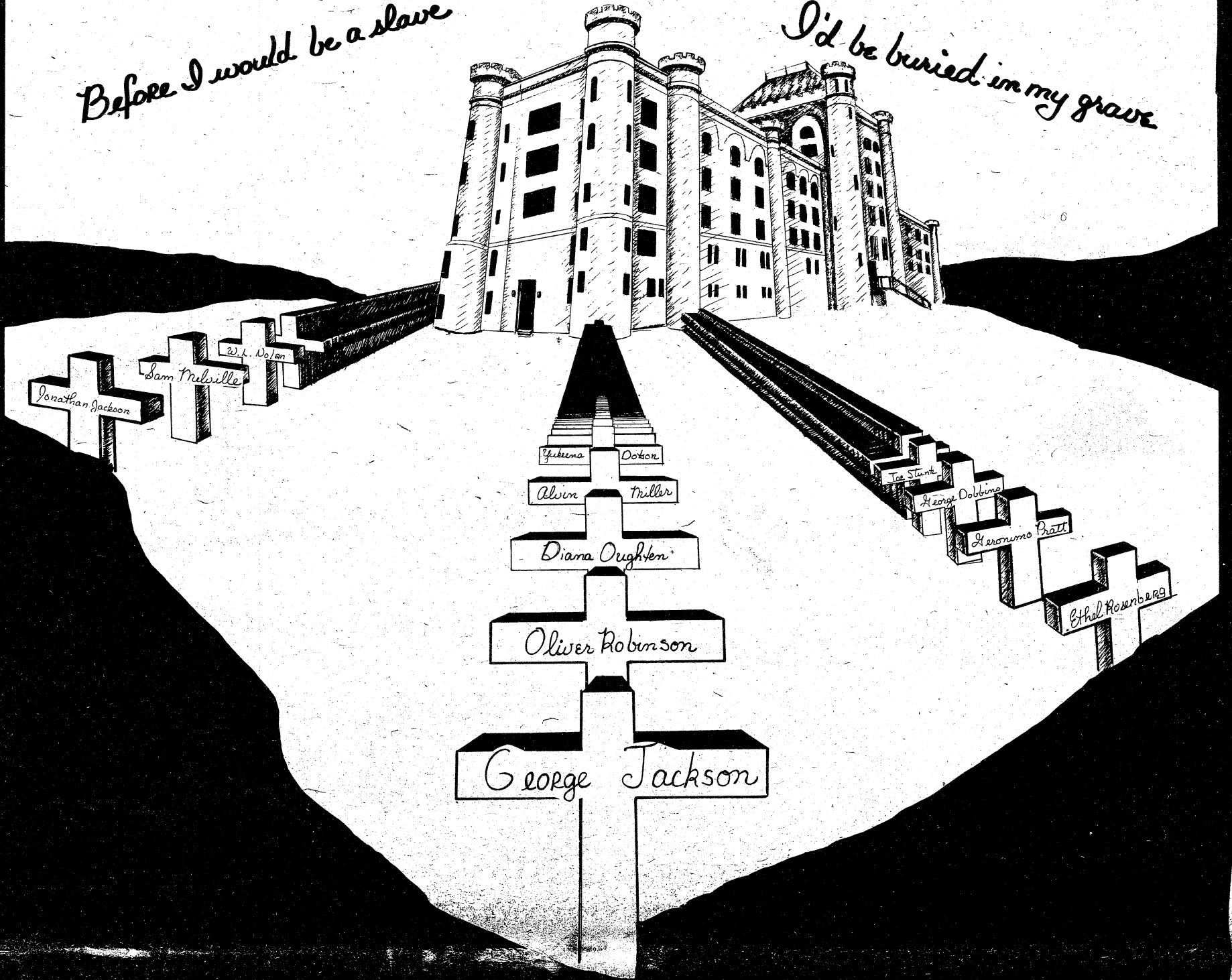


Before I would be a slave

I'd be buried in my grave



August 1975

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25¢

NEPA NEWS

The Voice of the North East Prisoners Association

Frankonia, N.H.
Non-Profit Organization
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FOCUS: Convicted Man Attacks

Partial text of the statement of Gamba Mani (slave name Oscar Johnson), Chairman of the Inmates for Action, upon receiving a sentence of 31 years for the alleged killing of a guard during the Atmore incident of Jan. 18, 1974. These remarks on his sentencing were made Feb. 12, 1975 and were greeted by raised fists and applause by supporters and local Black residents observing the trials.

I am innocent of the charges against me, and this wrong will only be rectified when the people fully understand my innocence, regardless of the verdict. To the realistic people who know what is happening, they know I am innocent. I do not blame the jury, the judge, but the ruling system.

I will be pronounced guilty by the guilty. To all who find me guilty, they are themselves oppressed.

In the days to come, many more convicts will lose their lives, due to racism.

Only in unity can the people give their undivided attention to the crimes of the penal system.

Our only demand is to be treated as humans, not animals. We strive to educate ourselves, gain medical attention, stop forced rape.

We, the prisoners, have complained of

these conditions since 1890, but we have seen many more prisons being built with no progress in conditions. We see more stabbings and murders in prisons with an untrained staff dominated by the main factor of racism.

The penal system is overcrowded with poor people, Black, white, red, yellow, exploited by their labor power. And they continue to die by assassination at deceitful hands. The IFA program seeks to truly rehabilitate, while the penal system seeks only to destroy.

We are not surprised by these convictions. All convicts are convicted before the trial even begins, regardless of their innocence.

We deeply sympathize in sorrow for the widow of Luell Barrow, as do all people. But we ask, what about George Dobbins who died a murderous death at the hands of prison officials? What about our great and courageous Brother Chagina? He too had a family, now deep in sorrow. His death is of no concern to the State because his murder was part of the official plan to suppress the IFA, and kill those who stand up as men.

There are many in this courtroom who wait for me to stop talking, because racism overcomes them; they cannot stand to hear the truth.

People incarcerated in the penal system are turned into dogs by the prison system which offers no rehabilitation, training, dignity, or preparation for reentering society. When the prisoners speak out of their pain, they speak out to you, the only people who can rectify this.

Look at yourself--you are human. Now look at us, not the dull indoctrinated picture of us in your mind, shaped by racism--we, too, are human.

The witnesses you have seen here for the defense will be beaten as "boys", "niggers", and "nigger-lovers". If we have to die, whether by gunshot, clubs, or the classical manner of 20 guards beating to death while handcuffed (as we were beat on the day of Barrow's funeral), we will not die on our knees, but standing up and fighting for our dignity as human beings.

Who are the real murderers? Those who bring us to the courtroom. To the people, you are the jury, the judge of our innocence. You will read about more murders--that person will be called a "sorry nigger" and he will die-- BUT HE WILL NEVER DIE. ALL POWER TO THE PEOPLE!

News From North East and Around

Attica

The Attica defendants keep winning trials, and the state keeps creating new trials.

Shango (Bernard Stroble) was judged not guilty in a murder trial. Ja Ja, Cantante and Dugarm were found innocent of various assault charges against guards. Two witnesses--both admitted rats and liars--were the only ones to identify the defendants, which was too much for the jury to believe. The three guards who had allegedly been assaulted could not identify any of the Brothers.

Shango's case saw the usual routine of rats, contradictory evidence from the prosecution, and so on. One prosecution witness said he saw someone else kill the guard Shango allegedly killed. The doctor who performed the autopsy said the guard could not have died the day the prosecution said he did. Too much for the judge, who dropped the murder and kidnap charges, and the jury, who found Shango innocent of the remaining charges.

Despite the fact that almost all cases end in acquittals, despite the fact that the prosecution's own witnesses usually ensure the acquittals, the state plans to continue the prosecutions.

The state now seems to want to delay the start of any new trials till the fall. The Brothers claim this is only so that the prosecution can get its witnesses to better coordinate their lies.

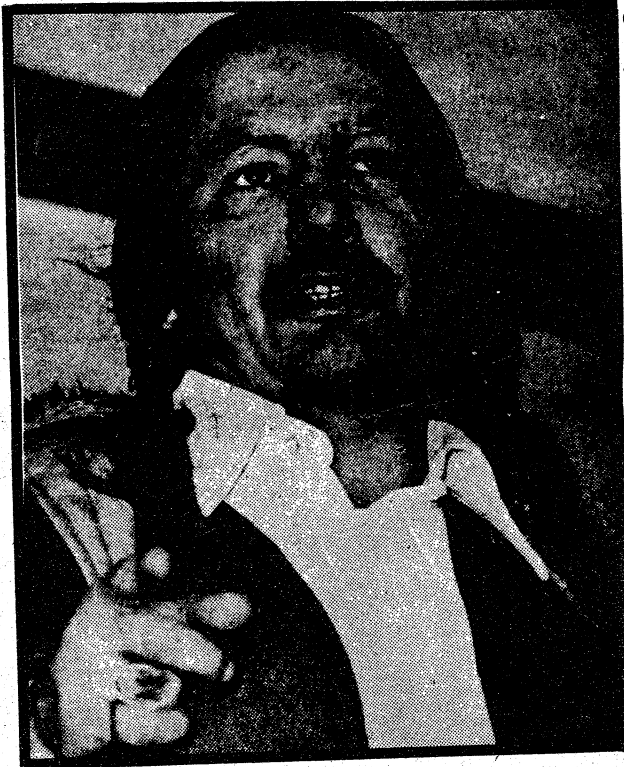
Springfield Outraged

Anger has been building in the Springfield, Mass. Latin community over the police killing of an 18 year old Puerto Rican, Rafael Lacodet. The police account has contradicted itself several times. One story has it that the cop shot Lacodet because Lacodet tried to run the cop down with a car. Other cops say Lacodet was shot because he had an unidentified object in his hand.

But community people say that Lacodet was hit in the face with a screwdriver, then shot. They heard Lacodet scream in Spanish: "They're killing me!" After he was shot he was handcuffed and dragged across the ground. He died several hours later.

An inquest in district court found no wrongdoing by the police, as did an internal police investigation. The district court judge was formerly an assistant to the county DA who did the questioning in the inquest. Both also represent the Royal Globe Insurance Co.

The Puerto Rican Coalition, leading the fight for justice in this case, have held demonstrations of several hundred persons and have mobilized the Puerto Rican community. They are demanding removal of the two cops involved in the shooting.



LNS/cpf

AIM

The FBI has unleashed an armed occupation of the Pine Ridge, S.D. Sioux reservation, supposedly to find a group of Indians who engaged in a shootout in which two FBI agents and one Indian died.

The FBI claims their agents were attacked; the American Indian Movement charges the agents provoked the attack and that the FBI is manufacturing evidence to support its claims.

The FBI agents have been unable to find a any of the alleged attackers. But they have been arresting people for being Indians, kicking in doors, threatening people--including children--and beating people.

Meanwhile, the goons of Dick Wilson--"elected" tribal chief in an election the federal government says involved massive illegality on Wilson's part--have continued to beat and shoot AIM militants, their supporters and even their lawyers.

Elsewhere, three AIM members were convicted June 14 for armed robbery. The three had been involved in the Wounded Knee occupation of 1973. However, the judge indicated he might rule favorably on a defense motion to dismiss the charges because of various FBI actions. One AIM case has already been dismissed because of illegal FBI actions.

AIM leader Dennis Banks faces six felonies in Custer, S.D. Russell Means, another AIM leader, was four days after the son of a cop shot him in the back. The son himself is a jailer. Means was charged with resisting arrest.

Atmore-Holman

Carrie Bush, mother of murdered prison activist George Chagina Dobbins, has sued Alabama, seeking \$250,000 from each of several defendants. She charges that Gov. George Wallace and other state officials are responsible for Dobbins' death.

San Quentin 6

The trial of the San Quentin 6 has started in San Rafael, Cal. In his opening remarks, prosecutor Jerry Herman announced that he would not even try to prove that the defendants are actually guilty of killing anyone themselves. He will attempt to prove that the defendants either joined a conspiracy that resulted in the deaths of five persons, or that the defendants aided and abetted the killings. In California, conspiracy or aiding and abetting carry the same penalties as the actual act of murder.

The defendants, Hugo Pinell, Johnny Spain, Fleeta Drumgo, Luis Talamantez, David Johnson and Willie Tate, are accused of murder and assault in a prison riot that surrounded the murder of George Jackson on August 21, 1971. Three guards and two prisoner trustees died in the events.

The state is still maintaining that Jackson was killed in an attempted escape, as well as the ridiculous idea that he hid an 8-inch long gun in his hair which had been smuggled past the metal detectors by Jackson's attorney, Stephen Bingham. Bingham is now underground.

The defendants are brought into court in shackles and kept chained during the proceedings, except for Tate who is out on bail.

This case demands national support; it is the final effort of the state to cover up its own murder of Comrade George, and to hold prisoners responsible for a situation created by the prison administration. These six men, like Jackson, are fighters for all prisoners and oppressed people in the U.S. Free the San Quentin 6!

Fair Judges

Two classic examples of judicial fairness: Buffalo Supreme Court Justice Stiller attacked a jury for acquitting a defendant. He told them they should do their job like the jury that convicted the Attica defendants.

Baldwin County Alabama Circuit Court Judge Mashburn, directed a local lawyer to assist Southern Poverty Law Center Lawyers in jury selection of one of the Atmore brothers by saying, "Help him strike the jury, but don't help him free that nigger."

Brother Gene

After nearly two years as a member of the NEPA NEWS editorial board, Gene Mason is moving on. While a Franconia College faculty member, Gene did time in Kentucky for an earlier beef. On his release from prison, he returned to Franconia and began to work with the prisoner movement. He was one of the founders and one of the driving forces in NEPA and NEPA NEWS.

He has now moved over to New York State, where he will continue to work with NEPA, though not directly with NEPA NEWS.

We will miss Gene, his insights and energy, his patience and humor, and the good struggle that would come down in our occasional disagreements. We are glad he remains with NEPA, and look forward to still further growth of the organization of which Gene will be a part.

Thanks for all the good work and help you have given NEPA NEWS.

Slave Labor

Almost 6,000 prisoners in Colombia, S.A. are working for U.S. corporations such as B.F. Goodrich and Container Corp of America at wages far below Colombia's \$11.33 per day.

This is called a "rehabilitation" program, though most of the prisoners have never had a trial. One U.S. official said it "could be labeled as exploitation of slave labor for a profit".

Sterilizations

A team of U.S. doctors is developing a massive sterilization program for the U.S. installed military dictatorship in Chile. An Algerian paper charged that the goal of the program is to "prevent the birth of children of working class couples". Dr. Hugh Davis, project director, refused to give out any information, saying the Chilean government told him such information "could be used for political ends." \$15 million in United Nations money (half a \$30 million grant) is financing the program.

cpf



Big Brother-I

The FBI's schemes have become too heavy even for the LEAA, it seems. The LEAA has criticized an FBI computerized record-keeping program as creating a "Big Brother" system, leading to federal control of local police, and increasing the probability of accumulating false information. The FBI replied that it was "sensitive" to the "sanctity of the privacy of the individual."

The project, "autodated message switching", would allow the FBI to switch local messages through its National Crime Information Center. It would enable them to monitor--and therefore pressure--local cops, as well as add to their own already immense files.

Big Brother-II

Beginning this past July 1, entire families are being plugged into a federal computer system. The excuse is to locate parents who are failing to pay child support, and thereby reduce the state's welfare expenses.

However: 1) There is no guarantee the parent, once located, will pay; 2) The service will be available to non-welfare persons who pay the cost; 3) No court order is needed; 4) Even if no child exists, the computer can be used by anyone with access to a case worker; 5) Social Security numbers, theoretically given solely for tax-gathering purposes, are used in the program.

In sum, this is another in a growing list of computer files in the hands of the IRS, CIA, FBI, military intelligence, HEW, local and state cops, etc., etc. This information is collected on poor people, prisoners and political activists, primarily. The FBI recently admitted in Federal Court that it turned over some of its data on war resisters to ITT, a private corporation which offered the CIA one million dollars to overthrow the Allende government in Chile.

"Bloodbath"

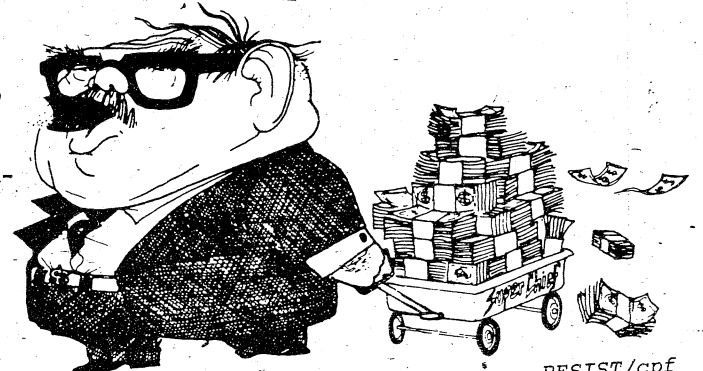
Remember the "Bloodbath"? When the Vietnamese and Cambodians won their wars of liberation, Ford, Kissinger and other flunkies started screaming about an "inevitable bloodbath". This was the excuse to kidnap thousands of Vietnamese children and bring them to the U.S. The major U.S. news media all dutifully parroted what Ford, Kissinger, et. al. said.

If you don't remember the "bloodbath", it's because it never happened. The only "evidence" ever introduced was that a handful of top cops, military and other torturers, were executed. So now, buried somewhere in the editorial pages, we find the media acknowledging there was no "bloodbath". But no "bloodbath" is no news, so it's not on page one. Ford and Kissinger have dropped the issue, and none of America's courageous journalists have asked Ford or Kissinger about it in press conferences.

What is really going on in S. E. Asia is that the people are rebuilding their war torn lands. The people are now being fed, prostitution and dope-peddling have been stopped, and all able-bodied adults now have constructive jobs. Freedom wins jobs, health and self-determination, not "bloodbaths".

Ain't it Strange?

Ain't it strange how Ford's regime in D.C. won't cough up the bucks to help out New York City, but find billions for the likes of Chilean Junta, Spain's Franco, S. Korea's Pak? By not providing money to NYC, thousands of workers have been and will be laid off, hospitals closed, garbage collection cut back, subway fares raised, and on and on. Giving money to Chile, etc., encourages and supports the torture and murder of thousands by the police state, and props up systems in which most people--workers and peasants--can barely survive. Your true nature is showing, Jerry.



National Coalition

A number of prison and civil rights groups met recently in Atlanta, Ga., to begin to develop a national coalition/organization for the prisoner movement. Regional meetings have been held, and the first National Meeting is planned for August 14, 15, and 16 in Louisville, Ky. It is scheduled at the same time as the National Correctional Association (screws) convention, also in Louisville.

The coalition has several basic demands: 1) stop all prison construction; 2) stop all behavior modification in prisons; 3) a prisoners' Bill of Rights to provide civil rights to prisoners; 4) Reparation to victims of crime; 5) end the Death Penalty; 6) community based, community controlled alternatives to prisons.

For more information, contact Donna Finn, Families and Friends, 1417 Dorchester Ave., Dorchester, Mass. 02121

Cut'em Loose, Bruce

NY Judge Bruce Wright, who was transferred from the criminal to the civil bench because of his defense of the rights of third world and poor prisoners, has won two victories in his fight to return to the criminal bench.

Complaints against Bruce by the Patrolmen's Benevolent Association were dropped by a Judicial Relations Committee for lack of evidence. Also, a lawsuit on behalf of Wright was upheld in federal court. Plaintiffs can now call witnesses to find out their role in Wright's transfer.

Cons in Tents

One hundred Florida prisoners are now living in tents due to overcrowding in the state's prisons. The prisons are built to house 10,000, actually hold 13,000. Some 1200 cons are sleeping on floors.

Those at the "tent city" have filed suit to be returned to the Lake Butler prison. They claim inadequate space and medical facilities violate their constitutional rights. The state claims conditions are better at "tent city" than at Lake Butler.

Panthers

Three FBI agents and an FBI informer in Chicago have been added to the list of defendants in a \$30 million lawsuit brought by the families of assassinated Panthers Mark Clark and Fred Hampton. The suit charges that Chicago police and the FBI conspired to murder Hampton, Clark and other Panthers in 1969. The two men were shot in their beds on the morning of December 4, 1969.

Pretrial hearings showed that Hampton's body guard was an FBI informer. Families of the slain men charge the informer was part of the "Cointelpro" operation. "Cointelpro" was set up by Nixon's "justice" department to infiltrate and disrupt leftist organizations, particularly Black and anti-war activists. The judge has so far refused to release "Cointelpro" information on Hampton and Clark.

STARKE, FLORIDA

Dear Friends,

We, the men at Florida State Prison, are in dire need of your help in order to end the most cruel, brutal, and barbaric treatment which is being inflicted on the men here, especially the black prisoners. We are being subjected to the most cruel punishment known to man, woman, or beast.

September 18, 1974, was the date the horrors began. There was a peaceful, non-violent demonstration planned which took place on September 23, 1974--after being prematurely triggered by a Judas who had been mistaken for a fellow comrade. He had sold his favors to the prison officials so as to receive favors, which resulted in his transfer from segregation to population.

The prison officials had randomly picked out alleged leaders, placing most of them on Q-Wing, which was specially designed to segregate prisoners for closer scrutiny, but mainly for the purpose of brutalizing them--beating them beyond mercy, with as few witnesses as possible.

On September 23, Judas triggered the move, which consisted of holding food trays and spoons, demanding that we be able to see the Director of the Division of Correction, Louie Wainwright, or Governor Reubin Askew. But Judas had sold us out--the prison officials were ready and they came like maddened dogs on a rabbit hunt, with blood drooling from their mouths.

Comrade James Bowes was beaten, as were Willie Parker and Gregory Williams, Comrade Samuel Harris was tear-gassed until unconscious, then dragged from his cell, beaten, and thrown in to the shower. Comrade James Edwards was attacked by Officer Dunlap, who hit him in the eye with a tray, and when this brother chose to defend himself, he was vigorously attacked by at least ten other officers. Edwards has since been charged with attempted murder of Officer Dunlap, who suffered a two-inch scratch on his shoulder. Edwards allegedly inflicted the wound, but in actuality, it was done by the Garment Factory 14. A relative of Sgt. Sapp was badly hurt in that rebellion. Edwards goes to trial on May 12, 1975, in Starke, Fla. (Excuse me, I meant to say "kangaroo hearing". We know

this comrade won't get no "trial" in the backyard of the enemy.)

Many of the black prisoners who dare to speak against these horrors are being cruelly punished in every way. They wish to break us. They're using outside tactics and inside tactics. All of us have been placed on a restrained visiting list, which is meant for "bad niggers". Our visitors have to first write to get permission to visit us, even though they are on our approved visiting list. We have been denied access to the visiting park. Our visitors must visit us in the colonel's office, which is a small room. Our visiting time has been restricted to two hours, though regular visiting hours are from 9 A.M. until 3 P.M. We aren't allowed to escort our visitors to the front gate as all other prisoners do, even though they have to enter areas where prisoners are free to traffic.

I have informed Governor Askew of this and of the existing dangers. Also, Wainwright. They both fail to rectify this matter; and truly, the prison officials themselves are aware of the dangers but they do nothing.

Each week, one of us on Q-Wing is attacked by the "good squad". On March 25, 1975, Darnell Smith was badly beaten by at least ten officers. He was beaten in such a manner that his right eye was kicked from the socket. This was witnessed by Franklin Wheeler, who screamed to the officers to stop, which resulted in Wheeler getting a disciplinary report and later being placed on punitive. Darnell Smith was also placed on punitive for allegedly attacking an officer.

On March 31, 1975, Samuel Harris was attacked by the same "good squad". Harris was beaten on his way to and from the shower, after which he was forceably given some sort of shot which rendered him unable to move, even to go the commode to defecate. On this same date, Dennie E. Demps, the author of this letter, was let from his cell to shower. He asked the officers why they had attacked Harris, and he was attacked also. Upon being wrested to the floor by several officers, he was knocked unconscious and later awakened in the shower. This also resulted

in a disciplinary report and Demps was placed on punitive, where he is now. So is Harris. On April 21, 1975, while being let out of his cell to shower, Jackie Hardy was attacked by the goon squad. He was beaten twice, after which he too was forced to receive some sort of drug injection which rendered him unable to move.

All of the men mentioned are black. All voice dissent against the many wicked acts of the prison officials. All are being subjected to the same treatment.

The prison officials have launched a move to cut off all political reading materials, saying to hell with our First Amendment rights. That covers all political papers, magazines, books, newsletters, or any such publication which would educate and awaken us to the evils they stand for, represent, and perpetrate against us. So, "as if they spit in our faces, then we're to turn our heads, grin, and say, it's raining".

We will not allow ourselves to suffer such dehumanizing treatment. They think that we have been thrown here and forgotten. Let's show them that we are not forgotten! Come to our aid! Help us put an end to these wicked acts! Young men are being crushed, their minds destroyed. We can no longer let this go unchecked or there will be another Attica--only this time, it will be down south instead of up south.

What can you do? If you have a newspaper, print a report of this. If you have a newsletter, print it there. Voice it all over this land. Let them know we are not alone. Write to Louie Wainwright demanding an end to these acts. Write to Governor Reubin Askew telling him to halt these brutal beatings, forced druggings, and all other cruelties I've described herein.

We beg of you to come to our aid, please! Spread the word so that it'll burn as bright as a prairie fire, but burning with the bright flame of truth. Remember, if we fall, soon it will be you. If you will help us, please contact me at the below address immediately, for we are in need of any and all help.

"Dessalines"

a/k/a Bennie E. Demps III
#030970, Cell #17-3205
P.O. Box 747
Starke, Fla. 32091

McALESTER, OK.

Revolutionary Greetings Comrade-Brother Imani!

I'm sure that you and the rest of the Brothers have heard, at least, some rough accounts of the events which transpired yesterday in the Attic (max seg unit). At this moment my head seems on the verge of exploding like a zillion ton megaton bomb, but even so I'm going to try and run down the situation as best I can.

The Assault of April 18th was a culmination of petty nitshit harassment that had been steadily mounting since the March 21st rebellion. As you know they destroyed a lot of personal property; stole recently purchased canteen supplies and refused to make recompensation; took all smoking tobacco, including RJR; refused to provide medical and dental care except for a few emergency cases (these exceptions were made after threatened rear-ups); inconsistent legal and notary assis-

tance (at one point the legal man hadn't come for three weeks); refused to provide toilet articles, e.g., SHITPAPER was becoming nearly non-existent; showers had become increasingly less frequent; mail was delayed nine and ten days after postmarks indication of arrival; books, magazines etc. confiscated and shift crews were generally unresponsive to the needs of prisoners, especially Black prisoners, confined to those cages.

So you can perhaps see the tensions that were building as a result of the intense psychological strain. No matter how we tried to deal around impulsive reactions they continued to pummel us...they simply would not let up!

Yesterday they finally decided to shower us but at the same time that one of us was showering they wanted to shake down cells for styrofoam cups, pasteboard boxes, mirrors, shanks, and I guess submachine guns! So after

they shook down a couple of cells everyone began refusing to come out and shower. At first they said that they were going to make people shower! But major Schon called that off over the telephone. After lunch run men (one on each run) refused to clean up all the debris that had been tossed out (no trash sacks in cells!!!) and went in their cells. Pigs began cleaning up the runs but in the middle of the job they were called to the Lt.'s office area for a little conference. When they returned they wanted to start shaking down again(!). Capt. Ogeila came to my cell (first one on the bottom run, in fact, everyone who was in the Dungeon ARE in the first six cages of the top and bottom run) and said that he wanted to shake my cell down for a fuckin' tray. I told him that I had already been shaken down once and furthermore I hadn't eaten all day, so it was impossible for me to have a tray. He then opened

CONTINUED ON PAGE 28

Prisons Are Working

I am tired of the rubbish I keep reading on how prisons are not doing anything. I began serving time in the early '60's in Texas and since then have managed to visit some of the garden spots of the south. Namely: prisons in Texas, Georgia, and Tennessee.

It would be impossible for me to set down in a few paragraphs the abundance of knowledge and training I have acquired in the aforementioned places, but a brief summary should suffice.

I was a green, naive, somewhat radical young incorrigible of 15 when I first encountered a Department of Corrections facility. I was totally incapable of supporting myself in a free society when I entered. I picked up quite a bit of information to help me when I was released, though. Such as how to hot-wire a car, the 10 best ways to open vending machines without a key and several tricks in the art of boosting. From humble beginnings as a habitual runaway, I had started on my road to success. Since then I have gained even more valuable experience in other prisons and I am now able to: open safes, silence

alarms, hang paper, lay notes, and can even point a gun without shaking. I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the people of three great states for financing this education for me and the consideration they have shown by not letting employers hire me and force me to work a dull 5 day, 40 hour week.

Of course my training hasn't been a complete bed of roses. There have been a few rough spots. For instance, when I was quite young (18) I hadn't decided on exactly what branch of crime I would specialize in. Not wanting to overlook any possibilities, I happened upon a group of well known artists (rape-0's) and asked if they had anything they might be able to pass on to me that might be of use to me later on. They were very congenial and proceeded to show me a few tricks. Luckily I had already taken a course on how to handle a shank. Another time I remember is when I was ready to graduate from the science of armed robbery. One of the requirements was to hold up an old man for his dentures and then hock them to pay for a

course in drug addiction. The man so reminded me of my grandfather that I almost failed. With the support of my teachers though I pulled through and although I didn't make an A I did well enough to pass the course. Of course there were always the ever present security guards that were intent on making life miserable for me and even on occasions threatening my life, but I soon became wise to them and managed to get around them.

