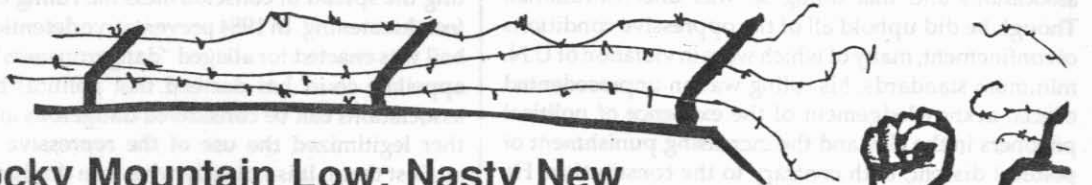


Prison News Service

November/December 1989

Number 22



Rocky Mountain Low: Nasty New Malignancy

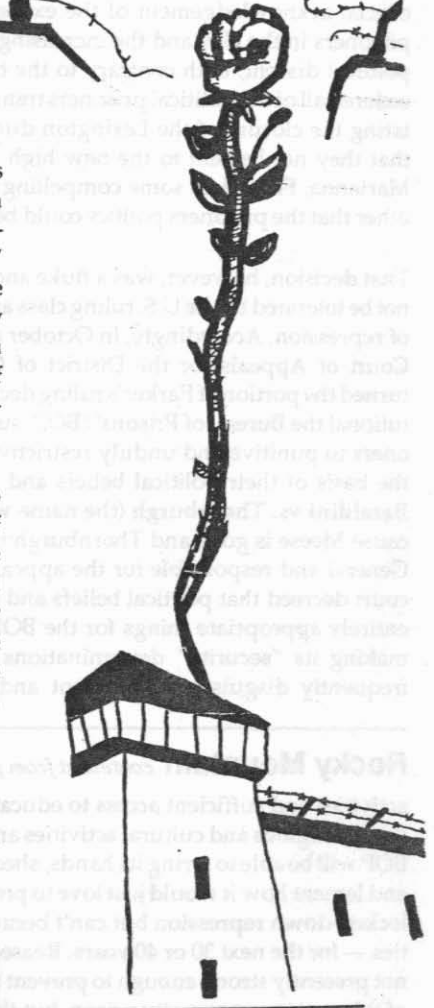
In or about the last week of October, 1989, the U.S. Bureau of Prisons (BOP) announced that it will build a huge, 1850 bed prison compound a mile south of Florence in Fremont County, Colorado. BOP Director Quinlan's decision to locate the \$110 million "Western Correctional Complex" there is reportedly the result of a 2 & 1/2 year lobbying effort by the Fremont County Economic Development Corp. It must've been pretty slick to edge out other practiced abettors of repression such as the Southern Illinois Chamber of Commerce. Fremont County has also snagged most of the state's prison facilities. Congress has already approved the expenditure.

All the plans have not yet been finalized, but bids are expected to go out in Feb/90 with groundbreaking intended for March. The pustule of oppression is to be built in three stages: a 500 bed minimum part to be completed in Jul/91; an 850 bed medium to be completed in early '92; and a 500 bed maximum due for completion in the summer of '92. Add a year for government work and it looks like mid-'93 for the new bastille to come on line. The BOP's site project manager has been quoted as saying that the place is being built at least in part because Marion no longer meets federal needs, presumably as a super-max dungeon.

Whether this new prison will be a strictly cell-time isolation dungeon — a torture tomb for the living — or a place where security mania will accommodate human rights will be obvious from what is to be built. If facilities do not include provisions for communal dining, congregate

continued over

The Marionette begins on page 10



Court Retracts Painful Truth

In July of 1988, Judge Barrington Parker of the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia (Washington D.C.) decided the lawsuit **Baraldini vs Meese**. He ruled that most of the women confined in the control unit for women at Lexington, KY, federal prison had been relegated to that dungeon for their political beliefs and associations and that doing so was unconstitutional. Though he did uphold all of the oppressive conditions of confinement, many of which were in violation of U.N. minimum standards, his ruling was an unprecedented official acknowledgement of the existence of political prisoners in the U.S. and the increasing punishment of political dissent, both contrary to the constitution. He ordered all of the political prisoners transferred, precipitating the closure of the Lexington dungeon, and also that they not be sent to the new high security unit at Marianna, FL, unless some compelling security reason other than the prisoners' politics could be demonstrated.

That decision, however, was a fluke and one that could not be tolerated by the U.S. ruling class and its apparatus of repression. Accordingly, in October of 1989, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia overturned the portion of Parker's ruling declaring unconstitutional the Bureau of Prisons' (BOP) subjection of prisoners to punitive and unduly restrictive conditions on the basis of their political beliefs and associations. In **Baraldini vs. Thornburgh** (the name was changed because Meese is gone and Thornburgh is now Attorney General and responsible for the appeal), the appellate court decreed that political beliefs and associations are entirely appropriate things for the BOP to consider in making its "security" determinations (with which it frequently disguises punishment and other abuses.)

Rocky Mountain *continued from page 1*

activities and sufficient access to education, recreation, work, religious and cultural activities and visitation, the BOP will be able to wring its hands, shed crocodile tears and lament how it would just love to provide more than locked-down repression but can't because of the facilities — for the next 30 or 40 years. Reason and sanity are not presently strong enough to prevent the construction of this maximum security prison, but they might, properly applied, be able to limit the damage it will do. ∞

The theory is that political beliefs and associations might imply escape inclinations or as a threat of assault by outside sympathizers or some other disruption.

The actuality of this decision is to further remove obstacles to doing whatever may be expedient in combating the spread of consciousness the ruling class might feel threatening. In 1984 preventative detention without bail was enacted for alleged "dangerousness". Now the appellate court has decreed that political beliefs and associations can be considered dangerous and has further legitimized the use of the repressive apparatus against them. It is not only what you do that might get you in trouble, but what you think. ∞

Freedom Only for the Politically Correct

Despite many exhortations and good reasons not to, the National Campaign for Amnesty and Human Rights for Political Prisoners, short title "Freedom Now" (FN), deliberately did its dirty deed. It published what it bills as a third edition of *Can't Jail the Spirit*, a compilation of brief statements by or about political prisoners, omitting a number of those who had been included in previous editions. It did not even have the decency or sensitivity to use a different title. That would have at least acknowledged that its book represented only its political prisoners and that it did not presume to set movement policy as to who is or is not a political prisoner or include all of them. Not even all of the people involved in the production of the first two editions agreed with FN's de facto decertification of the prisoners deleted or the selection. A different name for the book would also have lent some credibility to FN's assertion that it wasn't decertifying anyone. Tell us, FN, how do you think the deletions will be interpreted?

Even more troubling are other indications that FN's efforts are gamemanship aimed at obtaining some political legitimacy/advantage via manipulation and bureaucratic machinations rather than good practice. In its initial papers, its participants took pains to assure all and sundry that the tortuous definition of political *continued on next page*

prisoner they had concocted would exclude only those of the far right. But information filtering into this dark concrete corner (not from FN itself, which is too exalted to deign to answer queries from one so lowly and insignificant as I) is that a minimum of one prisoner was demoted from political status on the basis of allegedly anarchist beliefs. Evidence of this purported political perfidy was adduced, adjudicated and acted upon without so much as a postcard about it to the subject in this process of FN's doing what it said it would not. Such authoritarian arrogance is what is really politically incorrect, the import of this action is that anyone is at risk of falling into disfavor and being purged to criminal status. Tell us, too, FN, are to now to assume that any anarchistic sentiments at all are politically incorrect?

