

OUTLAW

the

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CONVICT UNITY

THE OUTLAW
San Quentin Press
July 1, 1968

**THE RED-NECKED
BUSHBEATER
IS BEAT AGAIN**

At last the muckrakers who publish the OUTLAW have been apprehended and sent away. Never again will that subversive rag disturb the stagnant placidity of San Quentin. But what's this?? THE OUTLAW!!! Better luck next time Red. (Convicts' nickname for San Quentin warden Louis Nelson.) How many bum beefs does that make now??? About 27. Give it up Red, or tell us where it's at. Don't you realize you've got 4,000 of us????

Earlier in this century, men striking against slavery sang a song with the following chorus: "Which side are you on, boys, which side are

you on?" Seems like we ought to be singing that song today. Some of us cons don't seem to know what side we're on. We're obsessed with near-sighted disputes based on race, ideology, group identity, and so on. We expend our energies despising and distrusting each other. All of this is helping the CDC. We permit them to keep us at each others throats. A handful of us are calling for UNITY. This is for a purpose. We want to crush this empire that has been erected on our suffering. We call for 4,000 united convicts. Wake up!!! put your prejudices, biases, and class distinctions aside for the purposes of our fight with the CDC. YES! The time has once again come to speak of UNITY. Not partial UNITY. Not meaningless nor aimless UNITY, but whole and purposeful UNITY. A UNITY that includes every man wearing blue denim, a UNITY that includes every man who is aware of the

need to overthrow the CDC if we are to ever again be dealt with as men and not as chattel. UNITY that can show the free world that we are reasonable in spite of the unreasonable response of the CDC to our plea for relief from their evil excesses. UNITY that will rally to us support from the outside that will carry our plea to the proper places. Our outside support will publicly embarrass the CDC and the AA. They will carry the main force of our cause. They will set the stage for us. BUT the stage is set for us as REASONABLE CONVICTS. The stage is NOT set for MADDOG CONVICTS. We will lose everything if we play into the CDC's hands and let them move us into a riot situation. DON'T let BIG RED WIN at this point in the game!!! All he needs is a riot situation. DON'T let a riot or fire or any disturbance allow his bully hand to fall. We're not afraid of him. BUT we

lose our whole fight when we fight with his pig tools. So let's loosen up the atmosphere in here. Don't let the pigs harrass you into a bad move. Play the shit for them. Don't be so critical of the other races. Let's Get It Together for a while. By getting it together we can get the CDC. So Wake Up!!! The CDC is the enemy, NOT some other convict. Hang In!!!! We are going to have our UNITY DAY in AUGUST. It will be our final move on the CDC, it will be the CONVICT'S REASONABLE requests for an investigation by the legislators. Our outside support will be backing us all the way! Watch for the next issue of THE OUTLAW for more information about UNITY DAY AUGUST. The OUTLAW has the righteous drawings!! UNITY, BLACK, BROWN, WHITE, UNITY!!!

FIRST AMENDMENT DENIED

On March 29, 1971, Bobby Bly, Wilson W. Williams, James T. Gallagher, John A. Dominguez, Robert I. Johns, Henry Castro, Wayne Ladd, Anthony Castro and Jack Mahone wrote a letter to Raymond Proconier in which they requested that they be permitted to correspond with whomever they wished, receive whatever periodicals they wanted and especially the right to speak out against the system. Consequently the petitioners were taken to the Adjustment Center in Folsom.

Freedom of speech is often used by the powerful as a simple steam valve - speak all you need to but don't act. In prison, men are not even allowed to speak out. When they do, the powerful take action; they take the speakers to the hole.

The powerful never really have to itemize charges or accusations, being "militant" is enough. And "militancy" is all the powerful need to draw them together.

Wally Burkhardt X

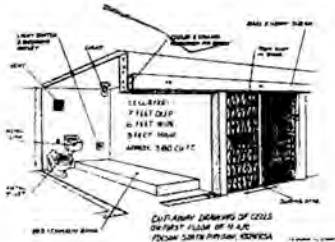
A LETTER

COPY OF LETTER SENT BY FOLSOM INMATES TO RAYMOND K. PROCONIER
Folsom State Prison, Repress, Calif.
March 29, 1971

Mr. R.K. Proconier, Director of Corrections, State Bldg. #8, 714 "P" St. Sacramento, Ca. 94815

Dear Mr. Proconier:

This letter reflects the views of the majority of the men at Folsom and



is written in their behalf. First, we wish to congratulate you on your "new" awareness and apparent understanding of our true situation and desperate need for penal reform.