All in all it has been a fairly good life. Here I am only 30 years old and I am seriously considering retirement. How many people in other professions can say that? Things being what they are though, with the high cost of living, etc., I will probably have to continue for a few more years. Of course I might be "forced" to retire (Shudder). Someone might come up to me and say something like "Johnny, I'm sorry to say this, but someone out there thinks you are a human being and has threatened to treat you like one when you are released." That's not very likely though and it looks as if I will be able to continue my life's work for at least 15 or 20 more years or until I receive my Habitual Criminal Degree and the assurance of 99 years of security that goes with it.

"Kill These Niggers"

BREWTON, March 4--Gamba Mani (Oscar Johnson) testified in his own trial that he initiated the seizure of the guards because he thought it was the only way to save his own life and the lives of others. He stated that he had heard the guards saying, "We ought to kill all these niggers just like we killed Clanzy." (As it turned out, IFA member Jesse Clanzy at nearby Holman prison had been beaten severely but not killed.) He grabbed a guard as hostage when he saw others move toward the weapons locker where they keep pickax handles.

The clearest verification of Gamba's testimony is what in fact did happen after the rebellion was put down and the area secured. Here is what the witnesses testified.

From the testimony of Claude Harris, inmate in Atmore segregation unit on January 18: "The guards came in shooting.... I was beaten in the head with a pickax handle... all the officers were carrying pickax handles... The guards lined up on both sides of the wall and they beat us as we crawled through the gauntlet... We stayed on the floor about 20 minutes... We crawled up to the visiting room... there were two tables there, one for signing a statement, and the other for medical treatment... We had to make and sign a statement before even getting patched up."

Then there's the testimony of Paul Echols, a 24-year old white inmate from Columbus, Ga. (Echols was threatened by guards for testifying. He told the court, "One guard said I was a sorry white man for trying to help the Blacks at Atmore.... I'm not trying to help anybody, I just want to see justice done.")

Echols testified, "When the guards came in shooting, some of us got in cells.... They told us to come out of the cells with our hands behind our heads or we would get shot... As we got to the lobby, they beat us while they made us strip.... They took all of our watches, rings, and money... and made us crawl on our hands and knees putting our hands and heads on the next man's ass... and we had to bark while they beat us.... They made us bark that day I guess to lowgrade us and show us that they were superior.... All of us (between 30 and 50) went to the hospital the next day or the day after."

The account of the beatings as told by Harris and Echols was corroborated by other inmate witnesses in each of the trials. Another white inmate, Larry Stewart, testified that he heard Warden Harding tell George Dobbins, "You are a walking dead man, you just don't know it."

George Dobbins



"YO

DEAD MAN"

YUKEENA KILLED

--from CPSB NEWSLETTER

On the morning of March 12th, Luther Failes and three other officers came up to the Unit 9-U formal Death Row, where we was presently confined at the time of the incident.

When the guards came on down the hallway and got to Bro. Yukeena's cell, Yukeena requested that the corridor be cleaned for our sanitation. Because the corridor hadn't been swept for approximately three weeks. Also Yukeena requested for a shower because we hadn't been showered in over a week.

Officer Failes cut Yukeena off from talking by saying to him: Let me tell you one damn thing boy; you Niggers was the ones that messed this damn place up like this; and we not gonna clean it up.

Then Failes told Yukeena, you don't run nothing around here Dotson but your damn mouth, and you better not run it too much more, because he is the Boss and is going to run things like he see fit for it to be run.... One word led to another, and then Bro. Yukeena told Failes to just forget about it--because all the cussing wasn't necessary. All four officers left that morning. That same four returned approximately 12:15 that same afternoon. The guards started showing from the front. Paradise's cell was first, but he didn't shower because he was sick. Then they went on down the line to George Parker's cell, he showered and returned to his cell: Akto went out next and showered and returned to his cell. Casher was supposed to have been next, but Failes told the other three officers, let's skip Casher, we'll come back to him after we get this smart ass Dotson.

They went to Yukeena's cell--ordered him to strip nude. Then gave his clothes back--then handcuffed him--and opened his door to his cell. Yukeena was on his way down the hall, Failes suddenly responded, not that way boy--stand up against the wall. Yukeena stood there just as Failes ordered him to do. He had his back up against the wall in front of his cell (9)... Failes told Jerry David and that guard name Fred or Freddy to shake Yukeena's cell down. Meanwhile, Failes and Super Pig was standing on the outside of the cell watching Yukeena as the other two was shaking the cell down... about (12) to (15) minutes later Jerry Davis started Yelling... Here it is! Here it is! I found the knife in that Nigger's cell. Then gave something to Failes, who had then came over to the cell door.

Failes then went over to Yukeena with whatever he had in his hand. He asked Yukeena, Nigger you had this for us guards, Didn't you?? Yukeena just stood there looking as if he was unable to comprehend. Then all at once Failes started jabbing at Yukeena with whatever he had in his hand, and telling him Here it is Nigger, grab it. And the other three guards also started telling the Brother--go ahead and grab it. Dotson, you want to be one of those Revolutionary Bad Niggers. Then all of them started jabbing and hitting him with their bats and clubs and Failes still was jabbing with the supposed to be knife--Yelling get it Nigger Boy--get it--go ahead. Yukeena kept saying Y'all see I don't want nothing but for y'all to leave me alone for God Sake "Please". Then all of a sudden while Failes still had something in his hand trying to make Yukeena accept it, they all rushed in on him hitting him all over his body like sadistic mad men killing something to eat. Then all of a sudden we heard a guard yelling (Think it was Failes) saying the Nigger got the knife--Kill that son of a bitch...

While they was still sadistically beating him, the Bro. went down to the floor, and as he was trying to get back up--before he could get straighten back up, Jerry Davis rushed him and he fall back to the floor with a bear hug on him. Jerry Davis was under Yukeena holding him while the other three beat him until he was unconscious. Then that guard (I think Freddy was his name) he ran toward the front with something in his hand that looked to be a knife, and about ten inches long. He went on out of the door with whatever it was... after they was completely sadistically satisfied after about 20 to 25 minutes of harassing and beating him until he was knocked unconscious. Then Failes told the two that was still up there with him beating



Tommy YUKEENA Dotson

Yukeena--"Okay that's enough let's get the hell out from up here... Failes and Jerry Davis and Super Pig then walked from up there and Failes seemed to be holding his stomach but there seemed to be no blood. The other two was moving so fast until if they was hurt, it was unnoticable.

Immediately after the first crew was out of the door, about five minutes later, Murry Daniels and three others rushed up there. Murry Daniels stopped at the doorway and told the three other officers--Kill that Nigger if he's not already dead. He "Daniel" then got all emotional and started yelling like he had lost his mind, "hurry up--hurry up--kill him --kill that Nigger--once and for all--kill that Nigger, Dotson." He acted as though his mind had locked on "Kill that Nigger."

So the three guards rushed in--and as they got to Yukeena, Akto and George Parker got their attention and while they stood there for approximately one minute, Akto and George was explaining the conditions of the brother that he was still handcuffed and unconscious and unable to do any one any harm, in other words they tried to show them where he was helpless... but Murry Daniels started yelling again--what in the hell y'all waiting for? didn't I say kill him? Disregarding the helpless condition of Bro. Yukeena. Ray started beating Yukeena and then the other two join in--they beat him for approximately five to ten minutes while his body was just lying there lifeless.

Murry Daniel told them to drag Yukeena's body out because thats good (meaning good work boys) so Ray pull him out dragging him by his shorts while the other two continued beating the lifeless body until they was pulling him out. His head was bumping the wall and his face was dragging on the floor as "Ray" pull him out like a mad man, which they all realistically are.

After they was out of sight and had pulled the brother out of the door we heard some more unusual noise like tumbling down stairs. Then we heard someone "yell"--He's not dead yet. I seen him move. Then what sounded like Murry Daniels voice yelled (I told you I want him dead got damn it). Then we heard more noise, and that was it... About 15 to 20 minutes the state ambulance went to the front and stayed approximately ten minutes before we saw it leave again, who or what it had in it is unknown to us.

It took the free world Ambulance approximately 40 to 45 minutes to show up. That one went around to the back of the prison, and it stayed approximately 30 to 40 minutes in back before we saw it come back out....

End

IN UNITY WE WILL WIN.
DIVIDED WE FALL AT THE
HANDS OF THE OPPRESSORS
STAY FIRM MY BROTHERS.
REMAIN IN STRUGGLE.

Marion: Boxcars and War

MARION--If the Feds don't want you at Leavenworth, Atlanta, Lewisburg, Springfield... They send you to Marion. The last stop on the bus ride is Marion. When Butner opens, perhaps they'll have an express direct from Marion. Marion is the dress rehearsal for Butner.

Marion replaced Alcatraz and is more secure. To get to a visiting area, one goes through eight electronically controlled steel doors. A TV camera guards every door. The hallways have electrically controlled gates every 30 feet, monitored by TV cameras.

But, lest this be still not secure enough, half the 400 men are in a special unit, locked up 23 1/2 hours per day. To leave his cell, a prisoner must first handcuff himself with cuffs slipped through his food tray slot.

The food is drugged.

"A drug that makes the body go numb and makes one feel sleepy. I have experimented with the food, to be sure that it was the food that was making my body numb and sleepy. I didn't eat for one whole day, and my body didn't feel numb, nor did I feel sleepy. The next day I ate, and again my body felt numb and I felt sleepy."

In addition to drugs, the food frequently includes helpings of glass, hair and trash.

Beatings are commonplace. Twenty on one. "Suicides" happen. On May 4, 1975, 5'8" Paul Duhart "hung himself" from a slat-bar 5'5" above the floor.

Earlier, Duhart was at Leavenworth, known as a "staunch Muslim" and a student of Mao. In 1971, after 20 months of segregation, he was shipped to McNeil Island. In November, 1972, Duhart held 4 hostages for several hours demanding to speak to the media. The media came, the hostages were released unharmed, and Duhart received consecutive sentences of life and 19 years, to add to his original 25 years.

In May, 1973, he went from McNeil to the CARE Unit at Marion (now the Control Unit).

July, 1973: "At the present time, I am in isolation and my environment is under extreme control. The prison officials have created suppressive and negative conditions designed to strain my endurance or cause me to commit suicide or have a heart attack. I have been subjected to dehumanizing treatment solely because of my dissenting thoughts against the Behavior Modification program that I and others are victim to... This treatment... causes hostility, insanity, aggression, fear, heart attacks, diseases and ailments of the body... that will seriously injure one for the rest of his life." Duhart's was a "life" sentence.

Behavior Modification at Marion, first as CARE and then as the Control Unit, was started by Martin Groder. Groder was rewarded for his efforts by Federal Prison Director Norman Carlson: he was appointed Warden/Planner of Butner, N.C.

Butner, in North Carolina, is yet to be opened. It is planned as a model total control prison. Everything is "earn your way up". Like Marion, every imaginable form of coercion will be used to totally alter a



prisoner's self-awareness: isolation, beatings, no visits, tampered mail, no "privileges" (showers, exercise, canteen), restricted food intake, drugs, hypnosis, several day "group encounters", and being surrounded by cons who have bought and been through the program.

The result is the social, psychological equivalent of a lobotomy. Descriptions of "successful" program participants at Marion emphasize the word "robot".

For those who do not go along, there is the "box car". These are closed front cells that have solid steel doors. No sound, no light, can enter the cell. No personal property is allowed. The boxcar is the maximum unit of the Control Center, the maximum wing of the most maximum security prison in the U.S.

Eddie Sanchez is the only U.S. Prisoner who is "permanently assigned to the security cells" on orders that came "all the way from the top of the Bureau of Prisons". This information came out in an assault trial for Eddie Sanchez in March, 1975.

Eddie, and others, spend months at a time in the "boxcars", ten cells in H-Unit. James "Buffalo" Parker has been in H-Unit since 1972. Sanchez stated that in H-Unit are Black political prisoners from South Africa (Azania) and the Virgin Islands. State prisoners are also transferred to H-Unit from places as far away as Hawaii, Connecticut and Washington, D.C. All but 5 are third world men.

Dr. Bernard Rubin summed up the program in court testimony in November, 1973: "Coercive programs which attempt to change attitudes or behavior always fail unless you kill the prisoner, permanently disable him, or keep him incarcerated for life."

The attitude of many prisoners is clear: "We have declared war against the program and its operating aspects."

Resistance is hard. Prisoners, chained, cuffed and drugged, try, but as Eddie Sanchez explains: "There is hardly any resistances

they are able to wage. Frequently there have been food strikes. Other times there have been small resistances from inside the cages themselves, of men flooding the units by overflowing their toilets, or throwing their food trays on the police, or sometimes trying to fight when their doors are opened to move them to the "Boxcars". These small fights are futile against the odds we face. From outside the cages they face guards with riot helmets, shields, pick handles, gas masks, gas guns and even gas machines."

The options for struggle are even less than what most prisoners have. Even more pronounced is the need for nationwide, outside support.

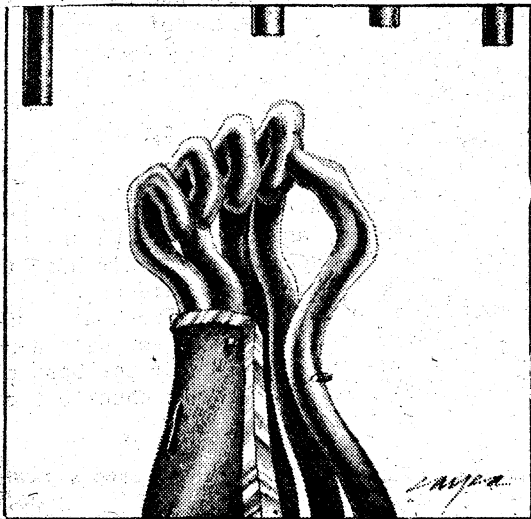
The Marion Brothers have a case in Federal Court awaiting decision. Write to Judge James Foreman, U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Illinois, E. St. Louis, Ill. 62202.

The Marion Brothers have no particular illusions about the benefits of a favorable court decision. A Federal judge condemned the START program at Springfield, Missouri. The Feds kept doing the same thing at Marion. If Marion is curtailed, Eddie Sanchez and many others will simply be sent to Butner. If need be, they'll find a compliant judge to declare him insane (isolation induced psychosis?).

But the fight at Marion is also a fight for survival. The men fighting there are our Brothers and our Comrades. A favorable court decision, hopefully to close the Control Unit, will at the least buy time, time for these men to continue to live. Time to keep them from psychosis, drug trances, lobotomies, robotization, suicide or being murdered. Time to keep pushing to tear down the walls, to tear down the system which built the walls and condemned its inhabitants, time to root out the system, burn its seeds and roots and branches in the fire of the people's rage, then scatter the ashes so never--never again need we see or hear of Marion.

Suicide in Thomaston Segregation Unit

On the afternoon of August 8, 1975, Steve Athern hung himself in the segregation unit at Maine State Prison, Thomaston. Athern had attempted suicide in the segregation unit several times in the past. An hour before



he hung himself, he threatened to do so. But he had been placed in seg for virtually no reason in the first place, and the officers in charge had not called the prison psychiatrist.

At Thomaston, a man is not supposed to be placed in seg unless he constitutes a clear and present danger to the security or people of the prison. Athern had been involved in a minor fist fight earlier in the day, but walked away from the fight and was not a danger. Still, he was placed in segregation.

For the past several months, Internal SCAR has been struggling to abolish the segregation unit. Lawyer Thomas Benjamin and Dr. Kenneth Lux have compiled a very thorough study of segregation which concludes that segregation is both psychologically and physically destructive to individuals. It is purposely designed to destroy the dignity of humans, to break their spirit, and often results in psychosis which can cause suicide.

On the day Athern hung himself, Inmate Advocate Gus Heald had spent hours arguing

the dangers of segregation with Deputy Warden Finny.

SCAR demands the following:

- 1) That segregation be abolished as a means of punishment, and that the unit be used for a constructive purpose;
- 2) That the Revised Disciplinary Rules and Regulations be implemented immediately, as they end the use of segregation as a punishment;
- 3) That Deputy Warden Finny be removed from his present position pending investigation of the suicide;
- 4) That an immediate meeting be called to discuss the matter with Dr. Rosser, the Commissioner of Corrections, and that Benjamin, Lux, and Internal and External SCAR be present at the meeting.

SCAR charges Deputy Finny and the entire prison and department administration with moral responsibility for the death of Athern. It is time that segregation, in Thomaston and every other prison, be abolished. If the death of Steven Athern pushes that day for ward, then he did not die in vain.

Comrade George

by Jaan Laaman, NHSP NEPA NEWS Bureau

August carries a particular meaning for many people, prisoners especially, since it marks the deaths of two of our best warriors-- Jonathan and George Jackson. August 7, 1970 Jon, at the age of seventeen, fell in battle in the Marin County Courthouse Raid, and August 21, 1971, George was killed by enemy forces in the so called adjustment center area of San Quentin prison. In the new America, undoubtedly we will create appropriate methods of remembrance and tribute to these fallen brothers, but in the meantime as a way of reaching and building the conditions that will lead to our new free revolutionary society, this summer would be a good time for people to read Comrade George, by Eric Mann.

Actually, this is the third edition of the book (twice previously the Hovey St. Press, a movement printer, produced limited editions), but it contains some new material, including a good introduction that helps put the whole book into a better perspective. It is easier now to see who wrote this book, how and why, and therefore, not confuse the topics discussed with the author's own outlook. As Eric describes himself, he was from an educated white middle class background, but wound up doing over a year in Concord prison in Mass. for political activities. Bringing both these aspects together, he is able to express in a very real and feeling sense much of the impact, emotion and everyday reality of prisoners, especially in context of what George was and did, how he was perceived by captives, how he affected all of us inside and out, and what his words, ideas, life and death meant and continue to mean. There is also a negative aspect of Eric's outlook that comes across, mainly in his understanding of white working class people and prisoners there is a kind of guilty feeling that he puts across, and in his hesitancy to fully see the need for the armed activity that George talked and wrote so much about. Keeping in mind (and the introduction enables on to do so) that this book is one brother's effort to build on the ideas and life of George, the book becomes a valuable tool for prisoners' and peoples' struggles in general.

The best point of Comrade George, and the crucial reason why it should be read and studied, is simply that it discusses, fills out, and places into context much of George's own life and words. As the full title indicates, it is an investigation of the life,



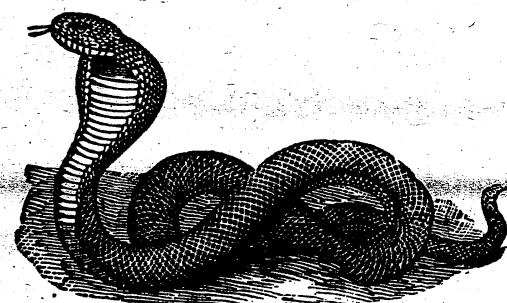
political thought and assassination of George Jackson. Understanding some of George's earlier life and prison years (Eric uses many quotes from Soledad Brother and Blood In My Eye, George Jackson's two books), one is able to see a little of how George developed his ideas, as well as understand how the present government uses courts, prisons, phoney charges, isolation cells, brutality and even murder to suppress the necessary and courageous struggles of prisoners, and in a broader sense, people in general, especially Black and other third world people. The book also lays clear some traps that liberal and even some revolutionary and some non-prisoner groups fall into when supporting the fight of captives. In this area, Comrade George also exposes the government's "official" tale of how George was killed.

An important section of Comrade George analyzes George Jackson's last and fullest political statement, Blood In My Eye (this book is a must to read, even before Comrade George--it is in paperback by Bantam Books and costs less than two dollars). Eric correctly points out that Blood in My Eye was written by a prisoner in a terribly oppres-

sive situation, that it has shortcomings and that it is not "the" definitive work on strategy for the 70's. This is true, but we should remember that George never claimed his book was any of this. Eric also felt it was unfortunate that Blood In My Eye begins with the need for, as well as some how to, about urban guerilla struggle, instead of the chapter on fascism. Perhaps this is not so unfortunate, because it clearly is time to begin integrating all aspects of struggle into one large whole, and to date, armed struggle has been discouraged, if not discounted by most of the, white at least, left--perhaps having the ideas and needs for militancy brought out fully and foremost is exactly what George felt was necessary. The other questions Eric discusses, such as George's vagueness on who should lead the struggle in the Black Nation, the roles the lumpen should and do play and further analysis of George's evaluation of fascism and corporate america, can not be discussed in this short space of a review, but are important and a further why Comrade George should be read.

This summer as temperatures, unemployment and crime rates, welfare ro-ls, and discontent climb higher, we really should read, then discuss, then act on the ideas in Comrade George by Eric Mann and Blood In My Eye by George Jackson. For people outside, besides

reading the books, sending a copy to a sister or brother in some prison in your area should also be something that everyone should try to do. As the last page of Comrade George reads, "We are out here for you. You are in there for us. We will keep up our work out here as you will in there, the best we can, continuing the fight against despair, insanity, and imperialism. So take care of yourself and hold on."



You need a job, or you've been busted and the judge offers you a deal. So, you join the army. Three years later, you're out--you still need a job only now you have a wife and a kid, or a drug habit to support. You've got no training, no prospects. There's a liquor store on the corner, and the family needs food. You knock it over--it works, so you try again. But there's a slip-up and, since a fast-talking lawyer is too expensive and it costs too much to buy the judge, you're sentenced to prison.

Vets in Prison

There are thousands of variations on this story. And, according to the 1970 census, there were almost 100,000 vets in state and federal prisons, and countless thousands more in the shabby county and city lock-ups which no government agency even bothers to keep track of. We know who makes up the majority of prisoners: people who are poor, minority people, people who have been targets of police repression. White-collar crime (for example the manufacturer whose faulty equipment kills people, or the coal mine owner whose shoddy profit-making mine collapses on a group of miners) is seldom punished.

Veterans, and particularly Vietnam era vets, face special problems which can lead to prison. After having seen what the US government was doing in Southeast Asia, thousands of vets are much less likely to pay attention to the so-called "laws and orders" of the same government at home. And since the government and the people who control it base much of their power on keeping private property sacred, they will send off to prison anyone who threatens this in whatever way.

From a Kentucky prison comes a history which could be repeated in almost any prison in the country: "I went into the Marine Corps at the age of 17 and I was gung-ho and then we moved out to a hell-hole called Thailand and when my 16 months was over in the 3rd Marine Division, I came back to the states on drugs...."

This was followed by a couple of fights, a trip to the Navy psychiatrist, a general discharge under honorable conditions, and

a return home. "So I came home, well I was sick and hurting and I had a cold turkey. My father seen me and when he seen my discharge he got me in his car and drove me to the VA hospital in Memphis, Tenn. I was sick, every five miles we stopped, so I went in the hospital alone and in a big pretty clean office this well educated officer told me that they couldn't help me for drug addiction. I couldn't believe it. I just got up and walked out and my father went in and came out and said he now didn't know what to do. I thought to myself I got on drugs oversease and I had a habit over there, yet I got

killed I would have died a Marine fighting for his country... So I didn't die and I was a lucky one...and sometimes I wonder if I would have been better off to have had my first shot over there from a gun instead of an outfit full of opium. So when we came back from the VA hospital I went running dope and then still it came too few, so I ran into a drug store and finally was sent to prison..."

Prisons preach rehabilitation: they don't do it. In-prison programs which actually help prepare prisoners to find a job on the outside are scarce, and companies which will hire an ex-prisoner are equally hard to find. Prison slave labor is paid anywhere from nothing to a magnificent 75¢ a day, so very few people come out of prison with a nest egg to live on. Even under the best circumstances, prisons are a large chunk out of

CONTINUED ON PAGE 28.

BLA SUPPORTERS FIGHT GRAND JURY

The Black Liberation Army is an armed organization of black activists whose activities allegedly have included attacks on policemen patrolling the Black community and a number of daring jailbreaks. The police have had a hard time proving who is responsible for these actions, but that hasn't stopped them from rounding up the activists they think are in the BLA. Some suspected BLA people have been shot dead right on the street. Others have been put on trial on enormous charges with no evidence whatsoever. Admitted and suspected BLA members have been beaten and tortured, their families have been threatened and harassed and in some cases imprisoned, and witnesses have been coerced and bribed.

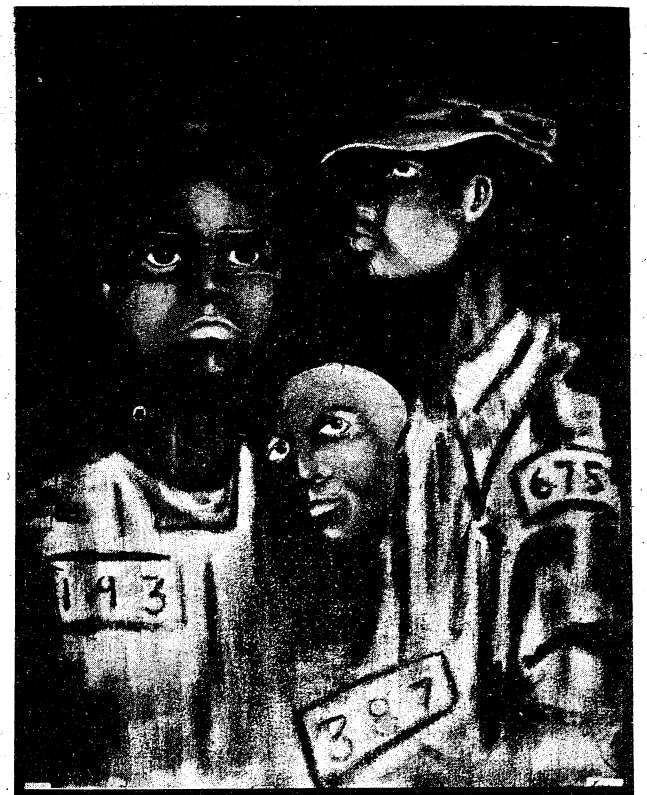
BLA members on trial have received strong support from other activists, both black and white. And the BLA has remained active, both in and out of prison. The police seem to think they can track down more BLA members by harassing and spying on the BLA's courtroom supporters. In any case, they seem determined to intimidate people from coming to court.

On May 12, three BLA members were sentenced for supposedly having killed two cops in Harlem in 1971. After they were sentenced, guards discovered they had an assortment of knives and explosives they had not had when they entered the courtroom. The police have seized on this as an opportunity for a full-scale investigation of the BLA's supporters.

One of the state's main weapons in this investigation is the grand jury. Grand juries have been used before to investigate political activists in many areas--the

women's movement, the black liberation movement, the anti-war movement to name just a few. Grand juries try to do what the FBI and the police can't do--force people to answer questions. Everybody has the right to slam the door in the face of the FBI or other police investigators. But when you're subpoenaed by a grand jury, if you refuse to talk to them you can be sent to jail for up to a year and a half. Grand juries meet secretly, behind closed doors, with no judge present, and no spectators, lawyers or reporters allowed inside. Grand Juries are almost all white and all wealthy. Their questions are usually highly disrespectful--concentrating on witnesses' personal activities and the names, addresses and activities of witnesses' friends. They're particularly interested in the times and places of meetings and who was present and what was discussed. In short, a grand jury is like a political inquisition. And the pressure to talk with them is intense. But many people have refused to talk with them, even at the expense of going to prison.

After the incident at the BLA sentencing in New York, a special grand jury was set up and twelve people received subpoenas. The authorities knew that all twelve had been in court that day even though no records of their names had been kept (at least openly) at the door. It was obvious that someone was watching their movements closely. Others who were in court but were not regular BLA supporters were not subpoenaed, so the authorities were obviously more interested in gathering political intelligence on the regular supporters than in who really passed the weapons inside.



"Discontent" by E. Reddy, Auburn



The twelve people subpoenaed decided right away that they would not cooperate with the grand jury, regardless of the consequences. They decided instead to expose the grand jury's investigation of them for what it was: an attack on the public's right to attend trials and to organize political support for the victims of racist frame-ups in court. The twelve have made it clear that they will not be forced to testify against one another or against anyone else in secret proceedings. And they have demanded an end to the use of grand juries for investigation of political activists and an end to the harassment of supporters of the BLA.

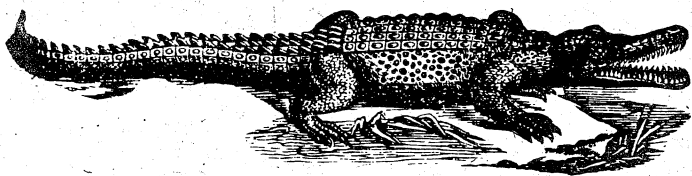
We can learn two important lessons from our sisters and brothers in New York:

1. We have a right to be in court to support political prisoners regardless of the harassment that might be brought down on us.
2. We have a right to protect the privacy of our relationships and activities, regardless of the pressure put on us by government agencies to become snitches and informers.

When our people come under attack by the government we should all stick together--we'll all be much safer and stronger that way!

CROCODILE

Wise men don't go to sleep by beautiful lagoons with Big Momma crocodiles for tenants. On April 28, 1975, a hungry gator ate a trusting hunter in Brisbane, Australia, unfortunately seduced by the surface allure of the Queensland waters. Good folks are currently slumbering while the wide-awake crocs are preparing the death penalty for the poor folks relegated to prisons, slums, and wretched misery so the rich crocs can have their cadillacs, Chase Manhattan cards, homes in the country, and Gerald Ford as President.