FN says it doesn't presume to say who is and isn't a political prisoner or to define what politics are correct and that it isn't decertifying anyone, but its actions speak louder and contradict the words. All of the petty

maneuvering in this self-interested posturing would be laughable if it were not for the damage it can do. In an apparent desire to avoid having to defend political status for those who are too strident or nasty or radical or don't have enough big names on the cocktail circuit, FN is delegitimizing for its own short term benefit. In its seeming effort to liberalize itself decorously to the left of Amnesty International and acceptably close to the wine and cheese polite discourse milieu, it is creating a stifling hierarchy that will hinder rather than facilitate growth and progress. And in making itself an exclusive club with its own aristocracy that might elicit a raising of the toes by some U.N. functionaries, it is painting a bad advertisement of and misrepresenting what the struggle is and should be — for what both its and other political prisoners sacrificed much. Tell us, FN, wouldn't you do well to learn from the practice of the political prisoners you have disparaged and your definition intends to ignore? ∞

Racism and the Criminal Justice System

On 4/Nov/89, the conference "Racism and the Criminal Justice System" was held at De Paul University in commemoration of the sixth anniversary of the lockdown of USP Marion. More than 250 people attended the event, which was organized by the Committee to End the Marion Lockdown (CEML) and the National Committee to Free Puerto Rican Prisoners of War. It was aided by a grant from the American Friends Service Committee.

The conference opened with a video entitled "Shut Down the Control Units" dealing with conditions at Marion as well as the historical and social significance of control unit prisons generally and ways of combatting them. After that, the gathering separated into four workshops. One was specifically about USP Marion and the outside resistance to it. Another was on the alleged war on drugs and sought to put it in its proper perspective as a war on the people by the ruling class and its apparatus of repression. The third workshop was entitled "Racism, Youth and Police Torture". It explored the transformation of the schools into tools of control, increased use of torture by police and the extent to which black and Latin people and their communities

are disproportionately victims of these abuses. The last workshop was on the U.S. Supreme Court and dealt with issues such as reproductive rights, employment discrimination and the essential absence of constitutional rights for prisoners. New York State Supreme Court Justice Bruce Wright was the keynote speaker and addressed the racist application of the criminal justice system that has resulted in a disproportionately black prison population. He also pointed out how upper class criminals like Nixon and the Watergate crew get no or mostly token punishments while others get the stick in places like Marion.

By all accounts, trickling this far down, the commemoration was a great success. Much information was exchanged, contacts were made and resistance to dungeon USP Marion and control unit prisons generally was escalated. It was an excellent event, excellently done, by excellent people who demonstrated their commitment and dedication with their labor, energy and resources. Such an active, working commemoration was far better — and more effective way to mark the passage of yet another year of lockdown than would have been some passive lament. ∞

Message to Marion Event

We'd like to send our greetings to everyone and express our appreciation for both today's conference and the ongoing work of the CEML.

Since we left Marion 18 months ago, we've been held at the Washington, D.C. Detention Center — the county jail for this country's capital and perhaps most segregated city. D.C. is the model city for the Bush/Bennett "war on drugs", and so D.C. Jail may be able to tell us much about the U.S. prison system as Marion can. D.C. jail is filled beyond capacity with poor, miseducated, profoundly alienated young African-American women and men. It is a warehouse: there are no programs, no visiting, no privacy, and most importantly, no justice. The racism and malignant neglect that permeates the schools, the labor market, the welfare system and social services of the Third World Communities of our cities bears its inevitable fruit in the prisons.

Whenever one group of people tries to dominate and dehumanize another, there needs to be some place where the most rebellious can be sent to have their spirit broken. The United States has known that trick for a long time: during the days of slavery, the threat that went beyond the immediate lash and daily degradation of the plantation was to be sent "down south to Mississippi."

Today, beyond the D.C. jail, Cook county and Rikers Island, there is Marion. It is the modern equivalent of the Mississippi plantation. Marion embodies the inhumanity and racism of this system in concrete and steel. Marion is where the reality of power is experienced direct and unadorned: it is brutal, disproportionate and arbitrary. It is designed to dehumanize. There are psychopaths and sociopaths at Marion, but they are as likely to be wearing blue blazers as khakis. Study Marion and you can understand the kinder, gentler nation of George Bush more deeply.

We live in a country where leaders look at the human devastation caused by capitalism and domestic colonialism and then declare war on the victims. When



the oppressed organize themselves and consciously fight back, they are labelled "terrorists", a war is declared against "domestic terrorism", and those captured are sent to Marion and the other segregation units around the U.S. as political prisoners and prisoners of war. When the oppressed turn to drugs and street crime, they are labelled "narcoterrorists" and become the enemy. The idea behind labelling people "terrorist" is to dehumanize and demonize those the government would destroy.

The U.S. has no problems, it has no righteous struggles for social justice and self-determination — it has only enemies. Problems have to be solved; enemies are to be destroyed.

Marion is an instrument of war and destruction, not of criminal justice. The human spirit survives inside Marion, just as it does on the streets of even our most devastated communities. There is a sense of a shared humanity that binds all of us who struggle, whether inside or out, and that contrasts with the shallowness and moral corruption of the Bushes and Bennetts. When you on the outside join us on the inside in a common struggle against Marion and all it stands for, the stakes are much higher than the future of one prison. It shows that the human spirit cannot be broken, that our dreams for a better future are not destroyed, and that hope can grow under even the harshest of conditions. That's perhaps the most important lesson from Marion and should not be lost. ∞

In Solidarity

Alan Berkman, Tim Blunk

The Real War

Lest it be not clear from past editions of PNS and rudimentary observations and analysis, the war on drugs is not a war on drugs at all. It is first and foremost a war against the majority of people in the country, people who will suffer the twin apocalyptic horsemen, economic decline and police state tactics to make sure it is not borne by the ruling class. Such a war obviously cannot be fought up front. Hence, an enemy is set up that will sacrifice rights, money freedom and quality of life to vanquish and of whom noone can be publicly partisan. But the tactics reveal that that enemy is not the government's real target, and the real target shows that the government will never vanquish the front enemy.

National Drug Control Policy Director William Bennett told the Wisconsin State Assembly on 31/Oct/89: Support for treatment and prevention can't come at the expense of support for the criminal justice system. If we can't solve this bottom line problem by building new prisons, we won't win the war on drugs." Bennett has it

backwards: history has demonstrated that morality can't be legislated and attempting to enforce it by repression has been an abject failure. Only legalization, treatment and prevention can solve the drug problem, prevention being the most important. But the kind of prevention that is required is just the kind that the ruling class can't and won't provide in the future: economic and social opportunity and equity. To contain people discontented with and resistive to the absence thereof is why Bennett and his masters need the myriad prisons and legions of militarized police with virtually unfettered powers they claim are necessary to fight drugs. What Bennett and Company advocate won't work against drug abuse or crime or social ills generally, but it's exactly what they need for that.

Bennett also told the Wisconsin legislature: "There are some who say the war on drugs is class warfare ... we are not engaged in this kind of warfare." He lies. That's precisely what they're about. ∞

Hungerstrike Planned for Ohio: Support Needed

John Perotti, and at least two other prisoners in the J1 Super Max unit at the Southern Ohio Correctional Facility have announced that they plan to begin a hungerstrike on Feb/14/90. Before they begin, they want to determine how much support they have. As Perotti writes: "As you know, hungerstrikes are not effective without a wide base of outside support. Without that prisoncrats will allow us to die without anyone knowing what the cause and reasons are. We need pressure applied to them by news/media publicity, letters and telegrams and phone calls."

The demands:

- 1 - Out of state transfers for those involved.
- 2 - Increase of Wages: a fair days' wage for a fair days' labor.
- 3 - The right to collective bargaining.
- 4 - Decrease of sentencing penalties.
- 5 - Abolish the death penalty.
- 6 - Shut down the J1 Control Unit.
- 7 - Stop Unit Management and Behavior Modification

Training.

- 8 - Allow isolation prisoners personal property, literature and contact visits with loved ones.
- 9 - Stop routine strip searches, beatings, mactings, fire hosing and murders of prisoners by guards.
- 10 - Prosecute all guards who beat and murder.
- 11 - Provide adequate medical treatment.
- 12 Provide due process for placement in isolation.
- 13 - Form a Citizens Committee of unbiased citizens to monitor grievances, the parole board and human rights violations in Ohio prisons.

To offer support, or get more information write to I.W.W. General Defense Committee #1, POB 26381, Trotwood, Ohio 45426.

