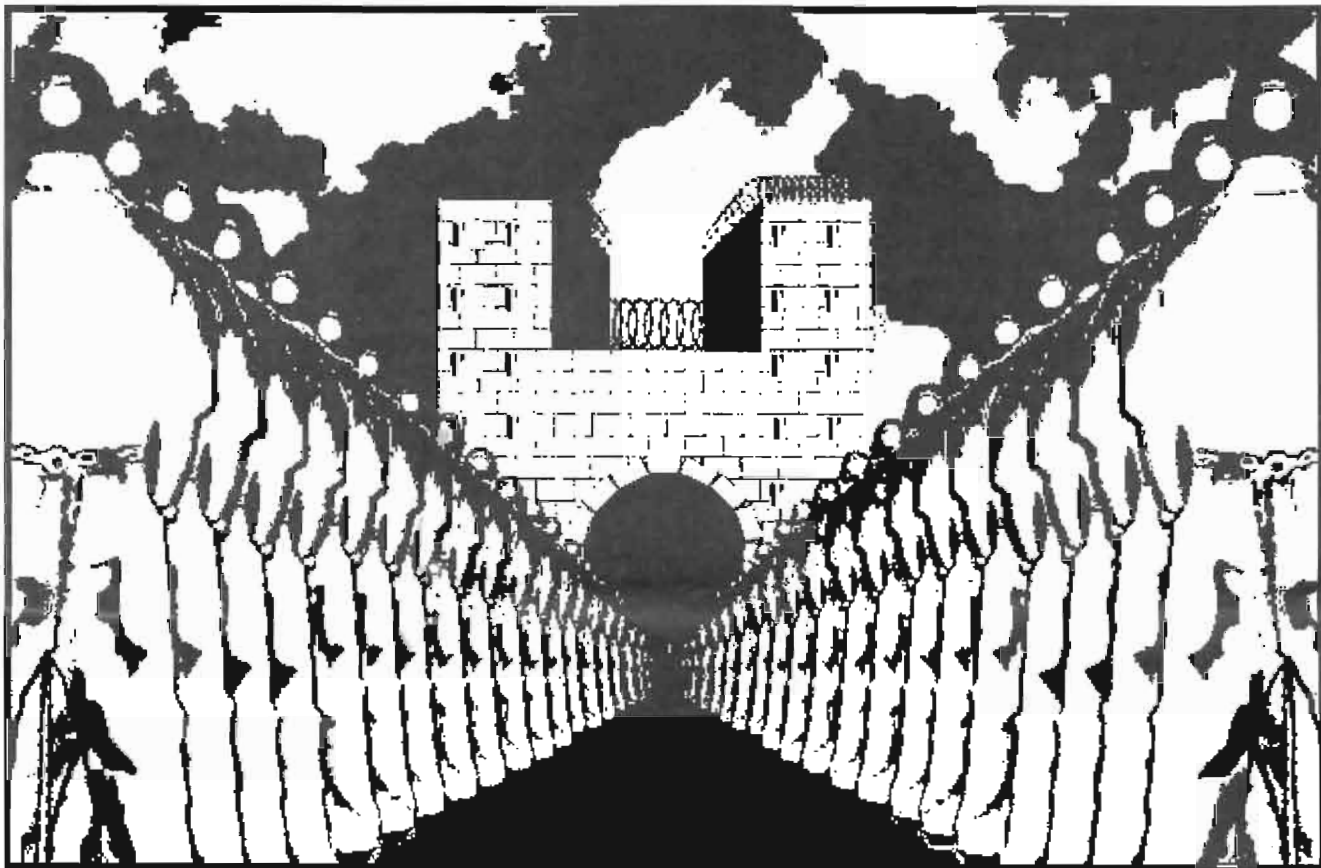


Break The Chains

ISSUE #22



Hello, and welcome to issue #22 of the Break The Chains newsletter. Inside we have reports on the April 2005 Attica to Abu Ghraib Conference, which took place in the Bay Area, and the June Weekend of Resistance for Jeff “Free” Luers. We have also included an analysis of the disaster in New Orleans by Michael Novick of the People Against Racist Terror, and “Prison Industrial Complex and Imperialism” by Benny Tapia, and more. We plan to participate in the Day of Solidarity for Rob “Los Ricos” Thaxton, scheduled for November (see article inside for more info), in addition to the December 3rd International Day of Solidarity with Political Prisoners. As we go to print, we are receiving reports of a hunger strike at the Snake River Correctional Institution in Ontario, OR, and we ask those of you on the inside with information to keep us informed and let us know what we can do to help. We are also interested in learning more about the protest against the new phone policy that took place at Oregon State Prison last spring. We hope you enjoy this issue of our newsletter. And as always, feedback is appreciated.

BTC, PO Box 12122, Eugene, OR, 97440 * (541) 485-7215 * www.breakthechains.net

MISSION STATEMENT

Break The Chains is a non-hierarchical collective working toward building an egalitarian society free of prisons. We are committed to the dynamic internal and external process of challenging racism, sexism, classism, and oppression in all its forms. Our focus is on prison issues, including, but not limited to: fighting state repression, prisoner support and prison abolition.

- Fighting State Repression means exposing and countering the efforts of the state to imprison activists and criminalize dissent and resistance. This takes the form of providing assistance to those on the outside facing time due to their involvement in social movements, exposing grand juries, COINTELPRO and other forms of counter intelligence, while educating the public about political and social prisoners.
- Prisoner Support includes supporting national Political Prisoners and Prisoners of War*, and politically active social prisoners on the West Coast. A social prisoner may not have been engaged in political activity on the outside, but has devoted inside time to struggling against injustice. We work to accomplish support by publishing the writings of prisoners engaged in resistance struggles, offering financial assistance when available, getting the word out about various cases, and exchanging information with social prisoners about resistance movements. While we cannot provide legal assistance, we may be able to direct prisoners to resources.
- Prison Abolition is the dismantling of the prison-industrial complex by working with groups opposing new prison construction, and engaging in restorative justice and anti-incarceration initiatives. Our ultimate objective is to eliminate the prison-industrial complex by helping to build a society in which prisons are obsolete.

Link the Struggles to Break The Chains!

**Political Prisoner: A person incarcerated for actions carried out in support of legitimate struggles for self-determination* or for opposing the illegal policies of the government and/or its political subdivisions. (Special International Tribunal on the Violation of Human Rights of Political Prisoners and Prisoners of War in the United States Prisons and Jails, December, 1990)*

**Prisoner of War: Those combatants struggling against colonial and alien domination and racist regimes captured as prisoners are to be accorded the status of prisoner of war and their treatment should be in accordance with the provisions of the Geneva Conventions Relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War. (August 12, 1949, General Assembly Resolution 3103 [XXVIII])*

SUBSCRIPTION INFO

Subscriptions are free to all prisoners in California, Oregon, Idaho, and Washington, and to women prisoners of any state. One-year subscriptions are \$6 to other prisoners and \$12 to non-prisoners. Individual copies are \$2 postage paid. Checks can be made out to "Break The Chains". We also accept well-concealed cash and payments in postage.

