

Prison News Service

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Ronbo's Robed Rangers of Reaction Roll Rightward



"A CRIMINAL ACT"

The Marionette
begins on page 12

In recent months, the hard right majority of the U.S. Supreme Court has been busy chiseling swastikas into the body of civil liberties law, a body already emaciated after eight years of Ronbo Reaganism. Ostensibly, they are doing so on the conservative notion of reserving rights to localities that have been usurped by that rightist chimera "big government". But the fact that the very precedents that afford some measure of protection from the depredations of government, as the executive committee of the ruling class, are those being singled out for appeal expose that rationale as a lie.

The rule of law mythology was especially apparent as nothing more than a thin velvet glove over the iron fist of brutality in the cases dealing with the apparatus of repression. The Supreme Court decreed that the state murder of sixteen year olds is all right — at the very same time as its legislative counterparts were decrying Chinese reactionaries for killing Chinese youth. And China doesn't execute sixteen year olds. Execution of sixteen year olds being contrary to U.S. ratified international agreements further illustrates the court's unpublished opinion on the rule of law. The mentally ill are also now fair game for the executioner. Could that be because blood sacrifices, to placate popular discontent using essentially powerless victims who don't know what's being done to them, are easier? To facilitate their murder mania, these pompous old men ruled in another case that people sentenced to death are not entitled to a free lawyer beyond trial and initial appeal. Presentation for death row prisoners is already at a crisis stage. How can a right to appeal have any meaning without the ability to exercise it.

For living death, the Supreme Court let stand by refusing to hear the appeal of the Circuit Court ruling upholding the brutality and lockdown of USP Marion in

continued over

all its particulars. Appellate judge Posner described Marion conditions as "ghastly", "sordid and horrible" and "depressing in the extreme" but ruled in favor of them nevertheless. In the current climate of hysterical prison-building and macho lock 'em up attitudes, the supreme signal is go for a greatly expanded proliferation of dungeons like Marion — and worse since agents of repression always slop over their limits. The high court moved to insure that such dungeons will be filled too, by taking a bite out of the Miranda decision, the one requiring that victims of arrest be read their legal rights. Now, the Miranda warning no longer has to be word for word. But what deviation is acceptable — or will come to be? An inarticulate grunt?

Inarticulate grunts are consistent with yet another repressive ruling giving prisoncrats virtually unfettered discretion to censor what prisoners read, to make the dungeons darker and deeper by keeping prisoners isolated and ignorant. Judge Blackmun wrote in that opinion that maintaining "security" is "central" to all other correctional goals, as if Marioneseque security becomes "central" to all other community goals. It can happen here.

Beyond, but inextricably bound to the policeism realm, affirmative action has been under particular attack by the court, purportedly out of concern for "fairness". Affirmative action is one of the few paltry steps this society has taken to remedy the fact that identifiable segments of it have been squeezed out of full participation and a fair return therefrom. It is recognition, however that the favored members of a collective — and a society is for everyone or it is for no one — have an obligation (and should have a desire) to sacrifice if that is what it takes to allow exploited and oppressed members to attain parity. But the Supreme Court has now issued rulings curtailing set asides for minority business in government contracts, opening affirmative action agreements to destructive litigations and making it more difficult to challenge on-the-job discrimination, among others. With them, it purports to be saying that the society must be color blind. What it really means is blind to the disenfranchisement and deprivation of people of color. What it wants is to get the people at the bottom of its economic heap squabbling with each other over the crumbs its class leaves them.

Other minorities have also been targetted. The handicapped were attacked in a ruling saying that states are not liable for damages for violating the Education for the Handicapped Act of 1975. Education is a fundamental right of all people. And an action reminiscent of the Israeli injustice of abusing family members of activists, the court denied a Michigan state employee relief for having been refused a promotion because his brother was the subject of a "red squad" file.

These decisions are part of an administrative, legislative and judicial fabric of rights reduction. With them, the ruling class is moving to pit the people whom it exploits against each other and free its hands to wage low intensity warfare against them. It knows they will be increasingly impelled to "buck" the growing disparities in wealth and power. Sharing is out; the stick is in — it will eventually reach everyone. ∞

Irish Internment, U.S. Style

On 18/June/89, Joe Dougherty, a volunteer in the Irish Republican Army, began his seventh year of political internment in the federal Metropolitan Correctional Center in New York. He is serving no sentence for any conviction of a crime in the U.S., nor is he being held pending trial for any such crime. When Joe came to this country, he was an escapee from British injustice in Northern Ireland. He had been imprisoned for killing the captain of a British SAS (military counterinsurgency division) squad that attacked the IRA position to which he was posted in the centuries old struggle against British imperialism in Ireland.

The reactionary Thatcherite English government wants Joe in its clutches very badly as a counter in its war of occupation in Ireland. But its desire is so blatantly linked to political repression that even U.S. federal judges denied the extradition request. Starting with former U.S. Attorney General Edwin (the upright) Meese, Thatcher cronies in the U.S. administration sought to circumvent the legal set back by having Joe deported administratively. That, too, has been stalled in the courts, though remains unresolved. And Joe languishes in prison. In recognition of that injustice, 1500