Second, all of us heartily applaud your new outspoken stand, notwithstanding the political reality of it. In short, we, the convicts, are wholeheartedly in your corner and behind you in your attempt to bring about meaningful prison reform. We stand ready to assist you in every possible way.

This new stance has, however, created serious problems and dangers for us, the convicts. In many cases, our lives are in danger. Let us explain:

The old-guard prison officer and members of the custody complex are extremely anti-Proconier. They feel you are robbing them of power (the arbitrary power to do whatever they choose) long a part of their authoritarian makeup and state of mind. As a result, the custody "bloc" has begun agitating, or attempting to agitate, inter-racial violence, to create severe violent incidents between inmates in order to justify going back to the "old" way or "their" way of doing things.

First there was a campaign of little things. The officer on the inspection post telling all the men going through to the library or lower yard, "Well, I see Proconier's going to have each of you move in with a 'nigger'." This was parroted for sev-

eral weeks by other officers (Ewing in the mess hall, etc., etc.).

Then our Black neighbors began telling us of the reverse comments from other officers to them. Then there began a great number of arbitrary shakedowns. A list of names was circulated to officers and harassment shakedowns began -- arbitrary cell shakedowns, unwarranted confiscation of books and writings from men's cells which were not contraband. (Check with Judges Mundt and Cristoforo for the influx of writs complaining to the Superior Court. A tiny percentage of the true happenings.) Always these things were done in the name of Proconier who, ostensibly, ordered this. Then began a series of personal agitation incidents trying to rile up Mexicans against Negroes, and Whites against everyone. For example: Cell moves into known unstable person's cells, moving unstable men out of their single cells into other cells created some havoc.

Unlike San Quentin, we have recent arrivals from there, who tell us the same thing is taking place, we have an older population who have finally seen through custody's "divide and control" tactics and our cooler heads prevail, keeping incidents from either happening or getting out of hand -- so far!

How long we can withstand custody's pressure we don't know. We do know we can't fight such things as shanks and weapons which have been once confiscated mysteriously turning up where unstable persons will find them. We can't forever fight custodial officers Machavellian schemes to incite one paranoid inmate against another. We can't combat the frenzy and hatred that constant harassment shakedowns drive men to.

We are the political pawns in this game. The custodial clique composed mainly of Associate Warden Gunn and Faustman, Program Administrator Morphis, Lts. Campoy, Houston, Counselors Ahearn, Bartell, Jones, Coombs and Vance, Sgts. Pretis, Cameron and Price, and officers Ewing, Brown, Lee, Jones, J.J. Boyle, L.E. Penny, Cox and Weingard, are working hard to create situations to embarrass you in particular and depose you in

Cont. to page 3

possible. We see and hear them talk. We know what they think of you, and what they call your "convict coddling" ideas. Some of our people have heard them plot how to create incidents calculated to embarrass you. We are always in the middle. Their actions are putting our lives and safety in jeopardy. Any one of us could be killed or maimed in a "custody" instigated incident, all for their own imagined political gain.

We write this letter to you seeking relief from this onerous situation. The changes you propose and move are desperately needed. We have fought long and hard to keep the lid on this place till they come. We can't fight both our own and custody. Please, do something about riding Folsom of the list of men attached. From where we see them, from our view, they are sick, warped, vicious men who would not stop at anything to gain their ends. We have seen them in the past. We doubt that any one of them could pass a psychiatric examination.

This is our formal request seeking relief from a seriously dangerous situation which we do not wish to see deteriorate into another San Quentin incident for the benefit of a few ruthless custodial officers. We respectfully request that these men be transferred from Folsom before the end of next month or we will be forced to pursue other avenues in order to protect our lives and well-being.

WILSON W. WILLIAMS
JAMES T. CALLAGHER
JOHN A. DOMINGUEZ
ROBERT I. JOHNS
BOBBY BLY
HENRY CASTRO
WAYNE LADD
ANTHONY CASTRO
JACK MAHONE

cc: Walter E. Craven, Warden
Assemblyman Bob Moretti
Assemblyman Alan Sieroty
Assemblyman John Vasconcellos
Assemblyman Alex Garcia
Assemblyman Ken MacDonald
Assemblyman John Miller
Assemblyman Frank Murphy
Senator Mervyn Dymally
Assemblyman Willie L. Brown, Jr.
Assemblyman Peter Chacon
Assemblyman Edwin L. Z'berg
Assemblyman Ken Meade
Assemblyman Leo Ryan
Assemblyman Bill Greene
Assemblyman Henry Waxman