A FEW FRIENDS & ALLIES

California Anarchist Prisoner Solidarity

PO Box 22449, Oakland, CA 94609

New support group formed for political prisoners in California.

Chicago Anarchist Black Cross

PO Box 721, Homewood IL 60430

Chicago ABC does a tremendous amount of support for radical political & social prisoners throughout the country.

International Republican Socialist Committees

2057 15th St. Ste B, San Francisco, CA 94114

Supports political prisoners and revolutionary struggles in Ireland and throughout the world.

Lawrence Anarchist Black Cross

PO Box 1483, Lawrence, KS 66044

Publishes The Abolitionist newsletter and does great support for numerous social & political prisoners.

Prison Activist Resource Center

PO Box 339, Berkeley CA 94701

PARC is an information clearing-house for people interested in prison issues. They also provide a resource directory to prisoners free upon request.



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From Eugene to Berkeley: Making Connections

I'm sitting at the Break the Chains literature table watching people and making small talk as folks meander by, waiting for the next panel to begin. An attractive yet strangely conservative-looking woman asks if I know the way to the bathroom. I have to do a double take at her nametag before realizing whom I'm speaking to. It's Bonnie Kerness, an amazing and inspirational activist, who has written some of my favorite articles on the subject of women in prison and prison abolition.

Only a short time later, I am sitting in a room of about 150 people watching Robert King Wilkerson speak. Despite being held in solitary confinement for a period of 29 years, he exudes humility and warmth. Robert seemingly lacks the resentment one might assume he would carry after being virtually alone for that period of time. Myself and three other members of the collective are attending the 'From Attica to Abu-Ghraib conference at the UC Berkeley Campus in Berkeley, California.

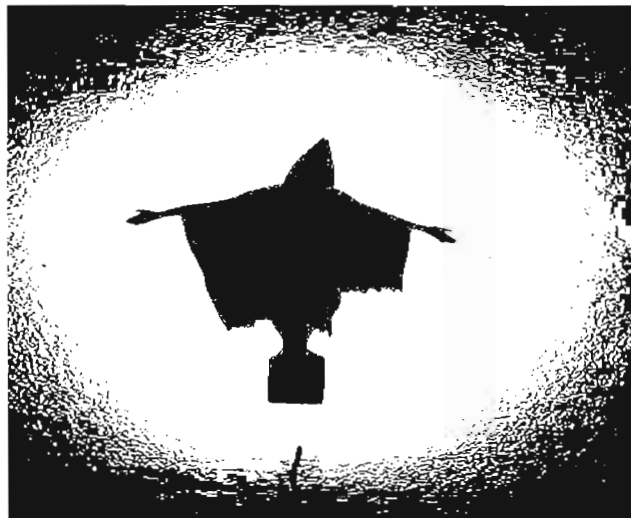
The conference, which took place on April 22nd and 23rd, was an organizing event focused on "human rights, torture, and resistance." The weekend opened with a keynote event Friday night at the St. Joseph Worker Church. The night's events included talks by Cynthia McKinney, congresswoman and opponent of U.S. human rights abuses, music by Caminante, a Latin-influenced group from the Bay area, and a special appearance by Lynne Stewart, an attorney facing serious jail time for aiding "terrorism" by defending a Muslim prisoner. We approached the evening with some trepidation because one of the main speakers was a congresswoman. We were, however, impressed with some of her actions, including her recent visit to BLA political prisoner Mutulu Shakur. Lynne Stewart's unexpected visit was especially significant, because her case is currently making history, and the outcome is unknown. We left the night seeking rest, knowing that the following day would be long and intense.

The next day, we got up early and made our way to the University of California campus in Berkeley. Unfortunately, we got lost and arrived late, meaning that the Break The Chains table was somewhat out of the way (although we were lucky enough to be fairly close to California Anarchist Prisoner Solidarity and Critical Resistance). We took turns attending panels and working the table. The authors of this article attended the "The Criminalization of Resistance: Political Prisoner, Prisoners of War, and Systematic Torture." It was a particularly emotional panel, with speakers that came from a wide range of experiences. The speakers included Rafeef Ziadah, a Palestinian refugee, Linda Evans, an anti-imperialist ex-political prisoner, Azizeh Shahmoradi, an Iranian prison

survivor, Safiya Elijah, an activist warrior, Robert King Wilkerson, and Bonnie Kerness. While we find it hard to separate and distinguish between so many complex feelings, we felt sure of an overwhelming joy around issues and events such as the survival and release of our comrades behind bars, *and* simultaneously, a rage and sadness over the state of the world and the prison system in particular. If we wallow in our sadness, we would likely find ourselves feeling powerless and defeated, but if we confront it head-on and continue with our work, we can find it almost bearable.

Before heading out of town on Sunday, two of us attended a meeting with folks from the Jericho Movement and L.A. ABCF. We exchanged ideas and thoughts over bagels and orange juice, and discussed plans for the International Day of Solidarity with Political Prisoners/ POWs. We were reminded that our efforts must go beyond attending a conference, and all the discussions we had had over the weekend needed to be consolidated into concrete ideas and put into practice. Those of us from Eugene and L.A. had to head out of town, so we said quick goodbyes to those we had just spent three hours with. We left feeling hyper-stimulated from all the buzzing energy and dedication of the folks we had gotten to join in the meeting that morning.

Overall, we came back to Eugene feeling tired but inspired and excited, with new ideas and connections. The conference succeeded in reminding us why we are doing the work that we are doing, and encouraged us to keep up the struggle. We are in this for the long haul. We are educators, activists, gardeners, musicians, artists, boxers and so much more - but ultimately we are full of a love of life and a determination to create a new world; a world where there is no torture, no solitary confinement, no super maxes, no Attica's and no Abu Ghraib's!



Report on the Second Annual "Night of Solidarity" with Jeff "Free" Luers - By Some Comrades of "Free"

On Sunday, June 12, 2005, approximately 150 people gathered at Sam Bond's Garage (a local pub/restaurant) for a "Night of Solidarity with Political Prisoner Jeff 'Free' Luers." This was the 2nd year of annual international solidarity actions with Jeff, organized in opposition to his cruel and ridiculous 22+ year prison sentence. He has served five years so far for burning three SUVs in protest of pollution and greed.

The event included several keynote speakers: Peter Urban of the Irish Republican Socialist Committees of North America (San Francisco, CA); former eco-defense political prisoner and singer/songwriter Peg Millet (Prescott, AZ); and ass-kicking local attorney Lauren Regan. An awesome musical line-up featured local bands: The Glenwood Rebel Rovers; Los Mex Pistols Del Norte; The Happy Bastards; and The Inkwel Rhythm Makers. "22.8: The Jeff Luers Story," a long-awaited new documentary by Cascadia Media Collective, was premiered to an enthusiastic crowd.

