

Seattle, Washington

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THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS

A Women's & Children's Prison Newsletter

more new right
bedford hills
victory in the courts
atascadero

Volume 3 - Number 9

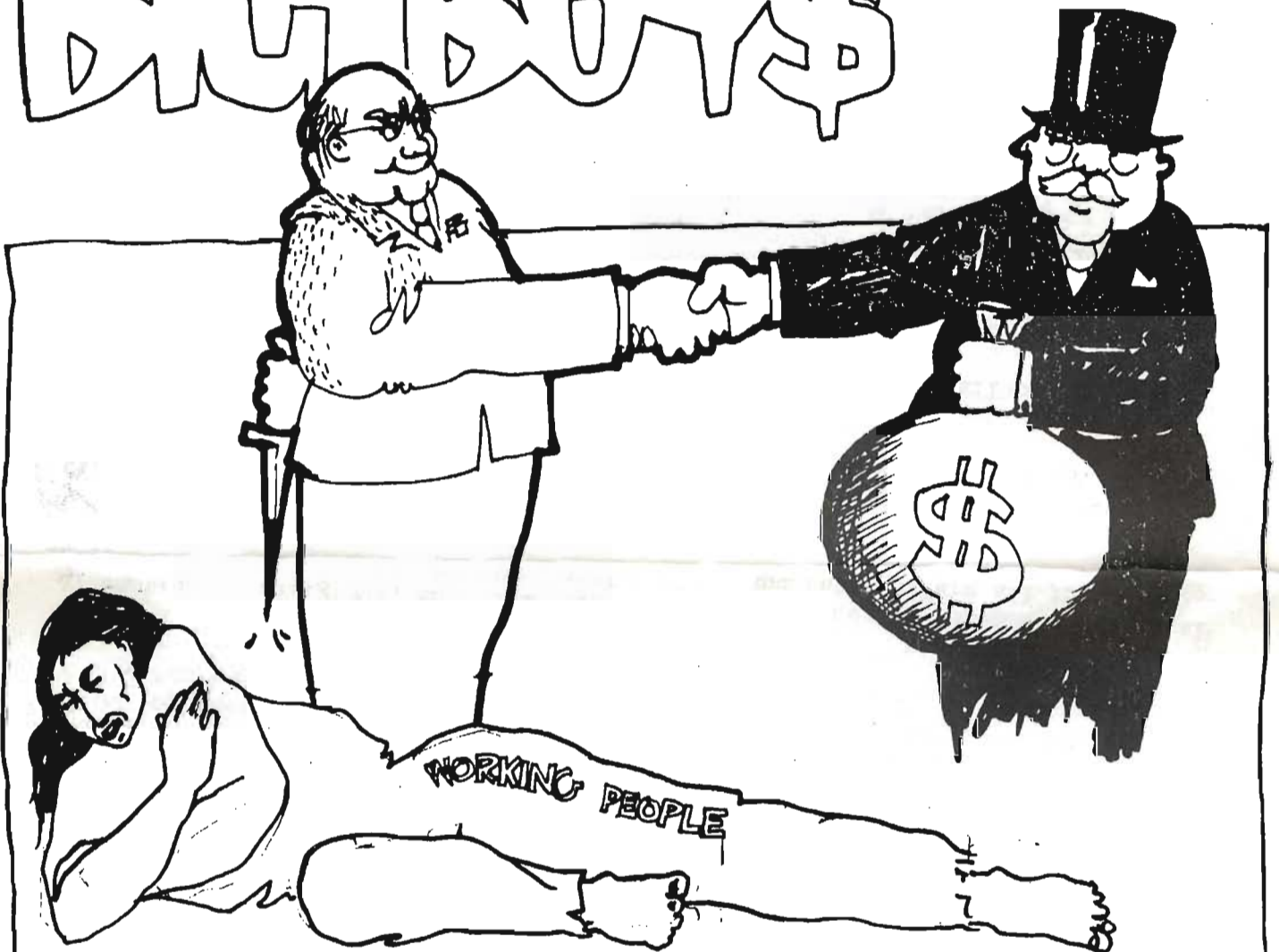
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NEW RIGHT:

BIG BUCK\$ FROM THE BIG BOY\$



In the last issue of TTLG, we had some information about the growing "new-right" in this country. The facts about the money and organization behind these anti-abortion, union, era, gay, welfare, busing, gun control ideals make it clear that this conservative trend is not just a series of isolated attacks. It is a highly organized, widespread, money-making movement - something like a big business.

Where is all the money coming from to support these campaigns? Mainly the money seems to come from individuals - millions of small contributions from people all over the country who are hoping their donation will help fight all the economic problems, crime and "immorality" around them. Although the growing new right movement is run like a big business - with decisions being made at the top, it is being financed largely through grass-roots direct-mail operations. Direct-mail means letters are sent to individuals asking for contributions.

One man, Richard A. Viguerie of Falls Church, Virginia, sent out 77 million letters last year asking for money to fight gun control, communism, abortion, pornography, big government, etc. and collected \$25 million. He runs his operation through an IBM 370 computer system that contains between an estimated 10-30 million names of persons likely to contribute to right wing appeals. He collects more names all the time for his mailing list. The way he works is that an organization like the Gun Owners of America get access to Viguerie's expertise and mailing lists to get out their information and raise money for their organization. In exchange, Viguerie gets paid plus he gets the mailing list of gun owners and other pro-gun lobbies like gun manufacturers. These new names are now ready to be mined for other new right causes, such as elections or anti-ERA groups.

In Bellevue, Washington, Alan Merrill Gottlieb runs the largest direct-mail money machine outside Washington, D.C. He's expected to collect more than \$4 million this year. He handled Republican Jack Cunningham's recent unsuccessful campaign for a seat in Congress plus at least 10 other federal campaigns. Each candidate pays Gottlieb a fee for his mailing services. As Gottlieb sees it, "Let's face it, conservatives have had no media access. Viguerie found a way to get our issues to people - in their mailboxes."

Another example of the grass-roots financing of the right wing was obvious at the International Women's Year Conference in Houston last year. More than 10,000 opponents of abortion, lesbian-rights, and the ERA paid their own way to Houston to express their "pre-family" sentiments.

People are contributing their money to many of these right wing issues because of emotional, religious, and moral convictions - but there is also the practical side. For example, anti-abortion, anti-busing, and anti-welfare all involve spending less government and tax money.

Large sums of money are also being invested into right-wing candidates and organizations by large corporations and wealthy individuals who are trying to protect their interests.

What happens to all the money collected through these direct-mail businesses?

A lot of the money is given directly to a group of interconnected front organizations that support conservative candidates for office and push various conservative issues. Between '74 and '76 these groups put about \$1/2 million into campaign contributions. They helped increase the size of the right-wing contingent in the U.S. Senate by 25%. A lot of the money has also gone into groups that have put conservative issues on the ballots around the country - the Briggs Amendment in California, Initiative 15 in Seattle, and Right to Work in Missouri, an anti-union law that failed to pass. Some of these organizations include:

*The Committee for Survival of a Free Congress (CSFC) - one of the major groups using Viguerie's direct-mail lists and getting support from Viguerie. Headed by Paul Weyrich, formerly of the Heritage Foundation (see below), the CSFC has been a major contributor to the Cunningham campaign.

*The National Conservative Political Action Committee (NCPAC) - uses Viguerie's mail lists, has contributed a lot of money to Cunningham's campaign and Cunningham has signed and endorsed their mailings.

*The Conservative Caucus (TCC) - another part of Viguerie's money-machine, run by Howard Phillips, a founder of the Young Americans for Freedom, TCC has given \$50,000 - \$87,000 to Phyllis Schlafly's anti-ERA campaign.

*National Association of Manufacturers (NAM) - a coalition of big business and the new-right who helped defeat the Labor Law Reform bill. The bill would have meant more protection for unions. NAM also created the council on Union Free Environment whose purpose it is to advise corporations on methods to stop union organizing.

*Heritage Foundation - a tax-exempt right wing think tank funded by Joseph Coors (see last issue).

*Citizens for the Republic - Ronald Reagan's political action group, Viguerie has its membership on his mailing list, funds have come from Coors.

*National Citizen's Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms (RKBA) - Gottlieb's major organization.

*Save Our Moral Ethics (SOME) - a Seattle based, right wing group that was unsuccessful in removing protection for gays from City ordinances. Jerry Shaw, the campaign manager from SOME, runs Specialty Associates - a political public relations organization backing conservative campaigns. Most of SOME's expenditures went to Specialty Associates. Also Shaw got \$4,200 per month in salary from SOME. SOME got \$10,000 from Anita Bryant's group "Protect America's Children". And M. Lamont Bean, a Mormon and president of Pay and Save Corp. and Lamont's Department Store is a major financial backer of SOME.