WRIT

WRIT FILED IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO, FILED MAY 3, 1971 by

Writ filed in the Superior Court of the State of California in and for the County of Sacramento, filed May 3, 1971 by Folsom inmates Bobby Blys, Anthony Castro, Henry Castro, John A. Dominguez, James T. Callagher, Robert I. Johns, Wayne Ladd, Jack Mahone and Wilson W. Williams:

This case seeks to prevent the administration at Folsom Prison from illegally imposing severe discipline on three black, three chicanos, and three white prisoners by sentencing them to months in the hole for exercising their constitutionally guaranteed rights of free speech. The nine petitioners in this case wrote a letter to Procunier, the Director of the Department of Corrections, detailing abuses in the prison system and giving instances of racism by guards. The right to send letters to public officials aside from being guaranteed by the Constitution is specifically protected by Section 2600 of the Penal Code of California which authorizes prisoners to correspond confidentially with any holder of public office.

As a result of signing the letter, all nine signees were hauled before a prison discipline committee, and given a two to five minute summary hearing. They were never permitted to present evidence, never presented with written charges, had no chance to call witnesses or otherwise question the illegal hearing and punishment.

In fact, the prisoners were never really clear what they were accused of doing. The results of all nine hearings were the same. Each prisoner was given ten days in the strip cell or isolation, and retained in the adjustment center for an indeterminate period of time.

Petitioners in this action seek to restrain respondents from illegally inflicting such punishment in violation of both the first amendment and due process of law.

EL HISPANO

For the past several years I have corresponded with inmates in different penal institutions throughout the state, who have written to me on subjects relating to my column and because of my interest in learning the correlation between the schools and the incarceration of too many Mexican American male youths. For quite some time I knew this correlation existed, but to what degree and what specific factors contributed to this insidious crime against nuestra Raza? I had no way of knowing except by researching this subject, which I did. However I was not satisfied with what little I could find on this subject because it was not written by the real experts on this particular subject, that is, the Chicanos or Mexican Americans.

So I was very happy to receive letters from inmates and to have been given an insight into this subject by people who are now living (if one can call incarceration living) the consequences of having been born of Mexican descent. Any later charges which have resulted from these consequences find these men (and women, although they number relatively low) in institutions such as Soledad, San Quentin Folsom, Chino, Tehachapi, Corona and many many other institutions throughout the state and indeed the Southwest.



I was first introduced to a word of which I had no knowledge except as defined in the dictionary, by an inmate at Tehachapi, Joe Martinez, who in his first letter explained that he was in the "HOLE" (Adjustment Center) asking if I could possibly send him some newspaper clippings of El Hispano since he was not allowed any reading material while he was in the hole.

Since then I have come to know the meaning of this four letter word much more clearly. Last week I was informed that one of our Folsom writers, Enrique Henry Castro, has been placed in the "hole" for signing an open letter written to the Folsom Administration asking for some changes for the improvement of the prison population.

I am unable to give specific details on this matter at this time because I have been granted an interview with the warden of Folsom Prison W.E. Craven and too much is at stake for the inmates within this institution, especially the Chicanos (ten), Blacks and Anglos who were also signers of this petition or letter and who now find themselves in the "hole".

I have met and spoken to State Senator Mervyn Dymally and other public officials regarding this serious situation. Senator Dymally and Assemblyman John Dunlap, D-Solano and Napa Counties have introduced in the Senate and Assembly legislation restricting the power of prison authorities to confine inmates to "adjustment centers" or holes. This legislation would set up what the legislators termed a "bill of rights" for the prisoners relative to the use of adjustment centers. A prisoner could be placed in these isolation centers only after approval by a prison hearing board which would include two prison staff representatives, an inmate observer and a psychiatrist. The limit of isolation would be no longer than 30 days. Only a superior court could extend that period the inmate was deemed a danger to the general prison population. Senator Dymally extended to this writer such warm kindness and courtesy and never once suggested I speak to the legislator from my district, instead he asked his staff to look promptly into this matter, which they did, and that afternoon I received some answers regarding the placement of Enrique Castro and the other Chicanos in the "hole".

Hopefully I will be able to bring the whole story to the readers of El Hispano by the next issue.

For Jessie Ramirez -
June, 1971

SECRET MEETING

S.F. Chronicle, Friday, Oct. 22, 71: Suit is Filed for Cons in Solitary - by Charles Howe.