The event started with warm greetings by a local friend & supporter of Jeff. He proceeded to introduce activist attorney Lauren Regan, who has represented Jeff against mail censorship by the Oregon Department of Corrections. Talking about the importance of Jeff's case in the struggle against attacks on dissent, she gave a hopeful update about his appeal and legal developments. Lauren founded the "Civil Liberties Defense Center" and is representing activists arrested for protesting the Biscuit timber sale in southern Oregon. She encouraged the crowd to show support for those eco-defenders too.

Jeff's parents John & Judy Luers traveled from Los Angeles to visit their son in Salem and be present for the event. Commenting on the FBI memo which falsely stated last years events were a conspiracy by the Earth Liberation Front, John informed the crowd that an incredible 25 other events had been organized around the world during the weekend to show support for his son. He concluded his brief speech with very personal and heartfelt thanks to all of Jeff's friends & supporters, especially those who have been there for the Luers family since the arrest.

A member of Break The Chains introduced Peter Urban, co-founder of the IRSCNA and former International Secretary of the Irish Republican Socialist Party. Peter identifies as a council communist and authored a statement in solidarity with Jeff on behalf of the IRSP last year. He has been a good ally to prisoner support, anarchist and eco-defense activists in the Northwest.

Peter argued that members of the Irish Republican Army and Irish National Liberation Army, finding the system of law that permitted the British government to oppress the Irish people intolerable, chose to defy that law and in fact waged war against that system, thereby becoming Prisoners of War. He said that likewise, Jeff encountered a system of law that permits the destruction of entire species; the poisoning of the air, water, and land; and the ravaging of nature could not accept that system of law and chose to defy it and in fact to wage war against it. Accordingly, he said, Jeff should be considered a Prisoner of War, a distinction which he hoped an American audience could understand the importance of.

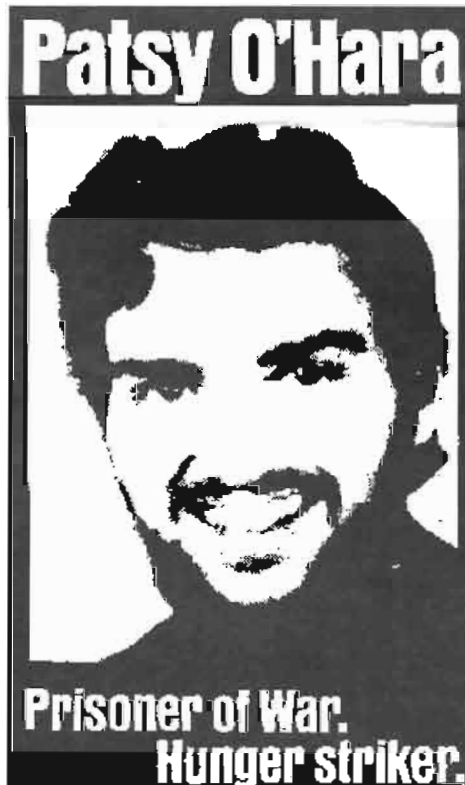
Peg Millet, who spoke after Peter devoted part of her remarks to embracing the distinction Peter had made and embracing the distinction of being a Prisoner of War.

Peter emphasized the central role of the prisoners to Ireland's national liberation struggle. He spoke passionately about the ten Irish revolutionaries, seven men from the IRA and three from INLA, who died hunger striking in a British prison in 1981 during a protest demanding their recognition as POWs. The most famous of these men was IRA leader Bobby Sands, a brilliant poet and the first to die on the hunger strike. He asked the crowd to think about what conditions could force a person to starve themselves to death. The sacrifice of these prisoners had a tremendous impact on the Irish movement and people all over the world.

Part of his presentation focused on the "Teach na Fáilte" or "Welcome Home" organization. Founded by the IRSP for republican socialist ex-prisoners readjusting to life after imprisonment, they help them and their families heal from the trauma of repression and isolation. The purpose of TNF is not only rehabilitative, but also serves to help former prisoners remain politically active. He stressed that a prisoner's individual struggle doesn't end when they are released, because a new struggle for healing, stability, and community often follows. Peter advocated that the lessons of TNF be examined by all prisoner

activists. Jeff's mother, Judy, embraced Peter as he left the stage.

Recently, the release of political prisoners within the Eugene community poses the question: what responsibility do we have to our political prisoners, not only on the inside, but on their journey back to society?



Local environmentalist Jim Flynn introduced his "heroine" Peg Millett. In May 1989, Peg and four comrades were arrested by the FBI in a widely publicized sting operation. The "Arizona 5" was accused of conspiracy to sabotage nuclear power plants, an allegation that was never substantiated.

In 1991, the well publicized two month trial was interrupted mid-stream with the announcement of a plea bargain. The charge of sabotage was dropped by federal prosecutors, as well as charges of vandalism against Canyon Uranium Mine, near the Grand Canyon, and the Central Arizona Project. However, Millett was convicted of "aiding and abetting in the malicious destruction" of ski lift pylons on the San Francisco Peaks, in Northern Arizona, a deed she undertook to protest the desecration of Native American sacred lands. She was sentenced to three years in prison. She served without parole and was released in August 1993.

Peg said she was part of a small group of activists involved in illegal direct action. For a year the FBI followed the group's movements, even planting an FBI agent among the activists, who recorded their conversations. During an action they were greeted by about 50 FBI agents on foot as well as helicopters, airplanes and in cars. Millett managed to elude the FBI that night but returned to work the next morning and was soon arrested.

This was one of the first FBI COINTELPRO operations against the radical environmental movement. COINTELPRO was started in the 60s to disrupt and neutralize (often violently) dissident organizations, including the Black Panthers, Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, the American Indian Movement, and later the Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador, to name a few. Peg insists that COINTELPRO continues (though under new names) and activists must be careful to avoid its traps.

Peg closed by saying that prisoner support is crucial to social movements and thanked the organizers for their ongoing work for Jeff and other political prisoners. But before leaving the stage she sang "Forever Wild" at the request of some attendees.

Jeff prepared a statement for the events worldwide and it was read to the audience here by a local member of Jeff's defense network. Quoting his statement: "Hello and thank you for participating in solidarity events today. As many of you are aware, this June marks my 5th year behind bars. I am nearly a quarter of the way through my 22 year sentence. In the last year alone, many of our allies have joined the status of political prisoners held by the state. With increasing numbers of our warriors being captured, now more than ever, we need a united front." The statement goes on to argue against sectarianism in the human, earth, and animal liberation movements, emphasizing the need for greater cooperation and respect for a diversity of tactics and ideas to confront our common enemies.