The avid Nazis built concentration camps and gas chambers in the name of law and order and made many new laws so those who were not little Hitlers and those who did not admire little Hitler would have short and tormented lives. Sanctioned homicide is the first step to genocide. We called the Vietnamese people the enemy and nearly succeeded in legally murdering all of them. Those who saw the crocodiles ganging up in the pentagon gave us ample warning, but most people are like the hunter and prefer to see the pretty lagoon, and not the smiling reptiles.

The good folks in North Carolina who would like to "build gas chambers for all of them" starts with black "thems" and then gets hungry for white "thems", and if we let him have his way the crocodile will end up eating other crocodiles but we won't be there to see it.

In Rhode Island, the crocs have elected Robert Cline as the scapegoat for April. R. Cline shot a man he thought was going to shoot him. If a cop had pulled the trigger or a rich white man, he might be given a medal for being quick on the draw.

If we don't speak up now against the double standard of justice and begin, in whatever way we know how, to be a little less unjust, then we shall become bait for the crocodiles, dinner for the crocodiles, or members of the crocodile family ourselves.



Write- speak- out--oppose capital punishment. Insist that the death penalty be repealed or hold yourself guilty of sanctioned homicide.

WRITE TO: Philip Noel
State House
Providence, R.I.

GUN CONTROL:

Usually a wave of pro-gun control propaganda will follow the death or wounding of a famous politician, corporate executive or movie star. For instance, "gun control" hit the headlines after the assassination of John F. Kennedy, and after the shootings of George Wallace and Senator John Stennis. The 1968 Federal Gun Control Act was a direct result of political pressure following the Kennedy shooting. Also, more recently, several emotional public statements were made, and a few bills filed in Congress following the Wallace and Stennis shootings.

However, we did not hear politicians screaming "gun control" when a farmworker was shot and killed in the Midwest while fighting for union representation, or when two Indians were killed at Wounded Knee, or when six students were murdered in 1970 at Kent State and Jackson State colleges, or when Rockefeller (an advocate of gun control) ordered the massacre of 33 prisoners and seven guards at Attica State Prison. And the list goes on and on.

This leads us to believe that politicians want "gun control" only for the protection of rich and powerful people, and of course their property; that the thousands of poor and working people who die or are injured in struggle, crime or accidents are not important--their lives are not as valuable. But "gun control" is not really a question of how many or what type of people are killed with guns. It is a political question involving the fundamental rights of all citizens in this country to bear arms for recreation, self-defense and defense of political power. Today certain politicians, wealthy interest groups (representing the capitalist ruling class), and a few honest but misguided people, would like to have these rights taken away. We must answer the question why, and determine who "gun control" really benefits and who it hurts.

WHAT IS GUN CONTROL?

Put simply, "gun control" means either having restrictions on the possession or purchase of guns, or in some cases, having a complete ban on the sale or ownership of any guns. Presently, most gun control laws are directed at handguns. However, two laws passed in 1968 have many sections directed at the sale, possession and transfer of rifles and shotguns (more on this law later).

In all, 60 bills pertaining to changing the nation's gun laws are in both branches of Congress. While a few of these bills are aimed at repealing present laws, the vast majority, if passed, would pose a direct threat to the political rights and security of the American people.

This threat is perhaps made most clear in a recommendation given by certain law enforcement agencies. In August 1973, the National Advisory Commission on Criminal Justice, Standards and Goals--made up of state and local law enforcement officials (sponsored by the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration-LEAA) recommended that all state legislatures pass laws prohibiting ownership, manufacture, sale and possession of handguns by 1983.

WE ALREADY HAVE GUN CONTROL

Often people are deceived into thinking that today we have no real gun control laws. This is false. While many of the above mentioned laws have not yet become law, there are already in this country, several laws which put many restrictions on our gun rights.

At the Federal level there is the "Gun Control Act of 1968" which passed because of the assassination of President Kennedy. This law is widely known as the "Mail Order Bill", and restricts the transfer of weapons especially handguns, and requires the filling out of detailed forms when making a purchase. Another bill which became law in 1968 is Title VII of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act (more commonly known as the No Knock Law). This law prohibits the receipt, possession or transportation of a firearm by certain people especially anyone with a court record.

Also there is the National Firearms Act which requires registration and tax fees on special or modified guns. And finally there are many state and local laws which range from minimal control to virtual pro-

WHO'S CHOICE..?



hibition, as in New York City and Boston. The worst type of all would be the Chicago law. It requires a police permit to purchase a handgun, which the law says shall be issued. Yet the police refuse to give out any permits. The same is true of Boston.

Then there is the Sullivan Act in N.Y. City, which also requires handgun permits. There are some 19,000 permits in the city, however, less than 10% of those permits are issued to persons not involved in law enforcement. In a city of eight million, this means that handguns are just about prohibited.

MASS. GUN LAWS

Massachusetts has very strict gun control laws. Identification cards are required to own or purchase rifles and shotguns, or to have a handgun just in the home. A special permit is necessary to carry a handgun outside the home. These permits are very difficult to obtain and in some cities impossible. Often the city police chief will require a clean record and membership in a gun club before even considering the granting of such a permit. Boston will not give out permits.

Now in this state a new law is going into effect called the Bartley Bill. This law will automatically give a one year jail sentence to anyone carrying a handgun without a permit. These laws are highly restrictive and repressive and lay the basis for future fascist type control over the people. These laws will not stop a potential "criminal" from carrying a gun, these people will carry them anyway, but only prevent those people who need protection and security to defend themselves.

DOES GUN CONTROL STOP CRIME?

The biggest reason given why most gun control advocates favor stricter gun laws is for so called "crime prevention." They say that if you take away guns or make them hard to get, then crime will disappear. Well, let's look again at some of the facts.

There is no evidence that stricter gun control laws will reduce crime, as a matter of fact, there is evidence to show that strict gun control laws have NO effect whatever on the crime rate. For instance, in N.Y. City where handguns are just about prohibited, in 1966 there were some 650 murders--184 of them with handguns. Not one of those murders was committed with a legally licensed firearm. Crime statistics released by the N.Y. Police Dept. in 1968 showed that the city had a higher handgun murder rate per 100,000 population than the national average (statistics from Shooter's Bible Pistol and Revolver Guide, 1972). In Boston, Mass., where handgun laws are also

strict, in 1972 only one of 43 handgun murders was allegedly committed by a person with a license to carry a firearm (Globe 11/8/73).

Beyond just statistics, a thorough and official study was made in 1960 by the Wisconsin Legislative Reference Library.

"That study which has been completely ignored by anti-gun crusaders indicated that there was no causal relationship between the severity of a state's gun laws and the crime rate. However a study did indicate a relationship between the amount of crime and the educational, economic and social problems within the state." (Shooter's Bible)

It seems that certain people are pushing "gun control" as a cure for crime rather than attacking the real disease itself--the monopoly capitalist system and the social problems it creates.

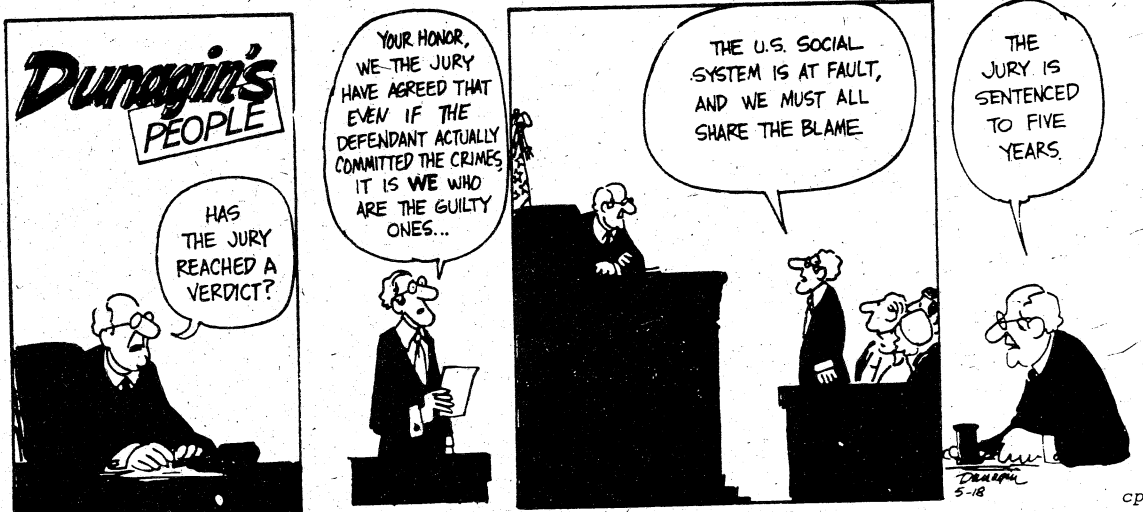
Aside from the studies and statistics, more and more people are learning that the real criminals in this country are the rich and powerful few who own and control all the wealth and institutions. It is this small class of people that is day by day right to bear arms. The catchy bumper sticker saying "If guns are outlawed only eroding our standard of living and civil rights. And now they want to take away our outlaws will have guns" should be applied to the rulers of this country, for it is they who presently control the law enforcement agencies (local police, FBI, CIA) and the army. If anyone has been proven dangerous and should have their guns taken away, it should be those who commit the real crimes against the people.

"GUN CONTROL DISARMS THE PEOPLE"

In the end, "gun control" boils down to a general disarming of the people. Some politicians talk about crime prevention, others say they want to stop accidents (by the way, a survey has shown that 30 times as many injuries occur in accidents with furniture and sporting equipment than with guns), others don't like hunting or any kind of killing; but whatever way you slice it, "gun control" means leaving the common people of this country totally defenseless.

Already some politicians spouting "gun control" talk about the "internal threat" and "domestic subversion" as reasons for having stricter laws. L.A. police are being trained to control "food riots" for when people righteously demand enough to eat.

Well, these are the same kind of arguments that were used by Hitler and Mussolini when the fascists took control of much of Europe before and during WW II. In the same way, these arguments are used by right wing dictators in Latin America to justify martial law and confiscation of all guns. As a matter of fact, a gun control law was passed in Chile just before the fascist dictators smashed the Allende government in 1973.



Prisoners in Revolution



We the brothers who wrote "Prisoners, America and the Revolution" (Feb. '75 NEPA NEWS), as a continuation of the ideas brought forth in Prairie Fire, the Politics of the Weatherunderground, were glad to see the responses our article got, especially those of brother James Potts (March 75 NEPA NEWS), and Pete Zastros' article for the National Collective of VVAW/WSO (April/May 75 NEPA NEWS). We are writing this to continue the discussion and to urge more people to consider what we said and what the Weather people said in Prairie Fire.

Whether one agrees or disagrees with armed struggle now or the positions of the Weather Underground, it is wrong for us to just ignore it or dismiss it with a few words, just as it would be wrong to dismiss the ideas and efforts of any significant section of the people's movement. Personally we hold some differences with the Weather people, but we do not totally agree with the various marxist leninist groups either. We see the need for all serious revolutionary people and groups to open more lines of communication and to understand that presently no one group has established a line that is able to consolidate the revolutionary left, let alone progressive people in general, which all goes to say that to act as if "our group" has, is to act as a blind person. We do share with the Weather people, as well as with most for real revolutionaries the understanding of the need for an anti-imperialist united front, a party, and an action arm, and believe that everyone who sees the need for these things should at least give each other the time to listen and evaluate the other's words.

We mention all this because in one of the responses to our article it was said that they liked our words even though we were writing in conjunction with Prairie Fire and these folks could not relate to Prairie but could to us. You relate to us, we to Prairie, etc.--let's not worry so much who is saying what, rather what is being said and do we agree with it and if so, how can we work closer together, and if now, how can we best express our honestly felt differences.

We are sorry if some folks felt that our words were too much like slogans--we realize that rhetoric doesn't get much done, but we also feel that we should not hedge on the fact that we are talking about revolution and not some jive time reform. We did not speak forcefully in order to impress anyone or to threaten the prison authorities as brother Potts seems to believe, in fact we agree

with him that there is no sense in writing a book for the enemy--laying right out what and who we are, and that is exactly why we did not sign the article--not because we are ashamed of our words or because we don't fully stand behind them, rather because we agree that there is no need to tell the enemy exactly who we are.

Everyone agreed with us that capitalism needed prisons, but the VVAW article wondered whether we recognized the aspects of the protection of private property and the functions that prisons serve in relation to the reserve army of unemployed that capitalist systems always have in them. We originally stated, "A society, such as the US, which is based on private accumulation of wealth, on private ownership of productive forces, and which elevates the exploitation of the many by the few to a hallowed level, such a society will have many penal institutions. First to serve as a warning to all those regular people who might not perform their jobs in the way the rulers proscribe, or who might balk at the lives they are forced to lead. Secondly, as a source of free or in actuality slave labor. Also as brainwashing institutions, which attempt to regroove those people who have not conformed to the rules of a dog eat dog system, or for those, who have attempted to enrich themselves at the expense of others, but who were not part of the monied class, who steal legally. Finally, prisons are used as human warehouses for the workers which amerika does not need, therefore, has to repress." Thus, we agree that the system's rulers seek to protect their property, in fact the government places a higher premium on material items than on human life. Poor people are killed or jailed for long periods, even for life, for petty theft or destruction of private property. At the same time the government starts wars sending young men to their deaths or to kill other young men and in fact whole peoples as well as to rape and steal the wealth of other peoples and countries. Basically the point here is that crime and the so-called justice system is part of the overall capitalistic system so individual crimes against property are treated as a great evil, while mass killing and stealing is alright if it benefits the rulers. Attica establishes this point clearly. The brothers who rose up and seized temporary control over state property (the prison), regardless how justified they were in doing so in human terms, are now being charged with various "crimes" and face incredible sentences, while the uniformed state killers who murdered dozens of people, not only brothers, but their own fellow pigs,

are not charged with anything, and Rockefeller the head culprit who sanctioned the mass murders of Attica was rewarded for his efficiency in handling of state affairs by being given the Vice-Presidency. If this doesn't make clear that the system cares nothing for life, that it even disregards its own rules when it suits itself, that the justice system is only a tool to keep the people in line and repressed, then nothing really does.

As for the US's reserve army of labor (or put in different terms, the millions of extra workers that the system can not use), prisons represent only a part of this. The major part being the mass of unemployed people walking the work halls and relief lines. These unemployed are a fact of the capitalist system, a necessary fact. By having millions on the brink of hunger and desperate need they can pay the ones working as little as feasible with the understanding that if some are dissatisfied they can always be fired with some other person vying for the job. The unemployed are a silent threat to those working by the owners/rulers. It is a tool they use well. Only through unity and working class solidarity, and finally through revolution can we break this hold and provide work for all. Prisons provide a cheap labor force that helps pay for our own confinement and that supplies certain items for the state or government at a price no owner of private production can provide, but these are limited to date. While some states do have road gangs and lumber crews of prisoners, by and large we don't think that they intend to use captive labor as strike breakers or scabs, at least not at this stage. This is something that we have to keep our eyes open to though, because they certainly are not

above doing this, it is just that the way things are now, it would be hard for them to use us as scabs in the classical sense, against our fellow workers on the streets.

Our statement, "basically any differences between political and criminal prisoners are not crucial, for only with unity and understanding of each other can victories be won," meant just that. We were not trying to say that differences did not exist, or that class backgrounds and analysis did not apply in prisons, rather that because of the shared common conditions of all prisoners, differences, between political and criminal prisoners were not crucial--only working together and basing this unity on our shared oppression and conditions would bring victory.

The majority of prisoners are people who have taken extra-legal measures just to get by--to get those things that are necessary to live or that we feel are necessary for us to live. If a person is not able to survive by following laws, then the society was not formed with him or her in mind, and those laws will be broken. But we must look deeper. Who made these laws, who do these laws benefit? Isn't it the owner class that benefits and makes these laws and restrictions? Aren't these laws a tool of one class to keep another class under heel? And when a person rebels (breaks these laws), isn't this in essence the oppressed fighting an oppressor's dictate-rebellion on a primitive level, at least.

Once in prison political and criminal prisoners are all one. It is the task of the political prisoners to work with the others in making the necessary connections of who and what the enemy is, the system is, and how best to fight back against it in non-individualistic ways, but this is the same task the revolutionary person performs outside in a factory or anyplace working with people. There are some hard core lumpens (professional criminals) in the most traditional sense of the term, and even a few bourgeois (capitalist) people in prisons, but the large majority of prisoners are working people or small time hustlers at best. The only time real differences manifest themselves is when a prisoner chooses to help the jailor to suppress (rat, etc.), other prisoners.

To argue that there is little difference between political and criminal prisoners in terms of prison organizing, as we have done, does not mean that we should not recognize and fully support our captured revolutionary comrades, such as Susan Saxe and Cameron Bishop, etc. It is the duty of the whole People's movement, and especially the prison movement to support these people as well as

CONTINUED ON PAGE 28





We always have done most of the dying, and still do: dying at the stake, through social neglect or in U.S. foreign wars. The point is now to construct a situation where someone else will join in the dying... If there must be funerals, then let there be funerals on both sides.

GEORGE

NEPA MEETINGS

Two NEPA regional meetings have been held since the last issue came out. The basic feeling of outside NEPA people is that the meetings have been productive. We feel we are re-organizing toward a far more solid basis than we have had in the past. We feel the process of re-organization will lead us to exciting and productive work.

Women in Prison & the Movement

This meeting, held in Nashua, N.H., was productive in part, but primarily was frustrating for those involved.

We began by rapping about different women's joints with the purpose of focusing on issues most important to women in prison. Our discussion led us to several conclusions as to major issues: behavior modification (often subtle), forced drug use, and forced transfers to mental hospitals in an administrative effort to break solidarity and rip off prisoner leadership. We agreed that one need was for outside people to ensure that women inside had an outside contact, particularly to prevent transfers.

The frustration at the meeting came from our inability to go much further. We constantly ran into the problems of political and organizational clarity. We had not discussed what these ought to be. As a result, the meeting constantly went off track, wandered, and ran into obstacles.

The discussion on women in the movement had the same sort of problems. We did agree that sexism and male dominance had been a major problem in the past, but was much less now. We felt a need to continue to raise consciousness (including our own) and to have articles in NEPA NEWS that will deal with the problem.

Originally, we had planned that the third meeting would deal with organizing work on the outside. But the problems of organizational form and basic political understandings hit us very hard. How could we continue to meet and attempt to resolve problems or hold serious discussions if we did not begin to resolve these very basic problems. So we agreed that the next meeting would deal with NEPA organization and politics.

Organization & Politics

Stemming from the frustration of the second meeting, and the clear need to establish definition, NEPA people began to discuss in depth the questions of what our organization should look like and what our basic political agreement should be.

Meetings in the states were held, letters and phone calls circulated, ideas and raps went in and out of the prisons. People came to the meeting, held in New Haven, Ct., prepared and serious. The result was a solid meeting which we all felt moved us ahead.

We set an agenda, which began with a report that NEPA NEWS is in pretty good financial shape and looks solvent into the winter. Various fundraising possibilities were discussed, and assignments handed out to get work done.

We then got down to business with discussion as to what our organization should look like. We centered the rap on an organizational plan for Mass. on the outside. In brief, the plan is that there will be a NEPA committee, already formed, at the center. This group will plan actions and strategies for outside work. They will bring new people on to the committee on the basis of political agreement and a strong commitment to work with NEPA.

Other folks on the outside are very welcome to work on NEPA projects, and we believe that if NEPA does good work, such people will volunteer their efforts.

The relations/workings of NEPA folks inside is not as clear. This remains to be worked out in practice. The organizational decisions for the inside must be made on the inside.

At this time several people pointed out the need to stress the fact that we are NEPA--the North East Prisoner's Association. The April Conference gave us the name change and affirmed that the planned monthly meetings were to be the continu-

ing means to redefine NEPA, strengthen it, and point it in the right direction. The initial meetings were publicized and made open to persons on the outside who saw their organization priorities as NEPA. There has been confusion about the name change among some people.

We discussed regional organization. We agreed that outside NEPA Chapters existed in Vermont, N.H., Mass and Maine (as SCAR). No NEPA Chapter exists in N.Y. at this time, but several persons are working with other groups in N.Y.; these people see themselves as NEPA, and the groups they are working with share a sufficient degree of common political direction, that we agreed the folks from N.Y. should remain as part of NEPA. Some people from Ct. agreed to work with us, although the form this work would take is not clear.

By the end of the meeting we had agreed that we would have an outside regional committee composed of representatives from the various state committees. The committee will work out the basic strategies and politics of NEPA; details for the states will have to be decided and implemented by the state committees (inside and

racism and sexism. This question arose because some of us felt that we needed to say clearly what we were for as well as what we were against. For example, if we are opposed to prisons, then what are we for? This question will continue to be discussed.

We did have complete agreement that outside work must be directed toward the working class. Again, this led to points that were not resolved. One suggestion was that we concentrate on ex-cons and families as our first link to the working class and to solidify our contacts inside. From there we could expand. Another suggestion was that while we could expect quicker ties with ex-cons and families, one means of building this support is through struggles taken to the class as a whole. Again, an area needing more discussion, analysis and practice.

In sum, while no real breakthroughs were made in terms of our politics (such as we felt we made in organizational structure), many ideas were brought out which we will continue to discuss.

Other points raised in the meeting, primarily for folks to think about, were



outside). Further, the state committees must actively bring ideas and plans to the region based on their practice and study.

We agreed that one good idea was a regional study group. At the next meeting people will submit a list of suggested books to begin the study groups. The lists would come from inside/outside discussions. The choices will be made at the next meeting. NEPA NEWS could be a vehicle for sharing knowledge gained and its relation to our work. We felt it would strengthen the regional organization to have folks discussing the same books and the books' relation to concrete struggle.

In sum, the organizational part of the meeting moved ahead very solidly. We all felt more clear and firm in our work.

The discussion of our politics was not as clear, and a range of opinions existed on several issues. The actual importance or depth of discussion on ideology was not fully agreed on. One feeling was that such discussions were premature until we had more practice. Others felt that our politics at this level largely determine what practice we engage in, and therefore more political clarity is needed now. There was general agreement on the need to combine theory and practice, but how we will put it together was not resolved.

We reaffirmed opposition to capitalism. We did not resolve whether that meant we were for socialism or whether we preferred to simply say we are struggling for a better, more equal society, free of capitalism,

survival and security. We understand the need to help each other subsist (food, clothes, housing, some spending money) and that if we expect to grow, this will be a problem we will have to solve. The discussion on security touched on how to keep out rats as well as how to deal with irresponsible actions such as spreading unfounded rumors.

We discussed briefly a national conference on alternatives to incarceration that is being held in Boston in mid-September. We agreed that this conference will mostly attract professionals, and that con, ex-con, family and generally poor persons' input will be lacking. We decided to request that a NEPA member be on every panel, and that NEPA hold a workshop on "Prisoners' View of Treatment". The Mass chapter agreed to work out details and bring suggestions to the next regional meeting.

We concluded by setting a tentative agenda for our next meeting, to be held in Vermont at the end of August. Items proposed were: 1) examine state by state development; 2) the regional study group; 3) regional strategy; 4) security; 5) inside organizing.

We hope people will give us feedback and ideas so they can be brought to the next NEPA regional meeting. We are clearly in a process of redefinition and renewed growth. Your ideas are therefore necessary! Break the Chains!

Conference Response

From Walpole Action Committee

1ns/cpf

We are reprinting the first two sections ("General Comment" and "Theoretical Formulation") of the Conference Response from the Walpole Action Committee. Last month we really botched, putting sections out of order, making the whole first part difficult to follow. The remainder of the article, starting with "specific Issues" is laid out correctly in the last issue. We apologize to the Brothers in Walpole and to all our readers for the error.

General Comment

For us the 1975 NEPA Conference says where it's at, and the NEPA NEWS reportage of it was a masterpiece.

The conference/convention accurately reflects the reality of the situation in prison and out. The Walpole prisoners--principally in their Federal Complaint of Layne and Nassar--lay down the same challenge the militants laid down in Franconia. Namely, if the society or the law of the society cannot redress the legitimate and legally presented grievances of its people, armed struggle is the inexorable, historical consequence.

The prisoners of Walpole have presented to the Federal courts several complaints of grossly illegal conduct on the part of the officials of the law-enforcement correctional field. In many of these cases--just about all--the court has found overwhelming evidence that the authorities were in violation of the law they are sworn and paid to uphold. Now, in the Layne and Nassar case, the court is asked to judge the total prison structure.

In the meantime the authorities have harassed, intimidated and punished in the attempt to force the prisoners to give up their court action. The court has taken its time to consider the case. The prisoners have patiently waited, submitting addendum after addendum of further harassment and punishment. The court is approaching the time when it must decide. And that is the point of the Complaint. We shall know, with the court's decision or indecision, whether there is still legal redress left in this country; we shall know for sure whether the law is to be obeyed even by those who wear badges or cloaks of law.

The explosion at the NEPA conference/convention, by ex-prisoners in particular in demands for support of armed struggle, is the expression of what the prisoners inside the prisons have been going through to get their legal complaints duly processed, free from suppression, and fairly brought before the courts. The ex-prisoners know of dozens of instances where law-enforcement people inside prison and outside prison have conspired to suppress the prisoners' legal remedies and support, suppression by illegal means, suppression by brute force. Law-enforcement people have threatened, stolen, smashed, burned, beaten, tortured the people and things of the prisoners and their outside supporters for the past several months, especially since the prisoners have brought their court actions. Ex-cons are being set up on phony criminal charges and sent back to prison. Families and friends of prisoners are called on phones that when answered are silent. The fact is that certain guards and cops are into



criminal conduct, and not just locally but state-wide, regional and national. Prisoners know this. Ex-cons know it. What the prisoners in Walpole who are continuously locked up are going through, what those who are struggling to redress grievances through the courts are going through--this knowledge is the experience at the NEPA Conference. All power to that experience.

There is no viable criminal justice system except as it accepts the challenge the prisoners have given in their Complaint. Therefore all intellectual, social science talk about prison reform or community corrections is so much dreaming unless the criminal justice system is a system of justice. The Walpole prisoners shall shortly determine whether this fundamental quality of our society, the truth of a society that comes out of its criminal justice system, is indeed true. We shall find out who the real criminals are. And if we find they are those who wear the badges and court cloaks, then the people have the sacred duty of their common humanity to bring the criminals to justice by all means necessary.

There is no other answer. There never has been. There cannot be without giving in to the crime.

Theoretical Formulation

Che said at the very outset of his Guerilla Warfare that certain minimum conditions are necessary for the establishment of armed struggle. He cautioned, "Where a government has come into power through some form of popular vote, fraudulent or not, and maintains at least an appearance of constitutional legality, the guerrilla outbreak cannot be promoted, since the possibilities of peaceful struggle have not been exhausted."

As long as the courts do not receive or deny a comprehensive and adequate challenge to the prison system, Che's minimum conditions for and natural fructification of an armed struggle have not been met.

It is the purpose of the Walpole prisoners--through several court actions, culminating in the Layne and Nassar Complaint--to give the court the challenge in a comprehensive and adequate way. We await the court's response to engage the issues in open court by the rules of law. We have been waiting for six months. The time is drawing to the point where we shall know whether legal justice is possible.

We would not have made this attempt if we did not want to believe that this country and its people can find the answer to a social-economic revolution through peaceful, legal means. In fact, and this is vitally important,

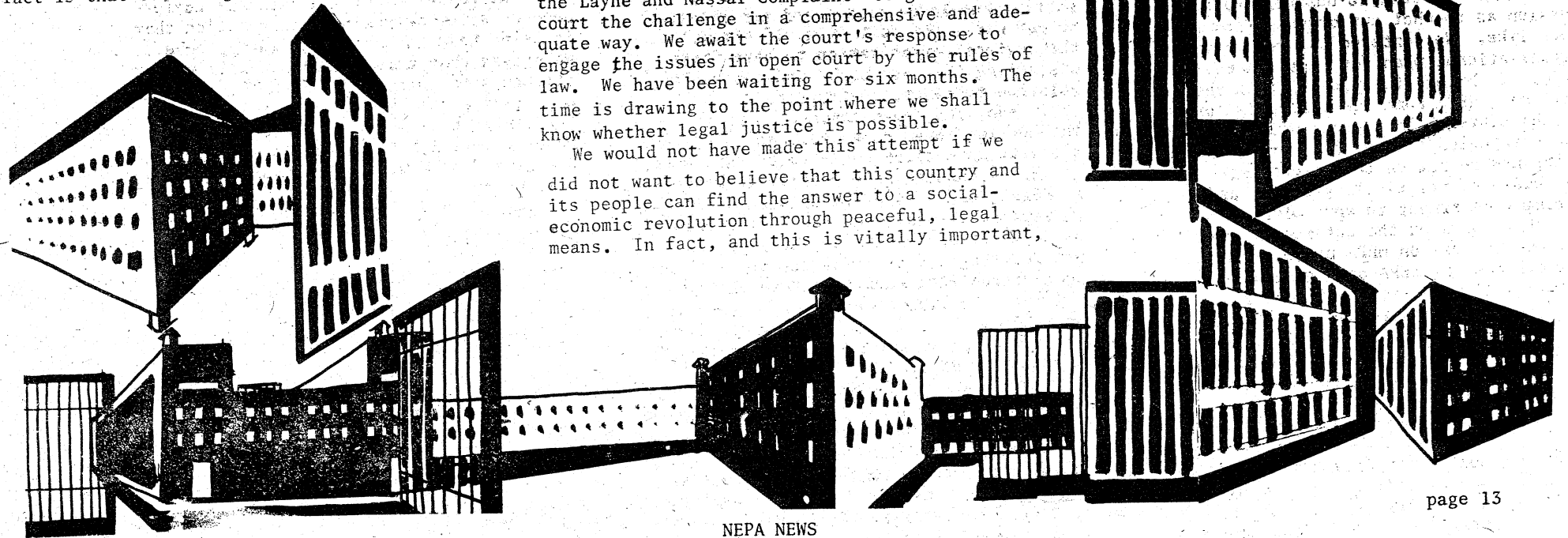
our principal task is to free the society from criminality, which especially includes armed struggle between people. And though we have found that to seek the legal answer we must suffer the suppression of the penal authorities and their allies on the street, those are the orders of our combat.