A damage suit asking more than \$31 million on behalf of some 205 convicts assertedly being held in isolation cells without formal charges was filed in U.S. District Court here yesterday by attorney Charles Garry.

The lawsuit names five inmates who were assertedly placed in solitary confinement "and still remain there for absolutely no reason" following the shootout at San Quentin on Aug. 21 that left three officers and two inmates dead.

SUITS

Garry said the lawsuit "also covers at least 200 inmates in other California prisons" who have been assertedly locked up without cause.

The matter is scheduled to be heard here before United States District Judge Alfonso Zirpoli on Nov. 3 at 1:30 p.m.

Pending receipt of the complaint there was no immediate comment from the State Department of Corrections.

A spokesman from another state office said Garry's lawsuit "is almost indistinguishable from maybe 10 others that have been filed since August 21."

Garry's lawsuit -- which also asks for a preliminary and permanent injunction against the asserted unlawful detention practices -- asks for \$25,000 in compensatory damages and \$100,000 in punitive damages for each of the five names prisoners, and others similarly confined.

OFFICIALS

Defendants include Governor Ronald Reagan, Raymond K. Proconier, director of the Department of Corrections, plus various San Quentin officials.

The prisoners who maintain they are being unlawfully confined in various isolation cells are Bobby Bly, Wesley Robert Wells, Cleveland Brooks, Willie E. Gray and Benito Ibarra.

Following the August 21 death of George Jackson, killed while apparently attempting to escape, Garry's lawsuit charges that his clients were locked up "on the mere suspicion of political 'militance'" or because they were otherwise identified with the radical left.

"Since then," the complaint continues, "plaintiffs have still not been notified of any specific charges brought against them."

When a prisoner is to be placed in administrative segregation he is given a hearing before various prison officials.

HEARINGS

On June 23, Judge Zirpoli ruled that these hearings, in the absence of certain Constitutional guarantees including the prisoner's right to counsel, were unlawful and ordered them stopped.

The state appealed this order and continued holding the hearings pending the outcome of the appeal, which was denied on Monday. More equitable guidelines for prisoner hearings are now being worked out, a state spokesman said.

Garry said his clients were taken before "a vague kind of prison board" but officials "merely have announced orally at these hearings that plaintiffs have posed some vague security threats to the prison and would be confined in segregation indefinitely."

By placing his clients in segregation, Garry charged in his lawsuit.

their chances for successful parole hearings before the Adult Authority have been severely damaged.

S.F. Chronicle, Friday, Oct. 22, 71: Here on U.S. Prison Crisis - by Tim Findley.

Top prison administrators from more than 30 states began meeting here yesterday in an unpublicized session to discuss prison violence and a national trend toward radicalism among convicts.

The two-day meeting due to end today at the Sir Francis Drake Hotel was organized and conducted in a confidential, almost secret, mood to avoid outside pressures on prison administrators, many of them troubled by prospects of rising political protests in and around prisons.

The meeting, being held officially under the aegis of the American Correctional Association, grew out of a similar gathering last August in Miami -- a meeting that concluded on the day of the bloody escape attempt at San Quentin and two weeks before the incident at Attica Prison in New York.

ATTENDANCE

Those attending included state directors of corrections as well as top level administrators from numerous local jurisdictions.

Among them were officials from New York and California Director of Corrections Raymond Proconier.

But the prison authorities were cautious about statements on their discussions.

The president of the Correctional Association, South Carolina Corrections Director William Leeke, said the group was expressing "serious concern" about recent violent outbreaks and were discussing opening "the channel of communications on new pressing problems of the 70s."

FIRST

It marks, Leeke said, "the first time this group of top administrators has gotten together in a purely workshop session." The meeting was also considered unique in that it was understood to have dealt with politically motivated prison disturbances, themselves considered a new phenomenon in American penology.

No advance publicity on the meeting was released, although Proconier said as far as he was concerned there was no intention to "hide" the meeting or conceal its findings.

Leeke said the group discussed "ways to prevent and deal with riots and the need for basic improvement in correctional programs," but he added that "no profound conclusions were reached."

Said the South Carolina prison

official, "We talked candidly."

It was understood that no major policy statements would come from the meeting but that officials were exchanging notes and ideas on current prison problems. Similar meetings are likely to be held in the future.

NOT SECRET

Members, not in secret, of the Prisoner's Union have also been comparing notes, certain profound conclusions reached. The Prisoner's Union is not politically motivated but moved by conscience. Why are convicts not allowed to speak out? Because the public will hear? What will the public hear? They will hear voices from a mirror. All elements are separate until drawn together. Unity is the solution.