IRA *Continued on page 15*

Return Paul Wright

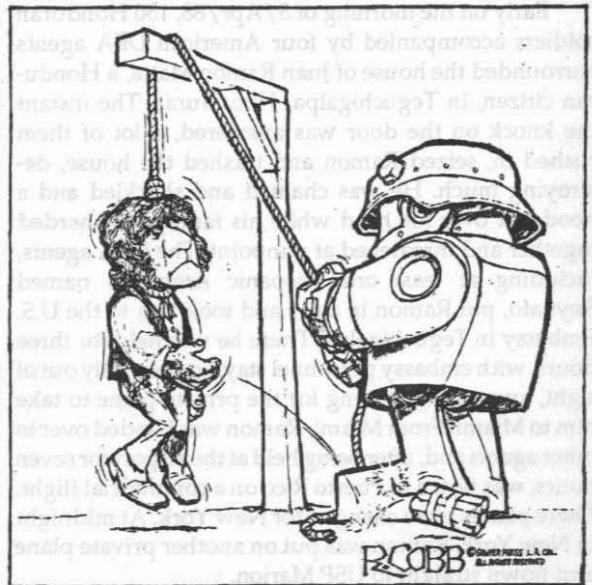
by Ed Mead

Paul Wright and I have recently suffered a substantial set-back in the publication of our proposed *Red Dragon* newsletter (or whatever we decide to name it). But perhaps it is not one of sufficient magnitude to totally derail the project. The administration transferred Paul to another prison, allegedly because of his involvement in what the prison administration calls an "international communist terrorist conspiracy" (in other words he wrote letters to progressives in other countries). But the real reason for his involuntary transfer was because of the proposed newsletter, and because of his active support for the effort to stop the mandatory double celling of prisoners at this facility.

Prisoners here at WSR filed a law suit against double bunking in 1978, and as a result of that suit the state entered into a consent degree agreeing to single man celling at this facility with a population limit of 348. Using the courts, we have finally managed to back them up to the wall on this one, forcing them to honor their word. They've been to the U.S. District Court and the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals to get stays, but with no success. In the meantime we prisoners were bending over backwards to give them as much space as they need to get the job done.

While we are trying to be patient and reasonable, they are constantly thinking up new provocations to use against us, among many others are; closing down one mess hall to crowd us into the other one, shutting down morning visiting on weekends, etc. A few days ago they came to us with the ultimatum that we will accept mandatory double celling and a population of 556 during the the remodeling process or they will shut the prison down (close it until after the remodelling is completed.)

Prisoners suffered in 1978, when the population was 1,250 here. And many others since then have sacrificed and suffered in the fight against double celling. The struggle here is an intense one, with the agents of the administration, their lackeys and flunkies worried about having to be sent to a "real" prison. They make trouble and agitate for capitulation. Also the crew bosses, fearful of losing their jobs should the place close down, agitate their prisoner-workers to sell out our dec-



ade old battle against double celling. So there is controversy and struggle going on within the population, but the rats, rapos and running dogs of the pigs are a tiny minority and cannot stand in the way of the growing movement to end this intolerable form of oppression.

One night there was a meeting of lifers (prisoners with life terms), at which the capitulationists were trying to gain a foothold for their line of panic and crisis. Paul rose and gave a speech to the assembled group, about thirty men, on the justness of our cause and the need for firm resolve. in the face of threats by the administration and their lackeys. He received a standing ovation from the prisoners. And afterwards not a single person voted in favor of capitulation. The next day Paul was locked up in the hole, supposedly for his ongoing work with getting the *Red Dragon* going. But when lawyers prevented prison officials from locking me (the proposed editor) up too, they changed the reason to some nonsense about an international communist terrorist conspiracy. Last week he was banished to the Washington State Penitentiary at Walla Walla.

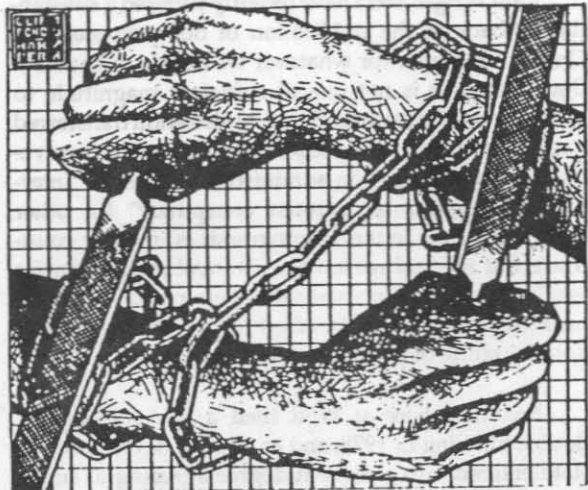
His address is: Paul Wright, POB 5052, Walla Walla, WA 99362 USA. ∞

Crimes of Law

Early on the morning of 5/Apr/88, 150 Honduran soldiers accompanied by four American DEA agents surrounded the house of Juan Ramon Matta, a Honduran citizen, in Teguchigalpa, Honduras. The instant the knock on the door was answered, a lot of them rushed in, seized Ramon and trashed the house, destroying much. He was chained and shackled and a hood put over his head while his family was herded together and threatened at gunpoint. The DEA agents, including at least one Hispanic American named Reynato, put Ramon in a car and took him to the U.S. Embassy in Teguchigalpa. There he was held for three hours, with embassy personnel staying pointedly out of sight, apparently waiting for the private plane to take him to Miami. From Miami, Ramon was handed over to other agents and, after being held at the airport for seven hours, was flown to Puerto Rico on a commercial flight. There planes were changed for New York. At midnight in New York, Ramon was put on another private plane and flown straight to USP Marion.

During the whole trip from his home to Miami, Ramon was tortured by the four DEA agents. They shocked him repeatedly on various body parts with an electric stun gun and burned him many times with cigarettes. He still bears the scars. His lawyer has pictures taken by the swine upon his arrival at Marion and others in which the damage was still clearly visible four months later when he was finally taken to court. Former Marion executive assistant George Wilson took pains to assure local lawyers who had become aware of Ramon's injuries that they hadn't happened here. But the Bureau of Prisons is colluding in the violation of Ramon's human rights and compounds it by keeping him at Marion even though he does not fit the alleged criteria.

Ramon is accused by the U.S. of being a Mr. Big in the world of drug trafficking. Despite government assertions of the certainty of its accusations, a year later it has not been able to prove any of them in court. Two indictments have been dismissed and the others are "garbage" according to lawyers. The stated grounds being so shaky, it is apparent that the real reason for the kidnapping in violation of U.S. and Honduran law (there is no extradition to the U.S. for Honduran citizens) is the drug bureaucracy's need for a scapegoat.