However, that struggle to find peace through peaceful means is also the overriding conviction that criminality must be overcome. Therefore, though we struggle with all our minds and hearts to find a legal, peaceful answer to illegal, violent means, we do not leave our guts behind. If there is no legal means, we shall make the means.

This attitude is in the tradition of all revolutions. It is within the traditions of humanism--revolution and humanism are synonymous.

Yet we know that the answer to creative change must be found that does not require violence. Therefore those of us who are required to engage in violent combat may hopefully be the sacrifice of the few to awaken the power in the many to peaceful revolution.

This general course of action is the best we can think of and has grown out of our experiences in a struggle at Walpole since Attica. Those law-enforcement officials who are really criminal and crush all legal redress of grievances will propagandize that we are already actively violent in revolution and are using a legal complaint without substance as a sham. To them we reply we don't need excuses to be frustrated enough to take up armed struggle against the wrongs in America. Rather we are pushing to the limit--to our human, fallible limit--the urge for peaceful creative change. If it comes to armed struggle it will therefore be our mutual failure to find a peaceful solution. But it will be our creativity against criminality and destruction that we gave ourselves for a world with more power to have peace.





women in the



EDITED BY SHELLEY COOPER NEILL

A decision was reached at the NEPA Conference in April on the following: to hold six meetings over the next six months to continue the discussions raised during the conference, decide policies, and plan strategies for NEPA.

The second meeting (see this issue, the article entitled NEPA Meetings) dealt with sexism. The discussion held at this meeting tended to be somewhat circular--no solutions, a lot of ideas. We decided to formulate an article that would cover those key points raised at the meeting. Several weeks later, while rereading Comrade George, by Eric Mann, I discovered the two sections reprinted below. The first deals with Women In The Movement, the second with Homosexuality and Lesbianism in prison.

We have circulated these two sections to outside NEPA members, who were unanimous in their decision to reprint it for this issue. We also have tentative plans to incorporate Comrade George into a regional study group--that will be discussed in depth in our next issue.

We have to end the oppression of women inside a movement claiming to fight for freedom.

--The overwhelming majority of prisoners are men. That's because some men have appropriated and others have been pushed into the more physical, aggressive roles, the roles of power and dominance. Men more often take out their aggressions on each other, against property, against women. When done by the rich this is called enterprise. When done by the oppressed it is called crime. This drives people to prisons. Women, who are forced to repress their anger more, and hide their feelings, turn it in on themselves and more often end up in mental hospitals than prisons. But as much as the government and the economy drive women in to house slavery and enforced distortions of their personalities, men, as a group, play the most active day-to-day role in maintaining that filthy system.

Most men prisoners are stone pigs when it comes to how they think and act towards women. To most women, men are a lot like their prison guards. This hurts women the most, but also hurts men. Instead of trying to understand who they are and why they're afraid, why they hate themselves, men take it out on other oppressed people, women. Men make speeches against the screws and the system while standing on the backs of women. This sets back the revolutionary struggle to the point of making it reactionary. We are fighting against a powerful enemy. No revolutionary movement can go forward when one half of the oppressed are oppressing the other half.

How can we stop this? To begin with, those brothers who know it is wrong, who have felt the courage of their mother holding the family together, taking on the landlord, and more often than not bearing the blows of the system and their husband, have to start standing up against the vicious slander of women by other male prisoners. When brothers inside start telling pimp and whore stories, or boasting about gang rapes, or talking about the women who come to visit as if they were pieces of meat, brothers must confront them directly, or should stop talking about power to the people. Brothers who talk about "bitches" and "cunts" and "broads", humiliate their women friends and mothers in the visiting room because they forgot to bring up some article or had the nerve to disagree with some great revolutionary observation the brother made, have to be struggled with, as if your own life depended on it.

Prison is a very frightening experience. If men stop pretending, and reach out to women, they can get help. *Women know a lot, having lived both under the system and under men; they are more oppressed than men, and will play a major role in shaping the upcoming struggle.* Some women feel that men are hopeless, a bunch of little napoleons with bruised egos, always needing someone to tell them how big and bad they are. Other women are willing to work with men, but only if they are really willing to change. They will work as full mem-

bers or not at all. They will develop strategy and carry it out and help to shape the development of the struggle, or organize separately and not submit themselves to further humiliations from men.

It is very difficult for men who are sexually separated by the prison to gain the full benefits of the growing tide of women's liberation. But by reading books on women's liberation, starting to listen more to women who come visit them, and talking more among themselves about how they've treated women and why they have done it, some positive, and urgently needed changes can be brought about.



Getting to really know ourselves.--

Prisoners constantly blame people on the streets for being fuck-ups, unserious, tourists and jive-ass phonies who claim to be interested in the prisoner's struggle, raise their hopes, and then let them down. A lot of this is sadly true. But many prisoners aren't facing *why* this situation exists. Since the late 1960's the prisons have been turning out a steady stream of brothers and sisters who were dedicated revolutionary fighters inside the walls, but who were unable to function effectively when they got out. Why is that? We understand the dynamic best among men prisoners, with whom we have more experience. The root of a lot of it is machismo, or macho, a whole way men act to cover up their feelings, to act tough and always on top of things, to believe that any sign of pain or confusion or weakness is something to be ashamed of. It means that most male prisoners can never really relax, never really be themselves, and never get to the root of who they are.

Prison is nothing less than pure murder, pure hell. In many ways prisoners have to be tough, have to build walls, barricades, shields to protect them from the endless blows. But we also have to learn who our enemies are and who our friends are. We should never open ourselves up to our enemies, but in order to survive we have to open ourselves up to our friends. There is just too much hard-core bullshit going on. If a guy looks depressed, instead of getting some support, he has to hear some insecure guy say, "Hey, what's the matter man, doing a rough bit?" And then he will probably move to cover up and say, "Uh, no, what makes you say that? I'm just thinking about something." But why shouldn't we do a rough bit? Prison is a fucking horror, and anyone who isn't doing a rough bit is a very sick person. Brothers and sisters, who are strong enough to show their pain should be supported, and learned from. Our inability to trust each other enough to

show the pain we all feel is part of the misery of prison, part of the way we let the system beat us.

Some of us talk all the time about revolution, but don't understand that a revolutionary can't talk all the time. We talk about the guards pushing prisoners around, but many of the brothers and sisters are stone bullies. We have to stand up against gansterism in our midst, we have to organize within our own revolution to prevent people from being intimidated, afraid to talk, afraid to question.

One of the worst aspects of our development is how prisoners relate--or don't relate--sexually. Many women prisoners have come a lot farther on this question than men--they are forced together, and find many positive aspects to it. Many sisters in women's prisons are lovers. They make love with each other if the chance exists, or at least feel close to each other as lovers even when there isn't any chance to do anything physically about it. Many women come to prison as lesbians. They were forced to prostitute by a pimp or a drug habit, and came to hate the endless procession of oppressive dicks raping them. They prefer to be with other women. Other women become gay once they're in prison, since the atmosphere there doesn't put it down as much as in the men's prisons and allows them to find their own real feelings. Other women aren't gay, but are more free to explore their own feelings and make their own decisions. There is still strong pressure against homosexuality, but not as severe as in the men's prisons.

Listen to the yard of a men's prison. Almost all the jokes are about men making it with men. "You're a fucking faggot." "Oh yeah, well you take it in the ass." "Yeah, well you suck cock and you know it." Hundreds of men thrown together by the system, sometimes for years and years at a stretch, and the worst insult they can throw at someone is that he might want to make love with another man?

Worse, look at the homosexuality the brothers *do* allow--the sickest kind, where one man brutalizes and exploits another. One man plays the part of "the man", the other, usually younger, smaller, less hairy, more boyish looking, plays the role of "the kid". The kid is the slave, the stereotype of how most sick men perceive women. The man, afraid he will be considered a "fag" if he acts like he really likes his "kid" comes on, "Yeah, I fuck him in the ass, he sucks me off, he does all kinds of shit for me, and I let him hang around". The "man" would never admit to having any feelings for "the kid". He would never admit to giving anything sexually, just taking. And "the kid", in order to justify himself, plays the role of the woman in Amerika, taking "the man" for all he's worth, getting food and drugs and presents from "the man" and threatening to leave for another "man" if his "man" doesn't provide enough goodies. And under all this sick play-acting, often the two men like each other, but are so frightened by the system the prisoners have set up, that they have to pretend they are using each other. Why do prisoners approve when one man boasts of abusing and exploiting another man, but get totally threatened when two men just say that they care about each other.

We neither urge nor oppose brothers and sisters relating sexually, we just support any kinds of friendships inside that are real, and building the people, and oppose any that are sick and exploitative. Some of the more threatened brothers and sisters should try to investigate why they are so upset about men making love with other men, women making love with other women. Many of the people in the revolution, women and men, will be gay, many others will feel and act on sexual feelings toward both sexes. We should be free to talk about these things more, and remember that the straightest, most up-tight sexual people in the country, the ones who make the most faggot jokes, are the ones who locked you up where you are. We have been brain-washed about everything else, so check this out more before you jump to any final decisions.

struggle for liberation

Native American Woman Jailed For Killing Rapist

LNS

SPOKANE, WASH.--Yvonne Wanrow, a Colville Indian (Lake Band) is appealing the 25-year prison sentence she received for killing a man who attempted to molest her young son and earlier raped her babysitter's 7-year old daughter.

She was convicted by an all-white jury at a time when her supporters point out the national press had been obsessed with the occupation of Wounded Knee for several months, condemning all Indian people for violence.

Wanrow is a 31-year old divorced mother of three children living in Spokane. She is an artist and writer and since her arrest in 1972 has done work in the local Indian alcoholism center, helped to establish a spiritual center for Indians outside Spokane, and taken in Indian children who are unable to stay with their families.



LNS

Yvonne Wanrow is an Indian woman living in a white community. Although her family was able to raise bond, \$5,000 reduced from \$10,000, there was no money for an attorney, and Yvonne was assigned a public defender. In October, 1972, the public defender's office filed a formal plea of guilty, despite Yvonne's protest. A month later the family was finally able to raise enough money to retain a private attorney.

The attorney they were able to find, however, was a civil attorney. Her plea was changed to "not guilty", and on May 7, 1973, Yvonne Wanrow's trial began.

On August 9, 1973, Wanrow was sentenced to two 25-year prison terms, to run concurrently, and one mandatory five-year sentence for use of a deadly weapon. Her case is now before the Washing State Appellate Court and the defense has asked that she be given a new trial. The decision is pending and should be announced in June. If the Appellate Court rules against a new trial, the defense intends to appeal to the Washington State Supreme Court. Wanrow is currently out on bond pending the appeal.

Yvonne Wanrow's defense committee needs donations in order to have any chance of making a successful appeal. Contributions can be sent to: Yvonne's Wanrow's Legal Defense Fund, Seattle First National Bank, Spokane Branch, Account #82172-115, Spokane, Washington 99207.

Petitions can be obtained from Yvonne's Indian Legal Defense Committee, 2517 W. Broadway, Spokane, Washington 99201. Letters demanding that the charges be dropped should be addressed to Governor Daniel J. Evans, State Capitol Building, Olympia, Washington 98501, with copies sent to Yvonne's Indian Legal Defense Committee.

Forgotten Women

On June 25, 1975, NEPA NEWS received the following letter from ACTION FOR FORGOTTEN WOMEN. We urge prisoners to support the call put out by this committee: SIGN THE PETITION reprinted below. Circulate the petition inside your cell block, or within the institution as a whole, and send it out today. These women need your support.

Dear Sisters and Brothers

The recent events at the North Carolina Correctional Center for Women require us to reflect on an essential principle of which we all humanistically oriented organizations and citizens must be aware. That is, to allow repression of unnecessary proportions to be inflicted on any segment of society is to set the stage for fascist behavior waged against the masses of the people for the benefit of the few.

On June 15, 1975, the women of the North Carolina Correctional Center for Women joined together in a peaceful demonstration to call attention to the following conditions:

1. lack of adequate medical care.
2. Poor health and safety conditions in the laundry.
3. Improvements in the system of inmate evaluations--the diagnostic center.
4. Lack of properly trained counselors.
5. To assure a permanent warden's position for acting Warden Mr. Morris Kea, without a cut in salary.

To this peaceful action, the officials responded with violence, guards armed with billy clubs, riot helmets and tear gas. Outside hospitalization of at least 10 inmates, who were refused treatment at the prison hospital was the result of inflicted beatings. Contrary to most press reports, it was the guards who began the attack and it was only after several women lay unable to move from injuries that inmates actually attempted to defend themselves.

In negotiations later on that morning the administration promised a written answer on June 19, 1975. The inmates, although continuing their boycott of jobs, returned to their cells at the regularly scheduled lock-up time. In an attempt to expedite control the prison administration on June 18, 1975, made some promises which barely addressed the gravity of the issues. The inmates rejected this and returned to their cells at lock-up time to await the promised Thursday A.M. decision. Thursday June 19, 1975, was spent in a fruitless effort by both inmate representatives and representatives of Action for Forgotten Women, a community-based group called in by the inmates to monitor the situation to simply determine the terms of

negotiations. The equivocating posture of the representatives of the Department of Corrections made obtaining results a virtual impossibility. The inmate representatives, after it became clear that no results were forthcoming, asked that the AFW members be allowed on the grounds to speak with the other inmates to encourage an end to the demonstration as they knew continued action would result in violence. Their request was refused and members of AFW were asked to leave the premises. As this happened the awaiting guards placed on their helmets and left for the grounds of the prison. The community supporters of the inmates were surrounded on the outside of the gates, as chaos reigned on the inside and stretchers containing injured women, numbering at least eighteen, were taken from the grounds to the prison hospital.

Subsequent to this, the punitive transfer of some sixty women was made to undisclosed locations. There is no way of determining whether or not adequate medical care has been afforded the injured women. Some eighty odd women have been reclassified. All women involved face the possibility of additional criminal charges. In addition, nothing has been done to bring to justice those people, guards and officials, who were responsible for the unnecessary brutality.

The peaceful demonstration held by the women of the North Carolina Correctional Center for Women with the sole purpose of creating constructive change within the prison system was responded to by both our elected and appointed officials, with a show of force far outweighing necessity. Implicit in the techniques used against the women was a definite emphasis on control, security and custody and a deemphasis of rehabilitative practices. The issues addressed by the inmates represent basic human rights and principles, which are without a doubt beneficial both to the inmate and the larger society. In addition, the convergence on unarmed and defenseless women by armed male guards forces the ugly issue of police brutality to raise its head.

It is incumbent upon those of us who wish to foster and maintain humanistic attitudes, in our society to use what power we have to obtain the changes sought by the women in the North Carolina Correctional Center for Women. In addition we need to assure the women and ourselves that no reprisals will be taken and that those people, officials and guards, responsible for the brutality, are criminally prosecuted.

Action for Forgotten Women is asking that everyone sign circulating petitions and write support letters.

ACTION FOR FORGOTTEN WOMEN
C/O BROOK E. WHITING
1601 SEDGFIELD ST. APT E
DURHAM, N.C. 27707

WE THE UNDERSIGNED, REQUEST THAT THE INMATES' GRIEVANCES BE MET. THE GRIEVANCES, BASICALLY, ARE:

1. BETTER MEDICAL TREATMENT;
2. ABOLISH THE LAUNDRY;
3. IMPROVE THE SYSTEM OF INMATE EVALUATION;
4. MORE COUNSELORS;
5. PERMANENT POSITION FOR ACTING WARDEN MORRIS KEA.

THAT A REVIEW BE MADE OF ALL OTHER INMATE GRIEVANCES.
THAT ALL INMATES TRANSFERRED BE RETURNED WITHOUT FURTHER REPRISALS.
THAT A COMPLETE INVESTIGATION BE MADE OF THE BRUTAL BEATING OF DEFENSELESS WOMEN INMATES AT WOMEN'S CORRECTIONAL CENTER ON MONDAY JUNE 16, AND THURSDAY JUNE 19, 1975 AND THAT OFFICIALS AND GUARDS RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS BE EXPOSED TO THE ENTIRE COMMUNITY AND PROSECUTED.

NAME

ADDRESS

Revolutionary Fable

Once upon a time there was this little black dude. Actually he wasn't really all that black. He appeared to be more or less bathed in soft browntones; like a Hershey Bar. He was cool. He was mellow. He was wise and he hated oppression like God hates sin on a Sunday morning. In fact, that was why they murdered him. His name was George Jackson.

They say that even as a baby boy he was a real down dude and was always getting into some shit. In fact, just before they shot him in the back in San Quentin Prison, he was running down this little rap about himself to some of the brothers. He said:

I remember every detail of my pre-school days. Superman was several years old by then. I didn't really confuse myself with him but I did develop a deep suspicion that I might be Supernigger (twenty eight years ahead of my time). I tied a table cloth around my neck, climbed the roof's fence, and against my sister's tears would have leaped to my death, down among the garbage cans, had she not grabbed me, tablecloth and all, and kicked my little ass.

Well one day, George was sitting in his little village in Africa listening to the story teller run down the story of "THE SIGNIFYING MONKEY" when all of a sudden this great big green-eyed monster vamped down on George's village and started kicking them black cats' asses. Man that monster shot some of them niggers in their heads, knocked them down, stomped on them, beat them with whips, choked them and cussed them for being black. Even called them a bunch of dirty stinking, nappy-headed niggers. This greedy green-eyed monster's name was Amurderica.

After this murderous monster did all that to George's people he put chains around the ones that weren't dead or too broke up to move and dragged them down to the sea and threw them into boats. As soon as this monster got George's people back to its home base in a stolen land across the sea, it beat them some more and made them work in the hot sun all day long picking cotton and planting corn and potatoes. The monster hung those that rebelled from the highest limbs of the tallest pine trees. The monster castrated some and burned others. That motherfucker even raped some of them little niggers' mamas. And even after the mamas had that monster's babies the monster would beat the babies and put them out there in the cotton fields too--as soon as they were old enough to walk a straight row. Yes, this monster Amurderica is a motherfucker. It even read the Bible to them. Told them about some peace-loving dude called Jesus.

George, who by that time was scuffling to survive a ghetto located in a cold, cold city called Chicago, was checking out all this inhuman, sick shit Amurderica was doing to his people and he didn't dig it too much. In fact it made him feel pretty bad all the time. He wrote a sister once from prison:

Try to remember how you felt at the most depressing moment of your life, the moment of your deepest dejection. You have no doubt had many. That is how I feel all the time, no matter what the level of my consciousness may be, asleep, awake, in between.

Yeah. It made him feel so bad it scared the shit out of the rest of the so-called revolutionary niggers--and especially those white liberals. Everybody thought the nigger had gone crazy. That dude went to talking so much revolutionary shit to Amurderica that even the communists got scared. That nigger was talking some sure enough revolution. He said:

This monster, the monster they've engendered in me, will return to torment its maker from the grave, the pit, the profoundest pit. Hurl me into the next existence, the descent into hell won't turn me. I'll crawl back to dog his trail forever. They won't defeat my revenge, never, never. I'm part of a righteous people who anger slowly but rage undammed. We'll gather at his door in such a number that the rumbling of our feet will make the earth tremble. I'm going to charge them for this; twenty-eight years without gratification. I'm going to charge them reparations in blood. I'm going to charge them like a maddened, wounded rogue male elephant, ears flared, trunk raised, trumpet blaring. I'll do my dance on his chest, and the only thing he'll

ever see in my eyes is a dagger to pierce his cruel heart. This is one nigger who is positively displeased. I'll never forget, and if I'm guilty of anything at all it's for not leaning on them hard enough. War without terms.

He talked real crazy-like in a book he wrote called BLOOD IN MY EYE.

The bomb in all its various forms, mortar, sachel charge, bangalore, hand grenade; the anti-tank rocket launcher, the sniper's rifle, the light machine gun, the silenced pistol, the flamethrower, the poison dart, the poison bullet, the crossbow, the knife, the fist--all form the guerrilla arsenal... Right now we can be placing our soldiers inside the various police and military and prison staffs. Our more gifted and better educated comrades could end up in the intelligence units of the army and police... We will make use of all forms of disguise: mailman, policeman, telephone repairman, priest, nun, national guardsman. This principle will soon have them shooting each other or turning the innocent against them... The result--perfect disorder!

He went on to say, later:

I am an extremist. I call for extreme measures to destroy extreme problems. To me, life without control of the determining factors is not worth the effort of drawing breath. International capitalism cannot be destroyed without the extremes of struggle... We have a momentous historical role to act out if we will. The whole world for all time in the future will love us and remember us as the righteous people who made it possible for the world to live on. If we fail, through fear and lack of aggressive imagination, then the slaves of the future will curse us, as we sometimes curse those of yesterday.

Of course the monster locked George up. Put him in prison for the rest of his life. Said he stole \$70 from a dude in a gas station.

That didn't stop George though. He was too turned onto revolution to turn off now. In fact, he really tightened down on his revolutionary shit after Amurderica put him in prison. He became a revolutionary teacher. He turned on some of the brothers in the joint where he was and brothers and sisters in other joints like Attica, Walpole, San Quentin, et. al. He even turned on folks in the street. Yeah, that dude really had his shit together. He even turned on his baby brother, Jonathan. And he really loved his baby brother just like he loved himself and all his people, who are colonized and dying here in the belly of this monstrous murdering monster. Of his baby brother, Jonathan, who by then had died with valor while taking care of some righteous revolutionary business outside the Marin County Courthouse:



I wish very much I could have been around him when he was growing up. He had a hard time identifying himself. Well, he had to work out his problems on his own. That he turned out to be a beautiful black manchild is testimony to his own dogged strength. I love him more dearly than I love myself.

And man, that's saying something. Especially since he loved himself so much that he would not become a slave under any circumstances--which is more than most folks even imagine, let alone do.

If the truth be told, LOVE was the primal energy that made George become the beautiful black revolutionary brother that he was. He loved himself and ALL his people so much that absolutely refused to let himself and his people (indeed, any people!) to remain enslaved by Amurderica. He simply wasn't slave material like most people are. Even when the monster had him bound and gagged, stripped naked and chained in a damn, deep, damp, dark dungeon in



a place called Soledad Prison located somewhere in a colony ruled by a sick dude named Reagan, George steadfastly refused to submit to slavery and exploitation.

One night just after a pack of those funny-looking little pigs that ran the prison had finished beating George unmercifully, one sly little piglet (probably one of those white-washed ex-Africans), pretending to be concerned for George's life, slinked up alongside the peephole in the dungeon and said, "Hey man. Why don't you cool it? You know, keep your mouth shut; mind your own business, and do like the white folks say. You can get out of this place before too long if you play the game like that. Man, you got to survive."

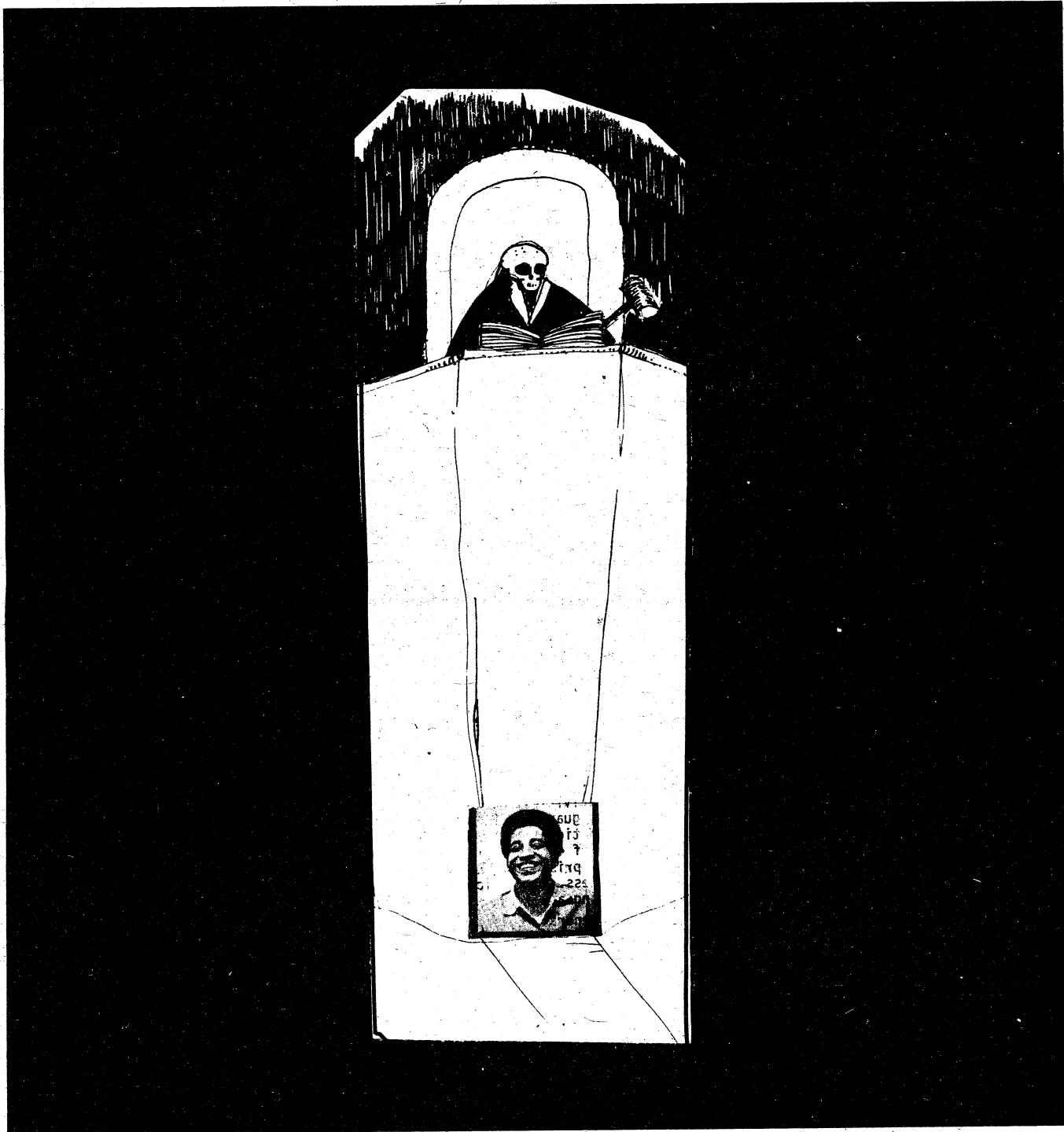
George looked at the fool and as though speaking to a child said:

"Although I would very much like to get out of here in order to develop a few ideas that have occurred to me--although I would not like to leave my bones here on the hill--if it is a choice between that and surrendering the things that make me a man, the things that allow me to hold my head erect and unbowed, the hill can have my bones. Many times in the history of our past--I speak of the African here in the U.S.--many times we were presented with this choice, too many times. Too many of us chose to live the crippling existence of the near man, the half man. Well, I don't care how long I live. Over this I have no control, but I do care about what kind of live I live, and I can control this. I may not live but another five minutes, but it will be five minutes definitely on my terms.

Yes, George was quite a revolutionary dude. There ain't no way in hell Amurderica was going to let a dude like that continue to live. Shit, a dude as heavy and together as that might fuck around and wake up all the slaves--even the liberal white ones and the stupid redneck ones--not to mention the bourgeois ones who can finance the revolution and also have the technological skills and are in strategic enough positions to really kill the monster. Amurderica had to kill George.

These funny little pigs in San Quentin Prison (another concentration camp in Reagan's colony) shot him in the back, then stood over him as he lay on the floor of the prison yard, his life's blood staining the brown earth a scarlet red, and blew his brains out at point blank range. Probably thought they were killing his ideas by shooting him in the head so ruthlessly. Anyone but a murderous pig would know that George Jackson's ideas of freedom were not in his head but deep in the hearts, the souls and the spirits of all those, who because of George's really righteous revolutionary reactions, now realize that they too are nothing but prisoners incarcerated inside the greasy gut of this greedy, grasping, grit grinding, green-eyed monster motherfucker called Amurderica. And they don't like it. They are rapidly becoming extremely angry over the matter. In fact, just the other day one dude--who is really a righteous revolutionary dude--said: "Before I would remain a slave, I'd wade in blood up to my arm pits--MONSTER BLOOD!"

Of course all this is only a fable--a revolutionary fable. But then too, the foolish notion that this monster, Amurderica can continue to enslave the world's people with perfect impunity, is also a fable. But what isn't a fable is that George Jackson was killed by that murderous monster Amurderica. And his spirit shall rise again and again and again until both these fables will collide like a hydrogen bomb over Hiroshima.



