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Issue 3: Winter 2016

# INCARCERATED WORKER

a project of the incarcerated workers organizing  
committee of the industrial workers of the world

## The Incarcerated Lumpen

*Jose H. Villarreal*

There is a strain of thought which seeks to label mass incarceration in the U.S. with solely profits of the helm. This is not so, incarceration in the U.S. is really about social control of mostly Brown and Black people. At the same time it's important that we also properly identify the incarcerated masses because we cannot change a phenomenon without first fully understanding it. U.S. prisoners mostly belong to the Lumpen class!

Oppression within the U.S. revolves around class, nation and gender. These are the main forms of oppression that people face in U.S. borders-including prisoners. Leaders within U.S. prisons should understand this in order to help find ways to resolve these forms of oppression. We can't defend against something we do not understand.

When it comes to class we should look at the facts of where prisoners stand. The truth is the majority of prisoners are not workers, do not work in prison and have never held a job in their life. Those who have worked did so sporadically. In my 30 or so years of being incarcerated I have had two jobs, both of which lasted less than 6 months. Once I



worked as a "Block Porter" which is basically a janitor for the cell block I lived in. I swept, mopped and dumped trash. I was paid 11 cents an hour and this lasted about a month.

Another time I worked for a couple of months in the prison kitchen and was paid nothing! These were the two times I worked in nearly 30 years of incarceration. Most never worked. The thing is there are not enough jobs in prison to work everyone even if the state wanted to.

Most of my cellmates; when I had them, had never worked in or out of prison and most were serving a life sentence. They fall

## The Pen and the Sword

*Hybachi Lemar*

The pen and the sword: two weapons the revolutionist has at one's disposal. One, ready to drip with ink; the other ready to drip with blood.

One, able to penetrate the mind: the other, able to pierce through flesh.

The Revolutionary understands the necessity in keeping them both prepared & ready for war against the Oppressor.

There's a common saying in prison that the pen is mightier than the sword. While both can be used defensively as well as in an offensive attack - the unlearned may ask how the pen can be used as a weapon, while the trained Revolutionary recognizes the significance in honing both for combat against the state; in particular, the Capitalist Empire!

## The Pen as a Weapon

Just as it's important for a Warrior to keep sharp the blade of a sword; it's also vital for the Revolutionary to not leave dull the blade of the mind. The pen - as an extension of the mind - is more flexible in use than the sword. Whereas the sword is primarily used to attack within close combat - the pen can also defend, inspire and

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## Incarcerated Worker Organizing Committee Statement of Purpose

July 31, 2014

1. To further the revolutionary goals of incarcerated people and the IWW through mutual organizing of a worldwide union for emancipation from the prison system.
2. To build class solidarity amongst members of the working class by connecting the struggle of people in prison, jails, and immigrant and juvenile detention centers to workers struggles locally and worldwide.
3. To strategically and tactically support prisoners locally and worldwide, incorporating an analysis of white supremacy, patriarchy, prison culture, and capitalism.
4. To actively struggle to end the criminalization, exploitation, and enslavement of working class people, which disproportionately targets people of color, immigrants, people with low income, LGBTQ people, young people, dissidents, and those with mental illness.
5. To amplify the voices of working class people in prison, especially those engaging in collective action or who put their own lives at risk to improve the conditions of all.

## JOIN THE IWW

The Incarcerated Worker is a publication of the Incarcerated Worker Organizing Committee of the Industrial Workers of the World. Join the rank-and-file union that's organizing prisoners internationally! Send name, ID #, and address to:

Note from Mike L and Brianna: Hi everyone! You have surely noticed that mail has been slow lately. We have been doing lots of stuff and have not forgotten you. We will get caught up as soon as possible. Solidarity!

**IWW IWOC**  
PO Box 414304  
Kansas City, MO 64141-4304

## CONTRIBUTE TO THE IW

The Incarcerated Worker features writings of prisoners, welcoming contributions of writing and art particularly from a revolutionary labor perspective, all subject to editing for space and for content. Contributions should be sent to:

**Kent Books to Prisoners**  
CSI Box X  
KSU Student Center  
Kent, OH 44242

## Editorial Policy

Collectively, we may not know exactly what we're looking for, but we'll know it when we see it. And we may not know what we're *not* looking for, but we'll definitely get plenty of it.

We have to decide: Do we want to produce quality that will inspire and move people and contribute to a goal, or do we want to be a forum for terrible material no one else will print?

I opt for the first. So, I suggest our editorial policy should be fluid and evolving and organic, case by case, issue to issue. In other words, no real policy at all.

—Editor FW Sean Swain

*Due to limited printing capacity, content should be kept shorter than 5 pages.*

*Send your self-addressed stamped envelopes with requests for back issues, so we can save on postage.*

***Remember to share and spread things around so we can all grow!***

However, this fluid policy is subject to change at the democratic will of incarcerated workers like YOU! Fellow workers in Missouri prisons suggested a rotation of contributing authors. Authors shall be set in rotation each issue, so each gets a turn to share their voice.

The more articles you send the more we can put in rotation. The articles should teach and motivate each other. The paper's goal is solidarity through communal knowledge; each one teach one!

—Outside Editor, Mike L.

FELLOW WORKERS:



## Kent Books to Prisoners

provides prisoners with books and other reading material on request.

**Kent Books to Prisoners**  
CSI Box X  
KSU Student Center  
Kent, OH 44242

## Prison Books Collective

provides a catalog of political pamphlets, and any of the pamphlets contained within, free to prisoners. Prisoners in MS, AL, and NC are eligible to request and receive books. <http://www.prisonbooks.info>

**Prison Books Collective Publishing & Distribution**  
PO Box 625  
Carrboro, NC 27510

*Kent Books to Prisoners and Prison Books Collective are not affiliated with the IWW.*

## WOMMB Institute Contribution

*Anthony S. Gay*

When we examine or study any successful collective of people, in the present world and throughout history, the principles and core values are uniform; whether we're considering communities, governments, corporations, sports teams, armies, medical teams fighting cancer, nonprofit organizations, or liberation movements; accomplishing their respective visions and goals is going to require unwavering adherence to a narrow set of standards. All such groups, and their members, are characterized with propensities for cooperation and coordination to effectively and efficiently impact their environments and conditions; they have a highly developed sense of fidelity to

their world view and strategies; they search for opportunities to teach and improve themselves; they are disciplined and committed to short and long term missions. These are among the minimum standards of character development and ability. The foundational elements for winning. There are small battles and the larger campaign. And where is the Prisoner Human Rights Struggle at in our Liberation Campaign? How many battles are being won in the Prison Abolition Movement. What does the strategic vision of the Anti-imperialist, self determinationist struggle look like, in REAL terms? (not the abstract, rhetorical, regurgitated "revolutionary" formulas). If a mission oriented group is not making any note worthy gains, satisfying the needs of its members, winning battles, keeping its self from injury, winning games, etc., then something must be wrong with their strategic and/or leadership paradigm

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(whether cooperative or hierarchical); if something is wrong, that "something" must be identified and changed (whether minutely or drastically). Persisting in failed ideas, ideologies and methods inevitably results in failing to reach the groups goals and missions; failed, collapsed economies, states or businesses; losing armies or basketball teams, etc. The organizational and operational models for contemporary self deter-

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## TIMELINE: Recent Events

### July

**30:** After a Supreme Court ruling that ruled three strike sentencing as unconstitutional, many federal cases will be reviewed and thousands of prisoners will be eligible for release. This great news is not because of the benevolence of the powers that be, but progress like this would not be possible without the organization and resistance of brave incarcerated workers!