John Perotti earlier helped organize a branch of the Industrial Workers of the World (IWW) at Lucasville, which needless to say, didn't endear him to the prison administration, write to him: John Perotti #167712, S.O.C.F., POB 45649, Lucasville, OH 45649. ∞

Camp Hill Riot Aftermath

In issue #21, Dunne wrote a story about the 25/Oct/89 riot at Camp Hill, Pennsylvania state prison. We received a letter from Allen Brown, a long time prisoner at Camp Hill, who was transferred after the riot. Brown gave some background to the riot, detailing the extreme abuse and harassment that was meted out to the prisoners there on a routine basis. What follows is Brown's comments on his treatment after the riot which he did not participate in.

The United Nations states in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights that every individual has a right to life and under no circumstances shall anyone be subjected to torture, or cruel, inhuman or degrading punishment. Human rights by definition apply to all people, even those whose acts are condemned by society.

The United States was founded on a respect for those fundamental rights each individual deserves for no other reason than because he is a human being. How is it that people who are a part of free society can be so emotionally callous where the incarcerated are concerned?

Yet display compassion for the actors and actresses who entertain them during afternoon soap operas to a point of crying in some cases. Is it truly human decency to be able to acknowledge the sad fact that state and municipal workers abuse prisoners on a daily basis, merely because the job allows that sort of liberty and unchecked authority, but care not enough to change the facts?

I am some mother's child. And what applies to these United States certainly must apply to me. I am a citizen of the United States. Is that not so? I've been compelled to walk tiers at gun point. Crawl over and

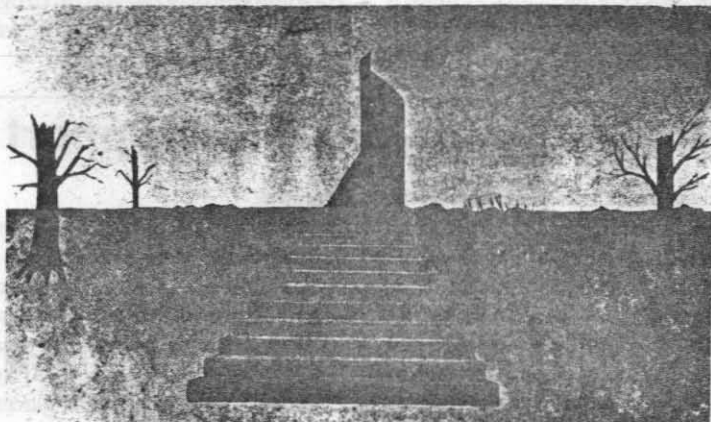
across mud, rocks and paved roads. Sit on gravelled courts for a couple of hours. I've been knocked down and around by horses intentionally being guided to do so by Pennsylvania state officers. Compelled to go without food or water for 2 days while having to watch officers smile and consume cold beverages, pies, cakes, pizza, chicken dinner and Hoagie sandwiches within a few feet of me. Also having to watch these same officers sit cups of water on the ground and then kick them over.

I've been compelled to attempt to relieve my bladder while my hands were so tightly cuffed all I could do was pull my pants down so I wouldn't be compelled to follow suggestions that I merely go in my pants. I was compelled to sleep on cold wet ground for 4 days and

nights wearing leg irons and a painful device called flex-a-cuff. I was compelled to try eating out of a TV dinner lying both on the ground and on top of horse droppings while in leg irons with my hands cuffed behind my back. During the cold nights we would be forced to lay down on whatever was before us, be it an open TV dinner, horse manure,

a place where someone had to relieve his bladder or a place where a state officer had poured soda or coffee on the ground. I was compelled to knell for many hours on very hard ground with my back to what appeared to be a firing squad. I could hear many shot guns being pumped as if about to be fired. I had to stand whenever it appeared that I no longer had the strength to sit up any more, or remain awake.

I was taken then to a 6'x12' holding area while waiting to be placed in the room with three other people. My clothes were ripped off: undershorts, T-shirt and



socks were taken. I was then given a shirt with buttons gone, a pair of button down pants turned inside out and boots with hard stitches inside which resulted in a severe case of blistering of both feet. And while standing at attention facing a wall, an unknown officer came up behind me and slammed my head against the wall with such force that I couldn't keep my balance, thus falling to my knees. I was then dragged into the doorway of the cell and kicked into it, with orders to face the back wall as soon as I could stand. Sometime during the period of waiting, another person was chained to my ankle where he remained for 12 days. We had to sleep together on cold concrete floors, we had to stand next to each other while the other person performed toilet situations. After which I was compelled to use the pocket of my shirt in an attempt to clean myself. I had no toiletries during this 14-16 day period. I had no chance to shower, change clothing, comb my hair or wash my face.

I was compelled by one Sgt. Gavin to survive a couple of days on just a TV dinner, because he had the liberty of handling the food issues. The daily diet con-

sisted of a lunch with TV dinner and a half a pint of milk; supper again a half a pint of milk, a cup cake and a roll with lunch meat, mustard and/or ketchup.

I was not allowed any medical treatment for the infection I had developed on my right wrist due to the flex-a-cuff. When I asked for something to help the infection, I was given 1 tylenol 300 and told it was a miracle drug by a nurse. Compelled to endure pain that I had no idea I could endure from sleeping on such hard surfaces, I have developed large, painful bumps on each hip. In my opinion, I have been treated at best as badly as a pet owner would have treated a dog that had severely bitten a child. My only crime seems to be the mere fact that I was a prisoner at Camp Hill. I never went beyond my tier in the housing unit I was assigned to. I never took, broke, burned or damaged anything of anyone's. I never hurt, attempted to hurt, loot or control anything other than myself and my property. Along with my god brother, I spent the time of the riot looking at the news, eating and sleeping. ∞

Ohio 3/7 Beat Seditious Conspiracy Charge

The seditious conspiracy trial of Ray Levasseur, Patricia Levasseur and Richard Williams ended in a major defeat for the U.S. government. On Nov/27/89, the jury decided that the defendants were not guilty of seditious conspiracy — trying to overthrow the government by force. This charge has been used effectively by the state against the Puerto Rican nationalist movement, but this was the first time it had been used against white revolutionaries. Patricia Levasseur was found not guilty of racketeering while Judge Young declared a mistrial after the jury was unable to come to a decision about the racketeering charges against the two men. U.S. attorney Wayne Budd said that he was convinced that the three revolutionaries were guilty but since the trial had already cost millions of dollars, he would not seek a retrial.

The three defendants were part of the Ohio 7 who, with one exception, had already been convicted and had received very long sentences for allegedly being part of a bombing campaign on the east coast by the United Freedom Front in the early eighties as acts against the

imperialist war machine. But the U.S. government decided to lay additional charges of seditious conspiracy and racketeering in order to drive home the point that resistance to U.S. government policy would be severely punished. Charges against 4 of the 7 were dropped for various reasons having to do with easing the government's case. The jury's decision will make it more difficult to use such explicit political charges against activists. It won't stop them, to be sure, but they will have to work harder to outlaw dissent in the U.S.

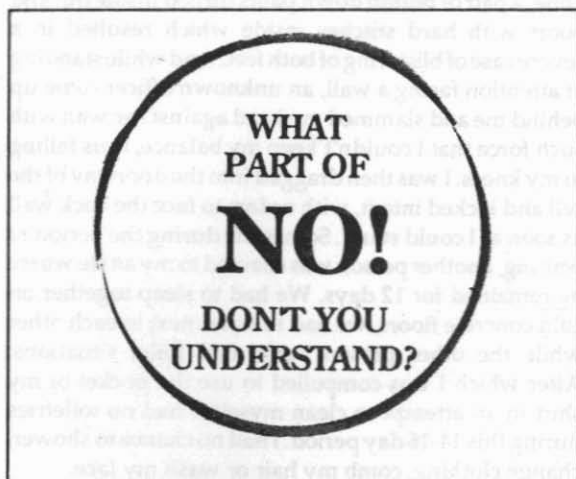
The Sedition Committee has been publishing a new letter in support of the Ohio 7 for over two years. With the conclusion of the trial, they intend to continue publishing and distributing a newsletter with a focus on political prisoners, trials and struggles from inside the prisons and related issues. They ask for a donation of \$5 (or more if you can) to help transform their work. Presumably, prisoners would not have to worry about the \$5, but it never hurts to send a small sum if you can afford it at all. The Sedition Committee, Box 4690, Springfield, MA 01101. ∞

Montreal Massacre Sparks National Debate

The killing of 14 women and the wounding of 9 other women and 4 men in one of the worst mass killings in recent Canadian history precipitated a major national debate on the anti-woman attitudes in Canadian society. Marc Lepine, 25 years old, walked into an engineering classroom at a Montreal university on Dec/6/89, separated the women from the men and open fire on the women with a semi-automatic .22 calibre rifle, while shouting "you're just a bunch of feminists." Lepine then wandered the school hunting down other women before eventually killing himself.