Ramon was a likely candidate because he was wealthy and also could be held for a while in the U.S. because he had walked away from a sentence for being in the U.S. on a false passport in 1971. Three years were added to his sentence for that. He had been here visiting two of his children and escaped because authorities wouldn't give him a 15 month time cut so he could attend to his mother who was dying of cancer. Ramon also thinks that he was picked as the sacrifice to American pressure because he was too liberal with his money in the social arena for the tastes of the Honduran oligarches. They didn't want anyone getting any silly expectations about pay and services.

The kidnapping of Juan Ramon Matta raised a storm of protest that included the firebombing of the American Embassy, burning of American flags and particular militance by students. The demonstrations were suppressed by the military and cost five lives, making the U.S. kidnapping conspiracy also responsible for multiple murder. The students and other demonstrating Hondurans were exactly right in their outrage against U.S. imperialism and arrogance and contempt for Honduran sovereignty. Regardless of the charges — which are tenuous at best, there being no hard evidence of culpability — the U.S. kidnapping of Ramon demonstrates contempt for the very rule of law officialdom claims to uphold. It shows who the real criminals are. ∞

Peltier Extradition Appeal Denied

by Bulldozer

On 22/June/89, the Canadian Supreme Court refused to reopen the 1976 extradition of noted American Indian leader Leonard Peltier back to the United States. The US government has admitted that the affidavit's used in the extradition hearings were fraudulent. Peltier's Canadian lawyers had argued that since this was the case, the fraud was not only committed against Peltier but against the Canadian court system and the Canadian government as well. But true to their puppet status, the Canadian government and its courts preferred the relative embarrassment, which fortunately for them few people notice and even less care about, to having to stand up to their masters in the US.

But far from being down-hearted about the decision, for the Canadian support group, it only clears the way for the next possible steps. These include: political pressure on the Conservative government; support for a private member's bill that is being presented to Parliament; a civil suit against the U.S. government for fraud; a petition to the United Nations on the grounds of the violations of Peltier's Human Rights.

Peltier is currently serving two life terms in Leavenworth prison for the deaths of two FBI agents on the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota in 1975 during an armed FBI attack on an encampment of traditional Lakota Indians and members of the American Indian Movement. Peltier escaped to Canada but was captured and sent back to the US where he was convicted at a trial that was a mockery (or perhaps a faithful rendition) of American justice.

Support is urgently needed to allow the support group here to continue with the case. Peltier has come to represent the broader struggles of the Indian peoples in North America. Keeping the issue in front of the public will assist not only in the freeing of one of the best known American political prisoners but also help in building the Indian struggle in Canada and the U.S. For information, or to send donations, write to: The Leonard Peltier Canadian Defense Group, 43 Chandler Dr., Scarborough, Ont. Canada ∞

National Notes

SPECIFICALLY POLITICAL IMPRISONMENT: This month, federal district judge Emmet Claire sentenced Juan Segarra Palmer, Antonio Camacho Negron and two others to long terms for alleged involvement in the 1983 expropriation of a Wells Fargo depository. Juan was given 65 years despite the tenuousness of the evidence and the peripheral character of his alleged involvement. Claire justified the draconian sentence with a prosecutors' memorandum accusing Juan of other political actions and "terrorism" in furtherance of Puerto Rican independence. Hence, Juan was convicted and sentenced for these things on supposition and without opportunity to defend, a mark of the threat the government perceives in Puerto Rican independista activities. Antonio was given 15 years and the two others five years apiece, the harshness also politically motivated. Nine of the Puerto Rican/Hartford 15 originally charged in the case still await trial. And the U.S. government still insists it has no political prisoners.

NAZIFICATION OF DOPE: Drugs are being used to build acceptance of the national security police state. "Drug Czar" Bennet said on 7/May that the DC Courts would get military judges and prosecutors to handle drug cases. He later said that there's no problem decapitating drug dealers. President Bush calls frequently for harsher repression including more use of death in kinder, gentler America, allegedly to fight drugs. Police in LA and Florida make mass preventive arrests of those they label, by appearance or location, drug gangsters.

These public displays are revealed as nazification rather than real concern about drug abuse by the absence of real intention to stop it. According to various estimates, the drug trade amounts to three to four per cent of the U.S. Gross National Product and is thus,

See National Notes page 11

Prison Talk at Montreal AIDS Conference

An informative, if chilling session entitled "Prisoners: Constraints and Challenges" in which prisoncrats from several countries outlined their theoretical and actual approaches to AIDS in prison was featured at the Fifth International AIDS conference held in Montreal in early June.

The first speaker was Timothy Harding, a liberal intellectual from Europe. In the typical manner of prison reformers (as opposed to abolitionists), Harding hit some nails on the head while missing many others that form the basic structure of the problem. He opened his speech by opining that prisoners are a test case for human rights vis-a-vis HIV/AIDS. He pointed out that problems with health care in prison existed long before AIDS and that part of these are because health care is controlled by the administration. Suggesting that the structure of health care delivery in prisons needs to be radically changed, Harding posited two alternative models for dealing with AIDS in prisons: "equivalence" and "authoritarianism", with the "equivalence" system meaning that AIDS in prison should be treated exactly the same as AIDS outside (eg. inadequately and inhumanely.)

Harding also said that the linking of AIDS with prisons tends to create the erroneous impression that prison itself is a risk factor. However, his listing of actual risk factors in prison was more than a little alarming: 1) intravenous drug use; 2) "induced" homosexual behaviour; and 3) casual heterosexual contact during parole. He also referred to #2 and #3 as a "bridging phenomena", that is, something which is likely to spread AIDS from one population to another. He reinforced the homophobia surrounding the concept of "induced" homosexual behaviour with the statement that "in well-administered and well run prisons, homosexual rape does not occur." This is chilling in many respects, not the least of which is the fact that, in any random grouping of people, 10 per cent will be lesbian or gay and a good many more will be bisexual to one degree or another. The idea that all homosexual acts inside are rape and that such things should not occur in a properly managed institution, is a precursor to using AIDS as a rationale to more repressively prohibit sexuality in prisons.