Wally Burkhardt X



ATTN

We must unionize!

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Prisoner's Union
P.O. Box 4387
San Francisco, Calif. 94101 - 693471
664-4315

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____ CITY: _____

PHONE: (home) _____ (work) _____

TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP: Convict X-Convict
Citizen Honorary

The yearly membership dues are:

\$4.00 - Inside member
\$8.00 - Outside member

WOULD YOU LIKE TO SPONSOR A CONVICT?

WILL SPONSOR CONVICT (S).

MY ADDRESS IS:

city _____

state _____

zip _____

ENCLOSED IS _____

I WOULD LIKE TO CORRESPOND WITH THOSE WHOM I SPONSOR.

\$4.00 Inside Membership
\$8.00 Outside Membership

WOMEN PRISONER'S CON & EX

A LETTER

Brothers & Sisters:

It saddens me to see so many of my sisters and fellow peers entangled within this Political web of destruction without the least bit of care. Most are ready to except changes if they happen to come about, but to become an active member of the movement that is a NO, NO. There is fear of what the Board might say or do, there is even the fear of, not being able to take a pass. It seems to matter less that we are Political Pawn, ruled in the form of a yoyo.

It would seem to me that the violator that has already been State material for the last ten years or so would be the ones that are most anxious to help destroy the destroyer, even that has been proven wrong. They do not encourage you in any way.

Many of us have Brothers, Men, Uncles and Sons that are controlled by this same vicious circle. It is an endless merry go round one in which we should be ready to get off. We want you to understand that the Female Convict has a part in this movement also.

It is not my intention to take away from those that no longer wish to be controlled as puppets. I say to you beautiful women that it stands to reason that victory is all there is to gain. You no longer believe in the word Rehabilitation, you realize that is just a waste of tax dollars. You have finally understood all they have been pushing at you for the best years of your lives, and now at last you are able to express yourself. Destroy the word Rehabilitation and the System.

A Sister Convict-in CIW

SANTA RITA

4 Months in the Hole
at Santa Rita

Thought - paced - talked to myself
read - wrote - exercised - froze -
suffocated - screamed.

no smoking
no cussing
no anger
no talking
no asking
no flushing toilet
no freedom

"Be a good girl today and we may give you 3 cig's instead of your usual 2 and we may let you stay in the Day Room an hour instead of your usual 1/2."

"What's that you said - shame on you a nice girl like you using such language."

"I'm sorry but we're going to have to take all "hole" cases writing pri-



vilage and commissary privilege away. Yes we know your not a disciplinary case but your still in the hole - we have to protect your security status."

"Clean up that cell or we'll take your Day Room and shower privilege away. No we don't have time to get you a mop."

"No we don't have time to take you to the library - try tomorrow."

"Sorry we don't have time to bother with you - try later."

"Listen stop banging on that door or you'll never get to the library."

"You count every hour stop turning on the god-damn light I'm trying to sleep."

"Please let me talk to someone before I go crazy."

"Damn it this is the 7th day I've asked for a toothbrush."

Matron - Matron can I have a cigarette - I haven't had one all day."

"It isn't my fault I'm considered a security risk and you don't have decent facilities."

"No I'm not threatening you - I'm telling you."

"Shit it's cold in here - what the hell are you doing conducting hot & cold experiments on me."

"I'll yell and scream all I want - I'm already in the hole."

"Why can't I have those letters -

"They" Took Her From Me

Never to have seen her,
Never to have felt her, knowing
her life is in strange hands.
Months go by thinking
of the freedom I could give
this child,
feeling like all new mothers
That I alone could give her
My own freedom, and wondering
how long before I can.

"They" took her from me,
My breasts are full,
The milk no mouth to flow into,
Only down my once full belly.
"They" took her out of my arms
with me not knowing when
I can touch her again.
"They" made me feel
Pain - a woman's deepest -
and sent me back to my cell,
Leaving me with nothing -
Barely myself.

Pat Wood - Ex

I'm tired of you messing with my mail
you've already taking every bit of
freedom you could - except for my
mind - the one thing I have that you
don't."

"Flush my toilet - Damn it! Flush
my toilet, they didn't flush it on
the last shift - it stinks in here!"

Pat Wood - X - Santa Rita

TRAINING?

Only one out of nine women prisoners who received vocational training at the California Institute of Women in Frontiers got jobs because of their prison training.