There are definite connections between the new-right and the "old-right". Phyllis Schlafly, a national leader of the Anti-ERA campaign has received help from TCC and Viguerie. She has also been praised as "a very loyal member of the John Birch Society" by its founder, Robert Welch - though Phyllis says she is not now a member. And California State Senator H.L. Richardson, a TCC leader is a formerly salaried John Birch Society organizer. Falk, one of the founders of SOME, has been a member of the John Birch Society for 14 years.

This is just a partial listing of new right organizations. The facts and figures, organizations and interconnections could go on and on.

Some of the work done by Viguerie and other direct mail businesses is with individual candidates. Viguerie has handled fund-raising for George Wallace, Cunningham, and Ronald Reagan. Viguerie does a mailing, political advertising and fund-raising for the candidate, and the candidate pays Viguerie for his services, often just breaking even.

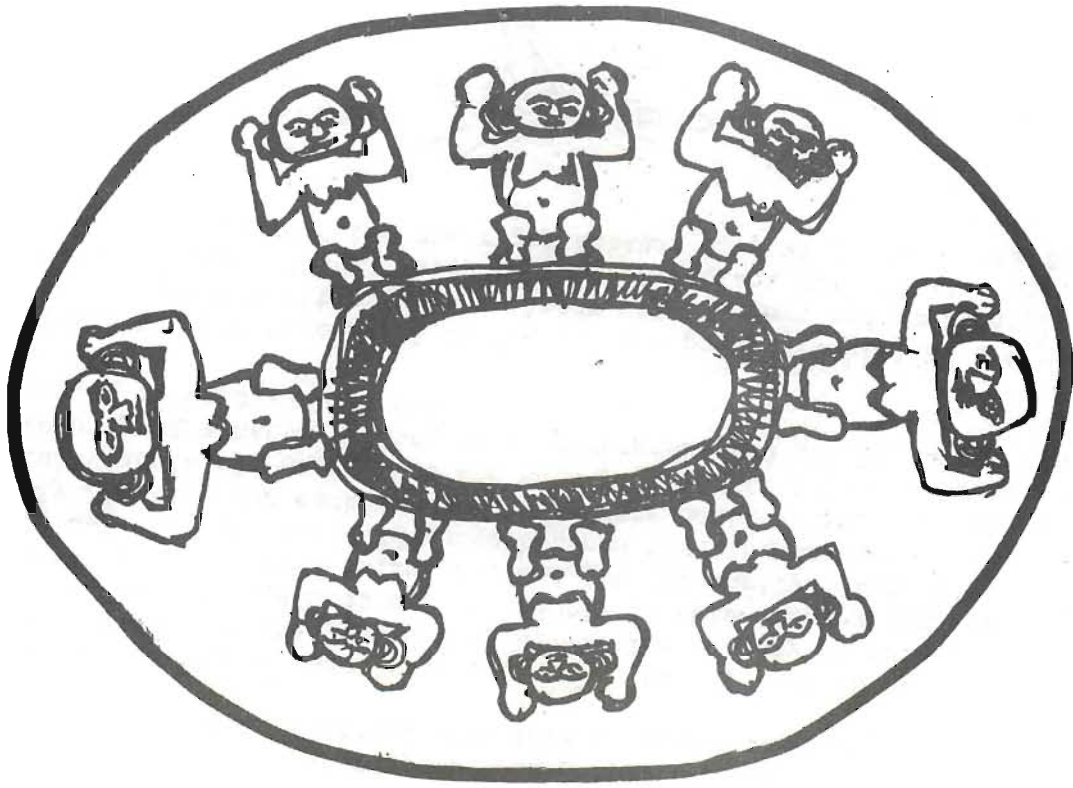
One interesting point is that when it gets right down to it for every dollar that was sent in in response to Viguerie's request for money in 1977 only 7¢ went directly to conservative candidates campaigns. Most of the money was put back into Viguerie's direct-mail business. But it's more than a business. It seems like the future of the right-wing in this country. As Gottlieb pointed out, direct mail is a form of national advertising, influencing people and changing issues.

The new right has a lot of support from people who have a lot of money and don't want the government interfering with them or their businesses.

But it also gets its support from people who barely have enough money and feel they have to protect the little they have. The economy of this country has gotten out of the control of almost all the people in this country and most of us feel the effect of high taxes, inflation, and job insecurity. But it's important for us to be able to tell the difference between those organizations and groups that are truly fighting for each of us to have more control over our own lives - and those individuals and groups who are merely trying to take the power away from our present predominantly white, male government and put it in the hands of another select group of mainly white men.

If the right wing is successful in its bid for power, it will be a terrible defeat for racial minorities, women, labor unions, gays and poor people who are its present victims. It will also be a tragic defeat for the very people who have mobilized to support the new right because they will become its future victims.





A woman recently wrote to Rita D. Brown--

Rita Brown,

They may got you locked up but they don't got your spirit. I feel your strength. I become stronger. I feel your anger. I remember my anger. I feel your love for women. I feel my love for women. Tonight I sit here knowing the time is coming to make a stand. You who have not been afraid to stand inspire me to no longer hide in confusion and self hate. May us sisters on the outside find ways to bring the prison walls down. A song to share with you --

Wild eyed wimmin
We are wild eyed wimmin
Gathered in the darkness
I can hear our voices rising on an angry wind
I can hear our voices rising on an angry wind.

Wild eyed wimmin
We are wild eyed wimmin
Gathered in the jungles
I can see our eyes burning in the campfire lites
I can see our eyes burning in the campfire lites.

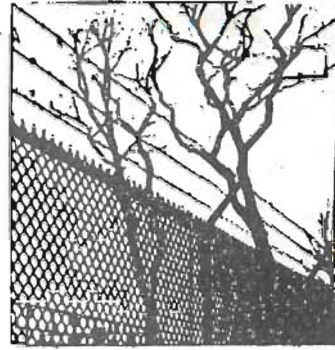
Wild eyed wimmin
We are wild eyed wimmin
Gathered in the factories
I can feel our sweat pouring like the falling rain
I can feel our sweat pouring like the falling rain.

Wild eyed wimmin
We are wild eyed wimmin
Gathered in the prisons
I can feel our anger growing like a raging storm
I can feel our anger growing like a raging storm.

Wild eyed wimmin
We are wild eyed wimmin
Gathering everywhere
I can feel our strength growing like the rising tide
Wild eyed wimmin
We are wild eyed wimmin
We will wait no more
We will wait no more.

BEDFORD HILLS

AGAIN . . .



As we reported in our October issue, the women prisoners at Bedford Hills Correctional Facility in New York have been intensifying their struggle against the administration for several months. Since the beginning of the summer, the women have staged several peaceful strikes in order to get their demands met. When the administration responded with total indifference, the women asked outside groups to organize a demonstration at the prison gates. The demo took place on August 27th at Bedford Hills. The highlight was a salute to the women inside who were able to see the rally.

Even though the administration is officially ignoring the demonstration, they have already punished at least four of the sisters inside. Two are in segregation and two in keeplock.

There was another demonstration planned for October 29 at Bedford, and many more, as long as the conditions continue the same or deteriorate, according to Women Free Women In Prison and The Coalition to Defend the Women at Bedford.

The women at Bedford are asking us to back up the demonstrations with cables, letters and calls to: Richard Hongisto, Commissioner of Corrections, New York State Department of Corrections, Albany, N.Y. and Supt. Phyllis Curry, Bedford Hills Correctional Facility, 247 Harris Road, Bedford Hills, N.Y.

Part of the Administration's response to the women's demands for better treatment is the specific brutality of segregation. The following article was written by a woman who was in segregation during September and October:

To Whom It May Concern

I write this article on Bedford Hills Correctional Facility, because I am compelled to do so. I speak for all the sisters of Bedford Hills.

We the sisters of Bedford Hills would like to enlighten you, THE PUBLIC, on a few of the conditions in this institution. On these grounds is a designated area that is known as a Special Housing Unit -- Segregation(Seg).

This part of the campus is used to contain prisoners that are politically aware. Prisoners that the administration feels have the power of leadership are declared a threat. Prisoners that refuse to wear the sign of DEFEAT in their eyes. Prisoners that put the LOVE of the people before the oppressors SADIST.

In segregation I have seen WOMEN violated in every sense of the word. In seg. I've seen the strong grow weak, the weak grow weaker. The impervious penetrated to the core. The indestructible self destruct. The determined undecided.

In segregation I've seen women STRIPPED of will, faith, hope, determination, all things that make them living, feeling human beings.

In segregation, I've seen women stripped down to their BIRTHDAY SUITS. Handcuffed feet and hands in front of MALE officers, then carried to cages. In this Special Housing Unit, I have heard the agonizing CRIES of WOMEN in PAIN and ANGUISH. I have heard the VOICE of DEFEAT in the SOBS of my SISTERS. I have lived through the moans and sighs. To hear your SISTERS cry in this manner takes you to the BRINK of your SANITY. To see the sun after a night of torture and sleeplessness transforms you into a MARTYR, a REVOLUTIONARY.