The massacre shocked a country that prides itself on being less violent, less obsessed with guns than the U.S. But the response of many, both men and women, was to realize that more than just being the act of a "madman", the slaughter was both symptom and symptomatic of the routine violence that women are subjected to every day. A woman is raped every 17 minutes. One woman in 8 is assaulted by her mate every year. One woman in 4 is sexually assaulted at some point in her life. It was suggested that this was the first time that women had been slaughtered simply for being women. In fact, women are murdered for being women all the time. But seldom is it done in such a spectacular and open way. Prostitutes are a favorite target for men who express their hatred for women in a murderous way. Serial killings of street women in Canada, while not as common as in the U.S., are certainly not unknown. But even this should not obscure the reality that a woman is much more likely to be attacked or killed in her home by her partner or by some other man that she knows than she is on the streets.

Ironically, there was a strong backlash against what was considered the exploitation of the tragedy by feminists for their own political ends. It is ironic, in the hypocritical sense of the word, because Lepine himself was real clear that he was targeting feminists for whom he blamed his failures in life and love. The note found on his body (termed a "suicide note") stated clearly that the killings were a political act. He also had a list of 15 women prominent in Quebec society, who were apparently potential victims. His choice of women studying engineering was not some random selection of victims, but a thought out effort to punish these women



for intruding on a traditional male domain which he felt he had been denied access to. The slaughtered women were not politically active — indeed one woman tried to reassure Lepine that they weren't feminists before she was killed — but were merely following what they felt was their due, the right to follow the career of their choice.

Women in Thunder Bay, Ont. were severely criticized when they held a woman-only vigil. In Montreal, some women were asked by organizers of a vigil to remove signs from their backs that linked the massacre to the day-to-day violence inflicted on women. On a national phone-in show, one man ranted about how there were many men who felt the same anger as Lepine, that women should beware, because many men could relate to his actions. A male commentator on radio was called a "wimp" because he supported the feminist position on the slaughter, as though "real men" didn't support women's struggles. "Copycat" incidents occurred — cruel "jokes" involving toy guns pointed at women in at least two incidents.

But the rabid anti-feminist backlash has to be put into the context that both men and women did draw out the political and social implications of this vicious attack. In surveys, 40% of the respondents agreed with the feminist position. Much of the commentary in the mainstream media was surprisingly good. Two of the three

daily papers in Toronto, for instance, editorially supported the link between the killings and the routine misogyny (woman-hating) that is the lot of women in Canada. This isn't to deny that there was much garbage written, by women as well as men, who tried to personalize male/female relations by saying that to blame men generally was wrong because "my boyfriend, my father, my male friends" aren't like that, they're not responsible. But the intensity of the backlash reflected the strength of the widespread nature of the political analysis that did show that the insane act of one man can not be separated from the social dynamics of a society which creates and nurtures its own particular patterns of madness. The social expression of rape, the working out of pain and anguish, and the infliction of such acts on those who are "socially weaker" rather than being some aberration of a society's values, reflect some of the most basic contradictions of our society.

The hatred of women is so pervasive that it is barely recognized. As a man, one only has to listen to the comments of the other men around us to understand that women are held in contempt and scorn; that the marginal gains that women have been able to make in the last few years are resented; that women are too often seen as a collection of disparate body parts and not distinct individuals with their own needs, aspirations and rights. Violence against women is condoned in a multitude of ways, in jokes, in comments, in the tendency for men to blame the women they have, or don't have, for their personal unhappiness and ineptitude.

Even before the killings, violence against women on university campuses had become an issue. At Queen's university, in Kingston, Ont., a "No means No!" campaign by the women's centre against date rape, the forcing of sex on a woman by a man who figures he is "owed it" as part of dating had been met by a counter campaign. Signs were put up in a male residence saying "No means more beer" and "No means tie me up". Even after the Montreal massacre, the male students responsible for this nasty campaign were oblivious to the connection between their jovial attitudes towards rape and the systematic killing of the women.

Rape, however, seems to be poorly understood by

men. A recent survey in the U.S. found that 15 per cent of men admitted that they would rape a woman if they thought they could get away with it. But fifty per cent said that they would force sex on a woman if they felt they could get away with it. As staggering as these percentages are, the difference between the two totals raise disturbing questions as to what line 35 per cent of men would draw between rape and forced sex. Rape is forced sex. The degree of violence that accompanies it varies, but that does not change the nature of this act. It is violent for being forced or coerced. It makes no difference if the woman is the rapist's wife, or girlfriend or date or friend or whatever. No does mean no.

One of the criticisms of the feminist perspective on the slaughter was that they were distinguishing between violence against women and violence against men and were supposedly being sexist for suggesting that women as victims were more significant than men as victims. It is true that many men suffer from violence as well. But what is also true is that it is generally men who commit violence against both men and women. The same is true for the violence and sexual abuse directed against children. To speak of crimes committed against men should not diminish the magnitude of the crimes committed against women but should further convince men that the ease with which we resort to violence must be dealt with. Lepine as a child was himself a victim of his father's beatings. This illustrates how the violence of one generation is perpetuated by another. And it must be stopped.

The Montreal killings made it clear to many of us men who support social and political change that we must hold men accountable for their violence. It is not just a women's issue, nor is it simply a matter of overt acts of violence. We may not slap our lovers around, but when we discount or belittle women, when we refuse to listen to them or take them seriously, when we feel threatened by their attempts to gain personal and collective strength, then we're incorporating some of the most destructive elements within this society into our own movements. The oppressed/target groups must and will define their own liberation and oppressor/non-target groups in solidarity with them cannot set the agenda for the necessary changes. We are complicit if

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The Marionette

Number 46, November-December, 1989

USP Marion is billed as the U.S. Bureau of Prisons' tightest and, by design, most repressive prison. It is the place whose philosophy was described in the 27/Jul/87 U.S. News and World Report as "to psychologically emasculate a man, crush his macho insolence and force him to conform to the strictest of rules. . ." It is the place the 7th Circuit Court of Appeals described as "sordid and horrible" and "depressing in the extreme" (but nevertheless upheld). It is the place about which U.S. District Court Judge James Foreman said that modern methods of penology make the rock and the thumbscrew obsolete. Of all the hundreds of dismal concrete cage piles in the American Gulag Archipelago, Marion is the only one to have been condemned by Amnesty International. And the psychological and physical brutality that elicited this sample of excoriation continue.

Nowhere is this more apparent than in the dungeon's dungeon, the USP Marion segregation unit. It is an instrument of oppression seemingly concocted by demented grubs from the Machiavelli, Dante and Kafka catalog. Rules purportedly protecting prisoners are virtually inapplicable because none of them can be invoked in real time, that is, in time to prevent the abuses. All of them include ducks and dodges and grease words like "normally" and "ordinarily" and "except for safety and security" that eliminate liability or censure should an abuse or error be so blatant as to require acknowledgement. Segregation has become a vicious cycle of vindictive bureaucracy: the difference between segregation and not segregation at Marion is small enough so that it's no big deal. Hence, segregation officials are impelled to go beyond the prescribed limits of segregation to make it worse. Some prisoners will not accede



Malcolm Mahurin

want, so you better too."