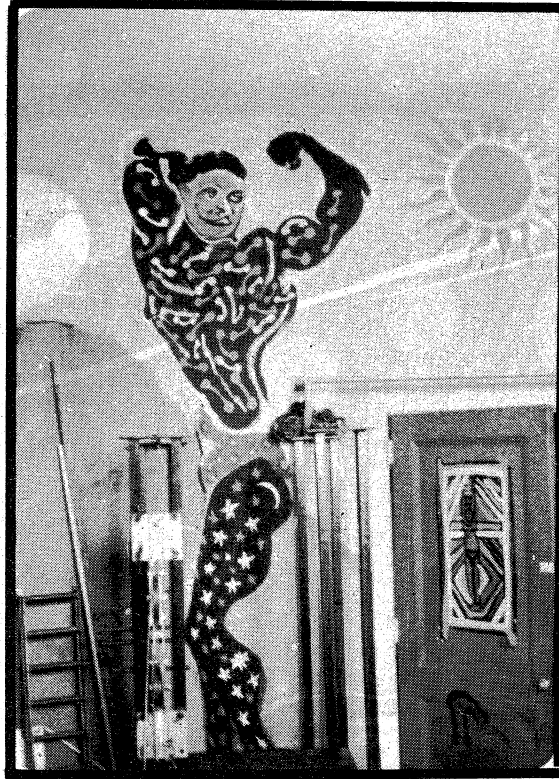
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Prison Art:

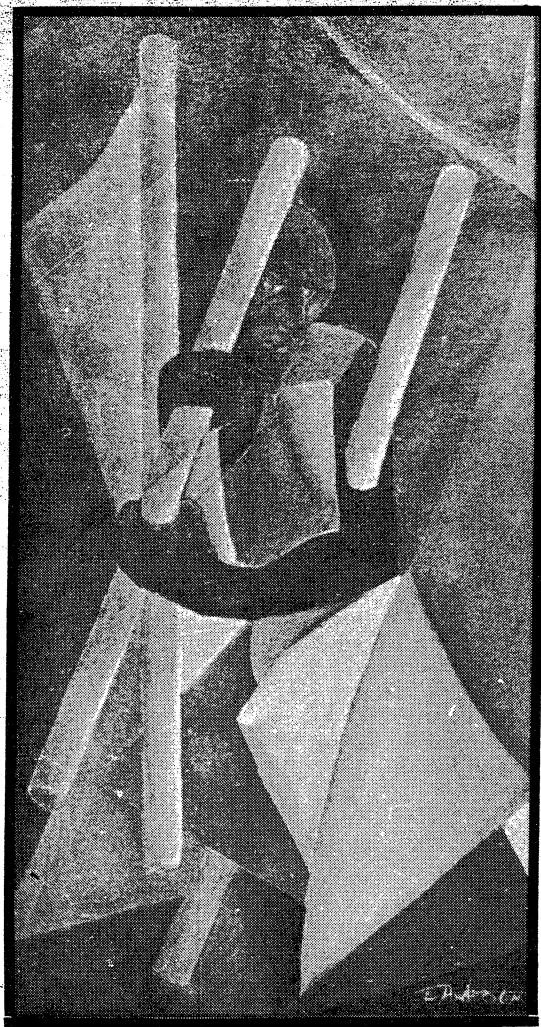
Art as a Weapon in Prisons

by Shelly Killen

Pictures Talk and are cheaper and are safer weapons than bullets. Saying it the way it is good for the victim, who rallies support from those who were afraid to speak up, and it gives the oppressor respect for a shrewd and cunning opponent who can let them know out there the way it is in the house of horrors, politely called Corrections. If we don't use words and images in our fight for justice, we give the opponent the upper hand. He is constantly advertising his goodness, his fairness, his "justice"--let's give him a fair fight and not kill ourselves with his rotten bullets--He's got more guns--We've got the arts on our side and the truth will out if we keep fighting for it with all our hearts and all our minds and all our powers of persuasion. Surprised at the NEPA conference to find the good folks not prepared to use all the resources of the life-speaking community. We can't afford to fight among ourselves or we give Big Daddy an edge, he hardly needs and certainly doesn't deserve the kind of Press and Publicity he is getting. This is the time for Guerilla art, not a suicide squad that lets him mow us down and throw us in his filthy dungeons. Here's a picture of the way Big Daddy killed the pictures and the truth in the Boys School. We'll be back, but in the meantime he won, so let's get some support going for spreading the word of what he is up to out there and how we are going to counter those guns and law and order jokers with our own counter society built on justice and the right to life for the poor as well as the rich. Write Now--Against the Death Penalty--Why Robert Cline and Not Lt. Calley--Why 24 men in North Carolina and not the men who murdered at My-Lai?



Art from Inside Show



by F. Anderson



Willie Hamilton - Greenhaven Prison

Speak Out!

Night Eyes

by Shelly Killen

"My sculpture is used primarily to project myself and to communicate to those beyond my restricted area. It is not meant to illustrate the 'reforming' influence of art as there is a lot more to the work and me than just that, in particular my feelings about society within and without prison. My motivation for working usually stems from hatred and anger simply because the same social injustices that I have experienced in my lifetime are being perpetuated. Each piece, each statement pertains to society yet retains that personal introspective aspect in so far as I am society, society is me. Through my experiences I have reached the core of the problem and it is something of this that I try to express for myself, and communicate to you, in my work."--Jimmy Boyle

When a captive rebels against his captors the situation presented is of one man pitted against many, beneath an indifferent sky far from the exalted realms of principles and noble ideals. The act of rebellion in the arid chambers of a law court or in the dark hole of a prison is an emblem of man's intrinsic dignity and innate craving for justice at the price of his life and liberty. Those multitudes of men and women who have been exiled from society or sentenced to death because they chose to suffer on their feet rather than live on their knees find a clarion voice among prison newspapers, the underground press, and artists and writers who have shared their condition. Jimmy Boyle, serving life imprisonment in Glasgow, bears witness in his art to the tensile beauty and strength that lies within all of us when we yearn for fullness and resist all tyrannies masked by the rubrics "law and order."

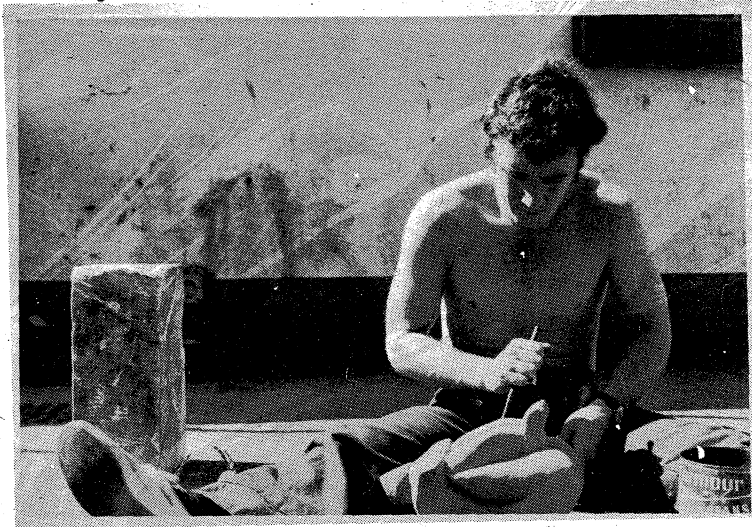
Jimmy Boyle's work, entitled NIGHT EYES, speaks for all the men and women who cannot see the sky or sea or walk in their cities, but instead must create landscapes, seascapes, and manscapes within themselves in small confined corners of the world--rooted in struggle and a yearning for life. In the abyss of self, poets and writers are emerging from the prisons to forge a new culture based on truthful, equal relations between all peoples. It is no accident that the meaningful art of our times is rising from prisons, for art must be rooted in a passionate love that comes from the depth of self, fertilized in the soil of people who have been trodden upon for centuries and have now emerged to shape a freer world.

NIGHT EYES was carved from the stone of a Gorbals tenement in Glasgow--the stone from the wretched architecture is of the poor now rejuvenated in a figure that waits and waits and knows that the time is ripe for a new era--a world without prisons.

The Special Unit at Barlinnie is an experimental division of the Scottish Penal system that would be essentially democratic in structure were it not for the Scottish Home and Health Offices Prison Division.

The magazine of the Special Unit, The Key, invited readers of NEPA NEWS to send in articles, poems, stories, pictures for the next issue.

Write to: Jimmy Boyle
Special Unit
Barlinnie
Glasgow, Scotland

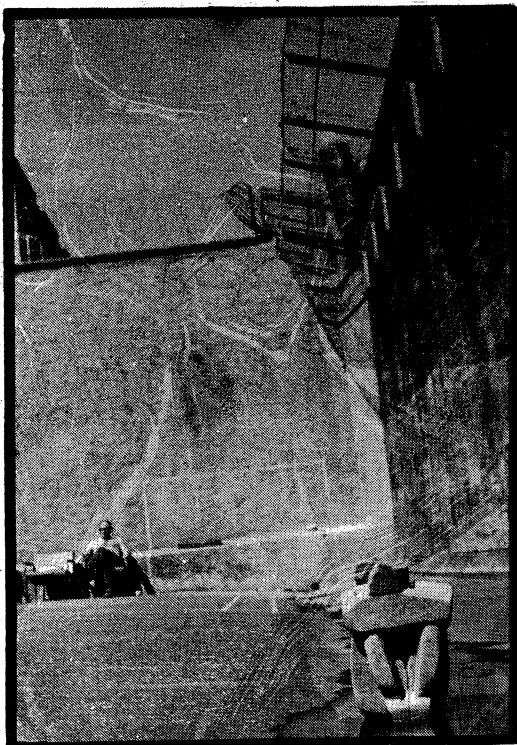
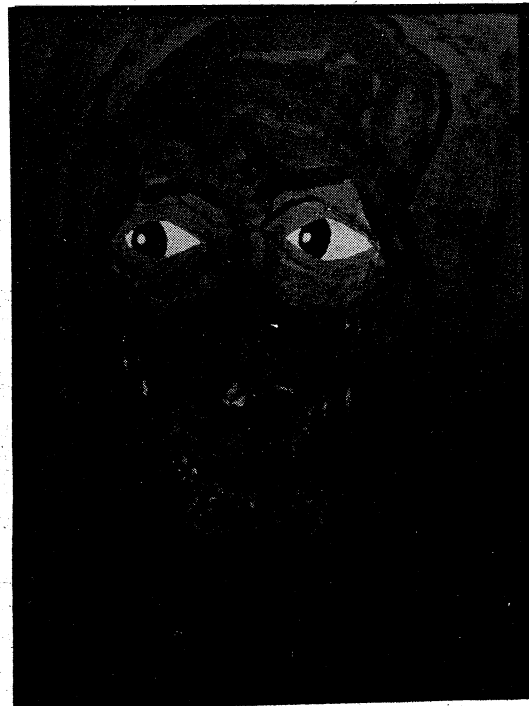


Jimmy Boyle - Sculptor
Barlinnie, Glasgow



by Jimmy Boyle

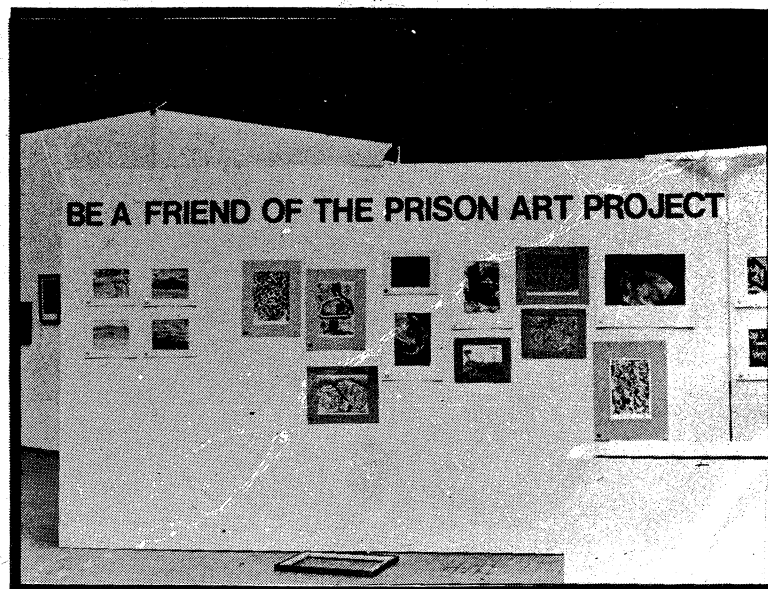
Special Unit, Barlinnie, Glasgow



NIGHT EYES

Courtyard of Special Unit

Barlinnie, Glasgow



Summing Up Lessons of Yancey Defense

by Members of the John Yancey Defense Committee (JYDC)

In December 1973, John Yancey was attacked by eight guards at the NH State Prison. The guards had come to take him to the hole. Yancey had demanded to know why. Rather than give an explanation, the good squad, headed by Captain D. LaValley, maced Yancey in his cell, brought him out and beat him. Yancey defended himself and in the fight two of the guards were cut, one of them LaValley.

Naturally, the state stood things on their head and it is Yancey, not the guards, being brought to trial. He faces 20 more years behind bars for aggravated assault. He was due to get out this May, having served every day of his sentence for breaking and entering.

Following the attack, Yancey's fellow prisoners sent word to his home town of Portsmouth, NH. Members of the Revolutionary Union joined with others to form the JYDC, whose purpose was to build the necessary support to free him. Not only was this a fight for John Yancey, but we (along with John and other prisoners) saw it as a fight for all prisoners against repression and racial discrimination and harassment in the prison.

In building support we intended to expose what's going on in the prisons and talk more broadly about how the working class and its allies must fight back (from the inside and the outside) against the prison system.

We have had two demonstrations, written articles and pamphlets, held two film showings, a benefit dance, handed out thousands of leaflets, and collected hundreds of signatures on a petition (mostly by going door to door in Portsmouth). Overall, the work has been successful but there have been many twists and turns along the way. We would like to sum up some of the key lessons we have learned in the struggle to free John Yancey.

Bad Lines

The committee started off on a bad foot by putting out what we now call the "trip, stumble and fall" line. In this we said that John Yancey was innocently "sitting in his cell cutting pictures from a magazine with a razor blade"... After he was maced in his cell and dragged out, we said that in the scuffle "one guard was accidentally cut with the razor blade..." At another point we insisted he was trying to throw the razor blade away and it (miraculously) cut the guards.

As you can imagine, most people we talked to thought we were a little nutso. Many told us that it sounded like a question of self-defense and they would defend themselves in a situation like that. Others who knew John Yancey said that they knew he would fight back. For a while we held to the "trip, stumble and fall" line because we thought it would be his best chance in court.

This line stood opposed to the slogan we had been using from the beginning: "When You're Right You Fight!", which people liked. We eventually corrected our line, to say that Yancey defended himself, and had the right to. We also realized that self-defense must be his legal defense also.

This brought about some major struggles in the Defense Committee last fall, especially over how we were going to deal with the "legal" system. Some people said in essence "we rely on the lawyer" and that the committee shouldn't do anything that would "hurt John's chances". They said if we found a lawyer who wanted us to disband, then we should disband.

Other people said that building public support was crucial to getting John off. We agreed that a good lawyer was of utmost importance but that it would be leaving him to the wolves to drop our work among the masses of people. No "deals" or slick talking was going to win it. The state has too much at stake. A victory for John would mean that all prisoners have the right to fight back against the prison system. Yancey himself united with this decision.

The holders of the last line also wanted to build the support in a moralistic way (feel sorry for Yancey). This says that people on the outside are not going to take up the fight because after all, they really don't care about prisoners and what goes on inside the walls as long as the authorities don't go "too far"; and in John's case they went "too far".



150 people came to a fund raising dance for John Yancey in May 1975.

Our practice has proven just the opposite. We have been going door to door petitioning, and the overwhelming majority of people we have talked to support John Yancey's right to defend himself. People are disgusted with the prison system, and realize that it only serves the rich. While it's working class people who are the ones that go to prison. The working class hates crime but we also know that the prison system doesn't get to the roots of why there is crime and doesn't rehabilitate anyone.

In the JYDC, we are united that we must build militant action around the trial: pickets, more demonstrations, packing the courtroom and more. The lawyer must fight the case on the basis of self-defense and not John's word against the eight guards'. The case will be hard to win and it will be the people who are really decisive. The mass support for John's right to defend himself--that will be decisive.

The argument (that was defeated) that said we should rely on the lawyer and hope for mercy from the court comes down to saying that we should rely on the repressive state apparatus that put John Yancey in the situation he's in in the first place.

Another incorrect line that we put out was our explanation of the demand of the JYDC: "Open The Prison To Citizen Observers!" Originally this demand came off the lock-up of about two years ago at NHSP. We wanted access to the prison.

In the course of building support many people asked us what we meant: "Do you mean a 'blue ribbon panel' of observers like lawyers, politicians, and social workers?" People thought we meant well but the working class knows that 'blue ribbon panels' or 'civilian review boards' are bogus and never accomplish anything.

We learned that we have to be clear who we rely on to get reforms. What people supported was the prisoners' right to uncensored mail, no lock-ups, unlimited visits and other rights that would mean close contact between prisoners and the masses of people on the outside.

A second error we made around this demand was that we slid into implying and/or explaining that if we have access to the prison then all the nasty things that go on inside will cease. What we are learning is that while the fight for reforms is necessary to wring every concession we can from the ruling class, to imply that reforms will solve the basic problem (capitalism) is to lead people into a swamp.

National Question

Our biggest struggle has been to develop a correct understanding of the national question in this case. At first we emphasized that the attack on John was racist in nature.

There was also a line in the JYDC that "white people are too racist to support a Black man and we should play down the fact that John is Black". There was a lot of struggle over this. A pamphlet we put out barely deals with the question at all.

We also flipped into treating the attack as solely a class question and tried to make John Yancey into a hero. We implied he was a leader of the struggles of all the prison-

ers against the prison system, not to mention the struggle against the war, Nixon, etc.

Again it was the people in the community who said, "John's no hero, but he's always stood up against racial discrimination and harassment. I can't see him doing all you say."

After some serious self-criticism and summing up (which is still going on) we realized that in fact the essence of the attack was racist and that John's history of being a fighter has been against national oppression mainly and he has begun to see these struggles as part of the overall class struggle against the prison system.

It's not a case of EITHER we treat it as a racist attack (apart from the question of class) and win the Black community to the fight OR we treat it as a class question (apart from the question of national oppression) and win the white community to the fight. What we do is work at it from "two sides". This means mobilizing the masses of Black people (who continually fight national oppression) on the one side and mobilize the working class AS A WHOLE to take up this fight on the other. We must bring forward the common interests of the whole working class in fighting exploitation and all oppression. In this way we can merge the struggle of the whole working class (including Black workers) with the struggle of all Black people as a revolutionary alliance.

This is coming true in practice. Rather than asking white workers to sign a "pledge card" saying "I'm not a racist", we have begun talking about the racial discrimination and harassment as something we all must fight as part of the struggle against the prison system. Blacks and Whites are becoming more active in the struggle to free John Yancey.

Mass Line

The main point that we want to make in this article is the question of mass line. We are learning that we don't put our own (subjective) wishes in place of reality. We have to deal with people where they're at and the only way to know this is by going out to them, talking with them, and finding out. We have had two demonstrations, two movies, one dance, passed out thousands of leaflets, written articles and, most importantly,



CONTINUED NEXT PAGE

Sanctioned Homicide

Robert Cline has been sentenced to death in the state of Rhode Island, the only such person in the state. We totally oppose the use of the death penalty and call for its abolition in every state. The Supreme Court will hear an appeal on the death penalty in its fall term, the case of Jesse Fowler of North Carolina.--ed.

by Shelley Killen

There is no crime equal to the state's calculated, ritual murder of one held guilty of a crime of violence. Individuals in states of fear and unreason commit acts that they would not permit themselves if they were able to calmly reflect on the consequences of their deeds. The death penalty is more pernicious than an individual crime, in that it is enacted by people who have time to think and consider the outcome of their judgement to take another man's life.

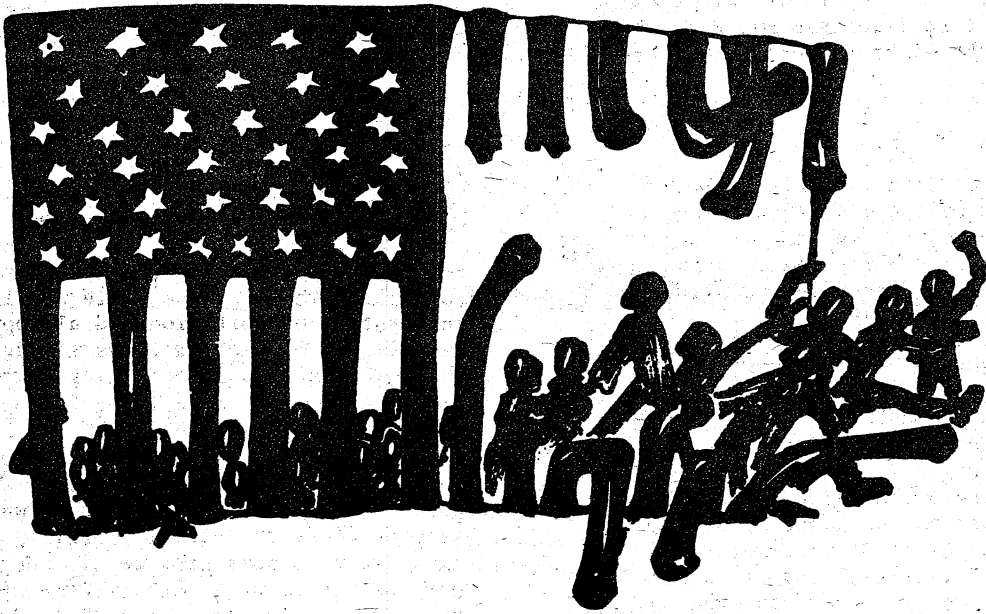
Robert Cline is considered guilty of killing a man he believed was going to kill him. There are few among us who do not act to preserve our own lives, and it is the rare man who is able to lay down his life for his brother and place more value on another's being than his own. We usually assassinate saintly men of this kind and then built monuments to honor them, thereby forgetting the meaning of their lives. If a policeman or a wealthy white man kills another in what he believes is self defense, he is not given the death penalty. Poor men, poor women, and black men and black women are scapegoated for the crime of being poor or black. The state's murder of Robert Cline will not bring back the life of the man that he killed, but it will sow the seeds for further violence

that will not be contained by strict laws and prisons. Were we to spend our energies making our society humane and providing decent schools, homes, art centers, play-grounds, and meaningful work for ourselves there would be less crime. People who enjoy their lives and feel they are accepted and have a meaningful position in the community are less likely to kill, rob, and rape than those who have been denigrated and excluded from society.

When the German people passively accepted Hitler's law and order they were sanctioning concentration camps, gas chambers, and genocide for those who were not pure Aryans and worshippers of Adolph Hitler and the Nazi Party. Unless the death penalty is repealed in the United States, then we have accepted a law and order that is used as a weapon against the poor, the minority group, the outsider, and anyone that society chooses to scapegoat for their own fears. Human beings do not become fearful and enraged enough to kill unless they have themselves suffered at another's hand or been deeply alienated from any identification with their fellow creatures. Callousness, indifference, mercantile values, and humiliations kill as much as bullets and knives in the hand of a desperate person. It is easy to execute men and women in gas chambers, but it takes patience and maturity to intelligently build a sane society. We are the system. Each day we choose to make this system work for life or for death. If we continue to avoid the responsibility of actively shaping our own world, then society will become less and less habitable and gas chambers may become preferable to living in terror of each other.



THE HANGED MAN
by George Knowlton



Unity: A Supplement

by Roger Boberg

This is a supplement to my article, "Unity, Unity" (June/July NEPA NEWS). It was an article which I'd hoped would produce discussion and unity among the prisoners at NHSP. People have misunderstood the piece, mainly because I failed to explain my reasoning regarding the PRC. Although the damage has been done, I shall at least attempt to salvage something so that this whole issue will not be ignored for all the smoke elsewhere.

What is the PRC, exactly? It is a group of men, chosen via elections by the entire prison population to air grievances to the warden. Since the Attica uprising, the prisoners here have tended to view the PRC as a group who could present demands, in actuality its design, a design set up by the Warden Vitek and company, is purely for device and negotiation. That means it has little right to present demands of any kind, no matter how important.

It is true, though, and I have neglected to state so fully, that the PRC has presented demands anyway, but has had some demands ignored or discounted by the Warden. Several members of the PRC have worked extremely hard and won many victories for the prisoners in spite of its rather restrained official capacity. What I was saying in my article was that it is not enough any more to continue under the old restrictions. There is a need to be able to meet with the Warden as equals

to negotiate differences as a union would negotiate with industry bosses. For this, the PRC would have to take on the aspects of a group which could call on the backing of its members and outside supporters. It would no longer have to accept negative answers to basic demands for existence.

As for the actual sentence which touched off this controversy, "It doesn't usually present demands for needed programs and treatment, backed by the entire population; rather, it asks favors", what I meant here was that essentially, once a demand has been backed down from, it is no longer a demand, but simply the asking of a favor. It takes a hard line with unyielding backing for a demand to remain a demand, otherwise it becomes only a harmless polemic.

Prisoners no longer want crumbs thrown to them; they want and should demand to be treated as human beings, not some kind of semi-automatic machine for the prison staff and their bosses to exploit. We prisoners should consolidate and quit hassling each other. That is only falling into the trap set for us to keep us enslaved. If we need to hassle, hassle the staff. Fight back and don't accept the proffered status they would put on us. We don't need their molds, for with unity, we can make our own. An individual can be bowled over and fucked with. Not so, the unified body of many people.

Yancey

knocked on hundreds of doors and gotten people to sign our petition.

In the course of our work we sum up the needs and aspirations of the people, struggle with them, weed out the incorrect ideas, and concentrate what is good into a fighting program that points the way forward.

The fighting program includes concrete demands to fight for and how to wage the fight, to free John Yancey. Our program is: build demonstrations, pickets, pack the courtrooms, petition, etc., to force the state to: Drop The Charges Against John Yancey!; Indict Captain LaValley!; End Discrimination At The Prison!; Open The Prison To Observers!. Our main slogans are "When You're Right You Fight!" and "The People Will Free John Yancey!"

Every lesson we've learned (and there are more than mentioned here) has been learned by going out to the people, not by sitting in a room. When we sat in meetings and didn't bring what we'd learned in practice to the meeting, we got bogged down in discussions and arguments and the work fell back.

We think this principle of mass line is crucial for every revolutionary-minded person to apply in their work. As our slogan implies, it's not the JYDC who is going to free John, it's the people.

Recently in the JYDC, several new people have joined and the meetings have been lively. We realize that we only have about two more months to get everything together. If we had been more on top of the task of raising John's bail, he might be out today to work actively with us in the community.

But the fight isn't only on the outside. Many prisoners have petitioned for Yancey's release and this should continue. It was the people on the inside who actually got the ball rolling for the defense but recently there hasn't been much happening on the inside for John. People inside the prisons have a crucial role to play in this struggle. Many people in Portsmouth are supporting John because they know that his fellow prisoners are with him.

We feel that the support that is building for John will make the difference for John in his upcoming trial. There is much to do, and if you can help, contact the JYDC, Box 401, Portsmouth, NH 03801, or call 603-431-8442.

Walpole Federal Suit

FROM: Walpole Prisoners Action Committee
RE: Layne-Nassar Federal Complaint

May of 1974, George Nassar, a Walpole prisoner, began drawing up a Social Memorandum, citing more than a score of state, educational, legal, and religious officials with conspiring to suppress the implementation of the prison reform law of 1972 called Chapter 777, and of being a party to various crimes to subvert the law.

While working on the Memorandum, Nassar met another prisoner, Robert M. Layne. Layne already had filed legal action against certain prison and state officials and had had considerable experience in suing such officials for wrongdoing. He studied the Memorandum draft and helped to perfect it.

The Memorandum, issued in June and mailed to the officials and the press, challenged the officials--Commissioner Frank Hall, Deputy Commissioners, Walpole Superintendents and Deputy Superintendents, the Attorney General, District Attorney, Commissioner of Human Services, Walpole guard union officials and state employee union officials, State Police officials, the Cardinal, the Director of the Mass. Council of Churches, several university heads, head of the Mass. Bar Association, heads of the Legislature--to avoid a court battle and discuss the issues with them in a public forum.

Only the Executive Director of the Mass. Council of Churches, the Reverend C. Joseph Sprague, responded in person, in the prison chaplain's office, to listen to what Layne, Nassar and the prisoners had to say. He promised to try to get the full meeting with the other officials, but wrote later that he had failed. The Cardinal's secretary responded with a short note saying the document would be brought to the Cardinal's attention.

Meanwhile Layne studied the Memorandum and the facts to determine how many officials named in it were sufficiently liable for court action and by November he had put together a solid legal document to submit to Federal District Court. It became Civil Action Number 74-5193-T, assigned to Federal District Court Judge Tauro.

On December 26 the prison was locked up after another series of its recurring troubles. Only now the lockup was extended for "reclassification" hearings. During the lockup, on January 3, the authorities who were being sued--Acting Superintendent Walter Waitkevich and guard union official Thomas DeSilva in particular--searched Layne's cell and "confiscated" the legal books and documents being used to sue them and all the other officials.

Layne immediately made out a Supplemental Complaint to the court, citing the illegal action. Judge Tauro asked Richard Shapiro, the chief attorney of the Prisoners' Rights Project, to come to the prison and find out what was going on. The prison officials then returned some of the books and documents.