Bedford Hills, continued...

Segregation is a sophisticated torture device to destroy the mind. When the mind is destroyed, there is NO RESISTANCE.

THE CRUELTY, the BRUTALITY, the DEHUMANIZATION, the TERRIBLE CONDITIONS MUST STOP. The CONTINUOUS RAPINGS OF THE MINDS MUST STOP. The mind-destroying techniques must stop. THE CRUEL, INHUMAN, HEARTLESS GESTAPO K.K.K. OFFICERS must be brought to their KNEES. They must be re-grouped and briefed in an intense course of HUMANISM and the HUMANITARIAN PRINCIPLES, in order to turn this ANTI-HUMAN institution into a HUMAN one governed by HUMAN persons that follow the codes and laws that are set up to SAFEGUARD THE RIGHTS OF EACH HUMAN BEING incarcerated in such establishments.

UNCOMPRISING -- GEORGE L. JACKSON

"If a man/woman gets a parole from these prisons, it means that he/she crawled into that room. NO BLACK will leave this place if he/she has any violence in his/her past, until they see that thing in his/her eyes. And you can't fake resignation - defeat: it must be stamped clearly across the face. They'll never count me among the broken MEN/WOMEN."

I relate to MAD, and couldn't kotow!!

Prisoners United to Save Humanism (PUSH) Sister in the Struggle/Jennifer Williams

Jennifer Williams wrote this article driven by the agony of another woman's suffering, in a cell near her own, during a nightmarish 27 hour period. As she said herself, she "had no choice. Either I sat here and went INSANE or wrote down what I felt..." In her accompanying letter to Women Free Women in Prison she continued:

"Segregation is deep. On 9/22/78 an inmate was brought to seg. She was placed in a room that was stripped, meaning no mattress, no sheets, no bed wear, no shoes, no toilet tissue. When she was fed, they gave her her food on brown paper towels, no utensils, no beverage, just one sandwich (meat and bread) and carrots in a paper cup. This sister was contained in a cage like this for approximately 27 hours. She had to sleep on an iron platform for a bed.

This girl screamed, pleaded, begged, implored these ...guards all night to no avail. It was indescribable, the anguish this woman went through, ALL NIGHT! The officers saying all the time "I can't do anything about it, I have my orders". At one point, an officer gave the woman a charge sheet for loud and boisterous conduct, among other things.

This scene went on all day and all night and next day. At one instant, I thought I was going to pull my hair out at the roots...knowing that she had nothing in the cage where if she wanted to she could lay down, be warm, be full; her water in the cage was turned off: when she asked for water, the officer told her she would have to drink it out of her hands. The woman asked to see the doctor (note by WRW -- we believe this woman has bleeding ulcers), it was as if she didn't even speak. At one point, the captain was ready to gas the woman to refrain her from voicing her feelings. The scene was just unbelievable, void of all emotions on the part of the GESTAPO officers.

Today, 9/23, at about 4:35, the administration finally took her out of here to an outside hospital..."

Support the women in Bedford Hills! Stop prison brutality! For further information contact: Women Free Women in Prison, Box 283, West Nyack, N.Y. 11994

~continued~



Bedford Hills demands —

OUR DEMANDS

*Our lives are in danger. Constant surveillance by riot-equipped officers must be stopped! We have done nothing to warrant the escalation of maximum security measures. Why are we being provoked?

*The temporary injunction against male guards in the housing units must be made permanent!

*The medical department must be removed from the supervision of the prison administration because it has been found guilty of criminal neglect. Since the courts ruled in favor of our demands for decent medical care, a woman under 24-hour observation was found hung in her cell!

*We demand that superintendent Phyllis Curry, Richard Hongisto, Commissioner of the Dept. of Corrections, and Stephen Chinlund, Chairman of the State Commission on Corrections, negotiate with the inmate liaison committee, which is our grievance committee and the only form of representation we have.

*We demand the removal of Superintendent Phyllis Curry, Deputy Supts. Reed and Gladwin, Volunteer Services Director Mendez, and nurse Glazer for their callous disregard of our human rights and well-being.

*Illegal Disciplinary Measures Must End:

a) keeplock of women without hearings must be stopped. There are at present 50 women in keeplock for one to three weeks. Keeplock means being confined in your cell 24 hours a day without recreation, showers, or any other activity, for an indeterminate period of time, or long periods of sit time.

b) reprisals against entire housing units must be stopped.

*Harassment caused by constantly changing rules must be stopped. No new rules should be instituted without sufficient notice.

*Infringement of our Daily Rights Must be Stopped:

a) mail, including legal mail, must go freely in and out of Bedford.

b) the telephone room must stay open during the required time, between 2:30 and 9:30 p.m.

c) gym and yard time must be extended, and better recreation equipment must be made available.

d) Commissary prices for daily necessities must be rolled back.

*We must have access to our cells and personal belongings upon request. The recent system of locking and unlocking cells at set times must be ended.

*Our labor must not be exploited for the profit of the institution. The wage scale of 35¢ to \$1.25 must be substantially increased. All women who have been at Bedford over a year must get the maximum wage.

*We demand non-sexist vocational training and access to skilled jobs such as carpentry, wiring, plumbing, etc.



ONE WOMAN'S TESTIMONY:



Free For All

ELECTROSHOCK

Affadavit

I, Jeanne L. Patel, being deposed under oath, state as follows:

In 1968 at the age of twenty-three I voluntarily entered a private psychiatric hospital because of severe depression. This depression was caused by feelings of unworthiness resulting from an unhappy childhood. (I had been sexually tortured by my alcoholic father beginning in infancy. I was beaten and humiliated on an almost daily basis. At the age of nine I was persuaded into an ongoing sexual relationship with a neighbor -- an adult married man -- who subjected me to both vaginal and oral intercourse.) As a result of this background, I suffered profound feelings of self-hatred and fear over the oncoming demands of an adult sexual life. I thought that psychiatry could help me to "work through" these problems.

In the hospital I received 41 electroshock treatments. I was repeatedly told that these treatments cause a "temporary" memory loss.

As a result of these "treatments" the years 1966 - 1969 are almost a total blank in my mind. In addition, the five years preceding 1966 are severely fragmented and blurred. My entire college education has been wiped out. I have no recollection of even being at the University of Hartford. I know that I graduated from this institution because of a diploma I have which bears my name, but I do not remember receiving it. It has been 10 years since I received electroshock and my memory for those lost years is still as blank as it was the day I left the hospital. There is nothing temporary about the nature of memory loss due to electroshock. It is permanent, devastating, and irreparable.

My childhood memories, however, are still intact. Ironically, the very problems for which I sought help are still with me as vividly as ever. As far as I know, they were never even discussed, much less "worked through" in therapy. Unfortunately, psychiatrists find it easier to administer electroshock than to discuss an unpleasant subject like incest.

I hereby authorize the use of this affidavit by the Citizens Commission on Human Rights or any of its assigns for the purpose of protecting other people from the abuses of electroshock treatment.

(Signed)
Jeanne L. Patel

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CONDITIONS AT ATASCADERO STATE HOSPITAL



Rudy Di Felice/Philadelphia Bulletin

The following letter was printed in Madness Network:

Dear Editor,

The reason I am writing you is that a patient died here last week due to neglect of his psychological needs. He was a new patient in the admissions ward. He was fearful of being here and had expressed this openly in his behavior and conversations with others. This patient had asked for sleeping medication in order to sleep better at night. His request was a quiet plea for help. The evening of the last day of his life he had again asked for sleeping medication, however the staff decided he should take other kinds of medication. This patient was noticeably upset about this. The staff decided he needed quiet time and placed him in his room for the night. During the course of the night other patients on the ward had heard him attempting to get the staff to talk with him to no avail. Soon his attempts at this ended and things were rather peaceful the rest of the night. You can sleep all night long without being disturbed because staff on the graveyard shift do not make patient rounds like they are required to.

It was early morning and the sun was rising. Most of the patients were arising and the staff was unlocking their rooms. They moved down the hall until they reached the "complaining patient's" room. They unlocked the door and as it opened there they saw him hanging...He would not be complaining any more.

It's really a shame that this patient ended up dead. He was not all that old nor all that bad a human being. Many of his fellow new patients found him nice to talk with and be around. They would as of that morning never be around him again. I feel great sorrow for his family...but even more for this patient. In his own way he had asked for help, and finding none from the staff here he died. I am also angry that this man had to die. He had the right to receive proper attention from the staff to help him deal with his feelings. They gave him none.

I think that it is long overdue that someone, anyone, get involved in what happens in this hospital. It has lost its accreditation on both the state and federal levels for numerous violations of minimum standards for acceptable care of patients confined here. The above-mentioned incident is only one of many such incidents. I will share another one with you.