### August

**13:** A great legendary revolutionary veteran, Hugo "Yogi Bear" Pinell was assassinated in a riot at California State Prison-Sacramento on Wednesday 8-12-15. Pinell was active in the Black Panthers and Black Guerrilla Family. He was part of the San Quinton 6, prisoners who attempted a rebellious escape along with legendary George Jackson who died in the escape attempt. Hugo continued to organize in prison, even though he was kept in isolation a majority of the time; he even took part in the CA hunger strikes. We mourn our fallen comrade, but we shall continue to organize. We'll remember our dead, but we'll fight like hell for the living! Never forget and never forget!



**27:** Arizona is cutting ties with private prison company, Management & Training Corp. (MTC), that it says failed to control uprisings in July of this year. The uprisings left one facility near Kingman badly damaged, caused injury to 16 people, and forced the relocation of more than 1,000 incarcerated workers, the Arizona

Republic reports. This is a major economic and political loss for a corporation that profits from the exploitation of incarcerated workers.



### September

**2:** In a major victory for incarcerated workers' rights, California has agreed to greatly reduce the use of solitary confinement as a part of a legal settlement that may have major implications in prisons nationwide. The decision on Tuesday, September 2, 2015 came following years of litigation by a group of incarcerated workers held in isolation for a decade or more at Pelican Bay State Prison, as well as incarcerated worker hunger strikes.

**13:** In international news, Shahrokh Zamani, one of the most well-known and respected imprisoned labour activists in Iran, died on Sunday, September 13, 2015 in Gohardasht (Rajai Shahr) Prison in the City of Karaj. Shahrokh was a member of the Founding Board of the Syndicate of Paint Workers of Tehran and the Committee to Pursue the Establishment of Workers Organizations. Iranian prison officials claimed he suffered from a stroke, but his family and comrades suspect he was assassinated.

**22:** International Day of Trans Prisoner Solidarity observed in 40 cities around the world as requested by trans prisoner and IWW member Marius Mason.

**23:** Alice and Staughton Lynd corresponded with incarcerated workers who have won concessions in a 6 day hunger strike in Menard Correctional Institution in Illinois.

### October

**6:** 6,000 Incarcerated workers from federal prisons across the U.S. will be released this October/November, and an additional 8,550 inmates will be eligible for early release between November 1st 2015 and November 2016. The released were charged with non-violent, mostly drug-related crimes. This is enacted from U.S. Sentencing Commission and separate from Obama's public release of 89 incarcerated workers. However, this good news comes at a price, one third of the prisoners will be deported and despite Obama's compassionate gesture; his administration has set deportations at an all time high. as punishment for tattooing.



**8:** Incarcerated Workers from the Eastern New York Correctional Facility won in a debate against a prestigious ivy-league debate team from Harvard University. The men were part of a rigorous college program for incarcerated workers called the Bard Prison Initiative. This victory is a great example of what we, disposed people can accomplish when we seize the power of knowledge as organized and educated incarcerated workers!

**22:** Federal Communications Commission sets new ruling that lowers the prices of phone calls for prisoners. The ruling cuts the vastly inflated rates of phone calls set by private communications companies such as AT & T.



# IWW Union Glossary: Part I

The IWW uses some terminology that you won't hear anywhere else. Here are definitions of some of the terms used in the union. Stay tuned in future issues for more!

**A**ssessment -- A voluntary or mandatory contribution (depending on the situation) in addition to union dues allocated for specific purposes, such as a GDC or a strike fund.

**B**ranch -- A chartered group of IWW members in the same job site, city, or region organized around a common workplace, industry, or regional grouping.

**B**ST - (Branch Secretary-Treasurer) - The chief administrative officer of a chartered IWW Industrial Union Branch or General Membership Branch.

**C**harter - A document issued by the GEB or a GOC that officially recognizes a subordinate body of the IWW, such as a branch or district council.

**C**lass War - The struggle between the employing class (always looking to lower the costs of labor at workers' expense) and the working class (seeking to retain all that it produces).

**C**ST (Central Secretary-Treasurer) - The chief administrative officer of the IWW's General Defense Committee. The CST is elected annually to a one year term by a democratic vote of the entire IWW membership.

**D**elegat -- An IWW member empowered to collect dues from other members, sign up new IWW members, and represent the group of IWW members they represent at district councils and other assemblies of the IWW. Delegates are democratically elected by shops and branches; they serve one year terms.

**D**epartment . An international coordinating body of closely related Industrial

Unions, such as the Department of General Construction 300, which includes the General Construction Workers Industrial Union 310, the Ship Builders Industrial Union 320, and the Building Construction Workers Industrial Union 330. There are six such departments outlined by the IWW Constitution.

**D**istrict Councils - See Industrial District Council.

**F**ellow Worker (FW) - How IWW members traditionally address each other (e.g. FW Lucy Parsons, or FW Ben Fletcher). Although the term is actually gender neutral, recently some members have adopted the unofficial term "Sister Worker" to refer to women members of the IWW. Some women prefer the term, but others do not.

**G**DC (General Defense Committee) -- An organization composed of IWW members and supporters whose function is to organize for the defense of workers indicted in the process of union organizing or other revolutionary activity. The GDC can be organized into locals and regional federations. The GDC is the only official committee that sympathetic employers may join (as non-IWW members).

**G**DC Local - A Local branch of the General Defense Committee.

**G**EB (General Executive Board) -- The chief coordinating body of the Industrial Workers of the World, consisting of seven members elected to one year terms annually by a democratic vote of the entire IWW membership. The GEB's duties are outlined by Article III, Section 5A of the IWW Constitution.

**G**eneral Assembly (GA) - An annual assembly, held (US) Labor Day Weekend, where members, delegates and officers of the union meet to discuss union business, prepare for the annual election and referendum, and set union policy. The decisions of the General Assembly are subject to review by the entire IWW membership.

**G**MB (General Membership Branch) - A chartered body of IWW members located in a local geographic area (usually a city or metropolitan area) composed of workers from many different industries. A GMB is a temporary structure designed to aid in the formation of Industrial Union Branches.

Prison Rebels Across US Call for Nationally Coordinated Workstoppage. Voices from behind the bars across the country have issued a call for a nationally coordinated protest movement in America's prisons. There are already committed Freedom Movements in Alabama, California, Ohio, Georgia, Mississippi, Virginia. In September of 2016, prisoners in these and other states will refuse to participate in the system of prison slavery which reproduces their conditions of confinement.