Perhaps the climax of the event was the premier of "22.8: The Jeff Luers Story." CMC's new documentary outlines the history of Jeff's case, the reasons for his harsh punishment,

and the philosophical motives of his actions. 22.8 delivers unseen interviews and footage of Jeff before & after his arrest, and much more. This is an important film for all concerned about the fate of the natural world and the plight of political prisoners. The crowd appeared to love it by the loud and emotional applause. The rest of the night was devoted to music & dancing.

Though smaller and less spectacular than last year's event, we definitely consider it a tremendous success. A decent profit was made for Jeff's defense fund, and a good crowd came out to show their support. Support for Jeff is definitely growing, here and throughout the world. 18 events for Jeff happened in the US during the weekend of June 10-12, and eight internationally. Inspiring reports have come in from New York, Scotland and England. We expect more to come.

Let us hope that next June we won't be protesting Jeff's incarceration but celebrating his release. But we must fight for the freedom of all political prisoners/POWs, not only Jeff. We must oppose injustice wherever we encounter it. Let us end with a quote from Malcolm X: ***"When a person places the proper value on freedom, there is nothing under the sun that she will not do to acquire that freedom. Whenever you hear a person saying he wants freedom, but in the next breath she is going to tell you what she won't do to get it, or what he doesn't believe in doing in order to get it, he doesn't believe in freedom. A person who believes in freedom will do anything under the sun to acquire...or preserve his freedom."***



Jeff Luers Defense Network
PO Box 3, Eugene, OR 97440
<http://www.freefreedom.org>

S.R.C.I. COPS PIG OUT

Oh, if not for the modern marvel of the cafeteria. To where would disheveled, bleary-eyed doctors and nurses of hospital graveyard shifts flock if well lit, slightly aromatic hubs of color scheme seating and bland sustenance were not on sight? On what would school children rely upon to provide filling, rudimentary meals at affordable prices, when nobody at home has the time to pack a brown bag? Behind what other façade would employees at Oregon's giant Snake River Correctional Institution hid, to ensure the huge bill of their all-you-can-eat-and-take-home-free dining habits will be covered by a chunk of what was originally allotted for public safety?

It's quite fair that prison workers be provided with a close by, clean, and affordable place to take a meal. Perimeter security precautions could slow an off-premises lunch hour rush to a crawl. It makes sense to have a dining facility for staff within the perimeter.

But concerned folks are noticing that our public servants now frequently abuse what was once a privilege. Eyes (and appetites) have grown, while integrity has waned. Guards, administrators, secretaries, maintenance workers, pastors, volunteers, visitors, and many others enjoy a cornucopia of edibles at rock bottom price. A meal ticket, costing \$1.80, provides a plate piled high with a variety of dishes. And unlimited access to a very generous salad bar. And an endless bowl of the daily soup special. And of course unregulated trips to a fresh fruit display. For those with a sweet tooth, endless visitations to the dessert bar offer sugary solace (pies, cakes, cookies, donuts, pastries). An inmate baker provides fresh breads and bagels. Let's not forget the complimentary beverage bar. The Staff Dining facility at S.R.C.I offer quantity and variety on par with the national buffet chains, and all for under two bucks.

However, the point of this article is not to spark a touch of envy with trifling allegations of luxury. Instead the aim is to describe the daily theft and accepted trickery, which will probably leave many feeling cheated. Staff is expected to sign a roster and place a meal ticket (\$1.80) in a collection box after grabbing their plates. But there are no supervisory personnel or cashiers to monitor transactions – ever. The extended absence of authority has created the opportunity for rampant theft. Guards accept two or even three meals (extras are loaded into lunchboxes and grocery bags), but only pay for one and sometimes none. Some administrators don't even bother with signing the roster or depositing the ticket. Occasionally, diners stroll up to the entrée line after their meal to request a "to go" snack or even meal, which is seldom paid for. Secretaries frequently fill the available grocery sacks with pies, pastries, cookies, and doughnuts on their way out the door. The mounds of deli cold cuts and cheeses are irresistible targets for those wanting to replenish their refrigerators. Only inmate servers and busboys witness the free-for-all, but they risk losing a job or worse for reminding diners of their obligation to pay. Why would powerful correctional staff acknowledge lowly convicts?

The costs of the feeding frenzy are mounting. Annually, \$120,000 worth of meal ticket revenue is generated. Yet when all of the operating costs of Staff Dining are totaled, a figure exceeding 700,000m is reached. That means somebody is stuck with a \$580,000 restaurant bill. Who agreed to foot the bill for the rather luxuriant eating habits of the pilferers at S.R.C.I.?

One would think misappropriation of the corrections budget in such a blatant manner could not go unnoticed. The thought is easily formed before considering the extreme isolation of S.C.R.I. By far the largest prison in Oregon, it sprawls over many acres of what once was barren, desert tundra. The nearest inhabited path is Ontario, a rural community which sits on the border with Idaho. The prison and the Salem-based corrections power structure are at opposite ends of the state, with hundreds of miles between them. Couple the distance factor with the consideration that the prison's design alone makes it an exclusive place, and it becomes easier to harbor well-grounded suspicions of what goes on behind the razor wire.

Prison employees should have affordable dining accommodations. Not too many would jump at a chance to be trapped five days a week, sharing the ensnaring confines of a modern dungeon with some of the State's most violent felons. Perhaps an extremely generous food court should be written off as a well-deserved perk of the job. It should be noted, however, that employees exposed to higher level of professional risk within the compound are very generously compensated. Maybe these workers deserve low prices in the food line, but nobody deserves the privilege of stocking their pantries and coolers at taxpayer expense.

The huge waste of "public safety" money perpetrated in Staff Dining is a situation brought about by a growing tolerance of theft, a poorly monitored inventory, an absolute absence of supervisory personnel, and reliance upon the silence and duplicity of powerless inmate kitchen workers. For the more skeptical, a brief "parking lot" observance of the prison staff during sift change should assuage any doubts. It is a scene of abounding obesity.

All of us have to pay for the bread and utter we need. Those of us that decide to steal face the risk of penalty. Why should it be any different for prison workers at S.R.C.I.? The theft and trickery behind closed gates and barbed wire need to stop. It's high time for correctional measures.





15 December 2005

Dear Break The Chains Community,

This society purposefully does not encourage or teach us how to really work together. As people determined to create a different, healthier and more fulfilling culture, we continue to try to build the skills necessary to function collectively and challenge oppression within ourselves, within our communities, and throughout the world. We make mistakes, we try again, and sometimes we just have to let go.

We've had a lot of changes at Break The Chains in the past six months, the culmination of which is our demise. Can we explain why or how we got to that point? Unfortunately, there are as many answers to that question as there are folks who have worked with BTC.

What is important for you to know is that Break The Chains no longer exists. We have closed the office. This is our last news letter. There will be no more zine distribution. We are pleased to report that all the PCP directories have been distributed. We hope that since the directories are "out there," the project will continue to serve folks as a means of connecting with each other, via the addresses listed. Please disregard our address as a way to facilitate correspondence.