"An average of 25 of the 225 trainees were found at any one time to be utilizing a trade in which they had been trained and in which they had not had pre-prison employment," says a study completed in 1970 by the Department of Corrections Research Division.

The 225 women subjects paroled in 1968 had received ceramic, cosmetology, vocational house-keeping and nurse's aid training, according to the study.

The types of training offered "did little to advance the women beyond their pre-prison unskilled and semi-skilled occupational levels," continues the study.

In fact 30 per cent of those parolees employed had been "similarly employed before coming to prison," adds the study released in 1970.

According to a woman ex-prisoner of Santa Rita, women prisoners are treated as "fallen women" as if they're misguided creatures who

cont. on Pg. 6

WOMEN

cont. from Pg. 5
need to be taught mother and housewife duties.

She said the inmates are called "girls" by the matrons who assume mother-type roles but use only negative aspects of the role.

Women inmates must look to each other for friendship and support because the matron's role is that of a disciplinarian. Rehabilitation, she said, is predicated on outward forms of conformity to society's feminine role of wife and mother.

Prison officials, however, don't realize one reason for "deviant" behavior is caused by the narrow, unexciting and unfulfilling roles American woman are expected to assume.

WHAT DO PRISONS DO

The Chief of the Federal Bureau of Prisons, Myrl E. Alexander, has bluntly asserted that the U.S. prison system is a failure. The brutal reality, Alexander charges, is that of the 200,000 persons in prison in America on any given day, ninety-six percent will eventually be released, of which two-thirds will be jailed for new offenses. Elaborating on the neglected reality of prison failure, Alexander explains:

Simply removing an offender to an institution as punishment often only compounds the problem of reintegrating him into the community as a law-abiding citizen. All too frequently it costs him his job, severs his family ties, and pins on him a label that makes all of his problems more difficult to overcome.

So as a means of punishment and as an instrument with which to change criminal behavior, imprisonment is a failure.

It must be acknowledged that even among the best correctional institutions at least thirty percent of the inmates become repeaters.

What monuments of stupidity are these institutions we have built -- stupidity not so much of the inmates as of free citizens. What a mockery of science is our prison discipline, our massing together in one stupendous potpourri. How silly of us to think we can prepare man for social life by reversing the ordinary process of socialization -- silence for the only animal with speech; repressive regimentation of men who are in prison because they need to learn how to exercise their activities in constructive ways; outward conformity to rules which repress all efforts at constructive expression; work without the operation of economic motives; motivation by fear of punishment rather than by hope of reward or appeal to their higher motives...

While furiously stamping out crime, we are spreading it in antiquated prisons with ineffectual rehabilitation programs inadequately financed, with staffs inadequately trained. Our present system of imprisonment, on the whole, is probably useless rehabilitation. We along with the prisoners, all too often become in-

stitutionalized, accustomed to a given way of doing things, threatened by change, preferring routine thinking, satisfied to do today as we did yesterday, to do tomorrow what we did today. We have been able in a rapidly changing world to keep alive at least some remnants of the good old days, some nostalgic correctional Shangri-las behind stone walls where we have been successful in slowing the march of time and progress.

What is really required is a radical reconstruction of the prison system. The typical offender must be seen as one who has 1) deficient education, 2) poor work habits, 3) no real job skills, and 4) the stigma of prison. In short, he needs, like the ugly duckling, to be made over."

* Excerpted from the 'Employment of Persons with Arrest Records and the Ex-Offender' - by Paul Sultan and Gerhard E. Ehmman.

REBUTTAL

One of the goals of the prisoners union is to promote constructive expression and economic reward as levers to pry loose boulders of boredom and hopelessness where madness and desperation breed. A desperate man will stop at nothing. We are no longer desperate, we are a union, and as a union we will struggle together.

Prisoners' Union
Wally Burkhardt - Ex

GOALS

The following is from the San Francisco Chronicle - Aug. 17, 1971:

Lockup Ordered: QUENTIN CONS SIT-DOWN STRIKE: (by Jim Brewer).

About 570 inmates in San Quentin Prison's two toughest housing blocks declared themselves on a sit-down strike yesterday and were locked in their cells.

The rest of the 2646 prisoners went about their normal routine.

Associate Warden James Park said prison authorities had expected some sort of strike or collective action for the past couple of weeks and that it was apparently based on a 16-point inmate manifesto, though no such document has been formally presented to prison authorities.

Park said authorities did find what he called a "waste basket manifesto" which had been torn up and thrown away by the prisoners.