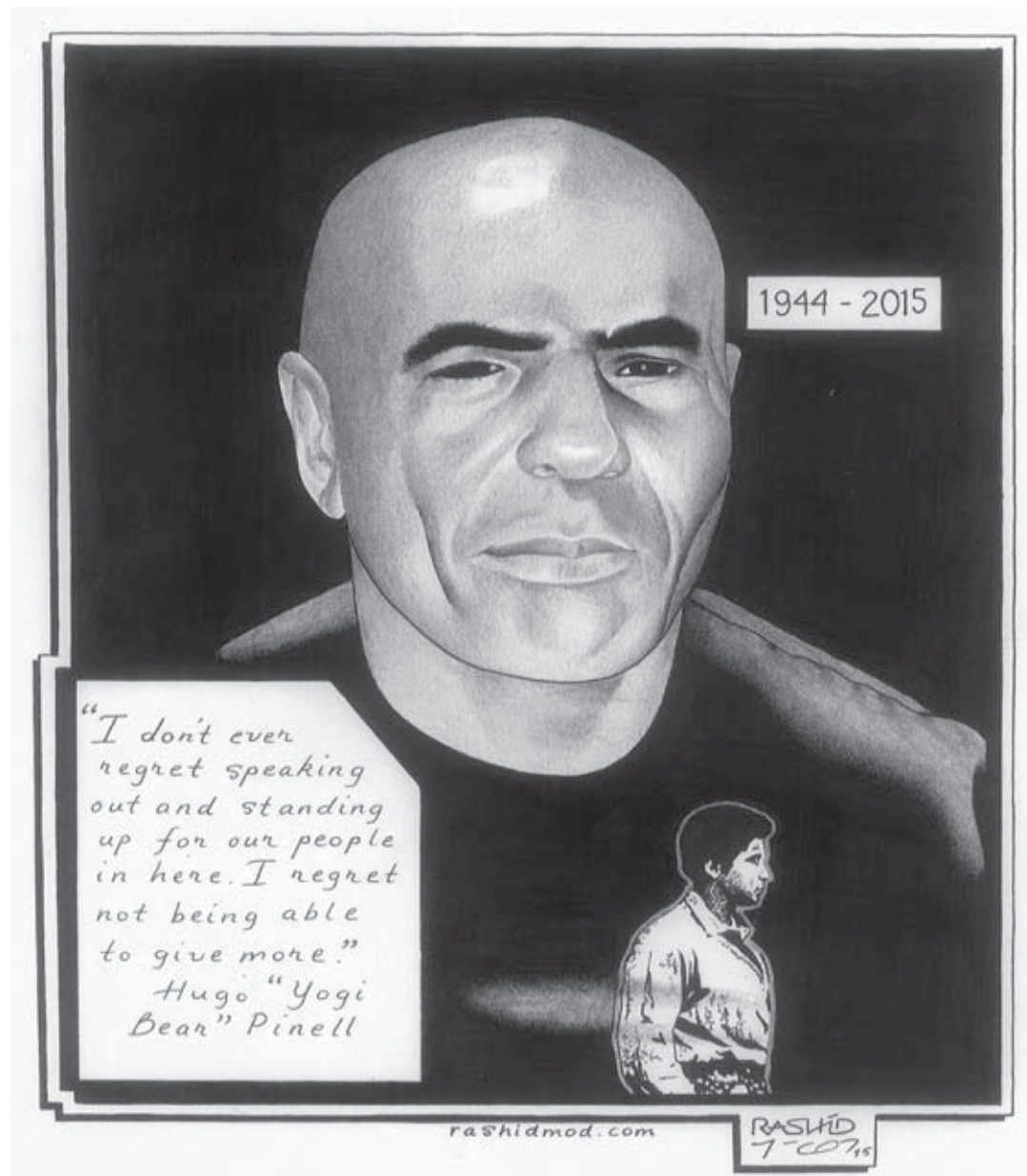
The prisoners, who choose to remain anonymous to avoid reprisals from authorities, have called for a peaceful and non-violent workstoppage to occur at that time wherever incarcerated people feel capable of mounting one. The success of this action depends upon outside support and international solidarity. People on the outside who wish to support folks in their region can find more information online at [SupportPrisonerResistance.net](http://SupportPrisonerResistance.net) including many educational resources and strategy guides.

More information about this nationally coordinated action will be forthcoming, so please keep an ear to the ground and start getting organized where you are at.



*continued in next issue!*

# Memorial: Hugo Pinell, 1944 - 2015



## Note:

Hugo Pinell was imprisoned due to accusations of rape. IWOC firmly stands against all sexual violence and also acknowledges that the US penal system is filled with many innocent people due to the rape narrative, especially against white women, which has played a major role in US racism. Hugo, a Puerto Rican, was told he would face the death penalty if he did not plead guilty, so he pled guilty. In addition, many people have committed horrible deeds in their past, before dedicating their life to the struggle and we believe that life-changing transformations are proof that consistently striving to educate each other, dismantle sexually violent cultures, and stop people from committing acts of sexual violence are worthwhile goals that we wholeheartedly support and work toward in ourselves and in the IWW. If you have any additional information on Pinell's case, please contact us so we can include it in our assessment.



## REVOLUTIONARY GREETINGS - CLINCH FIST SALUTE - ALL POWER TO THE PEOPLE - BLACK POWER TO THE BLACK COMMUNE!

*Adui Ijini-Chaka Seko*

I rise heavyhearted at the recent slaying of yet another unarmed black man ( )

I was approached by a brother (for the sake of disrespect and discipline as pertains to emotions I'll use "Brother" over Nigga or negro, however said //////////////)

Who say's "That nigga dumb, all he had was some child support"

I began to ponder on the need 1st for all lumpen - communes to call a spade a spade. The overall sentiment of the occupying force commonly called "police" is that black lives are worthless! Police training cannot thwart 100's of years of programming into the ////////////// of white skin privilege - people of color are less than, therefore should be policed in a ruthless manner! I reflect on the functional aspects

of constitute'n the people, which deals with the transitioning chase, from there to practice - building a base which ghetto communes circle, and accept as vanguard of the people!

The present phase of brutality again finds the ghetto commune ripe for agitation education and organization!

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## Revolutionary Greetings continued

We the people must assure the agents of liberalism do not handcuff the people's spirits nor extinguish the flames which can purify our commune and crush the chains?

“Chains that bind us mentally/physically-we cannot “organize a sleeping people around specific goals” until awareness and understanding of the need to fight has been achieved - until the will of the people has been inspired/revived-until the belief that we can //// has been acquired”

What must be focal point?

RE/Education - Why?

Because even though many mourn and are outraged at the indiscriminate killing of men/woman of color - most people of color hold beliefs in the appropriateness and legitimacy of the amerikkkan shit/sys-tem of government and in the right of the oppressor to exercise authority over us!

Many cling to backward “Philosophical Perspectives” which indeed is the root cause of all this!

Comrades I have said enough for now, however know that although I cannot be there towing the front/line physically, comrades I am with you all spiritually/mentally look for your comrade in the atmosphere!

Any further dialogue on brief essay is welcome. I can be reached at address below

Adui Ijini-Chaka Seko  
s/n Brounche' Green/J19885  
C.T.F/Central/CW-201 low  
P.O.Box 689  
Soledad, CA. 93960-0689

In closing I'd love to share a degree about strategy-which is what we must build-----

Strategy is overall blueprint to achieve success-”tactics and techniques” are what must be employed to achieve said strategy/goals!

A strategist looks into situations, circumstances, not just at them----- He/she is patient, calm, detached (to a degree) from emotionalism as circumstances which will affect the people unfold (police brutality)

Strategist are situational, time oriented, shortsighted - “Longwinded”!!!