We sincerely apologize for letting you all down. Our sorrow is accompanied by our gratitude for the other prisoner support groups that do great work nationwide. On the back side of this letter we've listed some of those other groups that you may be interested in contacting, as well as Books-to-Prisoners groups that can provide you with reading material.

Wishing all of us strength to continue the struggle,

Shauna Ruby

Shauna and Ruby of the former BTC Collective

Books-to-Prisoners Groups

BOOK 'EM
PO Box 71357
Pittsburgh, PA 15213

Books for Prisoners
PO Box 10965
Cincinnati, OH 45206

Prison Literature Project
c/o Bound Together Bookstore
1369 Haight St.
San Francisco, CA 94117
No TX requests.

DC Prisons Book Project
PO Box 520
Hyattsville, MD 20782

Books Through Bars-NYC
c/o Bluestockings Bookstore
172 Allen Street
New York, NY 10002

Books to Prisoners
c/o Left Bank Books
92 Pike Street, Box A
Seattle, WA 98101
No CA requests and no
prisons that only allow new
books.

Womens Prison Book Project
c/o Arise Bookstore
2441 Lyndale Ave. S.
Minneapolis, MN 55405
Free books and resource
guide for **women and
transgender** prisoners only.
No OR, MI, CO, WV.

Gainesville Books for Prisoners
PO Box 12164
Gainesville, FL 32604

South Chicago ABC
Zine Distro
PO Box 721
Homewood, IL 60430

Prison Book Program
c/o Lucy Parsons Bookstore
1306 Hancock St, Ste 100
Quincy, MA 02169

Prisoner Support Groups

Legal Services for Prisoners
With Children
1540 Market St. #490
San Francisco, CA 94102
Information and referrals; no
individual legal aid.

Critical Resistance
1904 Franklin St. Suite 504
Oakland, CA 94612

California Prison Focus
2940 16th St. #307
San Francisco, CA 94103

California Prisoner Solidarity
PO Box 22449
Oakland, CA 94609

Stop Prisoner Rape!
3325 Wilshire Blvd. #340
Los Angeles, CA 90010

Prison AIDS Resource Center,
PO Box 2155
Vacaville, CA 95696

Lambda Legal Defense
120 Wall St. #1500
New York, NY 10005
GLBTQ issues

Hep C Awareness Project PO
Box 41803
Eugene, OR 97404

Coalition for Prisoners'
Rights Newsletter
PO Box 1911
Santa Fe, NM 87504

Anarchist People of Color
PO Box 667233
Houston, TX 77266

The Fire Inside
1540 Market St. #490
San Francisco, CA 94102
Free newsletter for women
Prison Art Project
PO Box 31574
San Francisco, CA 94131

Twitch-Entropy
ABC Legal Services
2900 La Fayette Ave #2
Austin, TX 78722

Lawrence ABC
PO Box 1483
Lawrence, KS 66044

Houston ABC
PO Box 667614
Houston, TX 77266

Chicago ABC
PO Box 1544
Chicago, IL 60690

Boston ABC
PMB# 258
198 Tremont St.
Boston, MA 02116

Minneapolis ABC
PO Box 47871
Minn, MN 55447

California Coalition for
Women Prisoners
1540 Market St #490
San Francisco, CA 94102

Nat'l Clearinghouse for
Defense of Battered Women
125 S 9th St #302
Philadelphia, PA 19107

The Jericho Movement
PO Box 340084
Jamaica, NY 11434

Outlook on Justice c/o AFSC
2161 Mass Av
Cambridge, MA 02140

Call for Weekend of Resistance Against the "Green Scare" June 9-11, 2006

By Jeff "Free" Luers

This June marks my 6th year in prison. From behind these walls I have strived to remain an active part of this struggle; from contributing to the dialogue and discussion of tactics, to furthering the debate on climate change in the public. Perhaps most importantly I am proof that prison cannot crush the spirit of resistance.

This year has seen an increase in state repression against activists and radicals alike. It is truly a scary time. We all know about the "Red Scare" - the government's attempt to justify repression by labeling dissidents "communists" back in the 1950's. Today we see their "Green Scare" attempt to crush resistance by labeling them "eco-terrorists."

For the last three years, June 11th has been celebrated as an international day of solidarity with me, Jeffrey Luers. I have been overjoyed with a sense of love & pride at the support I have received from around the world. My deepest and sincerest thanks go out to all of you.

Right now there are more than a dozen people sitting in American jails (or on strict bail release) accused of Earth/Animal Liberation Front actions. Six people were originally arrested. These arrests were based almost entirely on the testimony of one police informant, Jacob Ferguson. Bill Rodgers - accused of multiple arsons - took his own life in a jail cell. Unfortunately, several of those arrested are now cooperating with the state.

These defendants are facing ridiculous charges and a draconian amount of time.

This June, I ask you to show them the solidarity that you have shown me. I ask that foremost in your mind be the thought that the state is trying to break this struggle with repressive and intimidating arrests and sentences. I hope you understand that it's not just those of us in prison being punished with these sentences; they are designed to be examples to you, to frighten you into compliance. This June I'm asking you to demonstrate that you can't be intimidated. Celebrate your dissent, give it voice. Be loud. Be visible. If you have the ability, organize a reclaim the streets party or a critical mass.

If you are going to host a fundraiser or venue event, I ask that you donate all proceeds to the legal defense of those recently arrested who maintain integrity in the face of repression, whether they are innocent or guilty.

This June, show the world that the voice of truth will not be silenced by fear.

June 9-11, 2006, is a Weekend of Resistance Against the Green Scare. There is no central organizing body or group to check in with but the Jeff Luers Support Network can help by providing you with flyers, graphics, and merchandise such as videos, zines and stickers about Jeff and allies in the struggle. Begin planning your event now. Plan an action that makes sense for your area: a demonstration, tree-sit, or music festival, teach-in, stenciling campaign, rally, protests at an American consulate/embassy overseas or public forum. Circulate petitions. Contribute to the legal defense for the defendants. Do what you think is appropriate. But please remember when planning an action or event think about how it could affect the upcoming court cases. Ask yourself: does this help or hurt the defendants? Does this strengthen the movement or weaken it in the long-term?

Contact Friends of Jeff Luers, PO Box 3, Eugene, OR 97440 USA or email freefreenow@mutualaid.org for organizing resources. www.freefreenow.org

NOVEMBER 11-13, 2005

RAISE A RUCKUS FOR ROB LOS RICOS

Rob los Ricos, aka Rob Thaxton, is a Tejano Chicano anarchist political prisoner currently serving most 88 months (over 7 years) for throwing a rock at a cop during the June 18, 1999 Reclaim the Streets celebration turned police riot in Eugene.

Rob is due to be released late June 2006. We're asking people across the country and the world to make the weekend of November 11-13, 2005 a day to support Rob, to celebrate, and to collect needed support money for Rob.