Next up was Steven Thomas of the New York City Department of Corrections, who opened by informing the audience that in NYC the Health Department administers health care in jails. Thomas conceptualized his approach as an attempt to balance the need to operate safe and secure jails with the need to service at risk and HIV+ inmates. He reminded us that in the NYC jail system, prisoners have relatively shorter stays than those in the state or federal systems. He then proceeded to barrage the audience with the following statistics: 110,000 people go through the NYC jails in a year and on any given day, approximately 19,000 are confined in a total of 18 facilities. Eighty-Five per cent of prisoners use drugs once a week and 39% use more than one drug; the Department of Health says that 50% have been IV drug users, and 20-25% are HIV+. Therefore, says Thomas, the NYC-DoC's approach has been to initiate drug treatment programs of various kinds in the city jails. This includes methadone detox and maintenance for heroin users, and "Drug Free" programs which are designed to replicate therapeutic community drug programs (which often use behaviour modification or other unpleasant techniques) in a correctional setting. Thomas pointed out that the DoC's emphasis on drug treatment has created a situation in which prisoners often have greater access to these programs inside than they do on the streets. (There have been no new drug treatment slots created in New York state since the mid-seventies.) He advocated that resources be used for drug treatment programs rather than prison construction. Ironically, this makes Thomas, a prisoncrat, more progressive than the city's Department of Health, whose method of coping with the AIDS crisis has been to deflate statistics, close hospital wards and let people with AIDS die on the street.

Thomas was asked by a member of the audience to comment on one aspect of the AIDS preventative program at Rikers Island, one of the city's jails. Rikers is often lauded as a model of AIDS prevention in that it distributes condoms to prisoners. However, they are distributed only one at a time and only at sick call. When asked to justify this far-from-anonymous mode of distribution, Thomas said that the DoC sees condom distribution as an AIDS prevention and education ef-



fort and therefore it is more appropriate for the medical personnel to be involved. This begs the question, since homophobia makes prisoners less likely to come forward to request a condom. Nevertheless, Thomas declared the program a success and said it will soon to be spread to the other NYC jails.

The relative liberalism of the first two speakers was eclipsed by the openly fascistic approach of Patrick Hynes, a representative of the British prison system. He opened his presentation by showing slides of some of Britain's 128 prisons, most of which are very old (up to 500 years!) and all of which are overcrowded. This means, according to Hynes, that hygiene facilities are poor and homosexual activity is "induced". Emphasizing that Britain's prison population is overwhelmingly composed of "healthy young males", Hynes said that distribution of condoms is not under consideration by the British penal system. Why? Because "homosexual acts between consenting adults in England and Wales are legal only in private and nowhere in a prison is considered private. Therefore, distribution of condoms could be seen as condoning illegal activity." Also, condoms have an 8% failure rate and therefore, in Hynes' opinion, anal intercourse, even with a condom is "unsafe sex". As for needles, they can be used as weapons.

Hynes noted that, while the number of HIV+ inmates in Britain is still relatively low, it has risen sharply

over the past year. His predictions regarding treatment for inmates who actually develop ARC (AIDS Related Complex) or AIDS while in the system were still scary. He said that the provision of special diets and proper rest and exercise periods would be difficult and that, although stress is an acknowledged factor in the development of full-blown AIDS, one can't just go around releasing prisoners. Moreover, in the future, financial and physical restraints will be even worse and it's possible that the National Health System would be unable to provide nursing care and would treat only the most acute of the opportunistic infections. A member of the audience challenged Hynes regarding the 8% failure rate of condoms. She pointed out that without condoms, the risks of anal intercourse are hugely magnified. Said Hynes, "we don't have to have anal sex in Britain."

The programs final speaker was Elizabeth Kantor from San Francisco, a city thought to be advanced and liberal in its AIDS programs. Indeed, her presentation, which centred on issues of anonymity and confidentiality of HIV antibody status, was in some ways a model of enlightened (for a government) thinking about AIDS. Her position is that the only reason for a prison administration to have knowledge of the antibody status of a prisoner is medical — that there should be no aspect of

Update on the Lexington Control Unit — The Nightmare Isn't Over

by Freedom Now

The struggle to close down the Lexington Control Unit has been one of the successes of the anti-prison movement in the U.S. The unit was condemned by the American Civil Liberties Unit (ACLU) and caused a massive public and international outcry. Amnesty International compared the Control Unit to West Germany's "Dead Wings", where political prisoners are held for years in total isolation. The Control Unit was finally shut down last August following a ruling by DC federal Judge Barrington Parker, who found that the two political women who bought suit, had been placed there solely because of their political beliefs and associations. This was a very significant ruling because it is the first time a federal judge has admitted the existence of political prisoners in the US. Judge Parker ordered the Bureau of Prisons to place the women in general population immediately.

The closure of the Control Unit was a great victory. But for the women of the Lexington Control Unit — Puerto Rican Independentista Alejandrina Torres, and anti-imperialist Silvia Barbaldini and Susan Rosenberg — the nightmare is not over. In effect punishing the women for their victory, the Bureau of Prisons (BOP) moved them not to general population but to metropolitan correctional centers (MCC), designed for short-term detention of those awaiting trial or transfer. These pre-trial facilities are not fit for long-term prisoners, and certainly not for these women who had deteriorated so seriously in the Control Unit. The constant stress of isolation, intense surveillance and sensory deprivation took a heavy toll on the women's health.

Silvia Barbaldini, an Italian national, went straight from the Control Unit to face another ordeal at a prison hospital, where she had a hysterectomy following the tardy detection of a very aggressive form of uterine cancer. Over 300 members of the Italian Parliament petitioned their Prime Minister to pressure Bush to release Ms. Barbaldini to asylum in her land of birth.

Just after leaving the Control Unit, Alejandrina Torres developed a painful breast lump. She still suffers great pain from a shoulder injury sustained in a beating by guards. Severely restricting her ability to use one arm. Ms. Torres also has a long-standing heart condition, and has lost 40 pounds since entering BOP custody.

