation. We stopped several times to savor these exchanges, for it is very important for everyone to know and feel that we are all together in this struggle, even though the authorities have snatched these 12,000 people from our homes and communities.

Along the way, passersby and drivers shouted and honked their support for this important point we were making. Even the fire trucks and ambulances responded favorably, unlike the cops!

Upon our return, Anthony read two more statements from Illinois prisoners, one by Margaret Majos and another by longtime "C" Number prisoner (since 1967!) George Peter, Jr.

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Some of my formal education, which I will expound upon below, has enabled me to attain a certain degree of knowledge and with that respect for the theories and concepts that motivate our legal system, with an even more in-depth knowledge of criminal law and procedure. However, real life experiences have shown that in practice our criminal legal justice system is seriously flawed. Sadly, the presumption of innocence is beset by many extrinsic factors. In the instant case, when my identity became known to law enforcement officials, it became much easier, and perhaps even politically appealing, to manufacture a case against the convicted felon out on parole than to conduct a comprehensive investigation, particularly after I exercised my constitutional right to remain silent before being able to retain legal counsel. For the record, the police report generated by Det. Morelli in this matter is wholly unsubstantiated, even from his own colleagues, and is therefore without merit or credibility, perhaps even constituting official misconduct.

Certainly, I did not choose to be involved with the people who assaulted my wife. Additionally, Morelli's imputation that my wife or I either possessed or used drugs at the arrest scene is preposterous. As a matter of law, possession of a controlled substance is a felony in Illinois, and for seven or eight police officers to witness such conduct and not effect an arrest is highly suspicious, particularly in this era of "zero tolerance" for crime. It is equally suspicious that Det. Morelli seems to be the only police officer that allegedly witnessed illicit drugs at said arrest scene. Where are these alleged drugs? I was not charged with drug possession, nor were any drugs confiscated or inventoried. Incredibly, it is Morelli once again who alone alleges that Rebecca Flood gave an oral statement contradictory to her written statement.

To be certain, I understand the procedures of a jury trial, and recognize that the jury has spoken. Thus, I do not fault the jury per se. However, it is clear that they became tainted and biased against me through the admittance of this highly prejudicial, and at best unsubstantiated collateral evidence of other crimes, to wit, the alleged drug possession that had absolutely no relevance to establish motive, common design, identity, knowledge or fact material to the issue on trial.

Your Honor, I do not sell or use illicit drugs, as Det. Morelli was allowed to imply at trial. Many years of my committed socio-political activism, and more recently my volunteer work with the Mr. Malo Youth Center in Chicago will reflect that. Needless to say, my wife and I were not the people under the influence of drugs and alcohol on the time and date in question. More importantly, the weapons used in said altercation neither belonged to, nor were brought to that gas station by my wife Rebecca or me. The State's contention that I stabbed at least two people in broad daylight, in front of several witnesses, while on parole, in our family vehicle, because I was angry that I took my wife to her boyfriend's house to get money is inane. It is clear that the jury rejected this theory when they acquitted me of the charges against one of my wife's attackers. What remains unclear is how the jury found legal justification in my use of force against Mr. Peters, and yet not against Ms. Guthrie, when said use of force employed against both of them arises from the same set of facts. Incredibly, the jury seems to have concluded that the same essential elements of each offense were both found to exist and not exist. At this point, I can only speculate as to their reasoning, but perhaps they were sympathetic towards Ms. Guthrie because she is a woman, which would be in direct conflict with this Court's instruction against allowing sympathy, bias or prejudice to sway their decision.

The truth of the matter is that I only acted in defense of my wife and myself, that at no time did I become the aggressor in said altercation, and that we merely stopped at a gas station to make a purchase. After considering the testimony in this case, and specifically:

1. that the alleged victims were under the influence of crack cocaine and alcohol during the time and date in question;
2. that they saw my wife as someone who probably had money on her person;
3. that they were the aggressors throughout the altercation;
4. that one of the armed attackers left the scene and did not pursue criminal charges against me;
5. that both Ms. Guthrie and Mr. Peters signed themselves out of the hospital either the same or next day;