November 11th is the anniversary of the day four anarchists were hung in Chicago in 1887, despite their obvious innocence and international outcry for their release. This holiday is generally commemorated on May 1st all around the world. Rob wants to reclaim this as an anarchist festival day. And we're asking you to help make it happen!

Plan an event for Rob, to let him know he's not forgotten, and to help get needed funds for when he is released from prison. Not just punk shows - but think creatively! Poetry readings, dance parties, karaoke night, quiz night, keggers, dinner parties, rummage sales; let your mind go free! Rob is a whimsical guy, and we're asking folks to do something political and revolutionary for cripe's sake fun!

So, to recap, ways you can help:

1. Plan a kick ass event Nov. 11-13, or get tapped into the planning already happening in your area (check out www.roblosricos.net for more information) **PLEASE CONTACT US AND LET US KNOW IF YOU'RE PLANNING SOMETHING!** We want to create a list and keep track of everything, and advertise it, so definitely let us know!

2. Send Rob a donation now (anything is better than nothing)

3. Read Rob's writings (his pamphlet *Manufacturing Dissent* is available on his website)

Rob has spent over 6 years in prison, and he's coming back to no resources. When you're paroled in Oregon, they open up the gates and let you out with nothing, not even clothes to change out of your prison garb into. We need your help to let Rob know he is not forgotten, that the principles he has supported for 30 years and that he will have spent over 7 years in prison for are still alive.

Donations to Rob should be sent to:

Rob los Ricos
PO Box 83904
Portland OR 97283-0904

Checks and money orders can be made out to "Rob los Ricos" or "Robert Thaxton."



WWW.ROBLOSRICOS.NET

Rob los Ricos statement for April 18 Portland, Oregon fundraiser

"As a child, I grew up knowing that the police and government were not my friends. In addition to seeing police attacks upon civil rights activists on TV, I witnessed actual police oppression of poor people in my hometown. And as the 60s defiance of authority evolved into armed struggle against the US government, I knew where I belonged: in the trenches.

Isolated in the Texas Panhandle - far from the front lines of the revolution - and being only 11 years old, I didn't get a chance to join in the fray. By the time I was old enough to go, the revolutionary impetus in this country had all but run its course - Which left me floundering, adrift during a time of uncertainty. The revolution I so wanted to fight in never occurred and I unexpectedly lived to be 20.

Instead of a people's revolution, I watched in horror as corporate, neo-conservative fascists took over the government, during the Reagan Revolution: a revolution carried even further by the Bush family's coup d'etat in 2000.

As the fascist neo-cons grew more arrogant during their 20 years of power, I turned to activism in order to oppose them. Though we achieved some modest gains, activism proved to be ineffective. Many, many of the activists I worked alongside have either given up hope or dropped out of oppositional politics, turned to drugs, committed suicide, sold out or stagnated due to inertia.

After a troubled period of re-evaluation and self-examination, I returned to activism at a time when it seemed like people were again willing to physically confront the ruling powers. Sadly, I was among the first casualties in the street fighting that swept across the country, from Seattle to Miami. As a result, I've had to impotently observe the fascists consolidate their power from a prison cell. Again, I've missed out on a historic moment, one perfectly suited to my inclinations.

I'll be out next year. These past 6 years were supposed to be the time to assert myself in my chosen sphere - the anarchist scene. Instead, here I am in prison until the middle of my 46th year.

Fortunately, I am more secure than I've ever been in being the man I am, and once out, I intend to live my passions. No matter where that leads me, I'll be fully engaged in living a life according to my heart.

It's going to be great, and I eagerly anticipate joining you out there in what could be one of the greatest adventures in human existence: reclaiming our world - our lives - from the ruling powers.

They offer us waste, ruin and credit. We choose life!

Thanks for coming out tonight. "

“New Africa - Not Dixieland”

The New World Order, the New Iraq, New Orleans and New Afrika: Death Throes of an Empire in Decay

Here's a quick pop quiz on meteorology, cosmology and sociology:

The destruction of New Orleans and the Mississippi Delta by Hurricane Katrina, and the unrelieved suffering and deaths of tens of thousands, was caused by:

- a) *The vengeance on Satanic/sinful/hypocritical America by Allah/Yahweh/Jehovah, for whom the last straw was Pat Robertson's call to assassinate Hugo Chavez*
- b) *An unavoidable, horrific natural disaster that will give America a chance to show it can still roll up its sleeves and rebuild things better than they were before*
- c) *The result of 500 years of racism, colonialism, industrialism, compounded by a decade of heedless profit-oriented neo-liberal and neo-conservative militarism*

The answer is obvious even to those most blinded by religion or flag-waving. The heart-rending devastation and the terrible cost in human lives and destroyed homes are driving home to people throughout the US what the people in the region are experiencing directly.

The U.S. social, political and economic system - the Empire - not only is incapable of meeting the most fundamental human needs - it is the immediate cause of irreversible calamity and destruction of the natural and social environment.

The evidence is clear. Scientific debate notwithstanding, the force of the hurricane is indisputably a result of the global warming caused by industrial pollution and its effects on atmospheric and oceanic temperatures. The inability of the New Orleans levee system to withstand the ocean surges and the rain was directly a result of decades of destruction of the surrounding wetlands, compounded by the diversion of needed funding to Iraq and "Homeland Security." The total lack of preparedness and evacuation measures, or of effective rescue operations, was a manifestation of deep-seated racism and class prejudice. It exposed a political economy and society based on individualism and privatization, compounded by the assignment of the bulk of the Mississippi and Louisiana National Guard and their equipment to military duty in Iraq.

The racism of the media that showed white survivors "finding" bread and soda in stores, while Black survivors "looted" supplies from the same stores in the same flood waters was matched only by the state's diversion of police and Guard troops from search and rescue operations to property protection under martial law. Bringing the National Guard troops home immediately from Iraq is all well and good, but what will it gain us if they are dispatched to wage war on the poor, Black and homeless residents of New Orleans and the Mississippi Delta?

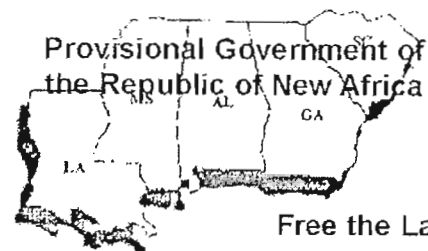
Reality has smacked us all upside the head with a tragic wake-up call. But where do we go with this new awareness? What do you do when you wake up and discover that the long national nightmare is just beginning?

We need to understand that total social, political and economic transformation - revolution - is on the agenda, now. The "American Way of Life" has demonstrated its un-sustainability for all to see. Forget "The Day After Tomorrow" - Hollywood films cannot come close to the actual devastation we are facing today. Is Los Angeles more capable of dealing with the inevitable 9.0 earthquakes?