Beatings have risen to commonplace — and not recently. Just today there was physical abuse as swine used excessive force to break up a squabble. Guard McManus was seen with a lot of blood on his shirt shortly thereafter. on 18/Dec/89, a prisoner from Baltimore was beaten from the recreation cages to the hospital and back again. The sounds of his cries and the blows could be heard all the way out the unit door and prisoners on the disciplinary side of the unit could hear the screams from the hospital in the next building. Amid rattling handcuffs and shackles and guttural noises, the last words that fell on the hushed tier were, "You want some more?" from a guard as the prisoner was "escorted" to a boxcar cell.

His were not the only rattling chains that day. The same evening a prisoner was attacked by guards while in his cell, likely for some silly macho reason. He was beaten and chained down to a concrete slab in a boxcar cell. The metal rings set in the concrete for such bondage clearly transmit the prisoners' struggles through the walls and bars with the sound of scraping steel and stone. In the small hours silence of the Marion mausoleum, the noise is yet another psychogargoyle to prey upon those whose ties to reality have frayed under the tension of oppression.

Nor are these incidents isolated ones. The next day, another prisoner, apparently one just being brought to the unit, was beaten. The day after that, a Cuban prisoner on C range was gooned and dragged down the tier in chains. Sounds of physical abuse are frequently reported by people in the front cells. Its sights are seen most frequently — but by no means exclusively — on B range as the victims are dragged down to the boxcar cells where especially the severely beaten and those to be chained down are taken.

The swine also use indirect means of physical maltreatment. One is the requirement that prisoners share rec cages with anyone the guards choose. This is despite the guard's excuse that they cannot run recreation inside on the tiers as was past practice due to the number of "separates" (prisoners who, for one reason or another, cannot be put with specified others.) The increase in the number of fights indicates that the intent of this practice is to make recreation risky — even those without separations might get put in with a nut case. Further corroboration of the intent came in the wake of a fight between prisoners of

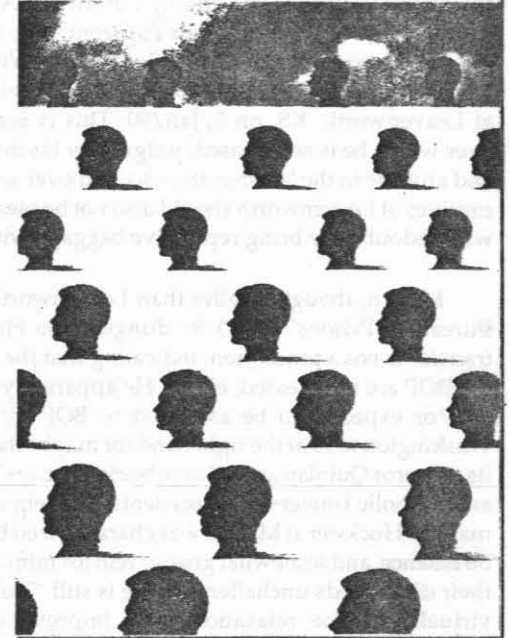
Depths of the Dungeon

to this pressure or for other reasons refuse to accept placement in "not segregation". Staff then feel compelled to even more draconian measures to try to force them to "program", including blaming restrictions on them on other prisoners. The depredations are usually reinforced with official explanations, the gist of which are, "the rules say we can do what we

different races after which an unconscious, ignorant, psycho-injured prisoner lacking in principle spent time screaming racial threats and insults that could be heard all over the unit. That afternoon, guards made a point of putting prisoners of different races together during recreation, something not usually done.

Physical abuse also slops over into mental abuse, and vice versa. People who clearly need treatment that was never available at Marion — or the BOP! — rather than abusive punishment are routinely consigned to the depths of the dungeon. For example, a man who constantly screamed all day long — no words, just screams that conveyed something between fear and pain and could be heard throughout the unit — spent about a month in a boxcar. Another screamer is normal for a while and then is fighting demons and threatening mayhem on everyone on the tier. Another small bag of skin and bones crouches like a roosting bird on the small shelf up in the corner next to the light. Yet another battles with an imaginary cell partner and sometimes several. Still others quietly jabber their lives away in dim concrete sarcophagi, keeping their psychoses more or less to themselves rather than inflicting them on others clinging desperately to tenuous holds on a reality that penetrates Marion only with difficulty. Some sufferers give no outward indication of any problem until they become human mines and are detonated by some unknowable chance into a destructive explosion. In the depths of the dungeon, merely being lost in conspiracies between UFOs and CIAs overseen by aliens who slip through time warps and stash ships in gravity wrinkles, etc. etc., is within the range of normalcy.

Sometimes these should-be patients stay a long time and sometimes not. Sometimes ignorant guards' lack of understanding, intolerance or meanness leads to the mentally impaired being brutalized for manifestations of their



David Barneit

Hit the Road, Gary

The Duke of Deceit, Henman the Ho-hum, finally got his walking papers after about 3&1/2 squishy years as warden of USP Marion. He acceded to the throne of the duchy in June of '86, edging out former Associate Warden John Sullivan, the heir apparent, who later got the consolation prize of a lessor lordship in Wisconsin. Henman is to become High Hog of the U.S. Penitentiary at Leavenworth, KS, on 1/Jan/90. This is something over which he is not pleased, judging by his demeanor and attitude in the last month or so, and over which the captives of Leavenworth should also not be pleased. He will undoubtedly bring repressive baggage with him.

Marion, though smaller than Leavenworth, is the Bureau of Prisons' (BOP) #1 dungeon, so Henman's transfer is not a promotion, indicating that the lords of the BOP are not pleased, either. He apparently wanted and/or expected to be ascended to BOP nirvana in Washington to sit at the right hand (or maybe the feet) of its emperor Quinlan as well as to be closer to his Virginia and Catholic University antecedents. The reign of Henman the Huckster at Marion was characterized by stasis, on balance, and somewhat greater rein for minions to do their dirty deeds unchallenged. He is still "looking at" virtually all the relaxations and improvements he claimed to be looking at when he got here. He will not be missed.

Henman's replacement is reputed to be John Clark, former executive assistant at USP Marion during the tenure of previous warden Jerry Williford. He left in 1985 and is now returning from the Metropolitan Correctional Center in Miami, FL, where he was presumably either associate warden or warden. He is certainly no friend of freedom or even possessed of liberal inclinations, judging by his service as Williford's hound. This is the same Clark who went with Williford to the Southern-Illinoisian newspaper and successfully pressured it to order its reporters to sever their contacts with Marion prisoners when the character of their articles began to reflect at least a bit of the truth rather than government disinformation.

There has been much speculation about why the change is being made now, in what seems like mid-tour. Henman's rule has been uninspired and he does seem

unable to prevent his minions from encroaching on his authority, but he is a good bureaucrat and has committed no egregious look of repressioncraft. If he had, he would have fallen further than warden of Leavenworth. The most reasonable assessment seems to be that it is connected with the days of Marion as the big bastille being numbered. A new super max to replace Marion is apparently about to be built in Colorado. In a marked departure from the usual rhetoric about how Marion can not and never will be opened, Marion officials have been on local media at least three times in recent months lamenting that Marion was never designed for its present use.

These things indicate that a change is in the offing for which preparations must be made. Henman is not very good with the media, especially TV, and it would completely destroy what shreds of credibility he and the BOP still have with the gullible. Henman's first pronouncement to prisoners on 30/Jun/86 was that there would be absolutely no opening of Marion in the future, a line he has maintained along with how well the lockdown was working, until the above lamentations. Moreover, many of the gullible in the staff and community have believed any opening would be a threat to their safety and very lives. Presumably Clark has some deprogramming skills for that. Economic interests that have been sucking on the Marion tit will undoubtedly chafe at the decreased money and fewer jobs attendant to a lower security operation. Clark will probably have something for that, too. For the surplus swine, he will have the new prison or no job. For the prisoners, he will undoubtedly have nothing but some extra harassment as he exerts his authority — until they are sent to another lockdown hole. *The Marionette* outlives another warden. ∞

Marionette Editor: Bill Dunne, #10916-086, POB 1000, Marion, IL 62959. All the articles in this issue were written by me. Recipients of The Marionette are free to reproduce or otherwise use the info in it and are encouraged to do so. Donations are always needed. If you don't like the news go out and make some of your own.