On January 20, Nassar, Layne and a score of other prisoners who were involved in the legal suit were inexplicably "reclassified" into a super-security, no-privilege, twenty-four hour lockup special new "B-section" of the prison. In the transfer from the minimum security part of the prison to the maximum security part, Layne's and Nassar's legal books and papers were again stolen by the prison officials. And again Layne put in an additional complaint to the court, citing this grossly illegal conduct.

Finally the court issued, on February 19, a Temporary Restraining Order against the defendants (prison officials, Hall, the new Superintendent Frank Gunter, and all their officials) to restrain them from further harassing the prisoners suing them, and to return "within twenty four hours" all the books, documents and materials they had stolen and which were necessary to pursue the case against them.

Except for the return of a few pencils and some paper and typewriter ribbons, the officials returned nothing. Nassar, Layne and their witnesses remained locked up and deprived of all privileges, except the privilege the court demanded they give them to meet daily to work on the case. But no books, documents or materials (and the means to use the materials, like the prisoners' photocopying machine) were returned.

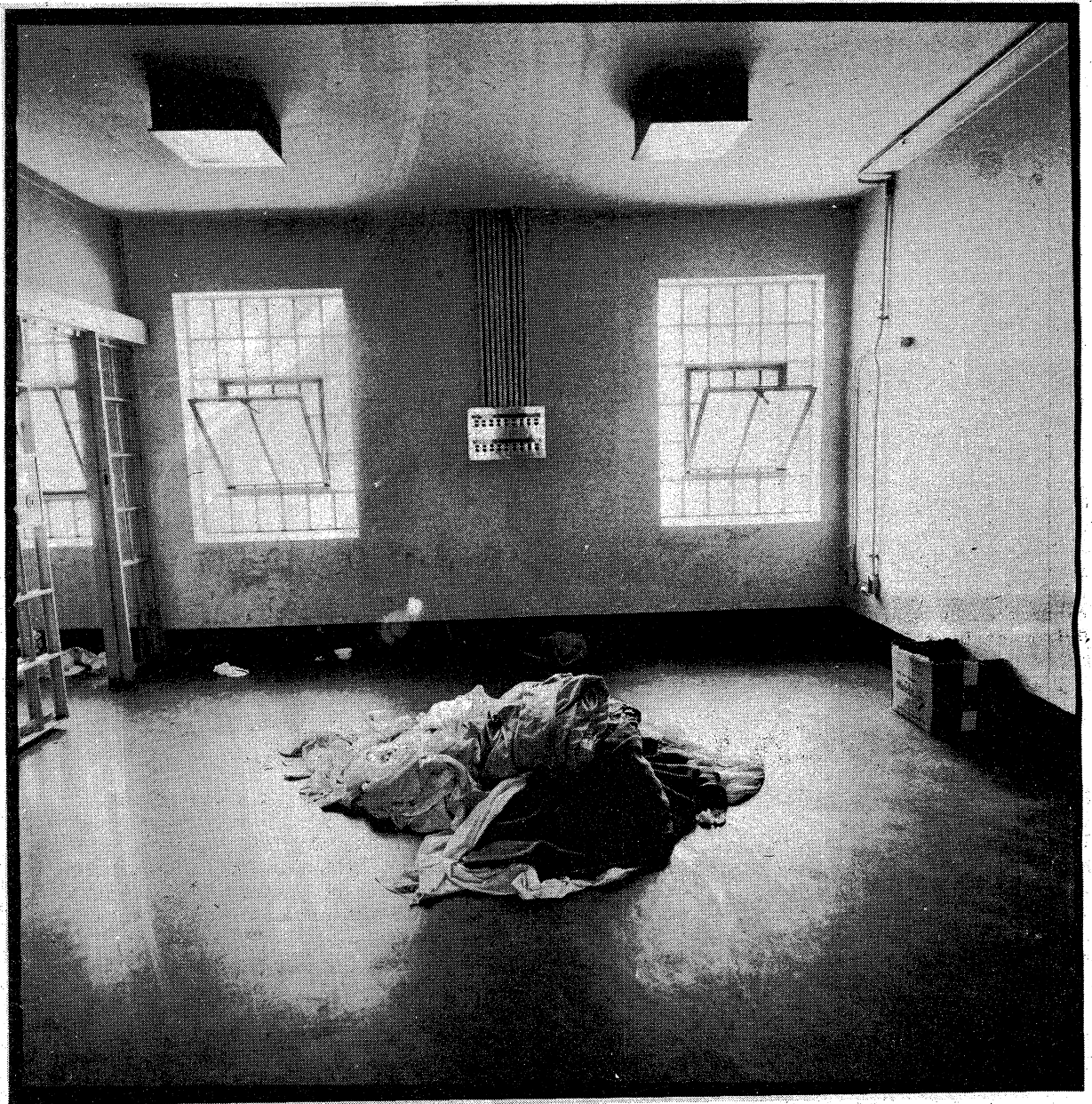
For the next few months--from Feb. to June--Layne put in document after document complaining of violations of the court order. But the court was slow to act, and Shapiro of the Prisoners' Rights Project, at the court's behest, become the prisoners' representative on this preliminary issue.

Then, finally, a hearing was had on June 13 in Federal District Court before Judge Tauro on the defendants' "failure to comply" with the court order. The defendants--Gunter, Butterworth were there to defend--had no defense. The court ordered them to return all books and documents and put all materials back where they were (e.g. the photocopying machine) within seven days. And a hearing before Magistrate Willie Davis was scheduled ten days from then--June 23--at the prison to determine just how much the authorities had harassed, intimidated or retaliated against the plaintiffs (Layne-Nassar) or their witnesses.

Layne and Nassar elected to have Diane Keegan, an attorney of the Prisoners' Rights Project, represent them. While she was at a pre-hearing with Magistrate Davis he told her that he knew Layne and Nassar well, from way back, and asked how she had ever got them as clients. He said they were both troublemakers, and that knowing them as he did the charges they were bringing against the prison officials for harassment was probably the other way around. Finally he cautioned Ms. Keegan not to turn her back on Nassar.

When the hearing opened on June 12, Ms. Keegan presented the Magistrate with a motion that he disqualify himself from the hearing. He refused. The hearing took two days. The plaintiffs and their witnesses alleged and offered evidence of harassment. The defendants denied. The Magistrate is at this date (July 26) in the

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Walpole photo by Richard Kahn

Drug Experimentation

From: Francis E. Goodney and Ashley Eames
Co-Directors, Prison Information
Center
7 Laurel St., Apt. 2,
Worcester, Ma. 01605

Dear Editor:

People should know that at the jail in West Boylston there is a drug experimentation program using inmates as "volunteers".

Why do inmates "volunteer" to take drugs which need further research? Because he or she is paid well. The prison system consciously impoverishes its inmates, denies them a decent wage and forces them to trade their bodies for cigarette and candy money.

U.S. lawyers, comprising the Nuremberg, Germany Tribunal for war crimes, 1947, established standards for medical experimentation: the voluntary consent of the human subject means 1) having "legal capacity to give consent", 2) being "so situated as to be able to exercise free power of choice", and 3) having "sufficient knowledge and comprehension of the elements of the subject matter involved as to enable him to make an understanding, enlightened decision".

Do prisoners have legal capacity to

give consent? Is jail or prison a situation enabling an inmate to exercise free power of choice? Can it be expected that experimenters give and that inmates demand knowledge enough to make an enlightened decision? The answer is, no, to each question.

Commissioner of Corrections for Mass., Frank A. Hall, mandated on March 5, 1975: "The Department of Corrections will no longer sanction drug related human experimentation in the various Mass. Correctional Institutions". And he stated: "The weight of evidence (his department's six month intensive study of the benefits and deficits of human experimentation) obligates the department to strongly recommend the termination of similar studies in the county houses of correction and local jails in the commonwealth."

Sheriff Smith--we expect that you will comply with the findings of the Commissioner's study by bringing an end to the drug experimentation program at your facility; and, further, that you will work towards paying a decent wage to the inmates who hold jobs at the jail and increasing the number of people in the work-release program.

No New Charles St. Jail!

by Bob Martin

BOSTON—The rapid approach of construction of a replacement for Boston's Charles St. Jail presents an important test of the seriousness of prison movement calls for a moratorium on new prison and jail construction. If the proposed new jail is built, several other sheriffs in Mass. will have new justification for wanting to replace their old facilities.

Ironically, if a new jail is built, it will be the result of a successful suit by prisoners demanding the closing of the 126-year old Charles Street Jail. In response to a class action suit filed by prisoners, US District Court Judge W. Arthur Garrity ordered the old jail closed by July 1, 1976. Garrity did not say a new jail has to be built, but city officials have jumped to the conclusion that that is necessary. The result is that a new jail will probably be built because Mass. Prisoners' organizations do not have the political strength to stop its construction. Political education work, in other words, is not keeping pace with the possibilities of legal strategy.

While prisoner organizations are not prepared to take advantage of the Charles Street prisoners' victory, Mass. Correction Commissioner Frank Hall is moving to turn the situation to his own advantage. In cooperation with Boston Mayor Kevin White, Hall is maneuvering a power play to take over both the new jail and Boston's Deer Island House of Correction. This will not only put Boston's Sheriff Thomas Eisenstadt out of a job, but it will also be the first step in Hall's planned takeover of all county jails and houses of correction in the state.

Mayor White wants the city to get out of the prison business, which suits Hall just fine, since Hall wants to set up a series of small joints throughout the state in order to eventually close down the larger prisons such as Walpole and Norfolk.

The state/city plan is as follows: 1) the present sentenced prisoners at Deer Island House of Correction (now county prisoners) will be made into state prisoners and transferred to state prisons; 2) the Hill Prison at Deer Island, built in 1901, will be renovated at a cost of \$3.9 million

and the pre-trial prisoners at Charles Street will be moved there; 3) the State Department of Correction will acquire ownership of Deer Island and eventually build a second facility there for sentenced prisoners. The plan does not exactly say that the Sheriff's job will be abolished, but that is the logical consequence of the plan. If this scenario is followed in Boston, it will probably be followed throughout the state, with the Department of Correction picking up the control of all county facilities during the next several years (since most county joints are old enough and squalid enough to be closed by suits similar to the suit brought by Charles Street prisoners).

The Deer Island renovation plan is the second plan considered by the city so far. Originally, the city was going to build an \$18 million, 12 story tower on the same site as Charles Street Jail. That plan was scrapped when the Federal government (LEAA) refused to put up 50 percent of the cost (supposedly because the plan was not "innovative" enough to deserve Federal funds).

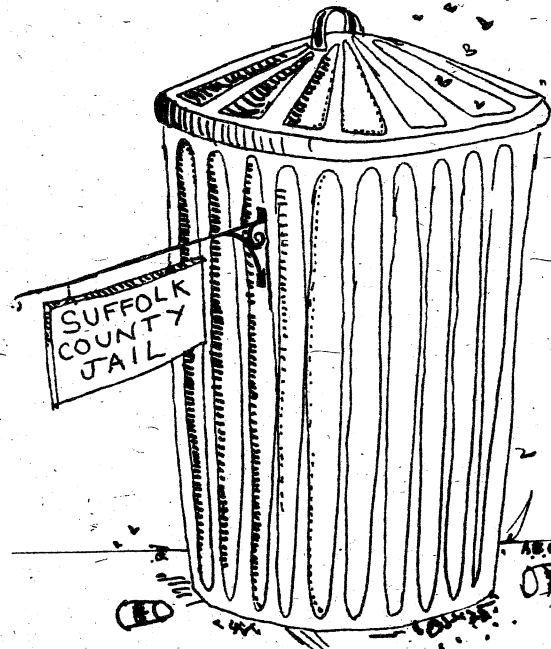
The construction of any new jail in Boston would be bad, but the Deer Island plan will be a particular hardship on prisoners. Now connected to the mainland by a causeway, Deer Island is about as far away from the population center of Boston as you can get. By public transportation it takes at least an hour to get there from most parts of Boston. From some sections, it can take two hours. As a result it will be harder than ever for pre-trial detainees to see their visitors, keep in touch with lawyers, get bailed, or conduct other business. (Charles Street Jail, at least, is in the center of the city and easy to get to.)

The renovation plan, by the way, is a new wrinkle in prison construction that has importance for prisoners throughout the country. It will cost the city \$3.9 million to create a practically new joint for 208 prisoners at Deer Island, whereas the tower plan would have given the same number of cells at more than five times the cost. A representative for the architectural firm, Masiello Associates, of Boston, has said that almost any prison can be renovated for one fourth or one fifth of the cost

it takes to build a new joint. This approach to new construction could spread like wildfire if it proves successful in Boston.

It is still not too late to stop the new construction if a coalition of Boston groups can be put together, although that does not seem likely to happen. For one thing, most political energy in Boston today is going into either the school desegregation struggle or the Fall municipal elections, or both.

Consequently, no one in Boston seems to have noticed that a new jail is not even



necessary. Charles Street Jail has 250 pre-trial prisoners, most of whom need just \$200 or \$300 to make bail. Like pre-trial detainees everywhere, Charles Street Jail prisoners are in jail only because they are broke. In a year when the city is begging for funds and threatening to cut budgets in all city departments, it hardly makes sense to spend money on a new jail. Unfortunately, there is very little energy being put into spreading this message to the people of Boston.

Shock or No Parole

by Dwight Greene

"...there can not be, in this republic, any class of human beings in practical subjugation to another class, with power in the latter to dole out just such privileges as they may choose to grant..."—Supreme Court Justice Harlan, 1883.

Apparently members of the Connecticut board of parole have decided to play Judge, jury, doctor and God in their dealings with convicted pedophiles at Somers Correctional Institution. The board has systematically denied parole to convicted pedophiles who have refused to enter the controversial behavior modification program set up at Somers for pedophiles. Members of the board have not only categorically denied parole to inmates who refused to submit themselves to the treatment, but have also subjected such inmates to intolerable verbal insults. Consequently, three inmates, all serving indeterminate sentences, have filed a suit against three members of the parole board and others. The suit claims that the inmates' rights guaranteed by the first, fifth, eighth amendments to the constitution were violated.

According to Ct. general statutes governing parole, parole should be granted if "...it appears from all available information... that there is a reasonable probability that such inmates will remain at liberty without violating the law and if such release is not incompatible with the Welfare of Society."

However, members of the parole board seem to have their own criteria for parole release. Each of the plaintiffs in the suit has been informed that he will not be released unless he "volunteers" for the project that includes faradic shock treatments

Melvin Taylor, one of the plaintiffs, who is serving a sentence of 1-20 years, has been denied parole four times, despite

the fact that he has not had a disciplinary action against him in six years. At a parole hearing on May 31, 1973, before board members Burt McNamara and Rev. Herbert Smith (both named as defendants in the suit), Taylor and McNamara were parties to the following exchange:

McNamara: You know if I had my way what you'd do.

Taylor: I'd do it.

McNamara: You'd be at the end of a rope.

Perhaps not as judgemental, but equally as interesting, was the following exchange between Taylor and the Rev. Smith:

Smith: Let me ask you one question. Do you masturbate?

Taylor: Yes.

Smith: How often?

Taylor: Oh, every once in a while.

Smith: Why do you hide?

Taylor: Hunh?

Smith: Why do you hide?

Taylor: I don't hide it at all.

Smith: You don't hide it at all?

Taylor: No.

Smith: When you get ready to masturbate?

Taylor: No.

Smith: You just go right ahead?

Taylor: Yes.

Donald Aherdorf, another plaintiff in the suit, has also been informed that he will not be released on parole unless he "volunteers" for the project. He is serving a sentence of 3-10 years.

Aherdorf's only prior convictions were for breach of the peace and driving under the influence of alcohol. Yet according to Dr. Michael Shead, consultant psychiatrist to the project, first offending pedophiles show one of the lowest rates of recidivism among all statistical categories.

Robert Graves, the third plaintiff in the suit, is also serving a sentence of 3-10 years. He has not been subject to a disciplinary action in three years. Yet

Walpole Suit

process of making his decision to Judge Tauro whether the defendants "failed to comply" with the Temporary Restraining Order against harassment, retaliation or intimidation. When Judge Tauro gets the Magistrate's decision, he'll decide whether the whole Order has been violated and to what degree. After that decision, the plaintiffs will move for a Preliminary Injunction hearing—one of the main points of which shall be the legality of the prisoners' "reclassification" to B-Section, their lockup, denial of privileges, etc., as official retaliation for having brought their suit; and, therefore, whether they should be forthwith returned with full privileges and protection to their former minimum security status. (An additional issue, to be taken up then or subsequently, will be the question of the destruction by the authorities of the prisoners' organizations supporting the suit, such as the prisoners union, the National Prisoners' Reform Association, the Black Caucus, etc., which deprived the suit of its financial, material, organizational and moral assistance.)

After the Preliminary Injunction hearing the Complaint itself will be heard, months hence. There, finally, the initial charges will be heard.

The Layne-Nassar Complaint, though it is a complaint by only two prisoners, is drawn and presented in such a way that it represents the prisoners of Walpole—and in essential aspects the whole Department—in a way that other prisoners can follow up on whatever benefits it ultimately offers without any of the drawbacks inherent in a class action, which commits all the eggs to one basket.

he was refused parole. The board stated that one of the reasons for refusal of parole was Graves' refusal to join the behavior modification project.

Vermont Cons Shipped Out

Dear People

Well the system has gone and done it again, they have had 19 prisoners of the state of Vt. kidnapped so far by the United States Government. The Commissioner of corrections of the state of Vt., R. Kent Stoneman has imposed a federal transfer policy, because of the closing of the Vermont State Prison here in Windsor, Vt. We the prisoners who are to suffer from this policy, feel that this is unconstitutional and against our rights as citizens of the United States. A three judge court panel, did not think that we had rights, for they ruled in favor of Stoneman, shipping us to federal prisons. As long as the system is happy, who gives a fuck for our rights. As far as this state is concerned, we have no rights. I have been transferred twice to a federal prison, but have managed to get back for court appearances. This last time I was to be transferred to Leavenworth, Kansas along with another prisoner here. The other prisoner with me, whose name is Robert Reuschel, had his life threatened by a federal prison guard. The guard stated to him that he had been a little bastard up in Vermont and that when he reached Kansas that he would be coming back to Vermont in a pine box. This has got the dude pretty shook and he has said that if he should die that if they claim his death a suicide that he wishes that his last will is that someone investigates his death. Of fact is that if the feds read this letter, and know that I'm onto their little game of suicide, then they'll probably hang me up in a cell late some night also. Dig: As far as Windsor having its latest trouble with escape and trouble it is a direct result of pig face Stoneman: He has made many families upset

by his kidnapping, taking the family's loved ones hundreds of miles from home, and held against their will in a federal prison for crimes they have never committed against the U.S. government man. Stoneman has claimed that he is shipping all hard core prisoners to federal pens. Your hard core prisoners that have been transferred consist of 17, 18, 19 year old kids who have done nothing more than throw milk on a pig, cut themselves when in a mental state of mind. They have transferred one 17 year old who had never been in jail before, and he's in a heavy state of confusion and has never given this system any trouble. Although I write this letter, it is only feelings that I have as well as my brothers who have been transferred or kidnapped by this policy which R. Kent Stoneman has ordered. This whole shit is nothing but a big mess right now. It's cool that they are closing a prison, they should close them all because they are doing nobody any good, and again it isn't too cool that they are closing this joint when you look at how they are fucking over us. All I can say right now is that we have lost another battle in our fight, but we hope to win the war. Right on.

John Kane
Vermont State Prison
Windsor, Vt. 05089



Tunnel at Thomaston

Albert Paul and Richard Sanborn, released from the segregation unit at Maine State Prison after 9 months through SCAR's and Pine Tree Legal's efforts, are back in segregation. They report that upon their release from the segregation unit, they were placed in cell lock-up in an abandoned and isolated corridor of the prison. Conditions were, they report, the same there as in segregation.

At the end of their patience, Sanborn and Paul decided to escape. They first obtained hacksaw blades, and cut the bars between their cells to allow them to get in and out; they then cut through the cement to reach an old drain line, all with the guards making hourly checks, and began to dig a tunnel.

For weeks, prisoners wondered why there was such a shortage of pillowcases in the prison. Sanborn and Paul were hauling dirt from their tunnel with them, hiding them under their beds or passing them off as laundry;



then somehow getting them out of their cells. They figured they had 48 feet of tunnel to dig to freedom, but when they reached 42 feet, they report, they began to change their minds about escaping, and, knowing the tunnel would eventually be found, told the administration about it.

They were taken back to segregation, and the tunnel was filled in with cement. The warden did not report the tunnel to the press.

Sanborn and Paul were originally sent to segregation for mailing a bomb to Maine DA Robert Mardian from inside the prison. Mulaney was "embarrassed", and called to the carpet for "laxness in security" over the incident, and told Sanborn and Paul he was going to keep them in segregation "forever".

Sanborn and Paul have now "embarrassed" him again by obtaining hacksaw blades and digging materials while locked in an isolated corridor, digging a 42 foot tunnel under the guards noses, and managing to hide and get rid of god knows how much dirt; then naturally reporting the whole incident to the press.

Even though Sanborn and Paul told the administration about the tunnel, and hence did not actually try to escape, they are now back in segregation indefinitely for count #2 of "embarrassing the warden".

Anectine and Apomorphine

Anectine is probably the most notorious example of aversive drug therapy presently used in American prisons. Anectine (Succinylcholine--a derivative of South American curare) is a drug which paralyzes the muscles, diaphragm, and cardiovascular system. Originally, Anectine was used as a prelude to electroconvulsive shocks (ECT's). Such shocks, applied to the head, are so strong they can break inmates' bones under the strain of the resulting muscle contractions. Since Anectine paralyzes the muscles without dampening consciousness or the ability to feel pain, by first injecting the inmate with it researchers or "therapists" can turn up the voltage as high as they want without cracking the inmate's skeleton when his body is thrown into convulsions by the jolt.

Anectine's inherent aversive powers were discovered in California, at Atascadero State Mental Hospital for the criminally insane (similar to Bridgewater), the psychiatric arms of Soledad and San Quentin prisons respectively. As an agent of terror, it is not to be underestimated. Its use on the Tupamaros guerillas of Uruguay has been credited with their decimation as a fighting force (and, as mentioned, its use in Vietnam was outlawed as a war crime). What Anectine does, in short, is to simulate death.

Within 30 to 40 seconds of injection, it brings on paralysis, first in the small, rapidly moving muscles in the fingers, toes and eyes, then in the diaphragm and cardiovascular system. As a result, the victim cannot move or breathe, and yet remains fully conscious as though drowning, and dying (the victim must, in fact, be force-fed with oxygen or die).

At Atascadero and Vacaville, records show that hundreds of inmates have been subjected to such "treatments" (an abnormally high percentage of which were known political activists). Sometimes, while inmates were paralyzed, researchers shouted conditioning suggestions--primarily commands to behave--in their ears. In most cases, it was simply used as a punishment for "unacceptable behavior".

APOMORPHINE: Apomorphine is a morphine derivative drug which simply causes uncontrollable vomiting for from 30 minutes to an hour. The inmate to be punished is placed in the middle of a group of either his fellow inmates or the prison staff, injected with apomorphine, and vomits uncontrollably for the 30 to 60 minutes thereafter. Apomorphine aversive therapy is, for instance, the prescribed punishment for inmates who lie or swear at the Iowa Security Medical Facility.



State Editors

Copy about what is happening in the different states should be sent to our state editors wherever we have a state editor; other copy should be sent directly to NEPA NEWS.

MAINE--Send Maine copy to Barbara Chassie, SCAR, 374 Fore St., Portland, Me. 04111; phone (207) 773-7218.

MASSACHUSETTS-- Send Mass. copy to Donna Parker or Bob Martin, c/o UPA, 639 Mass. Ave, Cambridge, Ma. 02139. Phone (617) 661-9220.

NEW HAMPSHIRE--Send N.H. copy to Monty or Shelley Cooper Neill, NEPA, Franconia, N.H. 03580; phone (603) 823-8501.

VERMONT--Send Vt. copy to Marvin Fishman or Martha Abbott, Box 192, Essex Center, Vt. 05451.

NEW YORK--Send N.Y. copy to Ted or Gail Siegal, c/o Midnight Special, 166 W. 27th St., Apt. 2W, New York, N.Y. 10001.

RHODE ISLAND, CONNECTICUT, and ALL OTHER copy should be sent directly to NEPA NEWS, Franconia, N.H. 03580; phone (603) 823-8501.

Big Brother-III

For anyone who still doubts the growth of Big Brother, catch this: The N.Y. Times of August 3 reported that the FBI revealed that it has 15,000 names on a list of people to be "picked up" in the event of a "national emergency". The list was started in the early 1950's under the Subversive Activities Control Act. After the Act was declared unconstitutional, the FBI kept the list anyway.

According to the Times, the FBI spends "a good deal of time keeping track of the addresses and occupations of those on the list." In addition to members of the underground, a Justice Department official said people on the list included political dissidents and members of Marxist organizations.

For years, people in the left have said such a list existed; the FBI has denied it and the liberals have called such accusations paranoia.

Writers

During the last two years I've been conducting writing workshops at Great Meadows Correctional Facility in Comstock, N.Y. I've been impressed by the interest shown by prison inmates in the current literary scene and by the general inadequacy of prison libraries in relation to contemporary creative writing. Moreover, the financial condition of prison inmates is usually such that subscription to literary magazines is nearly impossible--even when they are able to locate the addresses of small magazines and presses.

The COSMEP PRISON PROJECT is a response to this situation. Its purpose is to provide copies of publications done by members of COSMEP (Committee of Small Magazine Editors and Publishers, a non-profit organization with over 500 members, ranging from underground newspapers to academically oriented literary magazines) free to inmates. It will be done on request and according to what is available. Members of COSMEP are donating copies of their magazines to the project and these will be sent out to prisoners who request magazines. We cannot guarantee that specific magazines will be sent, simply what we have on hand. We will try to send anyone requesting publications, who is an inmate, at least one copy of a literary magazine.

Any inmate wishing to receive COSMEP publications may write to the following address:

PRISON PROJECT
C/O Joseph Bruchac
The Greenfield Review
Greenfield Center, N.Y. 12833

We welcome any suggestions or assistance anyone may wish to offer. We would also like to know of magazines or newspapers which offer free subscriptions to prison inmates so that we may assist in making them known to prison inmates.

We have compiled a list of literary magazine editors interested in publishing inmate writing and it is available on request.

Sincerely,
/s/Joseph Bruchac

Thomaston Harrasses SCAR

by David Himmelstein-District Correspondent

THOMASTON—Two inmate spokesmen for the Statewide Alliance for Correctional Reform (SCAR) met with newsmen Tuesday at the Maine State Prison to renew charges of systematic harassment by prison authorities, and called for the replacement of all maximum-security prisons with the community-controlled halfway houses.

The allegations by Richard Picariello and Patrick Donovan against Warden Garrell Mullaney coincided with the release of a letter by the Portland-based central committee of the prison reform group, accusing Mullaney of using "administrative dirty tricks" to discourage other inmates from joining.

Mullaney and the group have clashed repeatedly in the past—most recently in the aftermath of a June 22 glass and trash throwing melee in the prison's east wing which ended with 190 inmates locked in their cells through the next day and seven others taken to the segregation block. Four of those inmates still are confined there, Mullaney says.

Shortly after the blow-up, Mullaney ascribed its causes to "spontaneity and the hot evening. One guy started banging in his cell." A SCAR official in Portland said the disturbance reflected inmate frustration over an official campaign directed against the SCAR prison chapter.

Donovan said Tuesday the incident was touched off when prison guards accused an inmate of creating a disturbance in his cell and took him to the segregation unit without first warning him to quiet down, as required by prison rules. Mullaney said later that the guards used correct procedure in handling the incident.

Among the other charges made by Donovan, Picariello and the SCAR central committee were:

--Unlike the prison Jaycee chapter, a SCAR meeting of more than eight people cannot be held privately; inmates are subjected to body searches after SCAR meetings, and chapter meetings are scheduled by authorities during the lunch hour.

--Mullaney has refused to answer several SCAR requests to open cells until 11 p.m. to allow members to circulate and conduct chapter business.

--Officials have pressured other inmates not to join SCAR, and use disciplinary proceedings against activist inmates.

Mullaney repeated Wednesday previous denials of any official pressure against the group, claiming that he received only this week a partial updated membership list of 60 inmates "and even now, I don't even know who they (SCAR)members) all are."

Regarding the other charges, Mullaney countered that:

--According to departmental policy, any inmate meeting of more than eight persons requires the presence of a prison staffer and the Jaycees have complied with the regulation; body searches after private meetings of eight or less inmates is regular procedure; the SCAR chapter has held 24 private meetings in the last 10 months during the evening activity period; open "town" meetings where all inmates can attend are always held in the auditorium during the lunch period and that these meetings are most always run by the Inmate Advisory Council, which he said was the only group that represents all the inmates.

--The SCAR chapter has received a letter from Department of Mental Health and Corrections Commissioner John Rosser informing them that prison regulations prohibit at-large circulation in cellblocks at night by inmate groups "unless they have a specific purpose."

--"No inmate has ever pressured in any way to stay away (from SCAR). I never said that if you join you won't get a furlough."

Donovan, 29, who comes up for a parole hearing next month after serving a year for

the sale of marijuana, said that "most of the harassment is subtle, not tangible enough to be fingered... Normal privileges denied or ignored; simple requests that could be handled here sent to the commissioners office."

Donovan said he has spent most of his time writing poetry and plans to major in English at College this fall when he gets a hoped-for school release. His conviction last year still is under appeal.

"We want community-based rehabilitation programs run by trained community members that will really try to correct the reasons for crime--impoverished homes, lack of education," he said.