The Empire does not only stand in the way of human and planetary survival; every day of its continued existence makes matters worse. We must begin immediately the process of de-colonization, direct democratization, decentralization and demilitarization that is our only hope.

For the people of African descent in Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia and Carolina, along with their white and Mexican/Caribbean neighbors, that means that the rebuilding process must be based in creating a new social order of liberation, collective responsibility and harmony - New Africa, not Dixieland. For the rest of us, it means beginning a similar process of dismantling and opposing the Empire by every means at our disposal. That means turning out massively to the border on September 17-18 to denounce the vigilantes, the coyotes and the Border Patrol. That means mobilizing massively on September 24-25 to demand immediate U.S. withdrawal from Iraq and Afghanistan and to stop the war machine. But even more, it means living each day to build unbreakable ties of human solidarity and community while reversing the damage caused by profligate waste of energy and poisoning of the water, air, and soil.

This is the lead editorial in the new issue of Turning the Tide: Journal of Anti-Racist Action, Research & Education, published by ARA-LA/PART. A free sample copy in the US is available by writing to ARA-LA/PART, PO Box 1055, Culver City, CA 90232, or calling 310-495-0299. A one-year, six-issue subscription is \$16 (\$26US outside the US or to institutions) payable to Michael Novick at the above address.



Prison Industrial Complex and Imperialism

Let us be honest with ourselves, we don't actually believe we're American. That is, we do not see ourselves reflected in the movers and shakers of this society. But where we do see ourselves reflected is in the Prison Industrial Complex (PIC). Let us face this reality then begin to investigate why the numbers of "minorities" and the poor continue to multiply in these oppressive institutions? We need to reevaluate those reasons that perpetuate our current status; which will require us to reexamine the entire effect of the criminal justice system: From the legality of the institutions that enforce laws to the definition of crime. This should inevitably bring us to the realization that we live under imperialistic conditions.

Like all imperialist societies, do not doubt that America's bourgeois and labor aristocracy's primary interest is to ensure its mental and material domination over its "minorities." One way this is effectively accomplished in our time is by the Prison Industrial Complex, which is directly derived from the Reservational Military Complex. Both are off shoots of the justice system.

Let us finally admit that the justice system is not designed to counter crime. One analyst accurately described the justice system as operating with a policy of "pyrrhic defeat, a term that derives from the academic study of pyrrhic victory, a victory in one battle that cripples the winning army to such a degree it cannot win the war...It loses against its professed targets, but yields such benefits to those in power, it amounts to success." The fact is the justice system does not want to eradicate crime because of the larger benefits of national oppression.

If the justice system did want to reduce crime, it would simply do those things that actually amount to reduction, such as eliminate poverty, provide adequate education, decriminalize drugs, etc. So if we can conclude that the main function of the justice system is not to reduce crime, then its only serviceable function must be to perpetuate itself and imperialism. Each is dependent on the other. Imperialism cannot exist without the maintenance of a massive PIC to serve as an effective deterrent against opposition. I.E., prisons serve to disenfranchise, marginalize, intimidate, and terrorize its minorities and opponents or potential opponents. And the PIC cannot exist without imperialism, which only flourishes by way of exploitation, oppression, neo-colonialism, classism, and racism.

From their imperialistic viewpoint, the justice system and PIC have indeed accomplished their goals. First they established a system that disadvantages their internal colonies to such a degree that they are unable to competitively compete. Secondly, they created an industry (PIC) that would be self-sustaining.

Here in California the state opposes and defines other forms of nationalism: Mexican, "Indian", African, and/or leftist, as criminal or terrorist to justify the prevalence of its PIC. In this way the PIC serves to legitimately exterminate any independent progressive political or economical development of its minorities.

This becomes an undeniable fact when we recognize that prisons are efficient tools of division. That is, prisons serve to remove certain segments out of society, to sever families, subdivide ethnicities, and marginalize classes. When we look at the racial make up of prisoners, it becomes apparent that prisons are the means by which imperialism warehouses, exploits, and oppresses its minorities and the poor. Thus, from a functional analysis we can conclude that prisons play a fundamental part in America's imperialistic policy, a policy that is "legitimately" achieved by laws.

We must admit that laws are the means for socio-economical and political domination of one class/nation over another class/nation. This becomes particularly true when we acknowledge the arbitrary selective application of defined notions of criminality.

For crime is a term used to describe actions that defeat the ruling class's power and influence. (As America is not per se opposed to certain acts, only who and what those acts are against.) It is no secret that most crime results from the grossly disproportionate distribution of wealth. Most crime develops under specific conditions that give rise to a frame of mind. Indeed, economic disparity is the causation of social divisions called "classes" and any aggressive activity, economically motivated by the poverty class can be interpreted as "reactionary" against oppression via imperialism. So it is not by coincidence, but by design, that minorities and the poverty class are categorized as criminal; just as it was criminal to be "Indian" under the Reservational Military Complex. The state continues to label those it considers undesirable as criminal. Only now imperialism cannot be so blatantly discriminatory, so it utilizes weakness in our communities, like poverty, to maintain its authority.

We can concede solely from an economical perspective that where imperialism creates industry, (PIC), the primary objective for that industry is growth. As the middle class and labor aristocracy clamor for more police, laws, and prisons, that "growth" is occurring before our very eyes. Leaving us minorities and poverty class faced with a prison

pandemic. This can only be countered by a massive education campaign and united block.

We need to rise gloriously to face the scorch of imperialism and its PIC, and if we're burned at first it is because we have been bowed for far too long!



By
Benny
Tapia

Update on Animal Liberation Prisoner Peter Young

In the 3rd of September 2005 edition of the *Earth Liberation Prisoners Bulletin* it was reported that Pete Young has reached a Plea Bargain where he is pleading guilty to two charges related to the releasing of mink from fur farms. Pete was due to be sentenced in early September; however the sentencing has now been put back until the 8th of November 2005. Apparently the Prosecution wants to invite a group of fur farmers to come and say how horrible it is to have their mink released by animal liberation activists.

As a lot of people will already be aware, Peter Young has released a statement concerning Justin Samuel, David Agranoff and Nicole Fink. In case you have not already seen this statement we are producing it, in full, below.

"As I sit in a Madison, Wisconsin jail on federal animal enterprise terrorism charges, 5 years after Justin Samuel entered a Grand Jury room to offer a 'full, complete and truthful statement' against me regarding my involvement in 6 mink farm raids in 1997, it is yet another burden upon me to hear of a current debate - a debate on whether to lend support to two of the three people jailed in San Diego for refusing testimony to a grand jury. One is the girlfriend of the aforementioned informant, Justin Samuel. The other is Justin's friend and vocal apologist - David Agranoff.... I'm told this subject of support is one of much discussion, and I feel it unfortunate that we find this debatable. That on the subject of snitches and those who enable them to walk among us, when it is not us that suffer the direct effects of informants we sit back and debate the issue from the comfort zone.