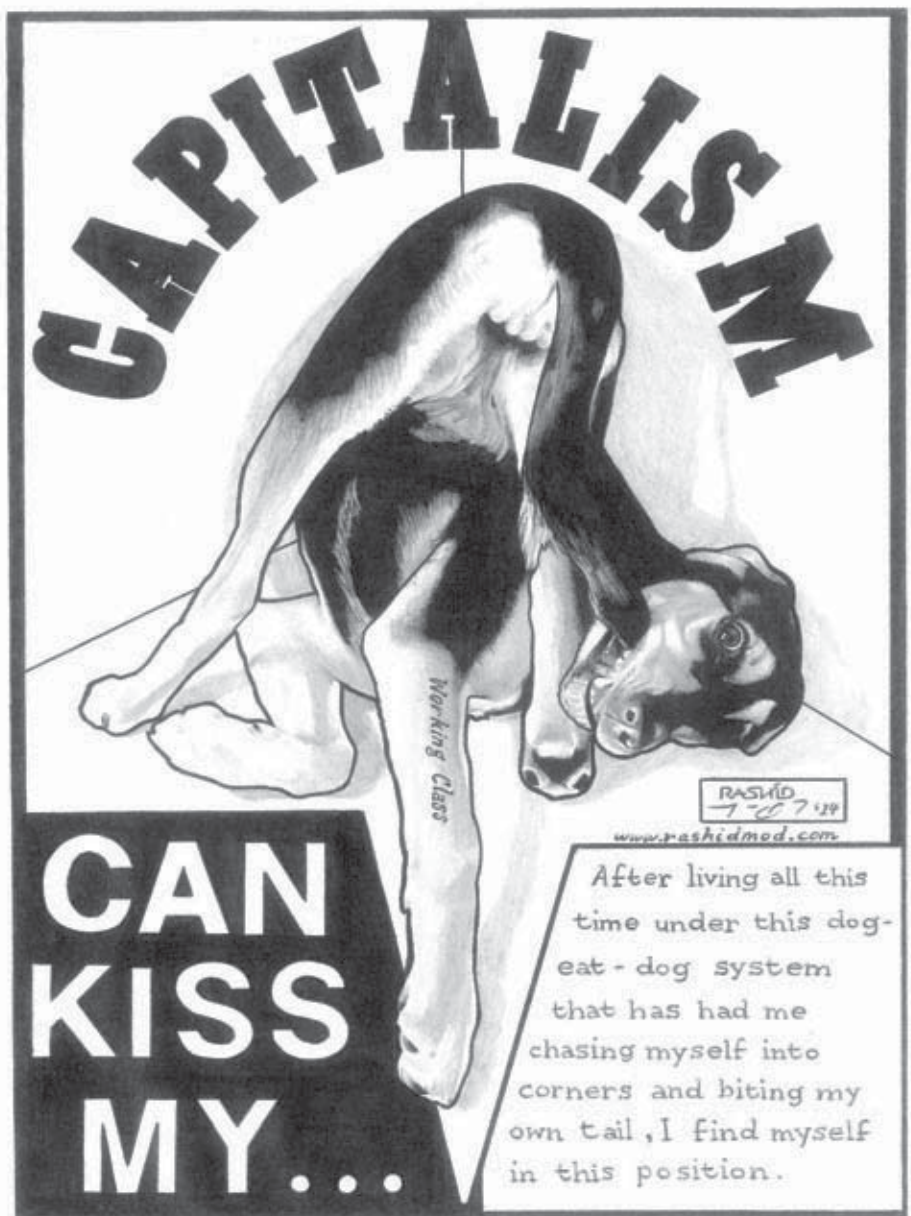
In closing Mao Tse-Sung says:  
“In shallow men the fish of small thoughts cause much commotion,  
(however) In magnanimous oceanic

///// (strategist) The whales of inspiration cause hardly a ruffle”

DARE TO STRUGGLE-DARE TO WIN=

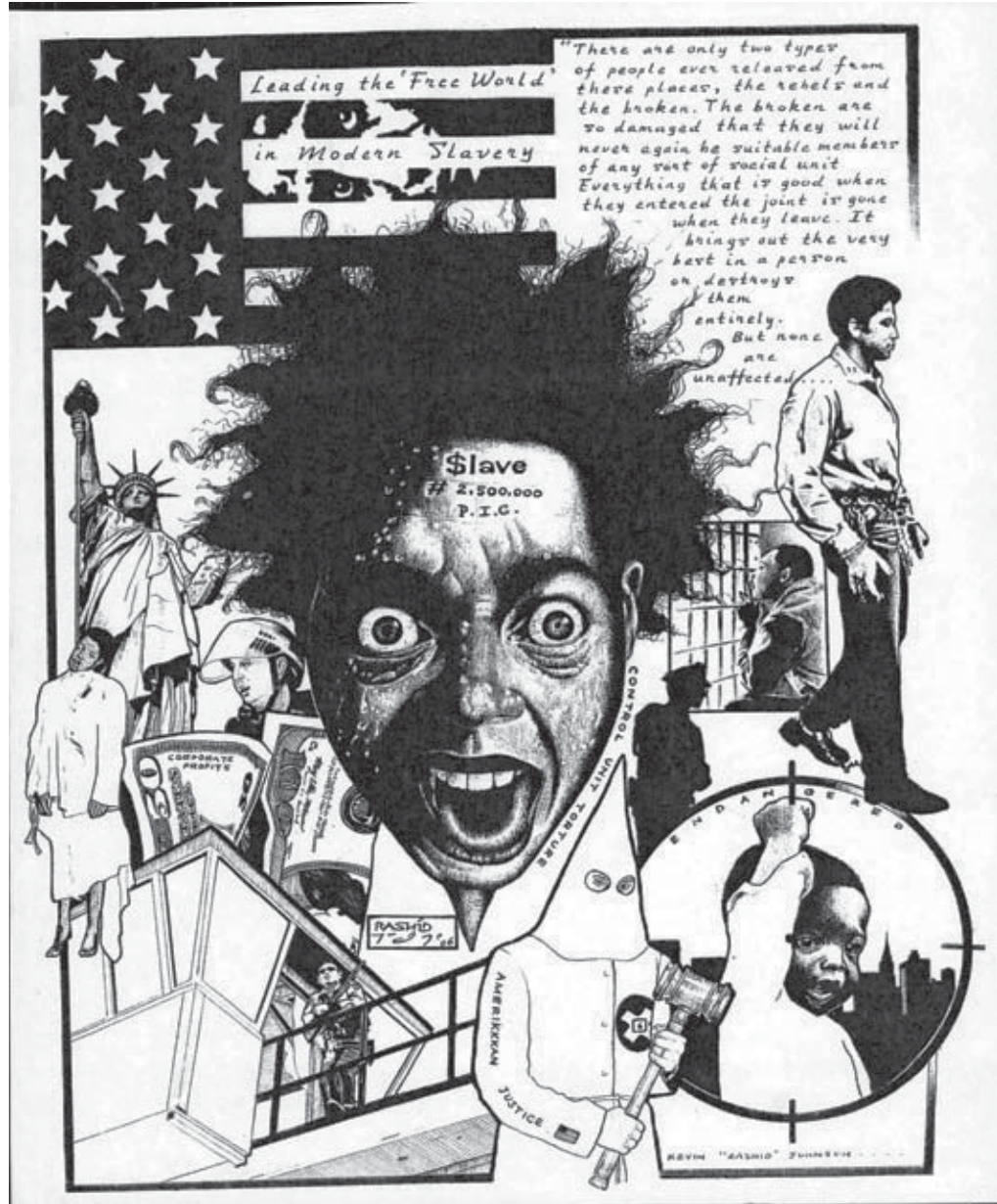
SOLIDARITY/P.T.T.P

w/r Comrade Adui



# WOMMB Institute Contribution *continued*

minationist struggle in general, and Prison/Human Rights Activism, specifically, are “outdated”, inadequate, and ineffective. Broadly speaking, it seems we’ve been pre occupied with mimicking the readymade, superficial patterns of 1960’s civil rights and Nationalists movements, Marxism-Leninism- Maoism, or Cuba’s and other’s freedom struggles. Our whole approach has to be revolutionized, beginning with the relationship between the social forces of the oppressed class and our governing priorities, so that we 1. self identify as ONE under developed oppressed community fighting oppression and genocide; and 2. seek and achieve economic power (in varying degrees) as a foundation for executing political power. The “economic element” is missing from the strategic vision of Liberation and anti-imperialist struggle, leaving only social and semi-political considerations. Even a modicum of self sufficiency and wealth creation prepares for the Dual Power realization. This is the fundamental spirit of self determinationism that elevates us into positions of true autonomy and independence. As it is, organizations are not able to sustain themselves, relying on donations, grants, charity; members got burnt out and fatigued, and as a consequence there’s no consistent impact on our movement for maximum advances. There’s a disconnect between prisoners and prisoner activist abolition/ Human Rights organizations. This is because we’ve been operating under the “Advocacy” orientation, rather than an orientation of “Collaborative Fellowship”. This shift to Collaborative Fellowship would allow prisons to become agents of our own liberation and improvement, as well as partners in the Global Human Rights struggle; Activists and organizations would cease being “supporters of helpless prisoners”, going broke in the process; and become engaged co-workers who mutually contribute physical and intellec-