6. that before Ms. Guthrie was brought in from prison to testify against me, Mr. Peters intimated to the State that he did not wish to pursue the charges against me;
7. that within days of her testimony at my trial, and specifically her testimony that she no longer used illicit drugs, Ms. Guthrie was in fact returned to prison on yet another drug-related crime;
8. that the only reason Ms. Guthrie was stabbed more than once was because all three of the attackers kept up their attack, even after they were injured, presumably because they were under the influence of drugs and alcohol;

a reasonable and impartial person could conclude not only that I am totally innocent of all charges against me, but also that it is the alleged victims who are morally and criminally culpable for the entire incident. If so, then it becomes clear that the real reason we are here is that my background has stigmatized me. Please take notice of the profound legal and moral questions that this case has generated, such as:

- Does a person forfeit their right of self-defense due to a previous criminal conviction or other extrinsic factor?
- Can a convicted felon ever pay their debt to society?
- Have the police in our country become judge, jury, and executioner?
- Can a man never be justified in using force against a woman, even if she:
  a) Is armed?
  b) Is assaulting someone?
  c) Is part of a concerted attack?

Next, the facts and circumstances of this case and the questions it has generated have been posed to many people throughout the country via various media channels, and it should be noted that an overwhelming majority not only support my actions in this unfortunate incident, but also holds that this judgment is in error and should be reversed. I submit to this Court for consideration that if I were not a convicted felon, out on parole, I would not have left the scene, except to get out of harm's way and immediately notify the police. On the other hand, if the person being attacked at that gas station was a person of privilege rather than the wife of a convicted felon out on parole, I would have never been pursued by law enforcement at all, and if so, then only to receive an award of some sorts.

In retrospect, I should have immediately notified the police, and that is my fault. However, please take into consideration that I was under extreme duress due to the altercation as well as my parole status, so I got out of there for the time being. I was not attempting to flee. I definitely have the means and know how to do so. I would not have gone to the hotel that our family and friends knew we were planning to go to for my birthday. That is how the police learned of our whereabouts before I contacted them. We went there because it was much closer than going all the way home to Chicago. In all fairness, my wife's injuries ended up being not as serious as what they initially appeared to be. Still, I did nothing more than protect my wife and myself, as I would have done if I witnessed anyone, including a total stranger, being assaulted in that manner.

It should also be noted that up until the start of this trial, the State had been offering me a 2-year, 3-month term in exchange for a guilty plea. Accepting that would have ensured that I would only have to serve about 61 days after trial. In short, I would already be home by now! However, I am so very certain of my absolute innocence (both legally and morally) in this unfortunate incident that there is no guilty plea that would be acceptable to me. I trust that I will not be punished for exercising this constitutional right. Regardless, there is still no question that I would rather be struggling for my freedom with a seriously flawed legal system than attending my wife's funeral because I let three people high on crack kill her. I am now anticipating that the appellate court will resolve the facts and circumstances in evidence on the theory of innocence rather than guilt, and when this is done, a grave and substantial doubt of my guilt will be found and I pray they will reverse this judgment in error.

"LET OUR PEOPLE GO!"

PRISONER SUPPORT RALLY & MARCH

COOK COUNTY JAIL
26th & California

Sunday, October 20th
3 PM

STOP The ROUNDUPS!

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purse strings of Illinois taxpayers. This goes hand in hand with the scam of closing prisons, while building new ones. Governor Ryan seems to be greasing all the right palms for his transition into the private sector, hence the crackdown on parole violators. This overcrowds the jail and serves as the excuse to build more prisons.

The "black hole" of a prison-industrial complex must be stopped! There are 2,000,000 plus prisoners in this country and millions more on parole and probation. Malcolm X once said, "America means prison." The time is long overdue for us, all of us, the people of this country, to stop this madness. I myself have just been sentenced to ten years in prison for the "crime" of protecting my wife from an armed attack by three people high on crack!

Now I may not be an Anarchist, but I stand shoulder to shoulder with them as they have been at the forefront of prisoner support for some time now. My wife and children will be attending this event, distributing literature, contact and resource lists, poetry and good will. On that note, I urge all progressives to attend. You may see some old friends and meet some new ones as well. You may even be surprised by who you see there!

From the aforementioned contact and resource lists, it is likely that new ties will be established. It would be optimum to establish workshops and build upon existing community movements from a scientific standpoint in order to further our efforts of direct action events such as this. The time is now Chicago! Settle your differences, unite, organize and move forward! A better world is possible through social, political and economic change. The buck stops and starts here, with prisoner support work. As a people it is our duty to respect the rights of the poorest and the weakest members of society - and to give a voice to the voiceless - to those repressed and entombed in the dungeons of America!