The view from behind bars is much different. When they find themselves in the hot seat, we have an obligation first and foremost to defend our own. This does not apply, because I no longer consider them one of us. It is they who offered their after-the-fact collaboration with a person who was so quick to throw me to the wolves. Now I say - let them go to the wolves.

Before offering support to these two currently resisting a grand jury, let us ask where that voice of resistance was when the target was another. Their voice was clear, and it wasn't one of resistance - it was one of excuses, lies, and complicity. One's right to support is forfeited when they deny it to another. To turn informant for the FBI is to forfeit that right. To publicly defend and therefore enable an informant to walk among us is to forfeit that right. And with so much on the line, to stand beside either one is to forfeit that right. Until this month, the message of both these grand jury resisters was: it's ok to inform on another, to condemn them to a 5 to 10 year prison sentence to save your own self. Now these same people stand before us, puffing their chests, full of feigned bravado, telling us with straight faces they sit in jail to defend our movement from attack. But their sudden distaste for FBI cooperation is too little too late.

So exactly what form of "attack" do they oppose? Across my cell as I write this sits a large stack of legal paperwork, including portions of Justin Samuel's testimony against me. The collective effort of the world's most powerful domestic agency could not pull together evidence as damaging as what came from Justin Samuel's mouth. You could say I've never felt so "attacked." So now we see the only attacks they oppose are the ones against themselves. And it [sic] these people whose merits and worth are being debated. But they burned their bridge, so let them stand alone.

The crucial point is: one defends a snitch out of empathy - they see themselves in that person. Today's snitch apologists are tomorrow's snitches.

So support them? Yes, of course support them. In the Grand Jury room, there is no harmless information. So support them as one would support a ticking bomb - with great, delicate care; out of fear for what they might do. Support as babies, whose hands must be held until the passing of the storm. Support them for fear they too will join that club of their dear friend, entering that small, reviled choir of those who 'didn't tell them anything they didn't already know, I swear.'

I hope to see us capitalize upon this opportunity to make the very firm, far-reaching message that snitches and their collaborators will find themselves alone. Not for revenge, but for survival. For there will be more damage done by informants and those who harbor them, more fallen activists in their wake - and you may be among them.



Peter Young
Dane County Jail
Madison, WI
August 2005

As of this writing, a third woman - Danae Kelley - sits in jail for refusing testimony to this same grand jury. She is nothing less than a hero of great fortitude, and I wish nothing less for her than the whole of our support."

In his statement Pete makes it clear he wishes people to continue supporting Danae Kelly. Therefore people may be interested to know that there is an active support campaign set up for Danae. Contact the campaign at:

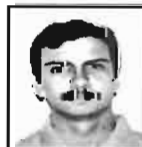
Danae Kelley Support Campaign
PO Box 86472
San Diego, CA 92138
USA
freespeechdefense@yahoo.com
www.freespeechdefense.net



Gerardo Hernández



Ramón Labañino



Fernando González



Antonio Guerrero

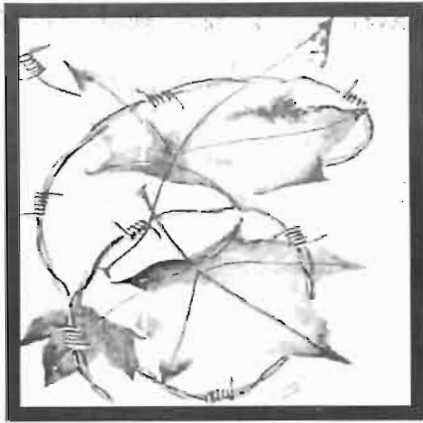


René González

FREE THE
CUBAN FIVE
www.freethefive.org



PCP Directory Updates



We've received notice that there have been a few address changes within the PCP Directory.

CSP/Lancaster State Prison in California has had an address change. It is now a PO Box and mail will not be forwarded much longer. Updated address for all prisoners at CSP/LAC:

CSP-LAC

PO Box 4610, Lancaster, CA 93539-4610

Charles Hoke's address and SID changed.

It is now:

Charles Hoke #475420

PO Box 56, Lebanon, OH 45036

Robert Cook, Jr also had an address change and sent a note:

Thank you very much for keeping me in your PCP. The last time it came out I did not get a single letter from any potential pen-pals. But after you sent out this last pamphlet, I have received two letters already. The letters were rerouted to me due to my address change, so they got here a little late.

Thanks for your support,

Mr. Robert L. Cook, Jr. #AS-0603

PO Box 244, Graterford, PA 19426-0244



Angel Felix had an address change and sent us a note:

I received the PCP Directory today. I appreciate you putting my hook up in it. I have been here for a little over a year. I only had a 15 month SHU in Tehachapi. I'm basically back in the SHU (in Represa). We are on a modified lockdown program here. We can only get two jobs, a porter or kitchen sub. Because I'm close B status, we get 3 yards a week on our tiny concrete yards for 1 hour 45 minutes. The rest of my time is cell time. I try to go to the law library when I can. We get escorted by the K9 anywhere outside our buildings. I've adjusted to the circumstances that beset us. The struggle continues. I'm down to 3 years left so I can't complain. This is my 5th prison in 6 years. I came in a wild youngster at 18. I'm 24 now and have spent most of my life in institutions: from 12 to 17 in group homes, programs and on my way to prison at 18. I've wrote a few different pen pals. I enjoy to convo, but I mainly endeavor to keep reality in focus, and not to expect anything more than meeting and writing to a new friend. When it's over, no hard feelings. I just enjoy the moment. I feel that in here and out there are two separate worlds. You can only do your best to push forward as an individual and not let the system break your spirit while you're here. Wherever there's a will, there's a way, in any oppressive milieu, the struggle continues and the fire in our hearts burn strong. I just hold tight to hope and remain determined to break these government chains that enslave me physically/socially, but never mentally. In solidarity,

Angel Felix #P79851

CSP, SAC C7-203, PO Box 290066, Represa, CA 95671

And a note from **James Bauhaus**:

Thanks for including me and sending the newest Prisoner Correspondence Project Directory. The last time I made a couple friends for a few months. People get interested, write, then lose interest after a few months. This is about the limit of human curiosity. It can easily be sated in 3-6 months. But it's still an exchange of ideas, etc, that makes it valuable.

I initiated 5 contacts and got 2 responses. All were from inside and, thus, had to defeat the kop's efforts to derail everything periodically, along with generating mass confusion whenever possible.

I can't guess your costs, but it would seem to me that perhaps it would be more cost-effective to spread ideas with zines than by promoting non-focused contact between captives. The women get the lion's share and most men are probably on a mooch trip by the 3rd letter.

...It's hard living in the dirt like this and having much of your time robbed by incessant petty hassles. Thanks for everything.

James Bauhaus #88367

PO Box 220, Hominy, OK 74035





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Modern Day Maroon



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