tual effort, to meet shared needs and accomplish agreed upon objectives. “Advocacy” demonstrates a divided identity, whereas “self determinationist collaborative fellowship unifies the incarcerated and non-incarcerated as one people who are part of the underdeveloped community, who suffer class/national oppression and genocide, in the forms of police brutality, mass incarceration and poverty, at the hands of the state and dominant culture: ONE PEOPLE, ONE STRUGGLE! In the Advocacy paradigm, activists and organization operate under a “Socialism of dependency”, whereby

they’re underfunded, under staffed, trying to keep up with the demands of thousands of prisoners, Nationwide; Prisoners constantly competing to get our articles and essays “in print” or have our grievances heard, complaining about the same old injustices and cruelties. The self determinationist, Collaborative Fellowship paradigm would call upon us captives to be self accountable, give prisoners realistic opportunities for self reliant, proactive participatory cooperation with our incarcerated comrades, so that we can acquire

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and develop resources and create wealth to satisfy our needs and operation costs. Economically stressed organizations don't last. Unorganized movements, with no logistical frameworks, go into decline. When captives begin contributing-pulling our weight, it takes the burden off of unincarcerated communities members, so that together we can collectively focus on tackling the bigger issues. We should be developing social entrepreneurship platforms and community cooperatives include, both, the incarcerated and unincarcerated as share holders and decision makers. We should be accessing the latest social technology to execute our ideas, i.e. crowd funding, peer to peer organizing, print on demand publications to raise money, etc. We have to think outside the box and innovate, revolutionize ourselves, before we even think we can change socio-economic and political system. A major component of this prerequisite decolonization of psychological constructs, is the need to identify SPECIFIC genocidal, oppressive FORCES our Class/National enemies use against us. They're not always the same in type or degree. And then we have to decide upon how these specific forces impact our whole community (class and nation, etc). After that how we're going to resist and advance

to overcome and achieve independence, self determination. As stated before, the unincarcerated and incarcerated members of the underdeveloped "underclass" have identical needs, interests, aspirations and challenges: the rogue Judicial Machine (judges, prosecutors, police), Prisons, Poverty, etc. are direct Security and Safety threats to our communities - they are destabilizing and destroying us, they perpetuate disease, crime, economic dependency, political exclusion and social insignificance. It is in all of our interests to focus on neutralizing their destructive effects on us and transforming the nature of how they function, towards the ultimate goals of prison abolition, self determination and Political autonomy. The Ruling Class and Dominant culture's predominant tools (judicial machine and prisons) keep us from enjoying our Human Rights (what I term as "Human Duties"; to be explained why later). If we don't take responsibility for abolishing these systems, as they exist, we will continue to perish and suffer psychological, socio-economic, political and physical death. And not just prisoners and ex-prisoners or the so called "lumpen" class; I mean everyone who is not part of the ruling elite, the state or dominant settler culture of Amerikkka and the world. The

state and federal government work for the interests of the ruling class. Their social function us to execute the will of the dominant class. I ask you: "Who serves that function for us?" What collective executes the will of the underdeveloped, oppressed community? The answer is: "We have no one." We are a governed people, not a people who have voluntarily assembled amongst ourselves to organize and institution that will execute on our behalf (self governing). That's why we have to step up and fulfill that social function for ourselves, to provide our own security, resources and Human Rights. As long as the judicial machine and prisons function the way they do, we'll continue to have poverty, rape, murder, theft and high crime as prominent features in our lives.

Personally, I agree with a prisoner led, national push to abolish the slavery clause of the 13th amendment to the U.S. Constitution. This is critical legislation that our colonizer uses to legitimize the violation and denial of our Human Rights. As I hinted at before, "Human rights", to me are Human Duties and Responsibilities. A Human Being has a need and responsibility to be proactively engaged in their environment, to provide for their econom-

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## The Pen and the Sword *continued*

reach distances which the sword cannot.

The revolutionary recognizes the pen as an instrument not only to organize with, but to also use in rousing the flames of dissent within the heart of the slums & within the penitentiary walls.

It can poison as well as appeal.

The pen in motion is a scenario-maker and the mind is its immaterial canvas!

While it is true that actions speak louder than words, the written word is also a motive force and the Revolutionary can illustrate with the point of a pen what s/he cannot articulate with the tip of a sword. The energy of love is an indestructible force, as well; the pen - which is able to express it in words - is by no means impotent and the Revolutionary comes to intimately understand its powers.

The Revolutionary realizes that the pen (as the sword) comes with responsibilities and discipline. The Purpose (whatever it may be) is the responsibility; and learning the ways it could be wielded is its discipline; its craft. Both come with their consequences. The Revolutionary strategist prepares for them before using both, and can effectively study their uses by trade.

The Revolutionary is moved to invoke the spirit of liberation into the minds of the marginalized with the pen and uses it as a device for uplifting the suppressed of the world.

Once the Oppressed recognize their personal worth & relevance in the Struggle against oppression, they constitute a collective threat against the oppressor & the oppressor class, as a whole!

The oppressor class - with its standing army & prison guards - bites its nails in fear of the written word more than blood dripping from the swords of its slaves! The pen in motion is an outlet of purging for the oppressed - one which can release light from the darkness of a Prisoner's innermost being - and it is able to unite the divided and divide the united!

The pen that encourages liberation is ever at odds with institutions that struggle to warden the thoughts of their prisoners & which stands guilty of systemic oppression.

And likewise - institutions which struggle to warden the thoughts of their Prisoners are ever at diametrical odds with the pen that encourages liberation!

With the pen, the Revolutionary is able to draw a chessboard replete with numbers in the corners of its squares and anticipate the

moves of the State, calmly detached - using strategy as an ally.

It's able to direct as well as mislead and is able to infer indirectly as well as sow confusion among enemy forces, while cultivating a level of understanding among the misunderstood.

With the pen, the Revolutionary is able to breed chaos as well as bring about a sense of togetherness in the inter-communal atmosphere of ideas.

It serves as a weapon which is able to offend as well as uplift. To defend as well as attack. To build with as well as destroy!

Bondi Lemar DeBooth #54971  
Lehigh County Jail  
38 North 4th Street  
Allentown, PA 18102-3489

Editor note: Our FW LaMar is a veteran IWW and IWOC member. He has survived for incarceration for the majority of his life. Right now he is being held on trumped up "terroristic threat" charges. He continues to organize behind bars as IWOC and his comrades work on getting him out!



## WOMMB Institute Contribution *continued*

ic needs and be rewarded fairly for their talents and skills, develop their talents and potential to be of use to their communities; we have a Human Duty to participate in the creation of policy(ies) and rules that will directly affect us, to leave a legacy and advance the Human Race. It seems to me that when we use the rhetoric of "Rights", it has an art of "entitlement"; a "luxury that one can live with or without", but not necessarily urgent; you expect the government to "do its job and govern you the way it's "supposed to" the government possesses your "rights" and you're petitioning it to let you have them; it's a state of passive resilience of something from someone else who possess-

es the real power. But, when we speak of Human Needs, Duties and mandates, we invoke the energy of self determination, Agency, Autonomy; demanding and talking, rather than asking and petitioning; something we cannot and will not live without. So, self determined organizing, of captives to abolish the slavery clause, would directly address the root/source of our legalized de-Humanization, opening up new spaces for us to operate, educate ourselves, create wealth and provide for our families, vote and build bridges to our communities for more advanced levels of struggle.