I encourage all so-called street gang members to attend, as well. After all, they are the most ostracized and stigmatized sector of society. Turn this government's rhetoric around on them and unite with the church people, political activists, children and ordinary citizens, that will be in attendance. Let's show some love in this world of hate. There ain't no money in it, but your heart will swell with emotion from being a part of humanity at its best.

WHAT ABOUT PRIVATIZATION OF PRISONS? WOMEN AND PRISONS? PRISONS, AIDS AND HIV? POLITICAL PRISONERS? SUPPORT WORK?

In the interim, I come before this Court respectfully requesting that it consider the following in mitigation. I am 39 years of age. Regrettably, I previously made some serious mistakes during a troubled time in my life and went to prison. Before this, I had no criminal convictions whatsoever. While in prison, I earned a G.E.D., a 2-year Paralegal certificate from the Blackstone School of Law (in which I paid the tuition myself), and a certificate as a Tutor for Persons with Learning Disabilities, with my objectives being to better myself through education, assisting my reintegration back into society, and helping others.

Although I had only been out of prison for one year when this unfortunate incident occurred, many positive things happened in my life. For example, on the employment front, it should be noted that I immediately returned to work. I had saved my meager prison stipends to help repay my back union dues, while also sending money home to my family. By trade, I am a fourth generation union Ironworker from Local #1 in Chicago. My family has been intricately involved in the development of our International Apprenticeship Training Program, the creation of an annuity trust fund for our local membership, as well as the development and construction of many local landmarks, including the Sears Tower, the John Hancock building, the Standard Oil building, both Comiskey Parks, Wrigley Field, Soldier Field, both prudential buildings, the State of Illinois building, and the McCormick Place, to name but a few. The highlight of my career to this point has been being chosen to top off the Prudential II building with it's antenna, nearly 1,000 ft. in the air. Also, my wife and I own a small business, named "Sparkle Cleaning Service Co.," which among other things specializes in providing homemaker care to the elderly and handicapped.

In my spare time, I had been doing volunteer work with the highly regarded Mr. Malo Youth Center in Chicago. Mr. Malo is an acronym for Managing Resources to Make Available Life's Opportunities. Mr. Malo offers an alternative to street gangs for inner-city youth through education, mentoring, structured social activities, vocational training, community outreach programs, successful role models programs and intervention training, among others. Mr. Malo works in conjunction with the Chicago Police Dept. (C.A.P.S.) program, as well as area churches and high schools. I also provide pro bono paralegal services for the indigent in landlord/tenant disputes, contractual drafting, etc. In short, I have earnestly attempted to make a positive difference in my life, my family's, and others, since my release from prison.

On a personal note, I resumed a family life with my wife Rebecca and our five children. Admittedly, it has been difficult bridging the gap created by time spent in prison, but it is something that we still undoubtedly want to do. We want our opportunity to live the American dream. Our eldest child's name is Sergio, and he is 17. While I was in prison, my worst nightmare was realized when he was beaten, robbed, critically injured and left for dead by gang members. In fact, he was pronounced dead and remained in a coma for several weeks. By the grace of God, Sergio came out of the coma, although the prognosis for his neurological recovery was minimal. Today, although he is mentally impaired, he can still enjoy life, and wants and needs me to nurture and mentor him, as do our four other children, Patrick, who is 15, Richard II, who is 14, Tiffany, who is 13, and Felicia, who is 11. Rebecca, my wife, is inflicted with a rare form of diabetes that periodically incapacitates her, as well as recently being diagnosed with Stage 3 breast cancer, so she desperately needs me to care for her as well. Therefore, I beseech of you to understand how much my family needs me and that any more separation between us will cause irreparable damage.

Your Honor, I want you to know that I love my wife with infinite passion. I could not stand by idly and not protect her. That is not who I am. Many times during this past year, while alone with God, I have gone over this unfortunate incident. Although the actual fight was over within seconds, I can play it back in my mind in super slow motion. Mr. Peters throat was exposed while he was choking my wife, and I could have gone for it, but I did not. I inflicted two relatively minor wounds to either arm so that he would release my wife. On that same note, I could have driven the knife (with any one of the pokes at Ms. Guthrie) deep into her, but again, I did not. Has anyone taken notice that Ms. Schreiber hit me in the head with a pipe or other blunt instrument? I was dazed and back peddling, trying to get us out of there. The injuries suffered by Ms. Guthrie were relatively minor because I was just trying to keep them at bay. If I allowed them to get the best of me, what would have happened to my wife, and then me?