About four months ago, another patient on one of the long-term treatment wards in this hospital died. This patient had taken from the medication cart large doses of various medications without permission to do so. The staff was aware that he had stolen the medication and that he had ingested it. This patient came up to the staff later that same day complaining of stomach pains and asking for help. The staff gave him some laxatives and put him in his room. In this incident the patient cried out for help all night long. Several patients could not sleep that night due to his pleas for help. Other patients asked that he be helped. The next morning this patient died from the drug over-dose and criminal neglect on the part of the staff of this "hospital".

I would like to share with you other problems that occur in this facility. There are standards which have been established to regulate treatment facilities. During the last ten years, inspections of state mental institutions have found that these standards are not being followed and that patients have died as a result, and in some cases been murdered. It appears that these standards are only good on paper and meaningless in reality. In 1972 there was a case called Wyatt v. Stickney 325 F. Supp. 781-785 (Appendix "A") M.D. Ala. which sought legal relief from the federal courts to ensure patients were treated in a

constitutionally acceptable manner. There was a big investigation and the findings showed that indeed deplorable conditions existed and that patients died as a result. It was the first time in the history of this country that a final decision was made as to the establishment of standards in great detail which does not violate a patient's human and legal rights. Many of the federal standards of H.E.W. come directly out of this class action suit. These are the same standards that Atascadero failed to live up to and as a result lost their accreditation.

On our medical treatment ward the staff locked all of the patients in their cells for the night at bedtime which is 10 p.m. These patients are in single person cells without toilet facilities. These cells which are called rooms are indeed cells. These "rooms" do not resemble hospital rooms in the least. They contain a bed and a night stand. There is no call system like you would find in a prison hospital wing, or like in a community hospital.

The patient has no way of contacting a nurse for help unless he is able and strong enough to get up out of bed and bang on the door of his "room". Even if he is able to do this in most cases that nurse would not very often bother to see what the patient needs. If the patients are lucky and can wake the night man by banging on their doors they might get to use the bathroom instead of their floor room. This condition has been presented to staff for correction of the problem for over ten years and it is still present. The staff say they will get around to doing something about it someday.

There is no special ward for the Youth Authority commitments and when they are put in with murderers and child molesters they are quite frequently taken advantage of.

We also have a group here called "The Resistive Patients Group". This "group" is headed by Dr. Steve Walker, a psychologist. They have special rules that they have to follow or else they are told that they will be sent to prison. They are told who they can or can't talk to. They are not allowed to participate in voting activities along with the rest of the ward with regards to patient government. If someone in the group does something considered wrong, then the staff uses the "bleeding system" where the entire group takes responsibility for that one person's actions. They are restricted from table games and TV and have to keep their hands on their heads or sit on the floor for long periods of time. They also have to perform extra duty work like scrubbing walls and mopping floors, etc. Most if not all the housekeeping done here is by patients, as well as maintenance of the hospital itself. All of these extra tasks are done in the name of "therapy" in which you learn how to function as you are told to and to think as you are instructed in order that you will "learn responsible behavior." Many of the patients have a very hard time in this treatment program which deals with behavior and thought modification therapy. They call it therapy because they are not allowed to call it punishment which is what it appears to be to most patients in this facility.

Another problem is that the "fire exit doors" are locked from both sides with different locks. In case of a major fire or blast the security has to go around the outside of the hospital and unlock the outside locks on the doors before the inside doors can be unlocked. This is a task that takes a great deal of time and many patients and staff could die long before the doors are open. Not that long ago on the east coast several patients died in nursing home fires due to blocked or inaccessible fire exit doors. Many people lost their lives due to this problem in the last few years in fires throughout the nation.

Another problem we as patients are faced with here is forced "slave labor". We are forced to work and perform services without being paid for it. This is not in accordance with Federal Fair Labor Standards Act which states patients are to receive Federal Minimum wage for any work in state mental hospitals. Releases from here are dependent on the performance of labor as well as "reaching treatment goals". To keep a hall movement privilege card one must work. These hall movement privilege cards enable the patient to go to the canteen or to the courtyard for exercise and recreation. These cards are rather hard to obtain and are very easily lost at the whim of a staff member who may be in a bad mood. Work is a must or you can not get one at all.

On my ward, #25, there are 54 patients, a total of 11 per dorm. According to the Federal Standards there should be no more than a total of 6 patients per dorm in a multi-patient room and not more than a grand total of 32 patients per ward. As one can see, we are 22 patients over the maximum number allowed by law. This is a bad problem as in the small space that we have it can be very hard work to get any room to oneself and fights occur from these crowded conditions. It makes for a very uptight environment.

When two different wards are having showers at the same time the patients do not receive hot water due to the plumbing. The shower rooms themselves often fail to pass the test for bacteria growth that are taken every now and then. This is a real problem when you consider that this is supposed to be a hospital and not a garage.

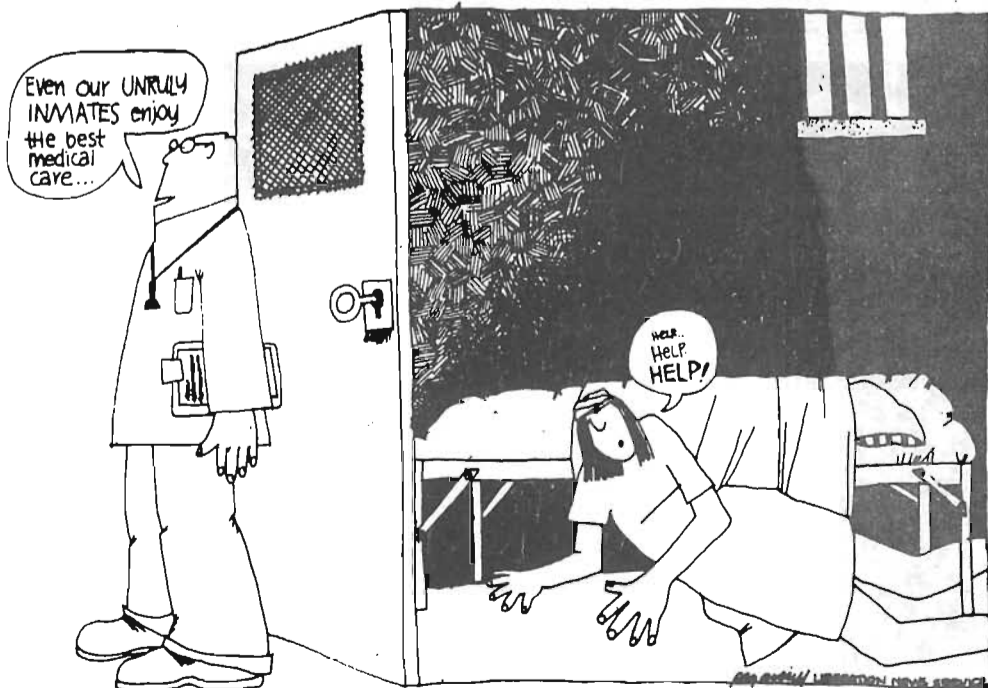
Another problem lies in the type of staff who render the treatment to the patients confined here for mental health problems. Patients receive no direct treatment from any psychiatrist in this hospital. I have been here for about 20 months and I have only seen one psychiatrist for approximately 3 minutes. The staff who render the actual treatment to patients and decide when a patient may leave for home are "psychiatric technicians". These employees are only required to receive one year of clinical experience in order to take the test to become licensed. We are being denied effective treatment by qualified staff members. (Editor's note: We at MNN do not believe that psychiatrists or others with advanced degrees have any special ability to help people, usually the contrary.)

This hospital has no real vocational training programs and a very limited educational center for those who have not completed high school. This is counter-productive of the patient's succeeding when he is released to the community.

It seems like mental patients are a class of citizens which hold a rank of less importance than those who are in prison. In prison they have more therapy and privileges than alot of mental patients. Some prisoners have conjugal visiting with their wives. Patients and their wives are denied this right to have a continuation of their marriage while the patient is in the hospital. I would be thankful if anyone interested in pursuing this issue would contact me and help me get this before the courts and legislature for action. Surely someone will help us patients keep our marriages together and intact.

There is so much more that needs to be shared, however this is a long letter already. In closing, I would like to let you know my name. It is Charles L. Anderson. I have read every issue of your paper and it is my hope that you can use this in your paper. I would like help in correcting these conditions in class action lawsuits. Anyone who can help, please contact me at my address below.

Thank you,
Charles L. Anderson
Ward 25 Drawer "A"
Atascadero, CA 93422



KIDNAP



Tiffany Butts, age 9, has recently been removed from her Native American mother's custody and placed in the guardianship of her white grandparents. A recent ruling by the Texas Court of Civic Appeals in El Paso held that if Tiffany were sent back to her mother's reservation in South Dakota, then she would be brought up "under unnatural conditions" which would be detrimental to her "physical and emotional well-being." Apparently Tiffany looks too white for the courts to allow her to live as an Indian. A statement for the 8000-member Rosebud Sioux nation challenged the Texas court findings, saying it was false to allege that "because an Indian has blue eyes or light hair or light complexion, he or she cannot become accepted as an Indian person on the Rosebud Indian reservation or that it would be unnatural for the person to be raised thereon."