I agree with Sean Swain and F.A.M. in terms of the tactical execution of shut-

downs. You tube/internet footage abuses and conditions and community outreach; I would like to add to this strategic package: Internationalization of our cause, and a hyper focus on psychological decolonization character development and training of the lumpen-prisoner-worker class members, for self determinationist Liberation struggle.

Everything I've been proposing and suggesting is dependent upon captives organizing ourselves into highly effective, proactive works and groupings (with the help of our non-incarcerated fellows), that have the will and capacity to engage in protracted, multifaceted self determinationist struggle. This will require a mass initiative to deconstruct



# The Incarcerated Lumpen continued

solidly into the Lumpen class. The Lumpen being the unemployed, prisoners, under class etc U.S. prisoners are overwhelmingly Lumpen. If we are grappling with the way forward and how to combat our oppression the first step would be to understand where we stand on the economic totem pole.

Without doing so or by labeling our existence in ways that do not correspond with reality will have us spinning our wheels. You can't cure yourself of cancer if you are diagnosing yourself as having diabetes.

The newsletter should be directed to its audience in the Lumpen. The majority of U.S. prisoners are not workers. At least not in state prisons. This may be true in the Federal Prison system where the majority are Latinos and mostly migrants who are workers coming to work the fields and fac-

ories of Amerikkka for exploited wages.

Of the eight cells in my pod two of us have had jobs in prison and three of us have ever had a job out in society. This is a normal snapshot of prisoners. If you look to the average prison. Each yard of roughly 1000 people has roughly 60 jobs available. At least this is what California prisons look like.

The incarcerated Lumpen are not a hopeless bunch. Prisoners do not need to be called "workers" in order to give us hope of being redeemed or becoming a positive force. The Lumpen are capable of becoming politicized as well. We are proving this in the control unit of Pelican Bay S.H.U., and in Georgia and everywhere prisoners are organizing and rising up for human rights.

Lumpen can be a positive force if politicized. We saw this in the 60's and 70's when the Black Panthers, Brown Berets and Young Lords Party rose up. These groups were largely Lumpen which were recruited into these revolutionary organizations. Those who made up these groups came from the lardios and ghettos, they were Lumpen and yet they pushed their people's struggles the furthest in U.S. borders thus far.

We should learn from history so that we can transform the future for U.S. prisons and all oppressed people.

The End

Jose H. Villarreal



*It's not as though Democrat and Republican are substantially different. They merely represent the two faces of fascism, one with a smile (Democrats) the other a sneer (Republicans) the liberal and conservative. As Malcolm X described them: The fox and the wolf.*

## WOMMB continued

the criminalize self destructive mentality most of us have then re-educate in knowledge and skills that are relevant and indispensable our work. The captive populations have to begin thinking and functioning as leaders, delegates, advisors ambassadors, militant

strategists, teachers, engineers, coordinators and students. If I told you that I was a "heart surgeon", I'm sure you have certain expectations about my personality and abilities. You'd expect me to be disciplined, focused, compassionate, driven, reliable, consistent, and steady handed, a problem solver, knowledgeable of Human anatomy, etc. If I didn't possess these traits, I wouldn't be a heart surgeon. Well, it's the same as when prisoners claim that they are "revolutionary nationalists", "freedom fighters", anarchists, etc. Merely filing lawsuits, grievances, submitting articles to newsletters and complaining about conditions is not enough. Self determination is not just "reacting to injustice". Our habits, ideology, practice, character and mentality have to match that claim. A self determinationist freedom fighter is a person who serves a social function; it's a vocation within society, which has to be trained for and committed to, as with any other social function (farmers, navigators, construction workers, nurses etc.) We have to develop our capacity for critical and creative thinking; self control and mastery and solving

problems. We have to study and master the social sciences, psychology, human behavior, political science, history, diplomacy, International Human Rights Law, Revolutionary Sciences, etc. while we're in prison. We also have to abandon bad habits and conducts. Remember, most of us have been socialized to be GOVERNED; which requires our critical thinking and problem solving faculties to be dormant. So in order to pursue a course of self determinationist struggle, we have to reverse this and train for self leadership, cooperation, self reliance and success. I would like collaborative feedback on these issues and I hope to be working within a federated system of dedicated captives in the near future. Viva Wa Watu!

In Struggle and Solidarity  
Herukhuti of WOMMB Institute  
Founder and Council Member

Anthony S. Gay # 188904  
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# Class Consciousness and the Science of Unity for Modern Day Self Determinationist Struggle

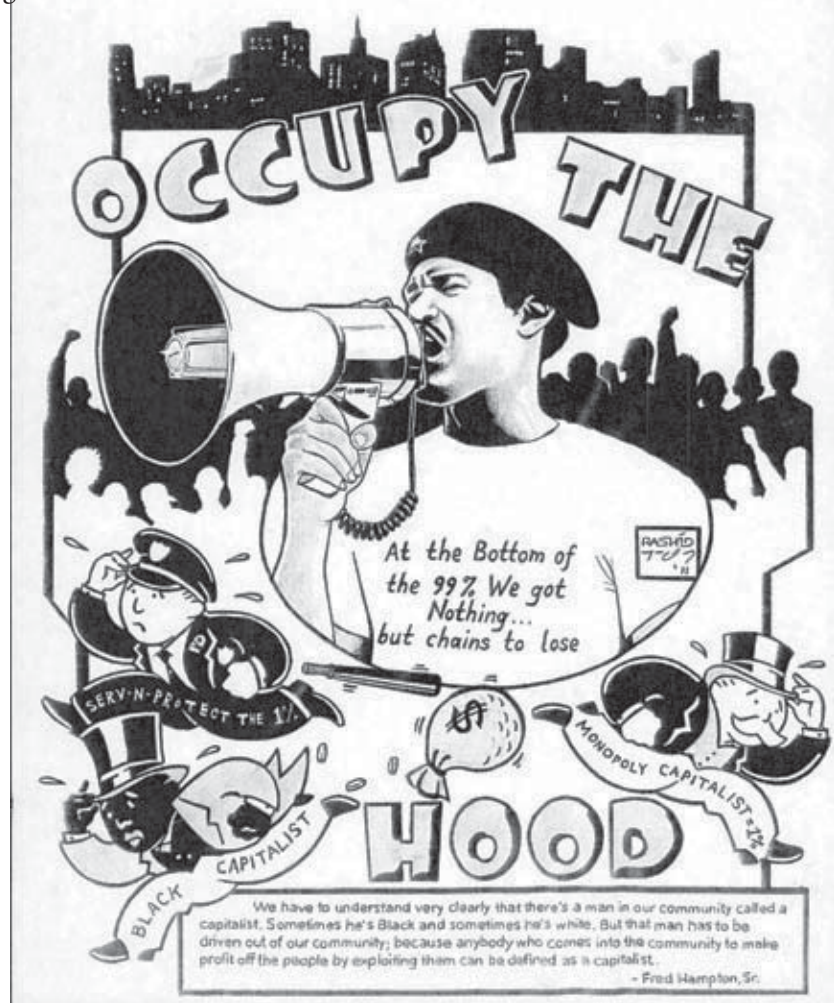
Anthony Gay

It's a lot easier to describe a goal, with plans to reach it, than it is to actually implement and execute the steps required to bring them to realization. Overcoming division, prejudice, racial superiority, chauvinism, fear and envy is very difficult business but a necessary feat to accomplish before the underdeveloped oppressed community (class) can even begin our struggles for self determination and Human Rights. We say the words "solidarity", "co-operation", "mutual aid", and "unification", but when one examines the recent history of working class struggle (especially in Amerikkka), it becomes apparent that those are just "slogans" and "sound bites".... Platitudes. I'm sure we all know this divisiveness is all by design. The Ruling class and the dominate culture have bred and socialized us to fight amongst each other and compete for scraps to deflect our own attention from the source of our woes: them. Their tactics have deep roots, going back to slavery and the "Willie Lynch Syndrome", the creation of "whiteness" and "race", wage slavery competition between newly "freed" slaves and the Italians, Irish, and other poor "whites". The Ruling class/ dominate culture and their state have always designed ways and systems to divide and conquer those they oppress. However, I take for granted that most, if not all, of you who are reading this are well versed in the processes of history; the point to all of this, is that: we can be mentally aware of these facts, yet subconsciously perpetuate these patterns of inter-communal because it's hard-wired into our socio-economic and political DNA, so to speak. This phenomena is