Susan Rosenberg suffered serious weight loss and developed vision problems. Ms. Rosenberg has said that if she were released from



prison tomorrow, she would report to a center for the treatment as a victim of torture. Remarkably, the women have kept their spirit of resistance intact. Yet to recuperate physically, they need rehabilitation and close medical supervision. Instead, what conditions do they face at the MCCs?

The high-rise detention centers have little or no access to fresh air and sun: Susan Rosenberg, for instance, was kept indoors in the DC Detention Center for over one year. The centers have virtually no educational or work programs. There is a constant turnover of prisoners, resulting in an inability to establish any meaningful relationships. Visiting hours are pitifully short, even compared to regular prisons — in San Diego for instance, where Alejandrina Torres is held thousands of miles from her home, her husband and children are allowed to see her one hour per day. Most seriously of all, detention centers have no real medical facilities, only dispensaries. Under these conditions, the women will only continue to physically deteriorate.

There is another threat hanging in the air, particularly if the government wins its current appeal of Judge Parker's ruling. The Bureau of Prisons has indicated its intentions to transfer the Lexington women and three other imprisoned Puerto Rican independentistas to a new maximum security prison in Marianna, FL, where it promised to "transfer the mission" of the Lexington Control Unit. This new women's prison is surrounded by a man's prison. Marianna is indeed the horrible offspring of Lexington, with 104 women doubled up in a space designed for 54 women. Two women share an aisle of floor space one yard wide. Political prisoner Carol Manning of the Ohio Seven, and Sylvia Brown and Deborah Brown, the social prisoners from the Lexington Control Unit, have already been sent to Marianna.

Exactly what was "the mission" of the Lexington Control Unit and now Marianna Prison? In the words of the ACLU report: "to reduce prisoners to the state of submission essential for their ideological conversion. That failing, the next objective is to reduce them to a state of psychological incompetence sufficient to neutralize them. . . That failing, the only alternative is to destroy them, preferably by making them desperate enough to destroy themselves." Human rights activists won a victory with the closure of the Control Unit, but the women themselves have not had their human rights secured. We need to pressure the Bureau of Prisons to move the women to general population, where they can recuperate.

Voice your protest to the Director of the Bureau of Prisons, J. Michael Quinlan, Federal Bureau of Prisons, 320 First St. NW, Washington, DC 20001 (202) 724-3250.

The continuing campaign for the women of the Lexington Control Unit is being organized by Freedom Now: Campaign for Amnesty and Human Rights for Political Prisoners in the US. Freedom Now was launched at the United Nations in December 1988, on the 40th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Bringing together scores of political prisoners, families, clergy and human rights activists. Freedom Now was organized to demand that the United States respect the human rights it so vociferously espouses, and to join many other governments in granting amnesty to political prisoners. For more information contact: Freedom Now, 5249 N. Kenmore, Chicago, IL 60640, (312) 278-6706. ∞

U.S. Imports Criminals

by Adam Starchild

The United States government is now importing foreign criminals to make up statistics and keep the drug enforcement bureaucracy in business. This new technique wastes the taxpayers money while the bureaucrats try to make themselves look good.

This new method involves inflating the statistics and clogging the judicial system and prisons, by bringing in drug carriers who had no intention of ever entering the United States. Many commercial airline flights between America and Europe make refuelling stops in San Juan, Puerto Rico. Normally when this happens in international aviation — and it is a routine event in all countries — the passengers either stay on board, or are taken to a secure transit lounge adjoining the plane.

But the U.S. Customs and the Drug Enforcement Administration are using this opportunity to search the passengers and baggage. Not surprisingly, they often find cocaine. The passenger is then taken off the plane, charged with drug smuggling and invariably receives a long federal prison sentence. The new prisoner is then flown to a federal prison in the United States, since there are no federal prison in Puerto Rico. This costs the U.S. taxpayer approximately \$20,000 per year for the imprisonment, plus the cost of the trial which could be in the tens of thousands of dollars and much more if the accused puts up a real fight. Later there is the cost of immigration detention after the prison sentence, an immigration hearing or two and the cost of deportation, including airfare back to the country of origin.

The case of Jorge Aguilar-Pena, a 29-year-old Colombian prisoner at the Sandstone federal prison in Minnesota, well illustrates this point. Aguilar was on board a Lufthansa German Airlines flight from Bogota to Zurich, with a stop at Frankfurt. There was no mention of a stop at San Juan. When the plane landed at San Juan, a few ounces of cocaine were found in the toes of Aguilar's shoes. He received a 4 year prison sentence, almost double the sentence recommended by the U.S. Sentencing Commission. The extra time was because the judge said he wanted it to be a deterrent to future smugglers, which is ridiculous since they don't know about it, and since Aguilar wasn't trying to even come to the U.S., much less smuggle here.

Aguilar's case will cost the U.S. taxpayers at least \$100,000. For this money, a few agents at Customs and the DEA got to phony up their statistics and help make it look like San Juan is a hotbed of the international narcotics trade, thus justifying more money to that field office's budget. For no tax money at all, Aguilar could have been left on the plane unsearched and the Germans or Swiss authorities could have dealt with their own problems at their own expense. Multiply Aguilar by many arrests per week and you have an idea of the endless cost to taxpayers. There are about 40 similar cases at Sandstone, about 5% of the prison population.

This money could have been used by the agents to find some real smugglers bringing drugs into the U.S. instead of Europe — but to find real smugglers means work, including hiking through the mosquito infested swamps of southern Puerto Rico or the Everglades. Better yet, the money could have been used to address the sources of the drug problem: poverty, ignorance, disenfranchisement, hopelessness and the other ills of exploitation and oppression. How much easier to wait in the airport cocktail lounge for an international carrier to bring some more phony statistics to show the taxpayers how big the war against drugs is. And how much more lucrative it is to concentrate the money into a few hands with fat salaries and expensive, high tech equipment than to spread it around in the more productive, albeit labor intensive community based methods of fighting drug abuse.