Picariello, 26, who also comes up for parole in August after serving about four years for armed robbery called present prison education programs "a veneer, any job training program is an illusion. They have you make license plates--they're teaching you to become a professional prisoner."

He argued that the halfway house concept is particularly feasible in Maine where, according to a state study, most of the prison populace was convicted for non-violent crimes. He also said that the cost per prisoner would be much less than what's now expended in maximum-security lockups.

Donovan said the SCAR prison chapter is the largest inmate organization with 150 members out of a total of 490 inmates. "Our work is much more real (than other inmate groups)". We try to teach new inmates how to survive the prison experience without falling apart at the seams, how to maintain some personal dignity," he said.

He also said that SCAR is operating a busing program to bring inmate relatives and friends to Thomaston for visits, has started a job-placement program for inmates, and has a grant application pending with a foundation to set up a pre-paid legal program for prisoners, ex-inmates and poor people.



Struggles at Somerset

by Darla L. Pickett

SKOWHEGAN--With inflamed and swollen eyes, Somerset County Sheriff told County Commissioners Tuesday evening, "Pine Tree Legal isn't going to tell me how to run this jail."

The statement followed a wrestling incident with jail prisoners the previous evening, when a prisoner doused the sheriff with a bucket of creosote. (Creosote is a distillation of wood tar used, in this case, as a flushbucket.)

In conjunction with the incident, Thomas Benjamin Pine Tree Legal Assistance Inc. lawyer, objected to the individual lock-up of the three prisoners who were causing the disturbance, said Henderson.

The three inmates involved in the disturbance, were Robert Albair and Terry Leet, presently being held on robbery charges, and Ronald Grover, who recently escaped while on work release.

Leet recently completed a six-month jail sentence for breaking and entering.

In a conversation with the REPORTER Wednesday morning, Henderson explained the incident.

He said the three prisoners, who were housed in the bound-over cells upstairs, had been causing disturbances since they had been brought to the jail last week. Leet and Albair were captured last week in the Concord woods and charged with robbery of the Canadian Trail Camps in Bingham.

"They have continually raised Cain and made trouble each day and each night," said Henderson.

"They had demands upon demands," he said.

Henderson said they had received calls from residents living near the jail complaining about the breaking of glass and the noises.

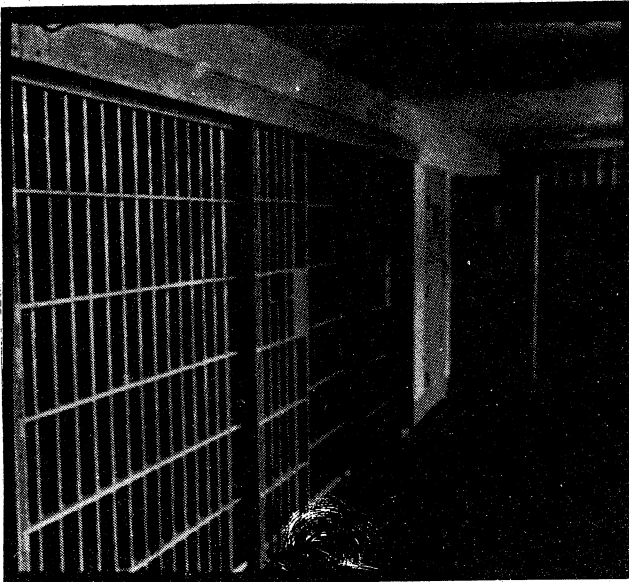
"I advised these three men on four different occasions that, if they didn't settle down and quit it, each would be locked in a separate cell."

During this time, Henderson said he had been threatened with physical and legal action by the prisoners.

On Monday evening, June 30, he said "they gave the guard a real bad time. They tore the iron slats from one of the slotted bunks and used it to break eight panes of glass on the High St. side (of the jail.)"

They then proceeded to throw water out the window, he said.

According to Henderson, when he and officer Lennir Cole decided to go upstairs to bring the action under control, the prisoners had already set a butt can over the shower drain and turned the shower on, to flood the upstairs.



The water was draining overflowing into the cells of downstairs prisoners, he said.

"Since we didn't want to physical 'abuse' them, we had to wrestle them into their cells.

"In three inches of water, it was quite a wrestling match."

As the officers struggled with Albair in front of Leet's cell, Leet threw creosote, from a flush bucket, at the officers. Henderson sustained eye injury when the creosote filled his eyes and mouth.

When asked, Henderson said that Benjamin had "very definitely and most enthusiastically" objected to the removal of the trio to separate cells.

"Rules are great," Henderson told the Commissioners Tuesday, "but every prisoner is a different person."

"Never has there been a time when a prisoner has been abused just because the guards want to."

Referring to a new law stating that prisoners are to be held for shorter lengths of time, Henderson said Tuesday evening, "I'm going to wait until Governor Longley brings that law up in his fist."

Commissioner Merle Lloyd questioned Rep. Donald Burns about recent legislative action giving Pine Tree Legal \$30,000 to "fight the taxpayer with."

Burns said he was dismayed by the action.

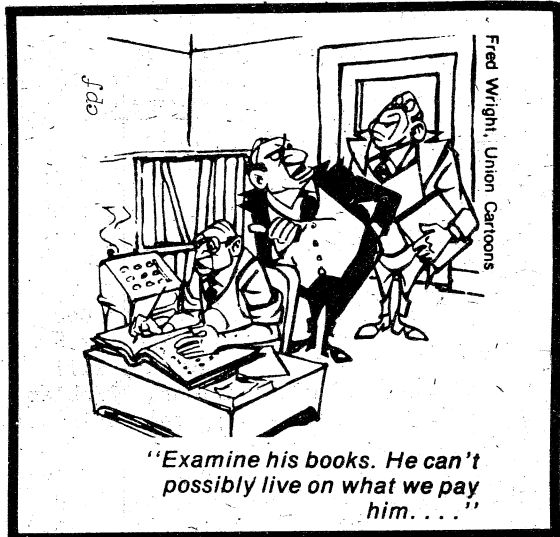
Commissioner MacMichael and chairman Charles Carpenter agreed that they would try to come to agreement with Pine Tree Legal on rules and regulations.

They said they (the commissioners) would go just so far and if that did not satisfy the organization, they would have to go to court.

Commissioners, the Sheriff Department and other connected agencies are presently under suit for violation of prisoners' constitutional rights.

I. Growing Poverty and Growing Crime

Because we live in a capitalist society, because many in the prisoner movement attribute crime to more basic social ills, and because of a growing interest in Marxism and Socialism, we are printing a series of articles which will begin to explain the Marxist analysis of capitalism and capitalist society.--ed.)



We in the prisoner movement often say that crime is due to social causes, that society creates its criminals. We point to the lack of jobs (or decent jobs), to the lack of educational opportunities, to racial discrimination, as being the roots of crime. For example, in the past year the official unemployment rate in Maine has doubled, from 6% to 12%. In the same year the prison population at Thomaston also doubled.

Why does this country, the richest and most productive in the history of the planet, face these problems? The People's Republic of China, a much poorer nation, finds work for all; China has adequate housing, medical care, and education for all. China has virtually ended crime; its streets are safe, but they have far fewer cops, no police computer centers. Why can't the U.S. solve its economic and crime problems?

The Marxist analysis of capitalism, the social/economic system of the U.S., claims that the problem cannot be solved, in the long run, by capitalism. Marx stated that the "absolute general law of capitalist accumulation" creates an "industrial reserve army" (chronically unemployed people) which constantly expands. For this reason, "the greater is official pauperism". In other words, to survive, to expand, capitalism must have great numbers of unemployed/poor, and this large number of people constantly grows.

These are heavy charges. If true, one must conclude that the only way to end poverty is to end capitalism. The purpose of this article is to examine the evidence, to decide if the facts bear out the claim. I think they do. The facts are a sharp attack on the mythology of the land of plenty. They give us an understanding of why there is so much crime, and point to the criminal nature of the system itself.



"Official pauperism", as best we can determine, has grown under capitalism in the past 100 years. In 1861, paupers were 4.6% of the English population. In 1973,

for the fourth year in a row, 7% or more of the U.S. population was on welfare.

That 7% only scratches the surface of poverty. In the early 70's, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics set \$7,000 (after taxes) as its basic low income level for a family of four (below which is poverty). \$7,000 is itself absurd, as it assumed only \$100/month rent in New York City. Poverty must mean living in a trash can.

To earn \$7,000, a person must work 40 hours a week, 50 weeks a year, and earn \$3.50 per hour. States Harry Braverman in his book, Labor and Monopoly Capital, "in May, 1971, the median usual weekly earnings in all occupational categories of the working class with the exception only of craftsmen and foremen, were far below this minimal earnings level."

Where have you gone, land of rising wages and golden opportunity? The most available jobs, jobs in the fastest growing industries, pay the least. These include wholesale and retail trade; finance insurance and real estate; and service industries. The somewhat better paying jobs are in areas that have expanded the least: mining, construction, manufacturing, transportation and public utilities. Wages in the first category range from \$20 to \$70 less per week than in the second category. All the "average workers" in the first group earn less than \$7,000 per year--that's over half the work force.

Capitalism, in its generosity, has provided a way out--let both parents work. Never mind that the kids must fend for themselves with no one home. Never mind that working people hate this arrangement.

Bad as it is, it means the difference between making it and not making it for millions of families. But for the poorest families, this option doesn't even exist. While the average family has 1.7 full time workers, the average number of "full time

Reality is still more bizarre. In a recent two-month period, official unemployment went down, but there were 600,000 fewer people working. A lot of folks must have died that month, or just become non-people.

Capitalism, its wealth glittering in moonlight like the corpse of a mackerel reveals its stinking self in the light of day. Over 7% on welfare, at least 14% employed, over half those actually working earning less than "low".

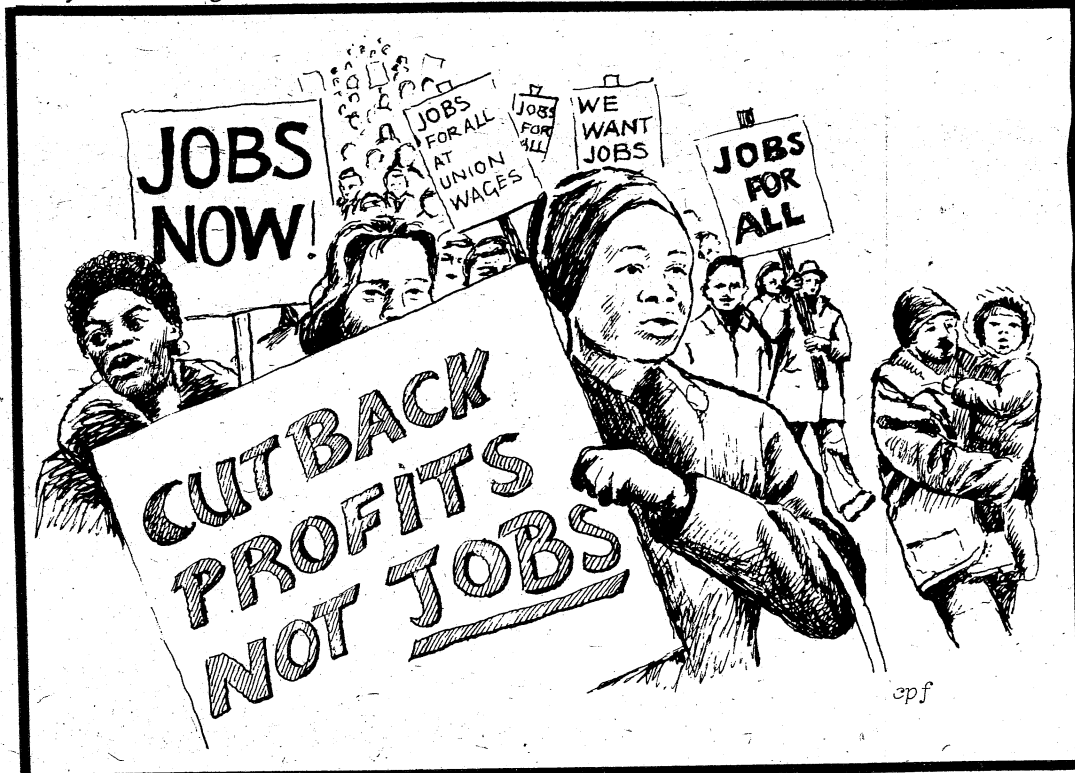
Capitalism, says Marx, "establishes accumulation of misery, corresponding with the accumulation of capital" and the "accumulation of wealth at one pole is, therefore, at the same time accumulation of misery" at the other.

Prisons are a part of that accumulation of misery. The false glitter of capitalism fades through iron bars. Trapped in the bowels of the rotting corpse of capitalism is the prison. The system tries to blind us with its glitter and sell us rotting fish. For those who cannot buy even the rotten fish, there remains thievery. For those overwhelmed by the stench of rot there is alcohol and junk, or crime for kicks.

Will it get better? In the next 10 years, to reduce unemployment to a mere accomodate the population increase, and cover for jobs lost through technological changes, the U.S. will have to create 3 million new jobs. If you won't be one of the 36 million, you know the options.

In the last 10 years, one of the periods of fastest growth in the U.S., 16 million new jobs were created (most of which paid less than "low"), less than what we will need in the next 10 years. Will it get better--Does a dead fish resurrect itself?

Who, then, is really a criminal? Do



equivalent" workers per low income family is less than one.

The picture of the muck of capitalism gets clearer: 7% of the people on welfare, over half the working class families living below the "low income level". But, exuding still more generosity, capitalism doesn't rest content. It keeps giving its workers extended vacations, also called unemployment.

In the recession of 1949-1950, official unemployment ranged from 5 to 6%. Now our leader Jerry Ford tells us recovery means 7% unemployment. Feel better already?

If you don't, consider that the official unemployment rate is far lower than unemployment really is. To be unemployed you have to be looking for a job, even if you know it's pointless.

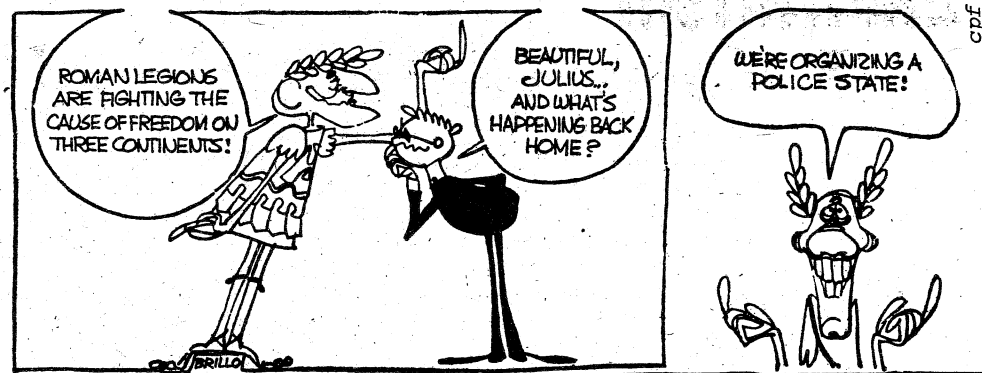
The government's Current Population Survey in early 1975 discovered 5.3 million persons who are "not in the labor force" who said "yes" when asked if they wanted a regular, full or part time job. Add that to the 8.2 million officially unemployed and we have 13.5 million unemployed, about 14% of the labor force.

a junkie, a B&E artist, a car thief, a armed robber keep half our population poverty? Do the nickels and dimes they rip off even touch the billions hoarded by the Rockefellers? Criminal is too a word to describe a system which, through poverty, degradation and exploitation, turns millions of its people into junkies, alcoholics, prostitutes, thieves, rapists and murderers.

But poverty is not an accident of the system, an error that capitalists can avoid. Next month we will see that poverty is not only inevitable in capitalism, that capitalism must have poverty to function. Without unemployment, crime, and exploitation, capitalism could not make profits, its heart would cease to beat.

Future articles in the series will show how the capitalists make their profits, why capitalism creates wars and depressions, why it needs colonies and colonies (and therefore racism) and why the basic structure of capitalism causes the system to dig its own grave.

Nixon's Revenge



Fascism? Police State? Can't happen here. This is the land of the free, democracy. Never, not here?

After Vietnam, Watergate, Chile, years of supporting cut-throat dictatorships in every corner of the globe, enslaving Blacks and slaughtering Indians, the U.S. government has pulled a new trick out of its bag.

Right now the trick is 753 pages long, a bill waiting action in the U.S. Senate: Senate Bill number 1.

The man who brought us "I am not a crook" hangs on through this bill, drafted by members of his gang, like ex-Attorney General John Mitchell.

The bill is supposed to be a reform of the U.S. Criminal Code, which is now a total mess. Under the guise of reform, the Nixon-Ford regime plans a legal apparatus which:

Uses of the death penalty;

Expands the definition of treason; all those who resisted the Vietnam war would have been guilty of treason, gives the death penalty;

Expands the definition of sabotage to be anything which damages property for use in war or war preparation, gives the death penalty;

"Impairing Military Effectiveness" gives 15 years for sabotage-like activity which might hinder defense.

"Obstructing Military Recruitment" gets you 7 years;

"Inciting or Aiding Mutiny", Insubordination, or Desertion carries 15 years;

"Impairing Military Effectiveness by False Statement" (like saying "Right On!" to the Vietnamese) provides 7 to 15 years;

"Imminent lawless conduct that would facilitate the forcible overthrow or destruction" of the government--up to 7 years;

Makes illegal the disseminating or printing of any "classified" document relating to "defense" and hands out up to 7 years.

"Obtaining" such "classified" documents during time of war or "national emergency" (which we have been in since the Korean War) is espionage and carries the death penalty (Goodbye, Dan Ellsberg);

"Obstructing a Government Function by Physical Interference"--1 year;

"Obstructing a Proceeding by Disorderly Conduct"--1 year;

"Failing to Obey Public Safety Order" allows for the sort of mass arrests which a Federal Court recently declared were illegal in D.C. for the past 10 years;

Allows 49 hour non-court ordered wiretapping for 63 suspected offenses, most of them involving demonstrations or political activity;

Cops are allowed to kill to prevent the escape of a person the cop "believes" committed a "violent" crime;

All felonies to carry mandatory \$100,000 fine.

A "special dangerous offender" (remember Curran!) allows a judge to add 25 years or double one's sentence "to promote respect for the law" as determined by the "characteristics of the defendant."

Nope, there'll never be a police state here, the U.S. government only exports fascism, it would never use it on its own people!

The bill was introduced by right wingers Hruska and McClellan, and has been co-sponsored by "liberals" like Birch Bayh and Mike Mansfield, who say they will "amend out" the bad sections. Problem is, the "bad sections" are the whole damn thing.

The straight media, that great defender of "justice" and "democracy" has said virtually nothing about the bill. They are too concerned with immigrant pimps and cops from Vietnam, with the profit rates of corporations and non-existent "blood baths" in Southeast Asia. Besides, they might have an easier time selling their lies if all the opposition is in jail.

The Senate took a month-long vacation in August, but a vote is due soon in the Senate Judiciary Committee. Only an outcry of "NO" from the people can stop it. Let your senator know he has no chance of getting your vote (from those of us who can vote) if he votes for the bill. Let the clowns know that freedom is a fighting matter!

Free Cameron Bishop

The defense of arrested war-resister Cameron Bishop continues to grow. Offense/Defense Committees are working in Denver, Colorado, Boston and Portland, Me.

Cameron is charged with four counts of sabotage stemming from his alleged participation in the 1969 bombings of four high voltage line towers in Colorado. One of the four provided power to Coors Porcelain, maker of missile nose cones and helicopter armor plates, both used in Vietnam.

The Offense/Defense demands, first of all, unconditional amnesty for all Vietnam war resisters. Among the resisters are the 200,000 to 500,000 draft dodgers and 637,537 Vets who received less than honorable discharges, as well as AWOL troops and now-imprisoned resisters. All those who opposed the war should support all persons who actively resisted the war. This is particularly important for all those now underground, now fighting for full Veterans Benefits denied them because of their discharge status, now facing trial and now imprisoned.

The war came home--the chickens to roost. 25% of all prisoners in state and federal jails are Vietnam Vets.

Secondly, the Offense/Defense charges that Cameron was hunted for 10 years, finally busted and charged because he was open about his opposition to the war. Cameron's case fits a pattern of political harassment from the cops. Three times in mid-June the Offense/Defense office in Colorado had their office or home entered and files searched. Based on prior evidence--Watergate, Attica and many more--of police bandits, the Offense/Defense charges that the raids were political attacks. They have uncovered one police agent who participated in the B&E on their home.

The Federal Court made public the home addresses of Offense/Defense members in what the O/D charges is a set-up encouraging armed attacks by vigilantes.

The Offense/Defense has filed motions to throw out the charges. One challenge contends that the "National Emergency" proclamation under which Cameron was charged has been in effect since the Korean war, which is an unconstitutional delegation of authority to the president.

Also Bishop's attorney charged that Bishop

had been denied a speedy trial. The Defense introduced evidence that a grand jury had been shown photos of Bishop while he was underground. The Grand Jury had been illegally convened to try to find a fugitive, not to draw up charges. An FBI agent admitted this use of the Grand Jury while on the witness stand, and added that the FBI had 5,000 documents in 56 volumes on Cameron.

The judge took these two motions under advisement. He denied defense motions to have a transcript of the grand jury testimony, and to have copies of wiretap information.

The O/D committee is fighting for Cameron's and our democratic rights (what's left of them). The O/D intends to expose not only the real war criminals in Washington, but their look-alikes in Denver, who use the same tactics to attack Chicano, Black and Native Americans, working class people and organizations.

Gun Control

In those countries, as in any country where a ruling class controls the people, the governments are afraid of the masses of people, especially if they are armed.

WHAT ABOUT THE NRA?

In this country there are certain organizations which have publicly opposed all gun control legislation. One of the most well known is the NRA (National Rifleman's Assn.). While the NRA has many honest members and has been a strong force opposed to "gun control," its ideas and political backing must be looked at very closely. A main force behind the NRA is several large gun manufacturers and certain right-wing politicians and interest groups. Their reasons for opposing gun control at this time and the future positions they may take are not the same as ours. We must investigate these organizations very carefully.

FIGHT GUN CONTROL

In answering the question, "Gun Control--Who Needs It?" it should be obvious that poor and working people have no use

For example, Coors Porcelain, Cameron's alleged target, is owned by the same man who owns Coors Beer and other enterprises. Coors has a long history of racist discrimination against Chicanos, and an equally long history of anti-union activity. For this Coors is now the target of a growing boycott in the West, and has led to an alliance between Chicano people and rank-and-file teamsters (who have criticized the Teamsters "leadership" for its attacks on the United Farm Workers).

Coors money has funded 7 right-wing organizations, including the John Birch Society, and has appeared in the hands of Nixon's reelection committees.

Coors has allies in the form of the FBI, the courts, the rich establishment. Cameron, whether he did or did not blow up power lines leading to Coors Porcelain, is a freedom fighter, is in alliance with the poor, the working people, the oppressed nationalities.

FREE CAMERON BISHOP--SMASH COORS

For further info and to offer support: Cameron Bishop Defense, Box 3071, Denver, Colorado; (303) 355-3782.

for it. As a matter of fact, strict "gun control" laws is one step toward giving away our freedom. As for the rich and powerful, they need "gun control" to protect all their economic interests and political power. That is, as long as it's our guns they're controlling, while they still have free reign to shoot us down in the streets, as the police do, or shoot down people struggling for national liberation.

The right reasons for opposing "gun control" are many. The common people of this country, especially the working class, must have the right to bear arms for recreation, but more importantly, for self-defense. Of course, as working people, we should also be "arming" ourselves politically by educating ourselves about the nature of the imperialist system. We must organize against the recent attacks on our living standards--our right to organize unions and strike if necessary, our right to negotiate for higher wages. We must organize against police brutality and against the nationality division created among working people, and for the protection of our civil liberties. The fight against "gun control" should also be seen as part of these political struggles. We must organize ourselves to defend our right to bear arms--and soon cannot be soon enough.

McAlester

my door, stepped inside and began to usher me (with his pig hands) toward the door. Noting my reluctance he ordered the three pigs (Pierce, Rick Bowling, Kuykendahl) to take me out anyway they could. They rushed in with their 12 guage gas guns upraised and began to strike me across the head and face. After they finally dragged me out, bleeding profusely from the head wound, they renewed their assault, this time kicking, stomping as well as beating. By this time everyone was up in the door yelling, trying to divert the pigs attention away from me...

I was laying on the floor, semi-conscious Ogeila finally ordered me handcuffed behind my back and carried outside to the corridor. Ogeila then took a towel and tied it around my eyes in the manner of a blindfold. He said that if I didn't quit running my head he was going to kick my ass all the way down those six flights of stairs.

Medical Report: gash in the frontal top area of my head required seven (7) stitches; cut under my eye required four stitches. X-rays showed no fracture (I had to walk over to the Medical Research Center). Headaches persist and vision in my right eye is real blurry at this moment.

While I was in the doctor's office they continued their maniacal assault under the guise of a shakedown. N'Kenga was yanked out of his cell and beaten. He sustained a swollen jaw. Yankee Frank, protesting this last bizarre act, knocked his sink off the wall. Ogeila ordered gas shot in his cell (five rounds but two misfired). They reinjured the hand that was fractured when Jack Cohen slammed it in the door down in the dungeon and also fucked the other one up.

When I got back they were taking Wamakuta Adofo out to the doctor. They had jumped on him and shot a 12 guage round in on him...But he got Ogeila pretty good! They had also busted Yoruba's (Rikke Green) head open. They came up to DeJungle's cell and fired four (4) 12 guages off in there, striking him in the face with one. DeJungle was having a lot of difficulty seeing and breathing so, when they opened his door he rushed out to try to get a little more oxygen... They struck him viciously with the gas guns upside the head, knocking him to the fence. By the time they brought me back they had already taken him out to the doctor. A few minutes later they brought Wamakuta back and then took Yoruba down.

DeJungle was brought back a while later, still having difficulty breathing. He explained that while he was over to the Med. Research Center, Jack Cohen again jumped on

him while he was still hand-cuffed behind his back. Pretty soon DeJungle's breathing began to worsen and the gas caused his skin to swell up, his face was pock-marked and puffed all out of shape. Arrangements were made for him to see the doctor again and he was checked into the hospital...

I told pig on the run that I was having dizzy spells, blurred vision, and my skull felt like it was about to come off. Lt. Whitlow said that he was going to call about getting me a doctor. 30 minutes passed and still no improvement and no doctor! Whitlow finally came to the back of my cell and said that he'd called out the doctor, who had said he had already examined me once and didn't want to see me again. (I don't know exactly whom to attribute that lie .) But by this time the pain in my head had become excruciating and I had to do something that would probably get me gassed but at least some type of medical attention also... I kicked my sink off the wall and busted the bowl against the bars. Sure enough they blasted me with a 12 guage. Suffering the fumes and burning sensation they finally handcuffed me and dragged me down to the hospital where the doctor admitted me.

Say my Brothers, you'll have to forgive me if this account seems a little disjointed in places, my nerves and my head are in turmoil right now. But I trust that you'll be able to get the essential idea and pass it on to appropriate people inside and outside.

I guess we'll always be destined to feel the hoof of the pig because we're going to keep on yanking on his tusk until they are either ripped from their bodies or we are gored and trampled to death in the process!!!

Dare to Struggle
Dare to Win!!
Jomo Simba I

Study Social Struggle Prisoner Education Project

Franconia College has developed a program for prisoners interested in earning a B.A. degree, while in prison, in the field of Social Struggles (economics, political science, history).

The project is planned as a two-year program, though this is variable. People interested need two years of college, or its equivalent. Equivalency is granted for a variety of things, such as life experiences (prison, military, travel, etc.), work, independent study, and creative work (art, writing, etc.). For this reason, you do not need to have been to college, or even to have a high school Diploma.

The rough plan of study--again, variable--is for the student to get a background in social struggles and theory in the first year, and then to concentrate in a particular area the second year (for example, Afro-American struggles, U.S. labor history, women, China, Latin America, etc.).

We still have openings in the project. The project director is Monty Neill, the managing editor of NEPA NEWS since its beginning.

For more information and application forms, write: Prisoner Education Project
Box A42
Franconia College
Franconia, N.H. 03580
(603)823-8501

Franconia College is fully accredited and students are eligible for Veterans Administration benefits. Note: Veterans remain eligible for V.A. benefits even if they are in prison.

Vets

a person's life; time totally wasted. But also time where education, job training, and other useful skills could be picked up. And the Veterans Administration (VA) is supposed to be helping vets with exactly these things.

Not the VA. A study done by the General Accounting Office on the way the VA works in prisons, showed that it doesn't work at all--hardly a surprise to anyone who has tried to get any of the benefits administered by the VA. According to the VA, out of 280 prisons, 142 were being "serviced" by the VA. This service ranges from being "on call" (that means the individual vet must go through the prison red tape to get to the VA red tape, which may result in a visit if the VA gets around to it and the prison officials allow it) to regular, scheduled visits and group counseling sessions (which happen in only a few prisons).