widespread throughout the underdeveloped, oppressed, underclass and particularly prevalent in the Prison Systems. And it goes beyond "racial", religious or gender discord; this habit of active disunity is witnessed at the ideological and strategic levels within organizations, families and groups with the same superficial characteristics. This is why we have so many scattered, un coordinated Issues we fight within the working class (underdeveloped community). We haven't been socialized or trained to have a "unified analytical vision of circumstances". We see all the various challenges and injustices against us as separate; and when this happens we become "separate" people; when we become separate people, we compete against each other, when we compete against each other, we become enemies with different interests; at this point, it becomes easier for the ruling class to manipulate us and get us to betray one another, or fight over concessions and

"perks". Look at the multiple struggles of contemporary oppressed, underdeveloped communities: "Black Lives Matter", "End Solitary Confinement" "Stop the Death Penalty", "Immigration", "Stop Police Brutality" "Stop Gender Prejudice", "The LGBRQ Struggles" etc. All of these "issues" are valid and necessary, but not as "single issues", the problem is that : you have people

who want police brutality to end, but think prisons are necessary, prisoners who want pay for their work, but not an end to the wage system and capitalism: factory workers who want control of their labor value, but are against Mexicans coming across the border; members of the working class who want the ruling class to give them more jobs and voting rights but not Liberty and self determination---there's no consciousness of common class interests; no acknowledgement or awareness of one adversary (oppressor class) using multiple methods of genocide and class warfare. We have to change our analytical perception of events and conditions and change our language in a way that accurately defines our politics, goals and methods. We have to get our fundamentals right either we're seeking self determination-or-seeking revolutionary reforms, while still being governed and coerced by a group whose interests are incompatible with ours (ruling



## Class Consciousness continued

class/state/dominant culture). Either we're one underdeveloped, oppressed community fighting state terrorism "races" and religions fighting unrelated instances of non-systematic "unfairness" and the occasional "mis-hap" while we continuously undermine one another, to the ruling of class consciousness, we have to think systematically; big picture and long range thinking; we have to communicate, empathize and PRACTICE cooperative activities; we have to develop the capacity within ourselves to appreciate and respect differences in each other's cultures, ideas and historical processes. This is why I really admire what the California/short corridor/ Pelican Bay Comrades have done with their commitment to end hostilities (inside and outside of prisons). Here, in Arizona Prisons, racial tension is still a very big problem and obstacle to proactive struggle. The administration hand-picks "race leadership" and manufactures conflict to keep us divided. The Administration and Wardens, etc., allow drugs into these prisons to fuel strife and prevent any possibilities for clear thinking and unity amongst our captive populations. So, I sincerely believe that we need to organize cross-consultancy and mentoring networks for captives in different states. I'd like to know

what stratifies California Prisoners used to build Peace and end hostilities. We need direct contact with one another as well as cross-collaborative operations and partnerships between captives and non-incarcerated class allies. Our entire community, non-incarcerated and imprisoned, has to rediscover our common interests, our shared histories and our symbiotic possibilities. Remember: "Unity" is not just a word or an idea; it's an actual FORCE to be embodied and used to achieve great things. It doesn't mean we always get along or agree with one another; but it does mean we "we try to avoid conflict and quickly resolve differences to create win/win solutions and focus on the bigger picture". That way we'll develop shared identity and purpose, and have the potential to move from "Class Consciousness" to "mobilization for Class Economic and POLITICAL POWER AND INDEPENDENCE", pooling our resources for effective action, etc.; preparing ourselves for self-governing and adding value to the global culture and social institutions. But these Higher Possibilities will not be attained without, first, mastering the art of unity, solidarity and being ONE PEOPLE who experience and suffer numerous forms of oppression. All of our various "issues"



can be encompassed in a "list of demands" or "grievances", under one general "Human Rights", "War Crimes", "Crimes against Humanity" complaint. Here are some questions I have for us all:

- 1.) How can we create a framework and platform for dialogue, so that we can realistically choose and commit to strategies for class-conscious raising and unified identity?
- 2.) Is working class seeking self-determination or merely striving to be governed "more fairly", with "less pain" and discomfort?
- 3.) There are many within the underdeveloped, oppressed, working class who

*continued on page 15*

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Greetings Fellow Worker,

I hope this message finds you in good spirits and in good health! As this is the first year of the IWW's IWOC program, we are working out best practices for keeping up with new participants. Currently, we would like to hear from everyone at least twice a year to verify your membership so that you may vote in the annual referendum. There have been a lot of new participants this year! Everyone should have received a welcome packet by now. If you would like to join, but did not receive a welcome packet, please mention it in the comments. Also, if you need more information about IWOC, please use the form to let us know.

Please tear off this portion of this page and mail it back to us at IWOC, PO Box 414304, KC, MO, 64141 or if you want to keep your newsletter intact, you can just write the information on a separate sheet of paper.

Solidarity!  
IWOC

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_ DOC # \_\_\_\_\_ Today's Date \_\_\_\_\_

IWW Membership Number \_\_\_\_\_

Your Address \_\_\_\_\_

# Greeting I.W.W. A CHANGE HAS GOT TO COME: SET THE SLAVES FREE

Mary Sue Shields

I am a spokesperson for Free Mississippi Movement United! I am a Freedom Fighter! And I am a voice for my people, whose minds have been and still are enslaved to the system. But through FAM and Ms. Morris, several of us have come together to stand up and fight for Freedom and Justice!! To Americans everywhere: I am a (M.D.O.C.) Mississippi Department of Corrections slave. I am an adult female of sound mind and body. A mother, sister and aunt. I'm also a child of the most High God, a lady who, before my abduction by the "Slave" system was a loving wife (newly wed), usher and sing in the Choir, law abiding, tax-paying citizen. I write this article not that it may merely serve as an avenue for me to escape the harsh and brutal hand of the slave master, but that it might wake up the slumbering eyelids of misinformed Americans across the country, prayerfully awakening them to the absolute truths about Modern Day Slavery and Mass Incarceration. Let us start by defining each term and making a rational determination of whether it directly applies to our "Slave" system.