Marionnotes

BUREAUCRAT AWARD: Many Marion "counselors" make their prescribed rounds on the sly — quietly and at unexpected times. This allows them to hide from real work somewhere, sometimes to look at dirty books filched from prisoners. Frequently, this desire to dodge the meager services required of "counselors" is combined with personal insecurity and over inflated self-values into classic manifestations of bureaucratic psychopathology. On 27 of Dec.'89, guard, temporarily counselor, Ellet provided a perfect example of the syndrome by coming back down a range to serve some prisoners while insisting to others that he would only serve when going the other way.

REVISING REALITY: The biggest danger in relying on official statistics is that officials generate them. Secrecy facilitates the generation at Marion. Numbers are needed to bolster the fallacies regarding Marion's efficacy and the acuity of prisoncrats' judgements. The image needs protection from very bad things happening in the pre-transfer units. Events are distorted accordingly. Illustrative are the two armed assaults in July officially classed as mere fights, weapons and injury reports notwithstanding. Mutually beneficial seriousness reduction might ameliorate the cost, but the conversion of suicide to murder last year shows that the pen cuts both ways — always to official advantage.

SANDMAN STALLED: December has been unusually cold at Marion. Defending Associate Warden Holt's ego that can't abide any exceptions to his edict banning inside recreation in segregation, staff required prisoners to take their weekly five hours of recreation outside in weather in the 10 degrees Fahrenheit range. The approximately 30'x30' rec. cages were covered with ice and snow. Repeated falls and complaints brought promises — one by lame duck warden Henman — that the slippery surface would be salted or sanded. The result, however, says segregation Lt. Rutledge, is that nothing will be done and if prisoners don't like it, they can refuse recreation.

BAH HUMBUG: As of 26 of Dec.'89, the USP Marion segregation unit was packed almost to capacity with only four empty cells, just one in disciplinary segregation. The continually increasing average length of stay

at Marion and the concomitantly accumulating load of tension are being expressed in more fights. But most of the hole's victims are slammed for imagined and/or petty infractions for which the maximum disciplinary segregation sentence — and of course, the great gift of another year at Marion — is always given. ∞

Segregation *continued from centrespread*

psycho-illness/injury. Nor does the medieval practice of subjecting the deranged to Marion and particularly segregation conditions result in only their victimization. Aside from the physical impact of the noise and other impairments of the environment, the intrusion of those manifestations' meaning can be trying for even the most seriously sane. And successfully resisting a surprize, psychosis-engendered attack — which sometimes cannot be distinguished from any other — does not mean doing so unscathed. It does, however, in the physical case, mean 30 days of disciplinary segregation for fighting.

In addition, there is an infinite variety of petty abuses that can also become serious with endless repetition. The five hour minimum recreation is made a maximum and must be taken outside in 30'x30' rec cages in weather down to 0 degrees Fahrenheit, and no sand or salt if the cages are covered with snow and ice. Below zero, recreation is just denied. There are arbitrary restrictions on personal property and access to commissary as well as virtually total denial of educational services and deliberately grudging, irregular and uncivil provision of other services. And that's not all! But the foregoing serves to clearly indicate the character of segregation at USP Marion — not to mention that of the agents of oppression that created it, run it and insist that it has some legitimacy. Would you trust them handling your interests? ∞

The Fifth Estate, 4632 Second Avenue, Detroit, MI, 48201, has an excellent article on the Exxon Valdez oil spill, showing that such "accidents" are only business as usual. The issue also includes an article on the June events in China. \$1 for a copy. \$5/yr for subs, \$7/Canada.

Toronto Police Chief Rants Against Activists

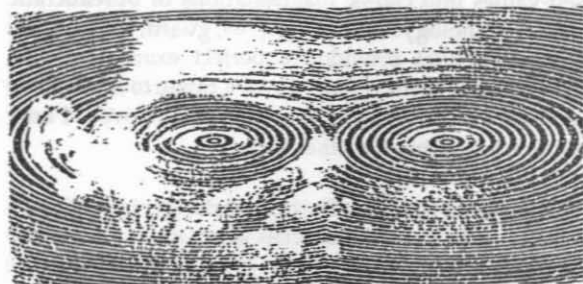
The new chief of the Metropolitan Toronto Police, William McCormick, revealed his political colours when he held a press conference on Dec/4/89 to denounce the distribution of pamphlets that he said "seem to attack the very foundation of our free society." McCormick's appointment last summer as Chief was greeted by a wide spectrum of official opinion as a progressive appointment since he is considered a "community cop" with the "sensitivity" needed to deal with a city whose non-white population is growing quickly, along with accusations of racism in the dealings of the police with various third world communities, particularly those from the Caribbean.

This paper face of liberalism was quickly revealed as the same old colonial and racist attitudes when a Black woman, Sophia Cook, was left paralyzed after being shot on Oct/27/89. Cook had accepted a ride in a car driven by two men which was stopped by Constable Cameron Durham on suspicion that the car was stolen. The two men fled and Durham leaned into the car and shot Cook in the side while she was still strapped into her seat belt.

The shooting was immediately protested by the black community, their supporters from other communities and a few well known human rights lawyers. Two black men had been killed in separate incidents by Toronto area cops in the previous fifteen months and each incident had resulted in demonstrations and rallies against such overt incidents of police racism. This time, along with with the long standing Black Action Defense Committee, the opposition was developed by The Woman's Coalition Against Racism and Police Violence. The main demand in all three shootings has been to call for the creation of an independent civilian review committee to investigate violent incidents involving the police. Currently, an outside police force, in this case, the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP), is brought in to give some illusion of independent investigation.

On Dec/4/89, the OPP laid a charge of "careless use of a firearm" against Durham. This minimal charge, which one lawyer said was what is normally laid against a teenager firing a pellet gun in the backyard, was greeted with a flurry of outrage and anger. The women's

coalition said that the "frivolous nature of the charge . . . is an indication of how valueless Black peoples lives are considered in this society by police." But even this minor charge was too much for the police as they walked off the job to hold study sessions as a way of putting pressure on the government.



McCormick was born into a colonial police family in East Africa. He has been well trained by the colonial system which is very much the roots of the Toronto police. For years there was extensive recruitment in the United Kingdom and many of the senior officers, including McCormick, come from this background. As in South Africa and Palestine, both heavily influenced by the British, the police, other state authorities and the rightwing media would like the power to determine the leaders of the oppressed communities. Immediately after the Cook shooting, in an attempt to defuse the protest that he knew would be coming, McCormick called a meeting of various "leaders" of the African community who had already been co-operating with the police by participating in do-nothing-race-relations committees. And simultaneously, the rightwing media and various authorities denounced what they termed self-styled leaders and "instant organizations with malicious names and no membership."

As McCormick put it "I am appealing to the responsible members of all communities in this area to realize that we, as a police force, have a very difficult job to do. Without their co-operation, without their responsible actions within their communities, our attempts to maintain law and order and to uphold the administration of justice under the Constitution of our country will have

been in vain." Seems pretty clear, "responsible" leadership in the African community is contingent upon keeping everyone else in line. Under the official national policy of "multi-culturalism" such leaders become power brokers, distributing political patronage and other privileges within their communities. Such methods have been applied through centuries of British colonialism throughout the world.

The contrast for McCormick are those who distribute documents which "malign the character of those people dedicated to law enforcement . . . The contents seem to be designed to infuriate communities within Metropolitan Toronto that are not sufficiently aware of the circumstances. This type of sensationalism tends to create division, polarization and violent reaction in those communities." As with any colonial system, it is always those who refuse to accept the way things are, in this case the routine racism directed against African youth in particular, who get blamed for the discontent and anger. It is obvious that McCormick doesn't think that the Black community either has, or should have, the capacity to decide for themselves what is a relevant response when their people are shot by the police.