Tiffany and her mother, Bernadine Brokenleg, made their way in 1972 to the Rosebud Sioux reservation in South Dakota shortly after the marriage between her mother and father, Bernard Butts, Jr., had been annulled in California. Butts is white. Fourteen months later, Tiffany left the reservation on a vacation with her father and grandparents. The grandparents decided to keep her after the vacation was scheduled to end and in 1975 they petitioned for custody alleging that Brokenleg had abandoned and neglected her daughter.

In the trial they charged that Brokenleg would be unable to support her daughter and that the woman's home on the reservation was "dirty and without adequate bathroom facilities." A psychiatrist countered, however, that Brokenleg was a good mother, and two tribal officers testified that Tiffany would be well-accepted upon her return to the reservation. Brokenleg testified that she works as a teacher's aide and tutor and can support her daughter.

The Indian Child Welfare Act, passed by Congress in October, outlaws the jurisdiction of state courts in parental rights cases involving Indian children. But the law permits state courts to appoint a guardian when there is "clear and convincing evidence that the continued custody of the child...is likely to result in serious emotional or physical damage to the child."

The U.S. Supreme Court has agreed to her the mother's appeal.

Women of All Red Nations (WARN), the American Indian Movement, and the International Indian Treaty Council are rallying around this case. "The tragedy of Indian children being taken by legal procedures from their families and communities has reached enormous proportions," WARN Coordinator Lorelei Means said. "Some statisticians indicate that 40% of Indian children have been taken from us in this manner."

For more information or contributions: WARN, c/o Lakota Treaty Council Office, Porcupine, S.D. 57772.

info from the Guardian





sister woman sister

— holly near

sung unaccompanied

1. Sis-ter wo-man sis-ter, Can
 you still feel an-y pain — or have they
 robbed you of your an-ger while put-ting
 thor-a-zine in your vein? — oh —

6. It said "I knock but the door won't o-pen, — I
 seek but I can't find you — I ask but
 you can't hear me when I'm scream — ing"
 Sis-ter wo-man sis-ter, I can't hear
 you when I scream — Sis-ter wo-man
 sis-ter, — I can't hear you when you scream —

repeat first verse

Chant (between verses):
 Sister, woman, sister
 Sister, woman, sister

Can you still feel any pain?
 Or have they robbed you of your
 anger?
 While puttin' thorazine in your vein

Have the walls grown up so high
 That you can't even dream of
 leavin'
 And you've forgotten how to fly . . .

Did they take away your child?
 And they locked her up in some
 juvenile hall
 To grow up weary and wild . . .

Have you found any love inside?
 Or do they hold that love against
 you?
 As they take away your pride . . .

They won't let me come see you no
 more
 But I've still got the poem that you
 wrote me
 Hangin' on my apartment door

It reads: I knock but the door won't
 open
 I seek but I can't find you
 I ask but you can't hear me
 When I'm screamin' . . .!
 (Sister, woman, sister)
 When I'm screamin' . . .!
 (Sister, woman, sister)

Can you still feel any pain?
 Or have they robbed you of your
 anger?
 While puttin' thorazine in your vein

victories in court

Massachusetts

On July 10th the Governor of Massachusetts signed into law a new piece of legislation that will increase the rights and remedies of victims of spouse abuse. The "Act to Protect Persons Suffering Abuse" was drafted by the Boston-based Battered Women Action Committee (BWAC). The new law now defines abuse as attempting to or causing physical harm, putting another in fear of imminent physical harm, or making another engage involuntarily in sexual relations by force, fear of force or duress. The Massachusetts courts will now grant temporary protective orders to un-married as well as married people living together, without the need of first filing for divorce or legal separation.

For the first time in this state, violation of a temporary protective order will be punishable as a misdemeanor and could result in as much as a \$5,000 fine or up to 2 1/2 years in a house of correction. Police must explain to a victim of domestic violence her legal rights, and to assist her in leaving the abusive environment, getting medical aid and alternate accomodation for both her and her children.

Remedies for abused persons will now include compensation for loss of income, medical expenses and other expenses including moving costs arising directly from the abuse. Upon a finding that the abuser has violated a protective order, the court can limit the defendant's freedom of travel and association to prevent him from further contacting the person he has abused. Beyond making violation of protective orders in and of itself a misdemeanor, the law also makes it very clear that violation of a vacate or "get out" order is also criminal trespass and punishable as such.

The original bill attempted in one section to amend a Massachusetts victims of violent crimes compensation law to include victims of domestic violence. This law as it currently reads specifically excludes from recovery people who are married to or are involved in a sexual relationship with the perpetrator of the violent crimes. The Massachusetts legislators were unwilling to include victims of domestic violence in the compensation law and that section was stricken from the new abuse prevention law.

The new law becomes effective ninety days from signing. Members of the Battered Women Action Committee and the Coalition Against Domestic Violence are working now to make implementation as effective as possible.

New York

A final agreement has been made in a suit against the New York City Police. The case was begun in December 1976; it challenged, among other things, the police department's policies, practices and procedures with respect to married women whose husbands commit crimes and violations against them. The suit was initiated against the police and against employees in the Family Court by 12 married women who had been beaten by their husbands and then were refused assistance by the police or the Court or by both.

In the agreement, which is the first of its kind in the country, the police have obligated themselves to 1) arrest men who commit felonious assaults, or any other felony against their wives, as long as there is a reasonable cause to believe that the husband committed the crime; 2) to send out officers every time a woman calls and reports that her husband has assaulted or threatened her; 3) to arrest for misdemeanor crimes the husband commits against the wife unless there is "proper justification" not to arrest; 4) to arrest where there is probable cause to believe that the husband has violated a protective order of the Family Court; and 5) to assist women when they arrive at the scene of a crime by a husband against his wife including remaining with the woman to help her obtain medical help if necessary. If the husband has fled the scene by the time the police arrive, the police will from now on follow the same procedure

for locating the husband as would be followed in cases of crimes outside the family.

In addition to bringing suit against the police, the 12 women also filed suits against City Probation and Family Court employees.

The import of these two developments is that both the courts and the legislatures are finally dealing with the rights of women to be treated with the same regard as victims of any assault. The Massachusetts law, which is the most comprehensive of any now in effect, specifically obligates the police to respond to aid the victim. The New York consent decree has the same goal. The role of the police is not to settle disputes between women and their batterers, it is to protect the victim and to remove, restrain or inhibit the abuser from causing further damage.

It is of course important to note that these changes in both New York and Massachusetts have come from the efforts of women who have been working with the victims of domestic violence and not from the efforts of the State. While there were several bills filed in the Massachusetts legislature, some authored by its members, the BWAC bill was by far the most comprehensive. The New York suit came about as a reaction to the failure of the police to provide the protection which they should have provided all along.

--AEGIS by Holly Ladd

COMMENT FROM TTLG:

We support the work of these women in getting these states to finally recognize violence against women as a serious societal problem. However, we don't believe that the long term solution to this problem is putting the abusers in prisons; it is clear, tho, that we have not worked out an alternative to prison. Prison is a violent environment. It is not going to change in a helpful way the behavior of a person who has learned from this society that violence is an acceptable way to handle problems. Prison only brutalizes men further and teaches many to become more brutal.

Most men abuse women in reaction to being victimized by this system/society through economic and/or racial/national and sex-stereotyping oppression. To undo this requires not only re-education but a large scale change in the entire system.

We too feel rage at the men who abuse women but recognize that the anger must be directed in the long run toward the real enemies. These are the men at the top who profit by keeping the vast majority of the people down and attacking each other. We feel our energies should go to working against this larger enemy instead of working for longer and insured prison terms.

We realize that this response is incomplete and will consider a broader analysis article for a future issue.

Notes from Purdy



Purdy

October 26, 1978

Dear T.T.L.G.,

Just something I'd like you to print...

It's the spirited, the free hearted, the strong and willful that the average society shmuck feels threatened by...It's the ones who dare to do as they see fit, unhampered by rules and regulations that have no substance.

They can lock us up but never our hearts, never our soul, never our undaunted spirits, and since time doesn't take sides "You know that the tables will turn"! We have the real strength. The strength that comes from within. When social mores and established rules all crumble, it's the weak ones that now lock us up that will fall and we who have born the degradation of having our external freedom taken...It's we who will stand firm and strong, having had plenty time to build up our strength and character!

Notes from a closet philosopher

WOMEN and CRIME

After nearly two months of investigation, the ACLU's (American Civil Liberties Union) National Prison Project and Southern Women's Rights Project today denounced the findings of a recent Law Enforcement Assistance Administration (LEAA) funded study on women and crime.