As part of the same study, a number of vets in prison were interviewed. 81% had been told nothing about VA benefits to which they were entitled. 53% thought they had lost their rights to benefits by being imprisoned. As a result of the stink caused when the results of the study were released, the VA promised to clean up their act, and set forth a minimum program for VA offices to follow. The results are demonstrated in a letter from a Pennsylvania prisoner: "I have written to the VA office in Pittsburgh several times and haven't received anything from them. I guess they don't want to answer. ...I realize now that I do need help! What I'd like to know is, is it too late? A prison cannot give the help because they don't

care or have the time or want to help. I'm not looking for a cop out of prison, I know I can handle it but what about once I get

out? I know for a fact I'll go right back to what I was doing before I got busted. The people at Pittsburgh just don't give a damn about me or other brothers of the Vietnam war that seek help through the VA..."

So much for the new VA program in prisons. If there's one thing VVAW/WSO has learned through our war on the VA, it's that to get the rights and benefits promised to vets, we've got to fight for them. Vets in prison can't go in and jam the VA director; but they can demand their rights. In several prisons, vets have gotten together to work for decent benefits--for ALL vets, providing information to other vets about VA programs, and demanding that the VA respond to their

needs. Work is going on around upgrading discharges, since a vet with a less-than-honorable discharge faces even greater problems.

Prisons in the US are based on repression and often open terror tactics; vets in prison face all the same conditions that other prisoners face and are not a separate group any more than vets on the outside are separate from other working people. But imprisoned vets are often there because of the particular experience they had in the military, and because they are veterans, they have particular ways in which they can unite--around their problems as vets and their situation as prisoners. They need the support of people involved in the same fight on the other side of the prison walls. DECENT BENEFITS FOR ALL VETS!

-L. Kerker



Joann Little Trial Nears End

As we go to press, the trial of Joann Little is about to go to the jury. She is a Black woman in North Carolina accused of murder for killing a guard who had raped her.

The prosecution presented a very weak case, which led the judge to order the first degree murder charge (which carries the death penalty) dropped. She still faces second degree murder and voluntary manslaughter, with the jury having the option of acquittal or conviction on either of the charges.

Little testified in her own behalf, describing how the guard, Clarence Alligood, came to her cell three times in the evening and night, asking her to have sex. The third time he held an ice pick to her head, took off her clothes, and forced her to have oral sex on him. At one point he dropped the ice pick, she grabbed it and stabbed him with it. She testified that he was still alive when she ran out of the jail.

Other defense witnesses, Black women who had been held in that jail, testified that Alligood had harassed them also.

In rebuttal, the prosecution, attempting to prove that Joann had lured Alligood to her cell in an escape attempt, put a telephone operator on the phone who



B. Brown, for The Call

testified that twice that night a woman had made long distance phone calls from the jail and had identified herself as Joann Little.

In sum, the evidence supports the contention another N.C. judge was heard to have stated: that the case should never have come to trial.

That it did is an example of the racism directed against Joann Little. The prosecution used all of its peremptory challenges to remove Blacks from the jury. However, the jury is composed of half Black and half White, the majority of whom are women.

Joann has had great support across the country from prison support groups, Black groups, womens groups and the left in general. Demonstrations have been held in many major U.S. cities during the course of her trial. At a demonstration in Raleigh, N.C., the scene of the trial, the police tried to provoke a riot in hopes of discrediting Joann's supporters. The demonstrators kept their main purpose in mind and did not respond to the baiting by the police.

We hope and believe that by the time people receive this paper Joann will have been acquitted by the jury, and the racist efforts of the Klan and its supporters will have been defeated.

Revolution

the prisoners who are singled out for especially brutal treatment because of their actions and struggles inside the walls, people such as John Yancey, the Sisters of Bedford Hills, Joanne Little, the Attica Brothers and so on.

Turning again to the VVAW article, it stated, "to base one's theories of work on the idea that fascism is the major trend in the U.S. today is to make some serious errors..."--we find a basic disagreement with this idea. While in prison we realize that we are living under an openly fascist institution of this country and that this is not the way things are for most people and in a sense we are more or less spectators as to what comes down in the streets. But it is programs that we are familiar with, that we have been put through and fought against that we now see being applied to our people outside--though usually they have a cosmetic cover on them. Behavior modification under the guise of therapy or other cloaks is being used on increasingly larger numbers of people. Prisons have always had forced sterilization techniques and now they are being forced on some of our women (welfare mothers), before they are given relief. We see armies of police being built up in so called swat units.

Openly fascist organizations such as the kkk and nazi party are taking more open and active roles. Mandatory identification cards and policies are being increased and more one-sided control is being put on guns. Then we have governors calling for doubling of the national guard and giving this guard nuclear weapons. No knock laws are strengthened and grand juries are further becoming fishing expeditions against the People's movement. All this going on while Watergate, Cointelpro, CIA internal spying, etc., has been publically proven, yet continues to go on. If this is not indicative of a trend toward fascism, then what is?

It is a mistake to believe that fascism is dependent on a particular leader, brown shirts, and the like. If we wait for this to occur in the US we might wait forever, for each country will develop its own form and type of capitalistic rule and while differences exist, we must look deeper and see the system for what it really is. Anyone who asks themselves seriously whether the US today is more repressive, more controlling of its people than it was five or ten years ago, will have to admit that it is, and this is what the fascist trend means in reality. There is little real democracy in the US today, only the hollow husk of it. It is not the talk of a government but its actions that demonstrate whether it is becoming fascist, more liberal, or whatever. We firmly believe

that fascism is the trend and that it must be fought against now with all the tools that are available.

Some people read our article as implying that we as prisoners felt superior or something to working people outside because we may of had more experience in dealing with the open brutality of the oppressor. We had no intention of saying anything like this and in this same vein, neither do we believe that prisoners form any sort of class, sub-class or vanguard. Prison struggle is part of the revolution and we hope that more and more prisoners will strive to become total revolutionaries. Prisoners are overwhelmingly working class people and prison struggle, we believe, is part of our general class struggle. Being in prison and carrying on the struggle does not make a prisoner part of the vanguard--only through hard effort and correct actions and struggle does a prisoner, or for that matter anyone, become part of the vanguard, the leadership of the working class revolution. As prisoners we feel no superiority, nor for that matter inferiority, we just struggle on in the prison front for the time being and later, if/when we are released we will continue the same fight in some other front.

REVOLUTION!

written by brothers in a New England prison

Walpole Suit

The Layne-Nassar Complaint goes to the heart of the correctional process, charging criminal conduct on the part of the principle state officials in virtual control of the correctional process. As it is worded in the Complaint: "In consequence the plaintiffs allege that the totality of conditions at the Walpole State Prison... constitutes cruel and abusive treatment, intentionally inflicted by the Dept. of Corrections personnel and abetted in various ways by the other defendants in violation of the rights of the plaintiffs under the Constitution of the United States."

The Complaint cites a series of illegal actions on the part of the officials--from illegal guard strikes to obvious breaking of contracts with the prisoners to brutality, mistreatment, denial of due process, lack of rehabilitation programs mandated by


law, and an environment and conditions which actually militate against any possibility of rehabilitation. The Complaint is of such scope that it condemns the system of so-called corrections as equally as it condemns the prison and its lack of corrections. It charges and cites instances of collusion between the State Police, Legislature, District Attorney's office of the county, Department of Correction and others to commit criminal acts against the prisoners, to undermine real correctional processes, to participate in conspiracies to suppress legal attempts to redress grievances.

In sum, the Complaint is an indictment against major segments of the law-enforcement apparatus of the state. And it challenges our system of justice to answer these charges in a court of law.

Thus far the law-enforcement authorities have done practically everything possible to avoid this court confrontation. Therefore the prisoners Complaint looms larger than the correctional issue. The Complaint is the test of whether this Commonwealth and Federal Republic are to exist under the rule of law. If the answer is yes--law does prevail--a real correctional process and the cure of crime will begin. If the law does not prevail, the people shall have proof that we live in a criminal police state.

/s/George Nassar-Co-Chairman
Robert M. Layne-Legal Advocate
John Kerri-Chairman





WOMEN BEHIND BARS

AN ORGANIZING TOOL

... an important new booklet which provides an overview of conditions women face in this country's jails and prisons with an eye toward what can and is being done to bring about fundamental change. Included are over 100 capsule descriptions of groups giving prisoners political support and services, such as legal education projects, bail funds and prisoner unions. Articles detail the problems of female prisoners, analyse the role of prisons in society, suggest organizing tactics, and outline the legal system of the People's Republic of China. There are also sketches of six U.S. women political prisoners and interviews with three ex-cons. Annotated listings describe print and audio-visual resources. 56pp., \$1.75, free to prisoners. Resources for Community Change, PO Box 21066, Washington, DC 20009

WHO IS CONNING WHOM?

by Dwight Greene

The number of programs for cons is incredible. There are programs for cons classified as sex offenders. There are programs for cons with drug problems. There are programs for cons that give the drug problems. There are vocational training programs for cons. There are vocational retraining programs for cons. There are educational programs for cons. There are "de-educational" programs for cons. There are pre-entry programs for cons. There are re-entry programs for cons. It's gotten to the point where you need a program to keep up with the programs for cons. As a matter of fact, at last count there were 163 more programs than there were cons. Everybody I know who has a head for money either has a con program or is drawing up a proposal for a program.

In an effort to economize and provide uniform services to all inmates, the American Prison Establishment (APE) has decided to consolidate all existing programs into just one. Although the APE claims that it is soliciting ideas as to the nature of the consolidated program, reliable sources from inside the establishment say that a program has been handed to the APE from "the highest figure in the executive board of government". The program, stated to go into effect late this year, is called the Economic Stability and Defense Project.

This project, code named Econ-SAD, calls for the conscription of all physically able convicts into a special military unit. This unit would wage a continuous war against insurgent elements in third world countries.

According to a high level official in the establishment the concepts behind such a project are obvious and sound. He said, "First of all we could fight communism 24 hours a day, every day, all over the world".

"Secondly", he continued, "such a project would be a tremendous boost to the economy. By continuously producing war material and replacing expended material, we add a permanent stabilizing factor to the economy. As long as there is a commie left in the world, no American need be unemployed."

"Thirdly, the present military organizations would be released from the present responsibilities to re-enforce local law enforcement officials in domestic police action. Don't you see the beauty of the program. We catch more crooks, making the streets safer at home and the world more democratic."

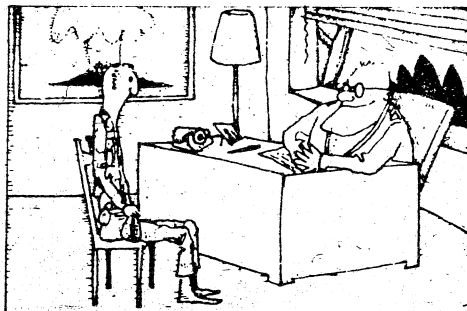
Anticipating criticism from "liberal individuals and leftist organizations", the APE has decided to wage a massive propaganda campaign in support of the program. The propaganda campaign was outlined in an inter-departmental pamphlet called Responsible Answers To Shameful Ineffective Treatment (RATSHIT). According to the pamphlet the

program could best be defended by two major contentions: (1) War is the best known remedy for a bad economy. Continuous war means a continuously good economy. (2) Inmates would be given the opportunity to make restitution to society and to prove themselves patriotic and decent Americans.

Mr. Thomas A. Foole, director of printing apparatus, said emphatically, "I think we can sell it to the people. You'd be surprised just how reasonable Americans really are."

When asked about the ethical implications of such a program, Mr. Foole said, "Well, you have to keep in mind that these men are criminals. All they know is fighting and killing. That's why they are in jail in the first place. You know, I even think we could win a few wars with these types. But even if we lose every battle, we still get rid of our number one problem--crime in the streets. Hee hee hee."

Mr. Foole said they would definitely have to ignore some of the constitutional rights of prisoners for the program to work. He said, however, that the economic and political benefits of the program would justify this suspension of rights. Referring to a peak year of American involvement in Vietnam, he said, "Remember how good 1968 was. Well it could be like that all the time."



Cooptation and Compromise

I no longer merely struggle to be free--but I struggle daily to remain alive. For each day marks a closer step to the unavoidable, the ultimate end, yet when I speak this truth to various concerned parties, it is taken far too lightly. So therefore, I must prepare myself alone, in the end must stand and be counted for! What confuses me is that these people who claim love for me, concern for me, have their own "personal interest" at hand. I am fully aware that I am being used for personal political gains from both parties--those who accuse me and those who claim support for me. It is quite obvious that my supporters have failed to comprehend the recent past beastful acts committed by capitalist minded representatives upon its poor en massed. It is too, quite understandable why my enemy is allowed the

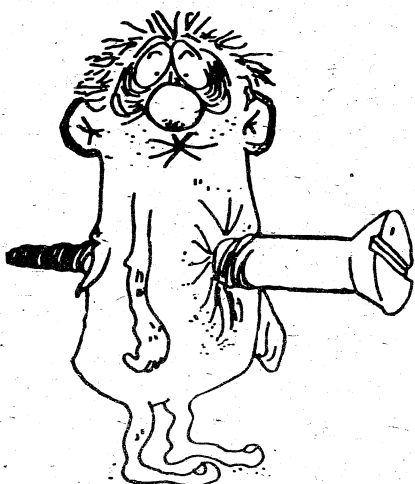
"leadway" that they have, simply because my bourgeoisie minded supporters have a history of liberalism, wanted to compromise with the very system that overpowers and rules daily over their own bourgeoisie lives. Little do they understand that their failure to accept and act upon the truth of this capitalist system has caused them to be more enslaved and victimized than myself. These people who represent me in this legal matter are locking greatly in understanding, though each time the opportunity arrives, I desperately attempt to re-educate them. I am continuously rejected with statements concerning this U.S. States law, which has proven unequally distributed upon the people and basically only applies to "majority" groups, which are systematically made to believe that they are a "minority group". Either way, the law will never set me free--as surely as it has not to this very day granted the blacks in amerika their actual freedom, justice, dignity, equality, culture, pride and humanitarian rights to be recognized as a people. Blacks are still the most exploited people on the face of this U.S. amerika and all of its supporting capitalist countries. Freedom is not worth having if you are afraid to fight for it--should death free me as I struggle to free my black peoples, then I, too, shall die proudly in contributing to this mass and armed struggle against my common enemy.

Things of which I feel I should actually discuss concerning my present legal situation I must hold back. I can only advise you to check the history of the *Compadore Bourgeoisie*. You will then understand my many different difficulties. As you know, the bourgeoisie class of peoples must be carefully guided at times as such. And as desperately as I try to "positively" communicate with them, I can



clearly see that they do not understand. As far as they are concerned, I am a number and a case. They do not struggle to preserve my life, but more so to expose my life. There is quite a bit of four political fore-play being executed against me. The "Killing Point" is my hands are tied, I can do nothing to prevent or redirect these sources. They are either too "big headed" or completely in opposition. Can you see that I am not just "Human Cargo" to be numbered and processed? Can you see that freedom for me can only be of my very own selection? The only way to continue to merely exist I must remain free within my own black self because in the finale, I must meet my foe on the battle grounds--victory must honor my struggle--I must not be shamed or know that unity among our struggling people could be so loving, so beautiful, so worthwhile dying for. I salute my entire Black Nation of oppressed people, for I am confident that we will be completely victorious in the end.

-- George Williams
23365
Box 900
Jefferson City, Mo.
65101



FREE NOLIN NOW!

The Roaring Twenties, bootleg booze, the Flapper craze and baseball fever, while Al Capone turned Prohibition into an empire and Leo Nolin of South Groveland, Massachusetts fell in with some bad company.

1927, and former Mass. Governor Calvin Coolidge occupied the White House with Herbert Hoover as Secretary of Commerce, Andrew Mellon in the Treasury and Charles Dawes was Vice-President.

Harry S. Truman was a county judge in Missouri, Earl Warren a thirty-six year old lawyer, and a young Army Captain called "Ike" was making a name for himself. Franklin D. Roosevelt was preparing to run for Governor of New York, Billy Mitchell court-martialed for insulting Japan and a young bachelor named Lindberg landed an airplane in Paris. The nation sat glued to their crystal sets as Babe Ruth hit number sixty, Lou Gerhig brought in 175 runs... and Leo J. Nolin was sentenced to prison for the rest of his natural life.

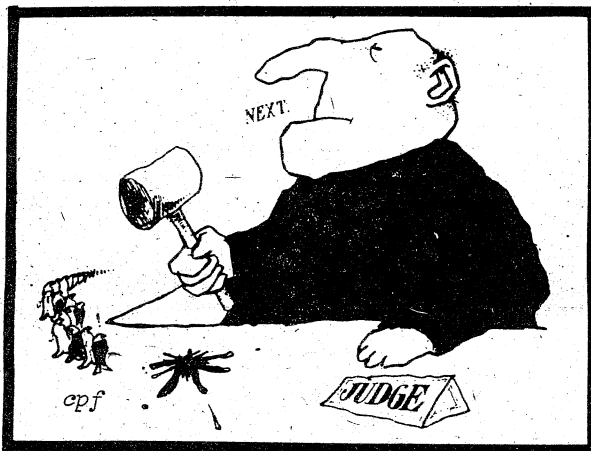
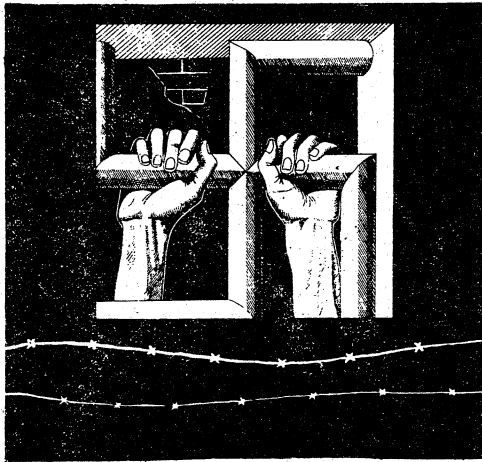
The sentence was issued after a jury in Essex County Superior Court found Mr. Nolin guilty of murder in the second degree, held responsible for the death of William Griffin, a Haverhill storekeeper, on March 7.

Newspaper reports of that era indicate that Griffin, a black storekeeper, was shot to death in his little shop in the Bradford section of Haverhill reportedly by a man who had entered and demanded money at gunpoint. Witnesses for the state said that two men and a girl drove in a car to Griffin's store and that Herman Reed and eighteen-year-old Mary Cwichla waited in the car while Nolin entered the store. Reed was charged with murder in the same case and was acquitted. Mary Cwichla was convicted as an accessory after the fact.

Counsel for the defense contended that the three were touring New England "on a drunken carousal and that so much vile liquor had been consumed that they were incapable of the intent to rob."

That was forty-eight years ago, and Leo Nolin has been behind bars ever since. Originally, he went to Charlestown Prison where he was just a few cells away from Jesse Pomeroy and he came to know fellow inmates Sacco and Vanzetti. Later, he was transferred to the penal colony at Norfolk, where he remains today, working in the Mattress Shop.

A petition for writ of habeas corpus ad subjucendum has been filed on behalf of Mr.



Nolin, alleging that his constitutional rights were violated. It is charged that he was arrested without a warrant, searched and frisked by an unlawful arrest and illegally transported into the Commonwealth of Mass. for trial.

All of this took place, of course, before the now familiar Miranda, Escobedo and Mapp decisions and, under similar circumstances which brought about this landmark decisions, Mr. Nolin alleges that he was not informed of his constitutional rights. It is further charged that he was denied grand jury minutes, was without counsel in the preliminary hearing, and was denied effective assistance of Court appointed counsel. It is further suggested in the writ that Judge Quinn was in error when refusing to charge the jury on Manslaughter.

The petition, filed by Leo J. Nolin and naming as respondent Larry R. Meachum, Superintendent of MCI at Norfolk, may become one of those suits "administrated" into some sort of settlement or it could become another landmark addressing the unresolved question of "cruel and unusual punishment".

Regardless of the outcome, Leo Nolin has been behind bars for a long time, for the pro football ranks no longer include such teams as Dayton, Providence and Deluth, the Europeans have been proven wrong thinking that our stock market declind was only temporary, and that a man could buy a wool suit for twenty dollars or a Necco wafer for a nickle.

When discussing the case earlier this week, one Corrections Department official commented "my God, nobody spends forty-eight years in jail anymore. Even on first-degree murder, a man would have a chance at parole after fifteen years."

For Leo J. Nolin, the years have somehow slipped by, without the parole. The sentence read, "for the rest of his natural life" and that, in fact, has been carried out, for his natural life ended many years ago, as the regimentation of institutionalization took over.

Advancing in years, Mr. Nolin may truly spend his last days of life behind the walls at Norfolk Prison. However, there is also the possibility that he has been extended a ray of hope, that somehow the give and take of the criminal justice system will give back a little of what has been taken, and the doors will open for at least a brief encounter with the mad-cap 1970's.

CALIFORNIA

Dear Friends,

This past fall the Governor of California fought bitterly to retain the California Adult Authority (Parole Board) and the indeterminate sentence, for a period of one year, to prove that it could be correctly administered. This present attempt is proving to be no different nor any more effective than the many times it has been tried in the past. At present there is a young man, who supposedly is the type of case the indeterminate sentence is designed to benefit, based on his accomplishments while in prison, from the Adult Authority.

This young man was arrested at 19 years old for rape and attempted rape. Under the indeterminate sentence there was no fixed time he would be in prison, but rather it would be based on what he accomplished in prison and when he developed an understanding of why he committed the crime so he would not commit future crimes. In other words, if a person really gets on the ball and shows progress toward being a useful asset to society, they should be able to be paroled in a fairly short period of time.

The finding upon entering prison was that his crime was directly related to a mental disorder of being unable to accept and understand his homosexual desires, or Sexual Identity Problem. The police reports and trial records also indicate this in that he was unable to achieve erection during the commission of the crime. (It was a fine line they drew to call the one charge rape) In tracing the history, he first became involved

in homosexual activities at age five, and became increasingly involved as he became older. His mother understood and accepted his behavior, while his father beat him for showing gay traits. He was placed in a long series of camps, boys homes and foster homes for being beyond the control of his parents. While at home he would be in continual trouble, yet while away from home he was seldom any trouble. When he was 16, his mother died and this left only a long series of "manly" acts, including joining the Marines and the rapes.

It is the total agreement of the prison staff that the crimes were the result of a sexual identity problem, and it is also totally agreed by them that he now accepts and understands the problem, thus the problem is resolved. In addition to reaching this level of understanding, he is within a few

weeks of completing four years of high school while in prison, and has taken 18 hours of college work. In addition, he has worked on the creation of a half-way house in San Francisco and is now working on a second one in Los Angeles. He has a job offer for January 18, 1976 for a training program to become an assistant manager of the L.A. Half-way House.

When he went to the parole board in June, everyone figured there would be no problems. He is eligible for parole, according to his legal status, August 1975. He was seeking a release date to correspond with his job offer; they did not grant him a release date period. The same panel of board members then turned right around and granted a release date to an inmate with all negative reports, several write-ups and no progress in therapy.

This is an out and out strike against every inmate that attempts to make progress and become a good citizen. We would like to ask the assistance of the many people who can grasp the seriousness of this type of a system. Letters demanding a new board hearing for Harry S. Lieble B53731 and protesting this type of decision making in the name of justice should be sent to: Gov. Brown, State Capitol, Sacramento, Ca. 95814.

Your assistance will be greatly appreciated. In the Struggle

Ronald Rose
B53354 P-302
PO Box 2000
Vacaville, Ca. 95688



WE ARE The North East Prisoners Association (NEPA)

During the April Conference held in Franconia, N.H., a decision was reached--in fact, a resolution was passed--to change the name of our organization to the North East Prisoners' Association (NEPA), formerly the New England Prisoners' Association (NEPA).

This newspaper, NEPA NEWS, is the official "voice" of our organization, as indicated in the banner.

Unfortunately, some people, including several who attended the conference (and in fact voted in favor of the resolution) are representing themselves (primarily in Mass) as the New England Prisoners Association (NEPA).

The decision to change our name was (by unanimous decision) because several prison organizations in the state of New York had expressed a strong interest in working with us. The expansion (as our new name indicates) is indicative of this new level of commitment.

Unfortunately, the prison movement, like other movements, has to deal with individuals who have a great deal of ego, and a questionable level of commitment to the struggle. These individuals have decided that their priorities lie in status and prestige, rather than a commitment to work.

THE NEW ENGLAND PRISONERS ASSOCIATION (NEPA) WAS DISSOLVED IN APRIL, 1975. WE ARE THE NORTH EAST PRISONERS ASSOCIATION (NEPA).

We would also like to inform our readership that Russell Carmichael, one of the founders of NEPA and once the Executive Director, is no longer a member of NEPA, due to his resignation from the organization. In addition, NEPA has no Executive Director; as noted in the minutes to the NEPA meetings in this issue, we are now running ourselves (on the outside) by means of a committee selected by the NEPA members in the states in which we work.

Subscriptions

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

- I am a prisoner without funds. Please send me NEPA NEWS.
- I am a prisoner. Here is my subscription in the amount of \$_____.
- \$3.00 regular subscription.
- Here is my donation in the amount of \$_____ to support the continued publication of NEPA NEWS.
- ADDRESS CHANGE. I am moving to a new address. Please mail future copies of NEPA NEWS to me at the above address.
- \$10 Institutional Subscription

MEMBERSHIP

- I am a con. Enroll me as a member of the North East Prisoners' Association.
- I am on the outside. Enroll me as a member of NEPA. I enclose \$4 for a subscription to NEPA NEWS and for a copy of the N.E. Prisoners Resource Manual.
- I am on the outside, have no funds, but please enroll me in NEPA.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

Mail to NEPA NEWS, Franconia, N.H. 03580.

ADDRESS CHANGE

If you have moved or are moving, please put your old address below, your new address above.

OLD ADDRESS: _____

PLEASE INCLUDE ZIP CODE.

~SUPPORT NEPA NEWS~

Over the last two years, NEPA NEWS has received (on an average), five letters a day requesting subscriptions, and thanking the staff of NEPA NEWS for the work we're doing. We appreciate these letters, most of them come from prisoners.

Several weeks ago a brilliant idea occurred to us. This idea came as the result of some serious beer consumption, and the realization that (for example) although many prisoners were unable to afford subscriptions--they could probably afford a \$1.00 contribution.

WHAT WILL THIS DOLLAR DO?

One of our biggest problems is money--the lack of it. None of the staff members--inside or out--(with the exception of the Managing Editor, who receives a subsistence salary), pockets any money for the work we do. Consequently, any traveling expenses (into the joints or to cover a story) has to come from us.

This has caused serious restrictions on the amount of travel (particularly out of state) each of us is able to do. Some of us are unemployed, others are making \$2.10 an hour at part-time jobs.

Our idea would call for all those: PRISONERS, EX-PRISONERS, SUPPORTERS, FAMILIES, AND FRIENDS--ANYONE WHO READS AND SUPPORTS NEPA NEWS TO CONTRIBUTE \$1.00.

Checks should be made payable to: NEPA NEWS (cash is O.K., too).



*** Nepa Films And Speakers ***

The North East Prisoners Association has the following films to rent and/or sell:

3000 YEARS AND LIFE--A film by Randall Conrad and Steve Ujlaki.

"3000 Years and Life" was made in Massachusetts' Walpole Prison when the guards and prisoners were on strike. The film details the prisoners' struggle and shows how the prisoners ran Walpole better than do the guards. 40 minutes, 16mm color, rental--\$50, sale--\$400.

WITH INTENT TO HARM--A film by Stephen Ujlaki and Scott Siegler

Shot inside several Massachusetts prisons, this film explains the conditions of life inside, the struggles of the prisoners in Massachusetts after Attica, and a few reforms made at the time. 28 minutes, 16mm color, rental--\$35, sale--\$350.

VERMONT STATE PRISON--A film by the Vermont Coalition for Prisoner Support

Made from stills and moving footage, the film explores the conditions inside America's oldest maximum security prison (built in 1809). It helps to explain why Vermont has decided to close the place down. 20 minutes, 16mm Black and White, rental--\$20, sale--\$125.

SPEAKERS

NEPA will send speakers, with or without a film, to your organization. Our normal fee for a speaking engagement is \$50, but reduced rates may be negotiated, for low income organizations.

Films and Speakers Contacts

NEPA Public Education
Franconia, N.H. 03580
(603)823-8501

NEPA Public Education
Bob Martin
Urban Planning Aid
639 Massachusetts Avenue
Cambridge, Ma. 02139
(617)661-9220

Sustaining Contributors

NEPA is growing. This growth demands expansion of "resources" in order to obtain the following:

- TAPE RECORDERS
- CAMERAS
- ADDITIONAL NEWSPAPER/OFFICE EQUIPMENT
- *A NEPA TRANSPORT BUS

Beginning with this issue, we're putting out a call for those people on the outside to become SUSTAINING CONTRIBUTOR(S).

NAME:.....

ADDRESS:.....

PHONE #:.....

I agree to contribute \$_____, each month.

I am unable to contribute each month, but enclosed please find my contribution in the amount of \$_____.

- * Make checks payable to: THE NORTH EAST PRISONERS' ASSOCIATION
- * address envelopes to: SUSTAINING CONTRIBUTOR(S), C/O NEPA NEWS, FRANCONIA, N.H. 03580

Community Centers

MASSACHUSETTS
Prison Information Center
7 Laurel St., Apt. #2
Worcester, Ma.

MAINE
SCAR Center
374 Fore St.
Portland, Me. 04111
(203)773-7218, 7219, 7210

The Aid Center
18 S. Water St.
Mail: Box E-646
New Bedford, Ma.
02742
(617)999-3232

NEW HAMPSHIRE
Prisoners Family Center
104 North Main St.
Concord, N.H. 03301
(603)225-2901