The establishment in Toronto must indeed be resting uneasy these days if a few rallies and demonstrations directed against the police can be thought to so threatening to society. Unless, that is, unquestioning obedience and capitulation to the police is considered necessary for the smooth functioning of the profit and consumption system. But McCormick's "politics" should come as no surprise. As Deputy Chief in 1988, he

Strike Successful

On Dec/4/89, Correctional Services Minister of Ontario, Richard Patten, announced an expansion to the provincial jail system that he said was speeded up because of a 4-day strike by correctional services guards. (See story in last issue.) The province will build one new detention unit, expand another, reopen beds that were closed in other Toronto area jails and hire 115 more guards and other staff. The president of the union, James Clancy, said that the announcement justified the decision by the guards to strike "to focus attention on the crisis in our facilities." ∞

was responsible for co-ordinating security for the G-7 Summit (Thatcher, Reagan and the like) which was held in Toronto. This work would have brought him into extensive contact with top security people from the western world. Indeed, one of the purposes of such mega-media political events is to give training and equipment to the local police. He has been seen taking an active interest in various events over the last couple years. McCormick is no dumb cop who has risen to beyond his intellectual capabilities, but rather someone who clearly understands popular politics. His Summit experience would most certainly include studies of resistance and repression. By overtly attacking those who are exercising what is supposedly a right to protest, he shows that his will not be a tolerant regime. ∞

by Bulldozer

Montreal *continued from page 9*

we are silent when the men around us verbally harass women on the street or when they give voice to their anger and resentment against women. It is not easy, nor is it even so clear as to how to effectively challenge the pervasive misogyny of this culture. Sexist and racist attitudes mean that white working class men identify more strongly with their white male overlords than with the women or people of colour around them. Similarly, nothing will unite a group of men, regardless of how many social and racial divisions might exist between them, faster than a woman walking past them. As political men we must take up the challenge of sexism and violence against women, otherwise social change will just be a changing of the guard rather than a fundamental altering of this society. ∞

by Bulldozer

Bulldozer dedicates our participation in this issue to the memory of the 14 women who were assassinated in Montreal; to the living spirit of Sophia Cook, and to women fighting everywhere.

Case Against Resistance Conspiracy Three Weakened

On November 3, the D.C. Court of Appeals issued a decision in the Resistance Conspiracy Case, severely weakening the government's case against six revolutionaries. The appeals court ruled that broad conspiracy charges could not be used against three of the defendants — Susan Rosenberg, Alan Berkman and Tim Blunk — because of double jeopardy. The government is now trying to figure out how to go ahead with its case against Susan, Tim and Alan. The Emergency Committee for Political Prisoner's Rights has launched an emergency letter-writing campaign to Attorney General Richard Thornburgh, demanding that the charges be dropped now.

This case stems from a highly unusual and vindictive indictment unveiled by the U.S. Justice Department in May, 1988, charging Laura Whitehorn, Susan Rosenberg, Linda Evans, Marilyn Buck, Tim Blunk and Alan Berkman with "seeking to influence, change and protest policies and practices of the United States government concerning various international and domestic matters through the use of violent and illegal means." The six are charged with being part of a conspiracy and aiding and abetting the bombing of the U.S. Capitol following the U.S. invasion of Grenada. No one was injured in any of these actions.

The Resistance Conspiracy Six are 20-year veterans of the progressive movements in this country against racism, colonialism, U.S. military intervention, sexism and gay and lesbian oppression. They have been part of many solidarity and human rights organizations, beginning with the Civil Rights Movement of the early 60's.

The Emergency Committee for Political Prisoner's Rights has initiated a letter writing campaign to the Attorney General, because political pressure at this time can play a role in influencing the decision the government makes. Thousands of progressive people and organizations all over the country expressed their support for the Resistance Conspiracy Six by signing an "Open Letter" that appeared in the pages of a wide variety of people's publications. The Emergency Committee urges all progressive people to build on that support by demanding that the government drop the charges against Susan, Alan and Tim now. Dropping the

charges against the three of them can be an important first step in dropping this vindictive persecution entirely.

Please send letters to: Attorney General Richard Thornburgh, U.S. Department of Justice, 10th and Constitution, N.W., Washington, DC 20530 (please reference the case as *U.S. vs. Whitehorn*, Crim. Action No 88-00L45-04. These letters can make a difference now.)

The above came from the Emergency Committee, POB 28191, Washington, DC 20038. Write to them for further information. ∞

Recommended Periodicals

New Studies on the Left, formerly *Issues in Radical Therapy*, has come out with their book length double issue on prisons. Though it hasn't made it to Toronto, we know it will be very powerful. It costs \$10 but will be worth the price. Write to Saxifrage, POB 18717, Denver, CO 80218

Bay Area Revolutionary Action does a newsletter that covers many of the same struggles we do. The one issue that we received was very good. They also distribute *A Herstory of the Revolutionary Cells and Rote Zora*, which are both German guerrilla groups. Cost for the latter is \$1. Write to BARA, POB 3501, Oakland, CA 94609.

The second issue of *Live Wild or Die* is out. This newspaper is published by an anti-authoritarian, anti-patriotic tendency within Earth First! If you're curious about anti-industrial politics, both active and theoretical, write to them at: POB 13765, Portland, OR 97231. Send at least a dollar if you can.

Bayou La Rose is a magazine of long standing that covers prison, native, workplace and environmental issues. The most recent issue was particularly good. They're at 302 N. "J" st. #3, Tacoma, WA 98403. \$7.50/ four issues. ∞
by Bulldozer

Spanish Hungerstrikers Claim Victory

On Sep/25/89, Spanish political prisoners, members of GRAPO (1st of Oct. anti-fascist group) and the PCE(r) (Spanish Communist Party (reconstituted)) ended a hunger-strike begun on Aug/21/89. They felt that they had achieved their goals and the weakening condition of some of their comrades prompted them to call it off. According to a statement issued from a prison hospital in Madrid:

All of the objectives set for this hungerstrike have been met: the seven of us in Almeria prison shall be

Police Raids in Italy

This morning, 5/Dec/89, by order of the Magistrates Vigna and Chelazzi of Florence, police officers of the Digos carried out a number of raids on the home of anarchists, particularly those involved in producing the papers *ProvoAzione* and *Anarchismo*, in various towns in Italy: Milan, Turin, Rome, Massa (Carrara) and Catalonia.

We editors wish to point out the following: A large part of the material seized here in Milan was for publication in the next issue of the paper. Moreover, the whole list of subscribers to the paper, letters to the editors and personal correspondence, stickers, pamphlets, Italian and foreign anarchist papers and leaflets, have seized. We will naturally continue to publish everything that has become an object of inquiry and intimidation by the investigative organs of the judiciary and the police.

We are not afraid. We are here, looking at State repression in the face, and will not go back on anything. Beyond and against the logic of power, we will continue to move in an anarchist social insurrectionist direction against the state, capital and every authoritarian structure, for their immediate destruction. We can say it openly and are doing everything we can so that this comes about in practice, always of course with our anarchist means. None of us will turn back from this struggle. They also know that well. The game has begun.

transferred from the penitentiary hospital in Madrid, where we are at now, to another prison with dignified living conditions, without punitive treatment or rules or restrictions on our relationship with the streets and respecting our right to collective organization. These agreements have been agreed to by a high official in the General Administration of Penal Institutions before the Judge for Penal Vigilance of Madrid and two delegates elected by us.

The magnitude of the goal we chose explains the great sacrifices needed to reach it. It is enough to say that the great level of weakness reached by our comrades Pedero, Hierro and Brotons, made us fear for their lives. Since we started the strike, the PSOE (the ruling socialist party), specifically its ministry of the interior, has vented its fury on us, we have been beaten and forcefully transferred to the penitentiary hospital, here we were isolated from each other. We have been threatened with dispersement to other prisons. We have been taunted with "There's nothing to negotiate, either you eat or die" etc., culminating with the transfer of Hierro Chomon, 30 days into the hungerstrike, to the isolation cells of extermination centre alcala-maco.

But during this time, we have had the help of our people. Our female comrade prisoners in Carabanchel, Besauri and Castallon together with the prisons of Soria and Daroca have joined the strike in solidarity. On the street our situation and that of all political prisoners, has been publicly denounced, there have been chainings, shut outs and other mobilizations organized by AFAPP and other collectives in solidarity with the prisoners. There has not been a lack of pressure from different people and organizations which feel theirs is the cause of true democracy, (lawyers, doctors, professionals, etc.). In contrast, the media has been characterized by its servility to power, silencing our struggle and, once completed, saying that we had not achieved our goals.