Slavery is the submission to a dominating influence and the state of a person who is held in servitude as property of another. The "Slave" system particularly M.D.O.C. and Mississippi's system of law fits this definition perfectly. A Mississippi Department of Correction Prisoner (M.D.O.C. offender) is in slavery by definition. Prisoners, like the slaves of the past, are in Bondage through Oppression by a Cruel and Inhuman system of "Slavery". Prisoners are housed, stacked on top of each other in tin warehouses with little ventilation, no air conditioning, in 100 plus temperatures, given only enough food (slop) to stay alive. Constantly burdened by mandatory free labor. Everything from harvesting fields under inhumane conditions to working in prison sweat shop style factories. All the way to shining the slave-master boots! And I also can not leave out MPIC has created an economy that is based on free or cheap labor to compete in the global market against cheap manufacturers like China and Mexico. The "Slave" system in term has signed multi-million contracts and they are the ones who invest their pensions in to stock of these corporations. The money that they are making from our labor is the money that they are using to fund their prison budget. I don't need to remind Americans that this is the same corrupted "Slave" system that the ex-commissioner

Chris Epps and Cecil McCrory have been indicted on earlier this year. How quickly we seem to forget that all of Mississippi Department of Corrections should still be under full investigation with the legislatures. How can taxpayers just close their eyes to the millions in kick backs and the billions in contracts the M.D.O.C has made of slaves. And the "Slave" system has run into yet another problem, the slaves are being cuffed and beaten. Commission Fisher and Superintendent King have filled those chairs where so much corruption has infested the prisons. The prisoners are still trying to grasp the idea that what has been for so long will start to come out, but it's as if ended just as fast as it started. That is why it is so important to look into the legislatures, because there is no way possible that Epps, McCrory and even Benjamin could have been able to pull this off without some inside help. Ever since Epps has been filled with the new Commissioner, the same things are happening. Yes, it may look to the outside world as if he is doing a good job, but the truth of the matter is, you can not keep painting over all of this mold and fungus. With all the money the taxpayers pay for the prisoners to be housed in M.D.O.C., why are we still going through the same or worse. This is the 3rd time this year

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Would you like to remain a member of the IWW? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ I don't know, I need more information \_\_\_\_\_

Have you received a new member packet (Two booklets you should have received are the Constitution and the One Big Union)?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ I don't know, send me one if I am a member \_\_\_\_\_

May we add your contact info to the member directory so other members inside and out may contact you? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Are you currently in segregation or other restricted status? \_\_\_\_\_

May we publish your letters/poetry/artwork/etc in public and/or in the newsletter? \_\_\_\_\_ If yes, would you like us to publish your name or do you prefer to remain anonymous? \_\_\_\_\_ (We will never sell your work without making a separate agreement with you.)

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



## A Change Has Got To Come continued

already that we have not had a contracted doctor here, able to handle medical situation, we are either seen by a NP or NOT seen about at all. I am housed inside of women max, when it rains on C-zone it still comes through the ceiling in the dayroom, but they just had a new roof installed, it didn't include a new ventilation system, it took less than a month. The showers only have one temperature we can not set the temperature or the gauge in the shower. We only have all hot water, no cold or warm water. Let me move on to Mass Incarceration. M.D.O.C. is so very overcrowded and with underfunding and understaffing have had disastrous consequences on the prison population, including wide spread disease, excessive violence and a lack of opportunities for education and rehabilitation, which has led to unnecessarily high recidivism rates for some groups of offenders. The "Slave" system is so overcrowded that they have taken all the female offenders and housed them into two tin warehouse units. Unit 2 B is now also housing cell phone offenders which means they have two zones

out of the four zones. But you also have to understand that the female offenders were taken from the big yard and F and G building. That was seven buildings plus two tin warehouse units. Several females were able to leave off compound and go to satellite and some to Washington County, but over half of them have returned back on the compound for various reasons and they too have been added to the many that already overpopulated zones. There are no jobs or schooling for these ladies, the very few jobs that are here for females are limited as well as the schooling. There is nothing here for rehabilitation, parenting or re-entry preparedness programs. The one thing we had closely to society was the quantity time we were able to spend with our loved ones at the family house or our husbands at the conjugal visit. Everyone knows how important family is to everyone, so why take the one good thing we had away from us. The "Slave" system started this in the 1900 with the Penal Farm, so why change it now after all these years. We did not always use to act with an "I don't give a damn attitude" We had

something to look forward to. Now the only thing we have is Faith and in some of us it has grown very dim, we never know what the next second or minute is going to bring. We can't even look for three hot meals a day here anymore. But the one thing we do look forward to is who is going to be the victim for today. It has gotten so bad here at the M.D.O.C. if nothing else we do know that someone is going to be physically assaulted by someone from the staff. This has really gotten out of control and the Commissioner or the Superintendent are not taking these assault serious. What they are doing is trying to Justify these physical assaults and give us paperwork to cover it up. But I say where ever there is physical evidence bring it out and show the public. Since the taxpayers pay for us to be housed here at M.D.O.C. show them these tapes and let them see the assaults. Let's unify and come together and fight for our human and civil rights as well as Justice.

FMMU

Mary Sue Shields



## Class Consciousness continued

respect, trust and aspire to bourgeois/capitalist/dominant cultural values. How do we reconcile this contradiction within our ranks?

4.) Who all, amongst and within our under developed community agrees with us executing a coordinated campaign to abolish the slavery clause of the 13th amendment, as a strategy to create a sort of "domino effect" to take and wield our Human Rights and Human Power? Non incarcerated and incarcerated members of the working class would mobilize around this issue, internationally and domestically. This recognizes the judges, prosecutors, police, legislators, prisons, parole systems as forcing us to be dependent and idle, forcing labor, denying us agency, economic freedom and political influence and col-

lectively destabilizing and destroying our class and community. I think this is the, or could be, the "door way" to a full scale self determinationist movement. What does everyone feel about this strategy?

5.) I hope to be involved in a renewed system of dialogue and revolutionary praxis, and I'm eager to create synergetic interdependency within our community, for effective change.

In struggle and solidarity,  
Herukhuti-Wommb Institute

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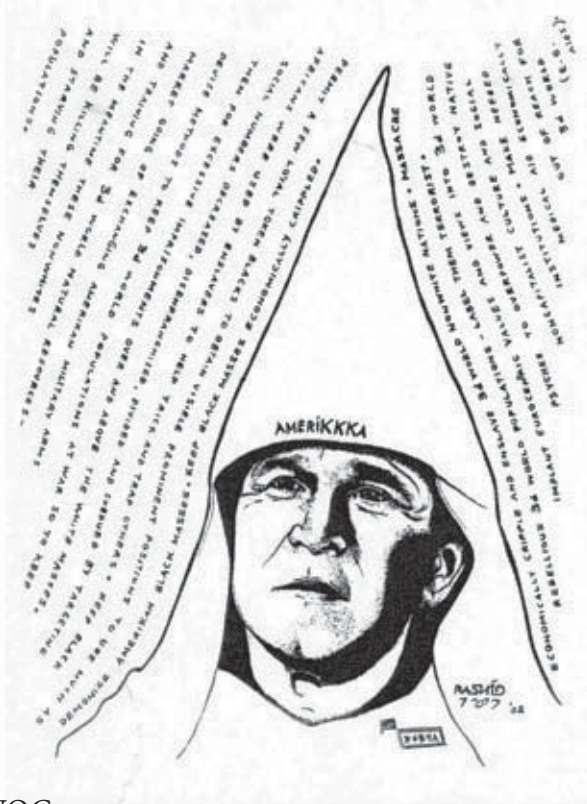
Note: FW Anthony is a founding member of the Warrior's Order Mobilized For Maximum Building (WOMB). The collective is a prison-based institution focused on the therapeutic decolonization of mind and behavior, so the development for community service and struggle can grow. The other group he is an active member of the Cell Block Society Initiative. The Cell Block Society Initiative provides radical educational materials to prisoners, helps negotiate truces with conflicting gang/lumpen organizations, and consultancy to inside and outside communities regarding crime prevention.



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# INCARCERATED WORKER

a project of the incarcerated workers organizing committee of the industrial workers of the world



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