Apart from the dollar cost to the American taxpayer, there is a cost to our fundamental concepts of law and justice. One of the basic principles of American law is that there must be intent to commit a crime before a person can be convicted of a crime. How can a person who never expected to be in the U.S. possibly have the intent to commit a crime here? They might have intended to commit one in Europe, but that isn't the same thing, nor is it an American problem. This type of activity, further erodes the mythology that this is a nation of laws that impartially and equally serve all the people. It also illustrates the imperialist designs of the elite that has usurped those interests at the expense of we, the people. ∞

Activists Arested During Action

by *Bulldozer*

On 31/May, four people were surprised by fifty FBI agents while in the process of cutting through a power line tower leading from a nuclear power plant with a blow torch. Two men, Mark Baker and Mark Davis were arrested at the scene. Margaret Millett managed to escape, though pursued through the desert by helicopters with searchlights and infrared sensors and tracked by bloodhounds. She turned herself in later that day. The fourth member of the action group, Mike Tait who abruptly vanished, turned out to be an FBI agent.

The three, members of Earth First! (EF!), a radical environmental group, were charged with suspicion of destruction of property that affects interstate commerce, destruction of government property and conspiracy to destroy an energy facility. Dave Foreman, one of the founders of the group was arrested at his home the next day and included in the conspiracy charges. Targets of the alleged conspiracy were the Rocky Flats Nuclear Weapons Plant near Golden, CO and two other nuclear plants. Foreman, considered by the FBI to be the "leader" and financier, was released on \$50,000 bond while the others were held over.

EF!, which was formed in 1980, advocates direct action in defense of the earth. Actions have included sabotage against heavy equipment (monkeywrenching), spiking trees to prevent logging, blocading roads, and engaging in a multitude of decentralized actions against environmentally destructive policies and practices. Foreman's book, *Ecodefense, A Fieldguide to Monkeywrenching*, has become the manual for such actions

Tait first appeared on the scene in 1988, presenting himself as a "redneck for wilderness" with an interest in radical action. He attended the EF! annual Gathering in Washington state last year and participated in wilderness actions. He began pushing for a strike against the nuclear industry which met with little enthusiasm from his human targets. The FBI admits that Tait joined Davis and Millet in plotting the nuclear-disabling scheme. Foreman, according to government testimony, knew about the plans for attacking the nuclear plants but disapproved of them but was charged with conspiracy none the less.

A Grand Jury has been set up to investigate the group. So far, fifteen individuals from several states have been subpoenaed to appear before the Jury. There is little doubt that this investigation will be used to attack the most militant wing of the environmental movement. Whether the EF! activists will take a principled stand of non co-operation with the Grand Jury will determine to a great extent how destructive this campaign will be.

There has been a lot of controversy lately around EF!. Foreman and some of the other leading members espouse what could be called a Red Neck Patriotism with an ecological consciousness. They have been sharply criticized for some comments on AIDS and immigration which have appeared in the movement's paper entitled *Earth First!*. But the base of the movement tends much more towards an anti-authoritarian, anti-state, anti-capital perspective and it seems to be gaining the upper hand within the movement. At this year's Round River Rendezvous, their annual meeting, the political splits were crytalized by the burning of one of the American flags that the "rednecks" had flying. Regardless though, the state is directly attacking a movement that threatens many financial interests in the West. This attack will go far beyond those within the movement whose politics might be suspect. As the destruction of capitalism and industrialism becomes more and more apparent, more and more people will feel it necessary to take action to protect what little wilderness and natural life that remains. The FBI would like to stop that trend now.

For support or more information, contact Earth First!, POB 5871, Tucson, AZ 85703. ∞

National Notes *continued from page 5*

presently, the difference between growth and recession. Moreover, dope money has higher velocity (gets passed around more before winding up under a mattress) than other funds in the economy, magnifying its impact. And that's just the centre of dope's fiscal spiderweb. A Republican administration especially is not going to take the economic hit serious curtailment of dope would entail, however hard it pursues nazification. ∞

The Marionette

Number 43 May-June 1989

Marion Prisoners Afflicted With Parasite

In April, it was discovered that the intestinal parasite *Giardia Lamblia* was causing illness among USP Marion prisoners. In the next several weeks, it spread to a majority of prisoners in B&D blocks. In mid June, Associate Warden Holt admitted that it was all over the prison. The parasite causes a sickness known as giardiasis, the symptoms of which may include severe abdominal cramps, intermittent nausea, diarrhea, eructation (burping) and flatulence (farting) and is spread through fecal-oral routes. Symptoms in Marion prisoners range from severe to nonexistent, there appearing to be some correlation between the general health of infected people and the severity of symptoms.

No one knows the vector through which Marion was infected; staff is denying knowledge. There is apparently only one case among guards, surprising in such a coprophagic occupation. The usual vectors are food and water contaminated with feces, through other means of contact with fecal material have been implicated. The administration has been trying to dodge its responsibility for the infestation by blaming prisoners. Spokesperson Randy Davis has been emphasizing to the press that homosexual activity and poor sanitation such as not washing are methods of transmission. That is disingenuous, however, given that the lockdown and single celling leaves almost no opportunity for homosexuality and personal hygiene is generally good. And it is the administration that refuses to allow prisoners disinfectants and has been moving people around regardless of contagion. The most likely vector is the food. By all reports, the kitchen where food is prepared and packed for the blocks is filthy with rodent feces common in various food stuffs.