The fact that it had not been formally presented by the striking inmates, Park said, is part of an inmate attitude that "first you have a strike then you think of a list of demands."

To forestall the above kinds of criticism the Prisoners' Union present for those interested one list of concerns of prisoners:

Prisoners' Union Goals:

- I. ECONOMIC EXPLOITATION
- II. THE INDETERMINANT SENTENCE SYSTEM
- III. DENIAL OF HUMAN AND CIVIL RIGHTS

1. Employment without a reasonable wage.
2. Employment without workers' compensation or benefits.
3. Refixing of sentences.
4. Delay in Sentencing.
5. Sentencing with irrelevant, sci-

- entifically invalid, unjust, arbitrary, or whimsical guidelines.
6. Revocation of parole without due process.
7. Brutal treatment on the part of guards and prison staff.
8. Racism.
9. Denial of basic civil rights.
10. Inferior, incompetent, and insufficient medical treatment.
11. Arbitrary, indefinite punitive segregation.
12. Inadequate educational and vocational programs.
13. Forced participation in inhumane and ineffective "treatment" programs.
14. Restrictions on prisoners' efforts to litigate.
15. Denial of full civil rights upon release.

Strategies:

1. Organize a unified, multi-racial union which can work efficiently toward our collective goals.
2. Retain attorneys to help gain our objectives through the courts.
3. Appear before legislative bodies to provide more complete information about prisons and prison conditions.
4. Educate the public through the media, our own newspaper, and public speaking on prisons and treatment of prisoners.
5. Collectively bargain with prison administrations.

And it is ironically fitting that on an August 17th interview with the San Francisco Chronicle, Warden Parks said "we're going to be forced to go back and run the place like an old fashioned prison."

The Prisoners Union is struggling as one body against this style of reverse socialization and regimented repression. We also understand through experience, that when men and women as natural organisms, are severed and segregated not only from one another and family ties, but from life as we know it, they begin to feed on fantasies and dreams and slowly die. It is this style of unnatural death, an established and uniform murder of the psyche, that makes reintegration into society the remote possibility it is today.

STUDENTS FOR PRISON CHANGE

This semester at San Francisco State College a group of students have formed an on-campus student organization, Students for Prison Change. One of our projects is setting up a San Quentin train. Each volunteer will go to San Quentin and pick up new releases, taking them to their destinations in the Bay Area. Also, students interested in corresponding with convicts inside can obtain names through us. We meet every Wed. at 2:00 p.m. in Bldg. HLL 373, or you can contact us by writing to Students for Prison Change, c/o Sheila Murphy or Judy Klein, P.O. Box 27397, San Francisco, Ca. 94127.