To resist is to win!!!

The struggle is continuous!!!

Political prisoners of the PCE(r) and GRAPO
General prison hospital in Madrid, Sep/25/89 ∞

German Cops Kill Anti-Fascist

translation of a leaflet from Germany

In Gottingen, West Germany, on Nov/17/89, Connie was killed as a result of police action. An "accident"? (No! this death was the callously caused atrocity in the protection of fascists for which the cops in Gottingen are directly and morally responsible just like the killers in Howard Beach. There is some indication that this is part of a conscious escalation of police pressure on anti-fascists in which the raised stakes are more likely to cause deaths. ed.)

Confrontations with the neo-fascists and skinheads in the centre of Gottingen have been taking place regularly each weekend for months. Like the previous weekend during the nazi attacks against the JUZI (youth centre-autonomist squat) the police observe the doings of the nazis without once having taken measures against them. On the contrary: nazis are taken into "protective custody". No wonder the confrontations are becoming more frequent and more brutal. The police, however, do not just exercise restraint and tolerance towards neo-fascists, they also proceed against all active anti-fascists who refuse to accept weekend terror idly. So it was again Friday!

Once again a fight broke out with about 12 fascists in the Burger Street close to the student bar "Apex". Police advanced rapidly and ended the confrontation; one anti-fascist was taken into custody! A short time later the police "spot" a group of about 25 anti-fascists in Weender Street. Several police and ghost cars follow the group and erect a roadblock. They attempt to surround the group but the anti-fascists get away. Shortly after 9:00 p.m. several people listening in on police radio overhear how the cops agree to attack the anti-fascists: "should we flatten them?" — "why?" — "otherwise they'll take the law into their own hands" — "we have enough forces to do it" etc. The police then encircle the anti-fascists in Weender Street at the entrance to the parking lot Idununazentrum. Cops attack with clubs and CS-gas. Connie is chased into a passing car and she is killed. The cops' reaction "everyone on the ground!" then "you can join her, lie down beside her" like many others before her, Gunter Sare, Hans Jurgen Rattay ...

The Aftermath

Immediately after in Gottingen demonstrators erected a barricade and set it alight. A spontaneous demonstration of about 500 people marched from the JUZI to where the murder took place. On the next day 2000 people demonstrated through downtown Gottingen to the location of the murder. Slogans were sprayed and some banks lost their windows. On the way back another barricade was erected at JUZI. During the following week pigs from all over Northern Germany descended on Gottingen and a kind of crisis situation prevailed. Spontaneous demonstrations also took place in other cities (Hamburg, Munich, Bielefeld and Berlin West). Eight hundred to a thousand people accompanied by a huge police contingent marched down the Kurfurstendam (fancy cafes and shops for the elite). About 200 masked autonomists etc. broke shop windows and destroyed cars in a new car lot in Kreuzberg.

In Munich 80 people demonstrated on the same day. Cops did not need any particular excuse to push them into a sidestreet. The demonstrators were then forced to step out of the encirclement in twos and submit to an i.d. check.

In Hamburg response was quick — on the same night about 200 demonstrators met in the community centre Rote Zora before beginning a march during which several windows of small shops were smashed. A police station was also attacked. The 1st floor windows being shatterproof remained intact but the 2nd floor windows were shattered. "Rote Zora", a community based project, has since issued a statement, "Not like this", in which they expressed understanding for the police station action but criticized the attacks against the small shops.

In the course of the week, a committee of the provincial government of Lower Saxony confirmed most of the eye witness reports: the demonstrators were encircled and cops used clubs and tear and poisonous gas against them. And the radio messages have been confirmed: Director of the civilian commando to the

continued on back page

Prison AIDS Safety TIPS

Anyone can get HIV (the virus associated with AIDS). Gay or straight, male or female, you can have HIV but not look or feel sick. You can't get HIV from talking to an infected person, or from hugging or kissing them or eating something they've cooked. You can get HIV only if certain fluids from an infected person get into your bloodstream. These fluids are semen (cum), blood (including menstrual blood) and, in some cases, vaginal juices. They can get into your blood through sex or through sharing needles (including for tattooing or piercing) or works.

Condoms and other precautions help prevent sexually transmitted diseases (STDs). Needles can be cleaned with household bleach (e.g. javex or clorox) or other disinfectants. But condoms and bleach have been banned from most prisons. This is an ideal way to kill prisoners and to spread the virus to poor communities on the outside. Nevertheless, there are some precautions prisoners can take to protect themselves.

It's safest to always use new needles, but this is often impossible even on the street. To clean needles with bleach or other disinfectants, draw the disinfectant completely through the works at least three times, then draw water through the same number of times. Cotton and cooker also need to be cleaned or discarded and fresh disinfectant and rinse water should be used each time.

Failing this, the following methods, although not scientifically tested, are probably better than nothing. 1) Completely disassemble works and boil for several minutes. 2) Completely disassemble works, wash or soak as thoroughly as possible, and leave disassembled and exposed to air for 24 hours. These precautions should also be taken with needles used to pierce or tattoo, earrings themselves, or anything else that pierces the skin.

Condoms are rarely available in prison, and intercourse (fucking) whether penis/anus or penis/vagina without a condom is the highest sex risk there is. (Men should remember this if they get involved with women when they are back on the street.) We recommend that male prisoners enjoy safer forms of sex. Cuddling, kiss-



John Ruggeri

ing and stroking all parts of the body is safe. The only possible exception to this is the penis. Community AIDS workers in the USA say that fellatio (sucking) without a condom is unsafe, but in Canada and England it is classified as lower risk, because stomach juices destroy the HIV virus and keep it from getting into the bloodstream.

Much the same principals apply to sex between women. Again, AIDS workers in the U.S. are stricter than those in Canada. The one thing that everyone agrees on is that women should not touch or lick each other's menstrual (monthly) blood. Other vaginal fluids are more controversial since the sexist scientific establishment has not bothered to test woman's bodies. Many women's health care workers believe that the presence of a vaginal infection (indicated by a smelly, itchy, lumpy or strangely-coloured discharge) makes women's juices higher risk than normal because HIV concentrates in the white blood cells that the body sends

continued over

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If you don't like the news, go out and make some of your own!

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to fight infection. Women can use a latex or plastic barrier between their hands or mouth and a partner's genitals. Women on the outside are using surgical gloves and cutting up condoms to form latex squares ("dental dams"). Some women have experimented with saran wrap, plastic bags and other thin sheets of plastic. Again, we emphasize that, although none of these methods have been scientifically tested, they are widely advocated by AIDS activists and community workers. Since the number of HIV+ women is rapidly rising, we strongly recommend that sisters take appropriate precautions.

It is important to note that the risk involved in oral sex (going down) on a woman or a man is much greater if there is any opening to infection in the mouth or throat. These can include chapped lips, bleeding gums, cuts or sores in the mouth or throat or even severe indigestion. Since prison health and dental care is bad, these conditions may make oral sex less safe for prisoners than for the average person on the street,

This is part of a series of articles on AIDS and prison health issues. Our aim is to empower through informa-

tion. We welcome reader comments and participation. Prisoners with AIDS and their friends are urged to contact the PWA Rights Advocacy group. They publish a quarterly newsletter and are in contact with many AIDS service organizations. PWA-RAG, c/o Saxifrage Group, P.O. Box 18717, Denver, CO 80218. ∞

Germany continued from page 18.

director of the cop station: "I would say, if we have enough people, we should flatten them!"

On Saturday, Nov/25/89, a national demonstration was called for in Gottingen. A fairly broad spectrum called for it because of the above report, even some social democrats and greens. Fifteen to twenty thousand people from Northern and Central Germany demonstrated. Pigs were ordered to de-escalate and were present at first in small numbers. Banks, jewellers and one department store were attacked. One cop station was attacked. After the rally cops storm the square in hundreds, water cannons are set up but not used. Ninety-seven cops injured, 2 demonstrators hospitalized, and 10 people were arrested. ∞