An investigator from the Centre for Disease Control in Atlanta is here, allegedly to determine the real



source of the epidemic. Prisoners, however, suspect a coverup. Holt is already saying (28/Jun) that the prisoners that previously tested positive are now testing negative, indicating that it all might be a mistake. The symptoms, then, must be a mistake, too. Prisoners remember how safe they've been told the water from a toxic waste contaminated source is by an administration that won't let it be tested. There is also the possibility that the infection is deliberate, some sort of contagion experiment. Such things are not unprecedented: the CIA released viruses in subways and the military exposed service people to radiation for that purpose. And the government cares less about prisoners. And why else would Davis be telling the press that there is a giardia education program for prisoners when there is not? ∞

Report On the April 29th Demo Against Marion

by CEML

About 250 people participated in the demonstration against Marion prison on April 29th. About 200 people came from Chicago in four buses and some cars and the rest from such cities as St. Louis, Charleston (IL), Champaign, Madison, Iowa City, Davenport and others in southern Illinois. Those of us who came from Chicago rode through the night and arrived about 8 AM at the campus of Southern Illinois University. We cleaned up, had coffee and donuts, spoke to a lot of media, held a brief rally where we heard from southern Illinois activist Jan Slagter and Donna Kolb, a lawyer from several prisoners at Marion.

We then stepped off for a 1/2 mile march to the federal building in downtown Carbondale. There we held a brief rally consisting of solidarity messages from participating organizations including ACT-Up, the Pledge of Resistance (both the Chicago and Southern Illinois chapters were represented), Prairie Fire Organizing Committee and the Illinois Coalition Against the Death Penalty. We then walked 1.5 miles to the Carbondale post office, out along Route 13, the main highway in southern Illinois, in order to gain a lot of visibility. There we heard a rap from the Freedom Now campaign and boarded the buses, which met us there, to go to Crab Orchard Lake, the source of contaminated water that the prisoners are forced to drink and shower in.

At the lake, we read several messages from prisoners at Marion about the water, heard solidarity messages from the John Brown Anti-Klan Committee, No Pasaran Women's Affinity Group, and the Free Puerto Rico Committee and set up an enormous human billboard around Route 13 which said "No Poison Water At Marion Prison." By then it was past noon and we used the opportunity to have our lunch there as well.

We boarded the buses again and went to the prison — or as close as they would let us. Although it was now about 3 pm, and we had been demonstrating since 9 am, after riding through the night, people's energy levels rose to the highest levels. We held a rally there, read several more messages from prisoners and heard from some of the sponsoring organizations, including Mara Dodge, representing CEML and Darla Bradley, an ex-political prisoner speaking on behalf of the Plowshares

movement. Perhaps most notable was a speech given by Chokwe Lumumba, the national chairperson of the New Afrikan People's Organization. Chokwe who had come from Jackson, Mississippi to be with us, delivered an eloquent and rousing speech. He pointed out that Marion was the sign of a sick society and indicated the foolishness of those who hope to cure the omnipresent problems with more prisons and more brutal repression.

We then reboarded the buses and went to downtown Marion. Then we marched around the city square, leafleted with a message prepared specifically for the people of southern Illinois and held our final rally. The main speakers at the rally were Cecil Reynolds from CEML and Josephina Rodriguez, from the National Committee to Free Puerto Rican Prisoners of War. Josephina is the mother of two Puerto Rican POWs, Lucy and Alicia, and the mother-in-law of POW Oscar Lopez Rivera, who is now at Marion. Few people are better qualified to explain the relation between Marion, prisons and repression of the Puerto Rican independence movement and Josephina's speech was a grand way to end the day's demonstration. We then went to a community organization in Carbondale for a spaghetti dinner and finally got back on the buses and cars and returned to Chicago about 2 am Sunday morning. In all we demonstrated for over 8 hours and were gone for more than 26 hours.

It is hard to describe all the important things that resulted from the demonstration and organizing process that led up to it. First, there was a good deal of media attention and some of it even accurately transmitted what we were saying. There have been three articles in the *Chicago Defender*, two in the *Marion Daily Republican*, and a major article in the *Southern Illinoisan*, one in the SIU paper, and, we have been told, one in *USA Today*. In addition, the demo and the press conference held two days before were covered in great detail by southern Illinois radio and tv, and at least three Chicago radio stations carried reports of the demonstration. In addition, in the course of our organizing we met a large number of new people — some in Chicago and some in

See **Demo** page 15

Marionnotes

BRUSCINO LITIGATION REJECTED: On 27/June/89, the Supreme Court refused to hear the appeal of the denial by lower courts of a preliminary injunction against the brutality and lockdown of USP Marion. That means that the *Bruscino vs Carlson* class action lawsuit out of which the appeal grew is effectively dead. The legal basis for the challenge was wiped out by the Supreme Court's allowing to stand the 7th Circuit Court's ruling that what the court itself described as "ghastly" and "sordid and horrible" conditions were constitutional. Individual complaints remain, however, though their prospects are not good.

RECREATION ROLLBACK: Starting on the week of 26/June, USP Marion prisoners had their recreation cut by 50 minutes (officially, somewhat more unofficially) per week. Despite all the platitudes about "looking at further relaxations" and "humane incapacitation", the swine are regressing, further and needlessly depriving prisoners who are already unjustifiably locked down. The swine tried to cover the deprivation by giving prisoners more out-of-unit recreation. While the extended outside recreation is an improvement, adding what they giveth and taketh away leaves prisoners with a loss. The swine say they need the time for searching, as if they didn't have enough already.

MASS PUNISHMENT:: After an altercation on one of the yards was unresolved, recreation was terminated for all prisoners in both yards. It was not made up. Complaints about this punishment of uninvolved prisoners were lodged. In response, the warden, associate warden and other big wigs insisted that nothing of which prisoners were deprived through fault of any prisoner would be made up. They insisted that collective responsibility was okay, and suggested that prisoners should be policing themselves. They just looked blank and left when confronted with the impossibility and gross impropriety of their suggestion.

MEDICAL INDIFFERENCE: On 24/May/89, a man was injured in the gym. The injury was serious enough that the man couldn't get up. A guard with access to telephone and radio saw the whole thing and was also informed by other prisoners. Despite all that, it took five minutes to get a response and another fifteen minutes to

take the man to the infirmary. Former Captain Greenfield even held up the process while a gaggle of tourists from the Washington office mosied by the gym, lest they see something unsightly. The government is our shepherd. . .