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All that is necessary for the forces of evil to win the world is enough good men to do nothing.  
-Edmund Burke 1729-1797  
~~~~~

POETRY

Y E A H

I'm telling you
things are getting so

a piece of ass is the only real thing in life
that
today

and you don't always know about that
but there is one thing that's for real

pain
yeah
and winning and losing,

you always know
and being on top
or the bottom
you always know
that's why some settle for being next to the guy on top
kind of in the middle

just so long as
that bottom
is down there underneath

with pain
yeah
and winning and losing

you always know
there's more to life than a piece of ass
anyway

and
somebody's got to lose
somebody's got to be on the bottom
and pain

yeah
better you than me

Charles Durege - X

HE WHO SAYS NO

It is a hardbright sunny day; the sky vibrates blue and clear. He watches the careless and relaxed uniformed figure walking the catwalk on the edge of the roof of a building and making his way to the guard tower at the roof's corner. The figure, moving with rifle in hand, is etched sharp and distinct against the deep blue glare of the sky; it waves and smiles and shouts to someone. He watches, through the bars, hearing the faint, trailing echoes of the shout.

He feels a hatred rise within him-- a hatred for all those who move about in the world free and easy, good-natured and relaxed; those who do not feel the pressures he feels; those who have made the easy choice: to get along, to fit in--to say "yes."

He was the enemy of all those who said "yes" and who left something drowning inside of themselves--those with a thing weak and unprotected inside, a thing stilled and undisturbed as long as they were able to stay within the comfortable situations. They were the courtiers of the status quo and the natural enemies of anyone who threatened that status quo -- anyone who sought to create or to impose situations of disorder, situations with no guidelines or indications of when or to whom "yes" was to be said.

Is this what it all comes down to? The child obeys, says "yes" and security is his? And thirty years later he wears the uniform of a prison guard because he "likes to work with people"?

And what of he who says no? He who thirty years later wears the uniform of a convict?

Charles Durege - X

WHEN THE WATCHTOWER

Forgotten-son souls crawl crooked roadways,
Only ones open since dawn of street-days,
Arrive deep dark forest, heavy metal maze
Beneath faceless executioners' faraway gaze.

Here painters drown in bed-bath-den-rooms,
Poem filled minds rot in grey dungeons,
Rainbows viewed through bars and screens
Symphonies heard over cries and screams.

Myopic afflictions draw waves which now rumble.
When, my friends, will the watchtower crumble?

Craig Reinsman

When through one man a little
more love and goodness, a little
more light and truth comes into
the world, then that man's life
has had meaning.

- Alfred Delp



Prison is a noble badge of ignorance, and we who have been wrong can only experience the satisfaction of someday being right -- while you, who are right, can only experience the misery of someday being wrong.

James Testa, exconvict

GUERRILLA THEATRE

The Prisoners' Union has formed a Guerrilla Theater Company. Performances consist of a quick series of skits lasting a few minutes that simulates the actual cycle of bust, (arrest), trial, and joint (Prison) situations.

The idea of the creation of a Guerrilla Theater was born one night at the Prisoners' Union Local #9 office during a discussion between and ex-cop and an ex-con. The next day the 26th of September, a skit was improvised at a Prisoners' Union rally at the Glide Memorial Church.

The response was overwhelming. People really got into the skits visually. They had an opportunity to peek into the convict families lives. Other union members asked the skit performers to form a theater.

We did! Our Company consists of the entire convict family - men, women.

We will give our first performance November 3, 1971 at Santa Rosa Junior College.

If you are interested in an evening of entertainment by the Guerrilla theater and what we hope at the same time will be educational contact Bob Turner at 664-4315 or 5854418.

Bob Turner - X

A LINE IS A LINE IS A LINE ...

This is a picture of people standing in line. The people standing in the lines don't seem to be too concerned about standing in line probably because they, like all poor people, have been standing in lines all their lives. When the man gives you any thing he always makes sure that you have to stand in line and wait for it. This is to make sure that you understand that you are dependent on his generosity and that he doesn't need you for shit. The inmate of any institution soon realizes that while he is desperately dependent upon the Institution for his survival he is completely expendable to that Institution.

This knowledge makes it very hard for the inmate to maintain a sense of his own selfworth. Throughout his entire life the poor person continually has inferiority thrown into his face. The lower class is constantly reminded of their social, economic and intellectual inferiority by their so called betters. The Mass Media is filled with reminders that if you don't have the latest in consumer

goodies buddy you just don't make it. The end result is the passive dependent model prisoner who is entirely lacking in self-respect and self-reliance.

This dependent person is then released into society where there is no one he can depend on, broke and friendless. Self-respect and self-reliance the very qualities that prison destroys are essential if the prisoner wants to be able to remain on the street. The excon returns to the same situation that he left with nothing in the way of skills. It is very frustrating to work in the dead-end jobs that are all that the unskilled can hope to find. In this decadent capitalist society usually those who have to work the hardest are paid the least. The threat of prison keeps the lower class from questioning why they must work so hard and yet earn so little. If you are born poor you will probably die poor. The individual who tries to beat this fact will probably find himself in the convicted class.

Lee Yeager - Student



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ACISM

IS THE RACISM:

"MAN'S
GAME"

Of all the games that the man runs on us, the one that hurts us the most is racism. Throughout his life the white man in the unskilled labor market is told that if he doesn't work harder and faster his employer will find a black man to do the job cheaper. The employer likes to keep us all black, white and brown fighting among ourselves for the few jobs that are available, instead of uniting and demanding jobs for everyone who wants to work. It is no accident that companies like the phone company hire black who they wouldn't hire prior to a strike as strikebreakers when the regular workers go out on strike. The company wants the white worker to hate the black man who is taking his job and doesn't want to pay him a living wage to support his family. The man throws us a few crumbs and laughs at us while we team each other up fighting over them. As long as we have to fight our brothers for a lousy job that doesn't pay enough for a single person to live on let alone a family we will have racism.

Employment for everyone who wants to work at a living wage is a goal that working people approve of. Convicts are definitely by and large poor unskilled and have the stigma of a prison record. The prison record is enough in itself, but coupled with being poor and unskilled puts us reaching for the bottom rung of the ladder.

Lee Yeager - Student
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