The report, "The Female Defendant in Washington, D.C.: 1974 and 1975" by Rita J. Simon of the University of Illinois, received national attention soon after its release in late July. Its most widely publicized statement purported to draw a correlation between the women's movement and women's increased arrest patterns for economic crimes: "With the women's movement, a much greater proportion of women are working outside the home, which provides more women with greater opportunities to embezzle, commit fraud, and to steal than are available to housewives."

The following summarizes the ACLU report on Simon's study: "Not only is the statement (quoted above) grossly misleading, it is not a conclusion supported by the findings of the LEAA study, and Simon does not even attempt to show this. In fact, the "women's movement" quote was taken from an article published by Simon in 1976 in which she qualifies the statement with the phrase, "I believe --" words the author left out of the LEAA report. All that the Simon report proves is that a rise in women's arrest rate for economic crime took place at about the same time as the women's movement was gaining strength and acceptance (1967 - 1975).

Simon's statistics are questionable from the start. She used FBI Uniform Crime Report figures dating back to 1953 and compared increases in certain crime categories between men and women. In contacting the FBI to get this 1953 data, the ACLU was advised by two different FBI employees not to use the statistics for comparative purposes. They explained that information-gathering systems, reporting agencies, and crime category definitions had changed radically since 1953; comparisons with recent statistics would be misleading, and they considered the 1953 figures essentially inaccurate.

The portion of Simon's study which is based on more accurate statistics shows that increases have occurred in property and economic crimes among women while levels of violent crimes committed by women has remained stable. Simon attributes increased economic crime among women to increased economic independence and job opportunities resulting from the women's movement. Yet, Simon gives no information about the arrestees' educational background, type of employment, marital status, or number of children or other financial dependents. Without this important information, her conclusion has no concrete basis.

This kind of information is available, however, and these statistics show that the vast majority of female offenders are not the liberated, upwardly mobile working women Simon suggests to be the key figures in the rising economic crime rates. According to a 1975 LEAA study of incarcerated women, 45% had not finished high school and 14% had only completed elementary school. Although almost all women surveyed in this study had worked at some time in their lives, most had worked in low paying unskilled and semi-skilled occupations. Another study of women in federal institutions found that 50% had earned less than \$280 per month in their working careers.

In promoting her "women's movement" theory, Simon ignores the factor which seems obvious: that economic crime is closely related to economic need. Her statistics coupled with the LEAA data show the relationship between economic need and economic crime to be much more realistic than the women's movement theory.

women + crime , continued....

The period which is referred to as a major advance of the "women's movement" (the late sixties to the mid-seventies) was also a time of extreme economic recession and inflation. For women, especially poor women and women of color, the gains made in women's employment status were negligible when compared with their decline in economic status during the same period. U.S. Department of Labor statistics show that between 1955 and 1976, women's earnings relative to men's have decreased from 64% to 60%. In 1976 nearly one-third of all families headed by women were below the poverty level -- more than five times the 5.6% rate for male-headed families. Although the total number of persons in poverty declined between 1975 and 1976, the percentage of women who head poverty -level households increased from 58% to 65%.

The actual statistics, provided by the Department of Labor, on women's crimes between 1975 - 1976, show that the number of women arrested for burglary, larceny, vehicle theft, forgery, counterfeiting, receiving stolen property has decreased. Arrests for embezzlement -- a crime Simon specifically states as rising because of women's increased employment -- dropped a whopping 17.6%. Fraud was the only category of economic crime in which there was an increase of arrests for women -- up 6.7%.

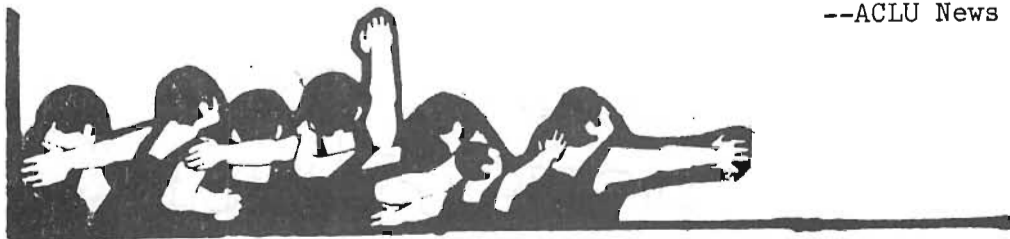
Although the increase in fraud arrests might be construed to verify Simon's theory, a closer look proves the opposite. According to the Department of Health, Education and Welfare, over 18,000 (34%) of the women arrested for fraud in 1976 were prosecuted for welfare fraud, specifically for violating income restrictions for recipients of Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC). Therefore, a significant portion of the women arrested for fraud are not the white collar workers to whom Simon attributes the rising crime rate. Rather they are poor women with dependent children, most of whom have little education and few marketable skills who find it impossible to survive solely on their meager allotment from AFDC.

Simon also talks about the results of women's entrance into the criminal justice system: where do they end up? Simon would have us believe that far smaller percentages of women end up in prison than men, that judges are softer on women, etc. It is interesting that in this area she does not cite trends as she did in arrest statistics, but rather simple quantities. The trends, however, indicate that women are being locked up at increasing rates. In Washington, D.C. the number of incarcerated women under the District's jurisdiction rose 140% between 1974 and 1976. The increase in the rate for men in D.C. was 34%.

In her report, Simon states, "It is larceny, embezzlement, fraud and forgery that are proving so attractive to women..." Perhaps the greater attraction, and ultimately the greater fraud, is for those with academic credentials to exploit controversial social issues for their own professional gains. While Ms. Simon has the right to express her personal opinion on any issue, she does not have the right to mis-represent her opinions as findings of scientific research, especially when that research is funded by the taxpayers.

LEAA also has messed up. Research from that agency is used to formulate public policy, to determine institutional programs and to establish legislation. Therefore, if research done by the LEAA is inaccurate or misleading, the social consequences can be profound and the damage immense. LEAA has an obligation to monitor the research it finances and to be sure of its accuracy before making the information public. The release of the Simon report now casts suspicion on LEAA's entire research program.

--ACLU News



SHORTSHORTSHORTS

GERMAN FIGHTER

Kristina Berster, a West German prison reform activist was convicted of five of eight passport charges. She was arrested in July by U.S. Border patrol agents on charges of passport violations and conspiring to enter the U.S. illegally. She was acquitted of felony charges and convicted of misdemeanors. Shortly after her arrest, the FBI announced she was a member of the Baader Meinhof group in West Germany. Although the FBI admitted they had no evidence for the charges, it still believes Berster is a "terrorist."

Berster may be extradited to West Germany, where she faces charges of terrorism and "criminal association". Given the present political climate in West Germany, conviction would be almost certain.

Berster's defense lawyers are relying on a 1967 treaty designed to protect political refugees. They argue that Berster's fear of extradition is well founded since it would result in her being persecuted for her political beliefs.

Further info/contributions:

Kristina Berster Defense Committee
P.O. Box 144
Winooski, Vermont 05405

--from The Guardian

A suit against the widespread practise by prison officials of forbidding inmates to receive certain publications took another step forward last month.

On October 20, a U.S. District Court judge allowed the Guardian, the Revolutionary Socialist League and the Prisoner's Union to join the suit as plaintiffs. The suit was initiated by the National Prison Project.

--from The Guardian

KELLER

Shirley Keller and 13 other prisoners have renounced their U.S. citizenship and have placed themselves under international law as defined by the Helsinki Agreement on Human Rights.

An International Committee to Defend the Lucasville 14 has formed to force the U.S. to honor the renunciation of their citizenships and allow them to leave to U.S. in accordance with International Law and Agreement. This campaign will raise important issues: the extent that political prisoners exist in this country, and the farce of Jimmy Carters' human rights campaign.

They are seeking the aid and support of all progressive groups and individuals. Contact Freda Rosen, Don't Mourn - Organize, 113 Broadway, Rm. 517, NY NY, 10010.

The West German government has found something new to torment the "terrorists" they have captured. Now a prisoner receiving a visitor is placed into a "conversation box" with a double glass partition.

One of the prisoners wrote, "All visits with terrorist monsters like me are held in this way now. They don't even make an exception for lawyers. It is a hard-to-beat horror when you realize what a handshake, a smile, not to mention a kiss would mean to those of us who are already incarcerated under such dreadful circumstances."

Please send of letter of protest to:
Bundesdustizministerium, Strese Mannstr 6,
5300 Bon-Bad Godesberg, West Germany.

If you want to write to German prisoners directly, please contact Elly Stawski, Hapotoc/ICAP., P.O. Box 27087, 1002 AB, Amsterdam, The Netherlands, for addresses.