OFF WITH THEIR HEADS: Marion officials have been imposing harsh punishments on pre-transfer prisoners. The time for prisoners permitted on the transfer track to get to the point of transfer now averages over three years. Nevertheless, many people have been required to start over lately. Their heinous crimes include the likes of bringing stamps to the yard to hide for their friends in blocks where there is no work. Of course, some people are more likely to have such considerations interpreted as high crimes than others. But such is the nature of life with big brother.

DO THEY REALLY DRINK THE WATER? Marion office workers routinely take a glass coffee pot somewhere and come back with it full via the visiting area. They ignore the water fountain and bathroom. The pot doesn't have coffee dregs in it on the way out, indicating a rinsing. Warden Henman and Mouthpiece Davis are fond of saying that they drink the water to the prison from contaminated Crab Orchard Lake as proof of its safety. But the direction these office workers take their coffee pot, past various tap sources, also leads to the upper echelon offices. Hypocrisy? ∞

Antigone. . .

is a recent addition to the anti-prison publications. This newsletter, like the *PNS*, has both inside and outside participants. The May-June issue of has an interesting article on the Super-Max (Marion clones) within the state systems. It certainly seems like it will be making important contributions towards our collective understanding of the prison systems that we oppose.

It is published by the National Committee On U.S. Corrections, (make checks out to this organization) POB 308, Farmington, MI 48332. Please send a donation if you can. ∞

New AIDS Prison Policy in Ontario

by *Bulldozer*

The provincial government has predictably ignored activist demands raised at last February's demonstration (see PNS #17) to involve activists and people living with AIDS (PLWAs) in the development of a new prison policy in Ontario. The Ministry of Correctional Services released a new Communicable Diseases Policy last April.

The policy betrays its ignorance by citing "opportunistic diseases associated with AIDS and the like" on a list of "highly infectious diseases." The document goes on to detail "stringent medical precautions to be taken by staff." And there is no plan mentioned for AIDS education for guards and other staff such as what AIDS is? How it is transmitted? or the basics of being a caregiver. The policy has no conception of treatment requirements. Left out is not only acknowledgement of the need for accelerated care and frequent blood tests, but also any mention of good nutrition and adequate rest. Such treatment makes a prison sentence into a virtual death sentence for PLWAs.

Conference *continued from page 7*

pri prisoner control involved. Unfortunately (but predictably), her thinking about prison issues is as unenlightened as that of any other prisonrat. The San Francisco city jail system seems to have decided in its benevolent wisdom that the majority of prisoners are better off kept in ignorance of their health status. Currently, the only captives who are permitted to take the antibody test are those who have symptoms of ARC?AIDS and pregnant women.

Even more alarmingly, Kantor flew in the face of AIDS activists and people living with AIDS (PLWAs) by stating that prisoners with AIDS should be given standard rather than experimental treatments. This is entirely unrealistic in that newer and more effective treatments are being found all the time, to the extent that "testing" and "treatment" are pretty well synonymous for PLWAs. This prohibition of experimental treatments to prisoners therefore condemns them to slow death by ineffective and outmoded treatments. ∞

It also states that there shall be no mandatory HIV antibody testing. Yet anecdotal evidence shows the opposite: that prisoners in both the Ontario and Federal systems have been variously coerced into taking the test and subsequently stigmatized and abused.

The new Policy continues to reject the recent recommendation of the Royal Society (a society of "distinguished academics and other learned notables") to provide condoms and bleach. This recommendation has been echoed by the World Health Organization and has even been implemented by prison authorities in some localities. Yet the new Policy states: hetro or homosexual activity is not permitted in ministry facilities and in order to prevent potential breaches of security (condoms as potential weapons, jamming locks, smuggling drugs), condoms shall not be made available in ministry facilities." Unfortunately, but not surprisingly, the guards' union in Ontario is also against the distribution of condoms and bleach. That guards would feel threatened by prisoners with condoms, when they themselves have guns, clubs and bars for protection, is a telling indictment. ∞

IRA *Continued from page 2*

people from a wide spectrum of groups and viewpoints demonstrated for his release at MCC the day before the start of his seventh year of political captivity. Awareness that the imprisonment of this freedom fighter is the real crime continues to grow. ∞

Demo *Continued from page 13*

other cities — who are eager to work with us. We estimate that we made over 30 presentations, most of them with our video, in the couple of months preceding the demonstration. We in the Committee to End the Marion Lockdown (CEML) believe that we all — even those of us closest to the struggle — deepened our understanding and commitment to ending the barbaric conditions at Marion in the course of building for and attending the demonstration. We understand that this will be a long hard struggle. But we are in it for the duration. ∞

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make some of your own!

Agents of Repression, by Ward Churchill
and Jim Vander Wall is subtitled *The FBI's
Secret War Against the Black Panther Party and
the American Indian Movement*. That subtitle
gives a very basic description of what the
impressive documentation within this book
provides. In other words it documents what we
knew all along — that the FBI forms a political
police more concerned with stifling dissent than
in saving America from organized crime.

In doing so, it provides fascinating detail on
the distant past, ie the Palmer raids against the
IWW and other post WW1 radicals. As well, it
goes into extensive detail about many of the
major moments of repression and/or resistance
in the late sixties and early seventies such as the
framing of Geronimo Pratt; the assassination
raids against Fred Hampton and other Panthers;

the siege of Wounded Knee; and the Pine Ridge
shoot out for which Leonard Peltier is still
paying full price in Leavenworth.

It ends with a call to the left to pay more
attention to this agency which quite consciously
acts as a secret police force and which acts
against dissent in spite of what the laws and
lawmakers might say. Recent events in which
the FBI has admitted to infiltrating various
opposition groups in the US certainly confirms
that its role hasn't changed.

Agents of Repression can be obtained from
South End Press, 300 Raritan Center Pkwy.,
Edison, NJ 08818. In paperback, it is \$15.00,
include \$1.50 for the 1st book and 50 cents for
each additional book to handle postage.