Jesus himself says, "there is no greater love than this: than to lay down one's life for one's friend". Rebecca Flood is my heart and soul, the most precious gift God has given me, and because of this love, He has blessed this union with five children. I would do it again if I had to.

Thus, I must now implore of you to reach deep into your heart and soul for some compassion, not merely for myself, but for my family as well. You can either destroy us or give us a chance, here and now. As a matter of law, due to previous convictions, I am now eligible for an extended term. However, my eligibility for an extended term does not require that result. The factual matrix surrounding the issue at hand does not warrant a harsh sentence. Furthermore, the mitigating factors substantially outweigh the aggravating. Thus, is not in the interests of fairness and true justice to send me to prison for this unfortunate incident. In **Leviticus** God says, "be honest and just when you make decisions in legal cases."

Your Honor, if you decide to spare my liberty or exercise your discretion with a show of leniency, such as probation, or something along those lines, I will not let you down. Anything you hear of Richard M. Flood again will be positive. Thus, you would be able to take pride in knowing that you gave me the opportunity to succeed. As God is my witness, I had no criminal intention on the time and date in question. I am a real person who has a real family, with real responsibilities. My life is more than just a conviction rate statistic or notch on the gun belt of someone's political career. I deserve an opportunity to achieve my life goals, provide for my family, and give back to society in my own small way. I should not have to spend more time within the prison-industrial complex, simply for protecting my wife.

In closing, I submit to this Court that any person has a natural, God-given right, and more accurately said, a duty, to protect themselves and others from death or great bodily harm if they reasonably believe that they or another is in imminent danger thereof. That God-given right is not relinquished and should not be prejudiced against due to a person's previous criminal conviction or other extrinsic factor. This much should not be subject to the discretion of another. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully Submitted,

_____ Dated:_____

Richard M. Flood



"If my enemies, your enemies prove stronger [than us,] at least I want them to know that they made one righteous African man extremely angry."
George Jackson

Rally at Cook County Jail: Litmus Test for Chicago's Left?

Richard M. Flood

Although somewhat overshadowed by the events attributed to the October 22nd Day of Resistance, another rally is taking place at Cook County Jail on Sunday, October 20th, at 3 p.m. This may well serve as a litmus test for the cohesiveness of a somewhat fragile and at times unremarkable Chicago left movement.

This rally is being spearheaded by the newly formed Chicago ABC (Anarchist Black Cross.) Anthony Rayson, one of the event's organizers, is also the co-founder of *STAND* (Shut This Airport Nightmare Down) which has a 2,400 household membership, and is fighting to save several farming communities in Eastern Will County from the Peotone Airport. Anthony is a prison abolitionist and an anarchist propagandist. He's also part of my defense team. Other talented thinkers, writers, speakers and organizers are also involved in this "statement" rally.

Illinois Governor George Ryan, is a lame duck who is hounded by the administration-long federal investigation into the extensive "license for bribes" scandal at the Secretary of State's office, during his watch. Many of his aides have been convicted, already. Ryan's leaving a rather peculiar legacy as Illinois governor. On the one hand, he went against his right-wing constituency and issued a moratorium on the death penalty. This, after fourteen innocent men, condemned to be executed by the state, were proven innocent, had their convictions overturned and were released. I was fortunate enough to be a member of the team of paralegals (i.e. "jailhouse lawyers") that drafted the initial briefs which eventually led to the release of two of these men.

On the other hand, Ryah, from backwash Kankakee County, is pressing for prison expansion (a new women's facility in Hopkins Park, Kankakee County) as a political payoff to his billionaire developer buddy, Tony Perry - while simultaneously allowing the Illinois Department of Corrections Director, Donald Snyder to close several existing state gulags.

This brings me to the issue at hand. There are reportedly 9,710 available beds a the Cook County Jail, making it one of the largest, if not the largest, single site jail or prison in the world. In July 2000, the total prisoner population at the jail was 9,586 - with 482 parole violators being held there. By May 2001, the population had soared to 11,072 - with 1,493 parole violators being held. Estimates for this year are not available yet, but a recent statement by Michae Sheahan, Sheriff of Cook County - stated that they may have to resort to "tent cities" due to the overcrowding. As stupid as that sounds, at least for anyone who has lived through a Chicago winter, it is merely another ploy to loosen the