-from H.A.P.A.T.O.C. Newsletter





GRAND JURY REFORM

CHICANA HARRASSED

Adelita Medina, a victim of the ongoing repression of Chicano and Puerto Rican activists, pleaded not guilty in an Albuquerque federal court Oct. 12. She was charged with mailing a gun to herself. The judge allowed Medina to remain free on a \$5000 personal recognizance bond - an arrangement made when she was arrested in New York City Sept. 6. A New Mexico-born Chicana, Medina had been working as an art and production assistant for the Guardian newspaper in New York for more than a year and was about to begin graduate studies at Columbia University.

A new piece of grand jury reform legislation is presently being considered by the Senate. Senator Abourezk of North Dakota originally introduced this bill in 1976 but no hearings were ever held on it. Hearings on revised version (S. 3405) were held in August and it is now being studied by the Senate Committee on the Judiciary, Subcommittee on Administrative Practice and Procedure, of which Senator Abourezk is the chair.

This bill would abolish "use" immunity (which permits the gov't to prosecute immunized witnesses for the acts about which they testify so long as the witness' immunized testimony is not used against him or her) and would permit lawyers to accompany witnesses into the grand jury room. Both of these urgently needed reforms are supported by the American Bar Association. The bill would also abolish all coerced immunity so that a witness could never be forced to testify against his or her will, and could never be held in contempt of court for refusing to do so. S. 3405 also carries many procedural protections for witnesses.

A highlight of the hearings in August was the testimony of Jill Raymond (see TTLG, Nov. issue). There were audible gasps from the audience when she told the subcommittee that three and a half years after she had spent 14 months in Kentucky County jails for refusing to talk to the FBI or the grand jury, FBI agents were knocking on the doors of her friends, asking where they could find her for more questioning. Apparently this airing of their bumbling and unsavory tactics made the FBI men a little more cautious; they have ceased--for the moment--openly harassing the women in Lexington and New Haven.

It is likely that S. 3405 will not be reported out of the subcommittee until next term. At that time, the two critical Senators are likely to be Sen. Kennedy and Sen. Joseph Biden (D. Del.). Public pressure and concern will be important to sway these Senators and the subcommittee.

Shortly after her arrest in September, Medina was escorted to the Office of Assistant U.S. Attorney Thomas Engel who attempted to terrorize her into cooperating with his investigation of several recent bombings attributed to the Puerto Rican Armed Forces for National Liberation (FALN). Many men and women active in the movement for Puerto Rican independence have been subpoenaed before Engel's grand jury and imprisoned for long periods of time because of their refusal to cooperate. Medina was informed at that time that if she cooperated with Engel he would see that the New Mexico indictment was disposed of so that she could complete her studies.

At the October court session the judge set pretrial hearings for Oct. 20 and a Nov. 6 trial date. Medina's lawyer, William Kunstler, was expected to request a postponement.

For more information and to send much-needed defense funds: Medina Defense Fund, c/o Apt. 2E, 446 Central Park West, New York City, N.Y. 10025.

--from the Guardian and QUASH

PENS-TO-BE

U.S. authorities have a five year plan (1977-82) to spend 1.4 billion dollars increasing America's prison capacity by 24%. In Canada, the government intends on building 24 new federal prisons at a cost of 500 million dollars. Opposition is building in both countries. Contact: Jericho, National Moratorium on Prison Construction 3016 Mt. Pleasant Street N.W. Washington, D.C. 20010

Moratorium Committee on Prison Construction
Box 2175, Station D
Ottawa, Ontario K1P5W4

...While Federal Prison Industries continue to expand, total inmate employment at the Federal Correctional Institution for Women in Alderson, West Virginia will remain at the present level of thirty percent.

...The Federal Correctional Institution at Pleasanton, California is scheduled to open its third inmate housing unit sometime this month. The new unit will house 117 women. While the prison system sees building such units as a solution to current overcrowding in the prisons, the flip side of such a tactic can also be seen as their means of justifying incarcerating more women. Bigger prisons are continually built and are also immediately filled to capacity, and within a short time are once again overcrowded.

...Prison industries at Pleasanton include: upholstered furniture, drapery production, and the manufacturing of weather-protective covers (Herculite) for the Navy.

...The Federal Prison Camp at Safford, Arizona remains to be the most isolated, prison camp in the Federal system. Safford houses 337 male offenders.



ELLEN
AND
TERRY

Ellen Grusse and Terry Turgeon, who were jailed for refusing to speak before a grand jury about women's community activities, report that they were visited in August, 1978 by FBI agents seeking Kathy Powers. Other women in New Haven, Connecticut, and Lexington, Kentucky report that FBI agents have again been asking questions on the whereabouts of Powers. Grusse reportedly was threatened with another grand jury subpoena in an attempt to make her talk. Contact Coalition to End Grand Jury Abuse, 105 Second St. NE., Washington, D.C. 20002.



On February 23 the Oakland County Circuit Court in Ann Arbor, Michigan deprived Margareth Miller of custody of her 12 year old daughter Jillian. Judge Frederick Ziem had denied Miller the custody of her child last June, but the Michigan Court of Appeals sent her case back to him for reconsideration. Miller's ex-husband, who already has custody of their 14 year old son, had dragged her into court to gain custody of Jillian, whom she alone had supported for five years, on the grounds that her lifestyle did not provide stability in the home. What the self-righteous guardians of bourgeois propriety actually find so objectionable is that Margareth Miller is a lesbian.

The charge that Miller is an unfit mother was forcefully contested in court: by her child, who has stated that she would prefer to live with her mother; by her child's teacher; by a court-appointed psychologist and by two "Friend of the Court" witnesses, one of whom testified "Here's a single parent doing a phenomenal job with her daughter."

Ziem has admitted that his original ruling last June was based on the issue of lesbianism. At that time he cited a press account describing Jimmy Carter's disapproval of homosexuality and raved about the "threat of a lesbian environment" to the well-being of the child. But this proved too embarrassing for the Michigan Court of Appeals, which sent the case back to Ziem to enable him to strengthen the legal pretexts of his decision.

Margareth Miller is once again seeking to appeal her case, and contributions may be sent to Margareth and Jillian Defense Comm. care of Daniel Tsang, Gay Academic Union, 3703 Michigan Union, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48109

-from Women and Revolution



Ken Neagle, the new warden at the Federal Prison for Women in Alderson, West Virginia says he will use his authority over 515 female inmates to make them more aware of their femininity.

Says Neagle, "I'd like to help women improve their self-image. I'd like to make them more aware of their womanness. I'd like to see more emphasis on the arts, more time devoted to music, painting and pottery-making and less time to softball and shooting pool."

Currently, there are no women wardens working in the federal prison system.

--from HER SAY

WOOD, HOON

Betsy Wood and Gay Hoon have been dragged back into the courts by a prosecutor intent on putting them behind bars for life.

The charges arose out of an unsuccessful mass breakout last January at the maximum security B.C. pen. Wood and Hoon have been active in the campaign to focus attention on the B.C. Pen's solitary confinement unit, one of the most brutal in North America.

The two were present in the visiting area of the Pen last January when they were taken hostage by 5 prisoners.

The preliminary hearing was dismissed in June when the judge ruled the prosecution had not presented enough of a case to commit the two to trial. The prosecutor has bypassed the judge by obtaining authorization from the Attorney-General to proceed with the same charges they had already beaten.

Wood and Hoon go to trial tentatively November 27. For more info contact the Solitary Confinement Abolition Project, Box 758, Station A, Vancouver, B.C.



MAX MAY GO

On October 20, the U.S. Bureau of Prisons stated that "in all likelihood" it will close within a year the Maximum Security Unit (MSU) at the federal prison for women in Alderson, W. Virginia.

The unit was opened in 1977 during a supposed increase in the number of violent crimes committed by women. Like the Marion Unit, it is filled with political prisoners and prison activists.

Many organizations including the Grand Jury Project of the National Lawyers' Guild, the ACLU National Prison Project, the Moratorium on Prison Construction and the Southern Coalition on Jails and Prisons have fought to close the MSU.

--from The Guardian

FILIPINOS JAILED

Jailed members of the local Anti-martial Law Coalition (Phillipine) won early parole Nov. 2 after staging a prison hunger strike and rallying community support on their behalf. The Anti-martial Law Coalition were convicted Sept. 26 of a misdemeanor charge arising out of a protest last April at the Phillipine Consulate. Although this was the first arrest for all of them, they received 45 day sentences stipulating one year probation and 120 hours of community work. They had served two weeks of their 45 day sentence.

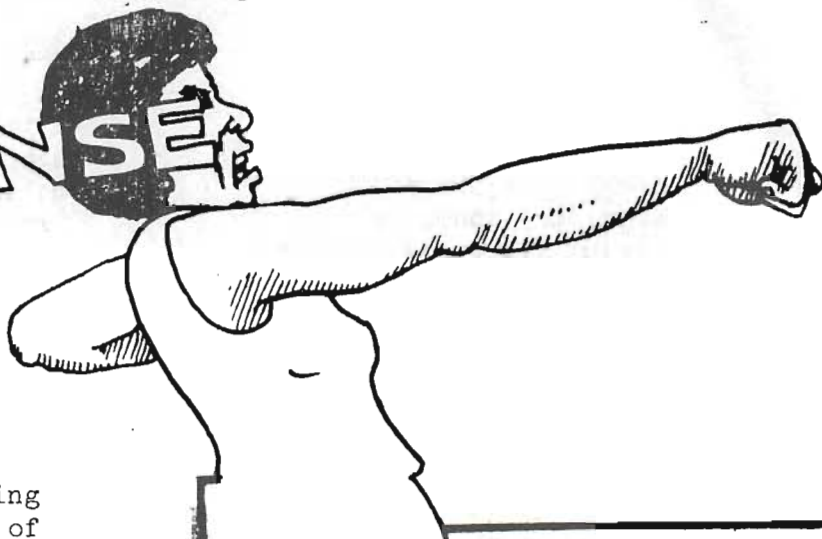
--from The Guardian

BAD BILL

SB 1437 the new repressive codification of federal law (see TTLG April 1978) was quickly passed by the Senate many months ago. Quick action by anti-repression forces alerted the House to the highly controversial nature of the proposed "reforms". As a result, the House has refused to approve HR 6869, the new equivalent of the Senate's 1437.

The next term of Congress will be critical in the fight to stop this dangerous bill. For further info, contact:
National Committee Against
Repressive Legislation
510 C Street NE
Washington, D.C. 20002

SELF DEFENSE



Lorlyn Allan, charged with the stabbing death of her boyfriend was acquitted of first degree murder last month. Allan had pleaded self defense and used as evidence testimony about the physical and sexual abuse she suffered during their brief relationship. The prosecutor attempted to sway the jury with facts about the man being married to another woman and Allan's never having called the police after the beatings. The jury accepted Allan's story that she stabbed him in an effort to defend herself.

--from Off Our Backs



Wilbur Moyd, a New Jersey marine who was charged with rape, assault with an automobile, sodomy and kidnapping last spring in a widely publicized pretrial hearing in Hawaii, has been convicted of most of the charges.

Last March, a Honolulu grand jury reinstated a rape charge against Moyd, who had allegedly raped and sodomized a woman after running her down with a car and threatening her with a broken bottle. The rape charge had been dropped the previous month by Honolulu District Judge Robert Richardson who, after questioning the victim in open court, decided the woman had not fought back and therefore was not raped because no force was used.

The grand jury, however, reconsidered the charge after over 700 women held a demonstration in Honolulu to protest Judge Richardson's decision. Moyd was convicted last week of sodomy, kidnapping, assault and failure to render aid.

Richardson has since been transferred from his job as a criminal court judge and is now presiding over small claims court.

Several Hawaii women's groups, two newspapers and a television station have signed a petition which is currently before the state supreme court demanding an investigation into Judge Richardson's fitness to serve on the bench.

--from HER SAY

Agnes Scott, a 33-year old mother of two, was indicted by a Brooklyn, New York grand jury in March of this year and in June the indictment was dropped! Agnes Scott had been charged with manslaughter after stabbing her husband in self defense and in defense of her children. Mr. Scott, despite Agnes' frenzied efforts to stop the bleeding, died from loss of blood one hour later - the ambulance that she had called did not arrive for over 45 minutes.

The grounds for dismissal of the first degree manslaughter indictment were that important evidence was withheld from the grand jury by the District Attorney. Ms. Scott had been a victim of numerous beatings from her husband for many years, and sometimes the children were beaten too. She had tried, unsuccessfully, to obtain protection from both the Family and Criminal Court as well as the police.

This history was withheld from the grand jury despite numerous requests by grand jury members for testimony concerning the husband's previous brutal conduct, Agnes' state of mind and clear evidence of a defense of justification. She was not permitted to testify in her own behalf. Instead, her 13 year old daughter was required to testify without subpoena or advice of counsel.

The state is currently appealing the decision, and has made clear its intention of trying Ms. Scott either on the pending indictment should the lower court decision be overturned or upon a new indictment.

Funds are urgently needed for the appeal and for trial preparation. For further information contact Agnes Scott Defense Committee, C4900, Brooklyn, N.Y. 11202.

info from QUASH and Women's Press

Barbara Jean Glimore's 20 year term for killing her husband was reduced to a five year probationary period. The condition of her probation is that she sees a psychiatrist. After killing the man who abused her for 17 years, the court says she needs a shrink.

--Off Our Back



A three judge panel in Prince George's County, Maryland, has suspended the sentence of Barbara Jean Gilbert. (See TTLG October issue).

Gilbert was sentenced to serve eight years in prison for the April 14, 1976, manslaughter of her husband.

Gilbert shot and killed her husband after 17 years of marriage which was reportedly marked by violent fights and alleged infidelity by her husband.

Last May, after four hours of deliberation, jurors found her guilty of involuntary manslaughter, the least serious offense of which they could convict her.

A probation report then recommended that Gilbert be placed on probation because of mitigating circumstances leading to the murder and her exemplary behavior since. Recommendations of the parole and probation board are followed in more than 80% of the parole cases in Maryland.

In spite of this, Judge Samuel Meloy pronounced the maximum sentence for her crime, saying that "the court has the right to inflict pain and deprivation" on her because she had snuffed out a life.

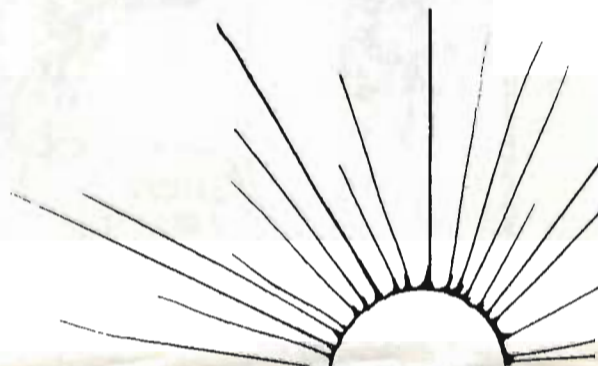
The three judge panel of two men and one woman, however, disagreed with Judge Meloy's sentence, and said that Gilbert should be freed.

from HER SAY

Mary Parziate arrived at Alternative House in Lowell, Massachusetts, a shelter for battered women. She got an injunction to prevent her husband from taking their four children out of state and filed for divorce and child custody. On June 25, her husband followed her out of her night-shift job and shot her to death in full view of three of the children.

The Lowell Sun, in reporting the shooting, published the address of the shelter. The managing editor claimed the peoples' right to know about the existence of the shelter and its potential dangers to neighbors and passersby. Forced to abandon the Alternative House, the remaining women found refuge in private homes. Alternative House is currently seeking a new location.

--Off Our Backs



A federal appeals court ruled last month that a woman raped in a Philadelphia subway station may collect damages from the Southeastern Transportation Authority for failing to provide her with adequate protection.

The woman, a 22 year old Cinnaminson, N.J. secretary, said in an August 1976 federal court suit against SEPTA that she was raped in a poorly lit subway station.

A jury awarded her \$18,000 damages, but the trial judge overruled the jury's verdict, finding that SEPTA "had no reason to anticipate the criminal conduct of the assailant."

A three judge panel of the U.S. 3rd Circuit Court of Appeals found however, "the record reveals that crime on SEPTA's high speed lines...had been on the rise. Although steps had been taken to increase police protection, we cannot say as a matter of law that this was enough to preclude SEPTA's liability."

The justices noted further that a "utility is required to exercise reasonable care" and provide protection for its patrons.

--from Harrisburg Area Womens News



Indian Women United for Social Justice has issued a statement which strongly condemns anti-life "family planning" programs directed at Native peoples. They stated, "thousands of Indian women have already been sterilized," and that "the budget for health care for Indian People puts money for abortions as a high priority item." Their resolution calls for an end to sterilization (except where necessary to save the woman's life,) abortions, and "white-oriented sex education" in boarding schools run by the federal Bureau of Indian Affairs. Another target of the organization is medical experimentation on Indian patients. Their address is Indian Women United for Social Justice, Box 38743, Los Angeles, CA 90038.

-from Akwesasne Notes

In Bowling Green, Kentucky, women won a victory for abortion rights on August 30 when a jury found Maria Pitchford not guilty of charges that she aborted herself with a knitting needle. (See TTLG - Nov. issue).

Pitchford, a twenty two year old college student, had been unable to obtain an abortion at a clinic anywhere in Kentucky.

Immediately after she had a miscarriage, Pitchford had been taken to the Bowling Green Warren County Hospital. There a Dr. Slazack, an anti-abortionist, treated her and then called police.

A grand jury indicted Pitchford for first-degree manslaughter and for performing an abortion without a license.

The manslaughter charge was dismissed on the grounds that a fetus is not legally a person.

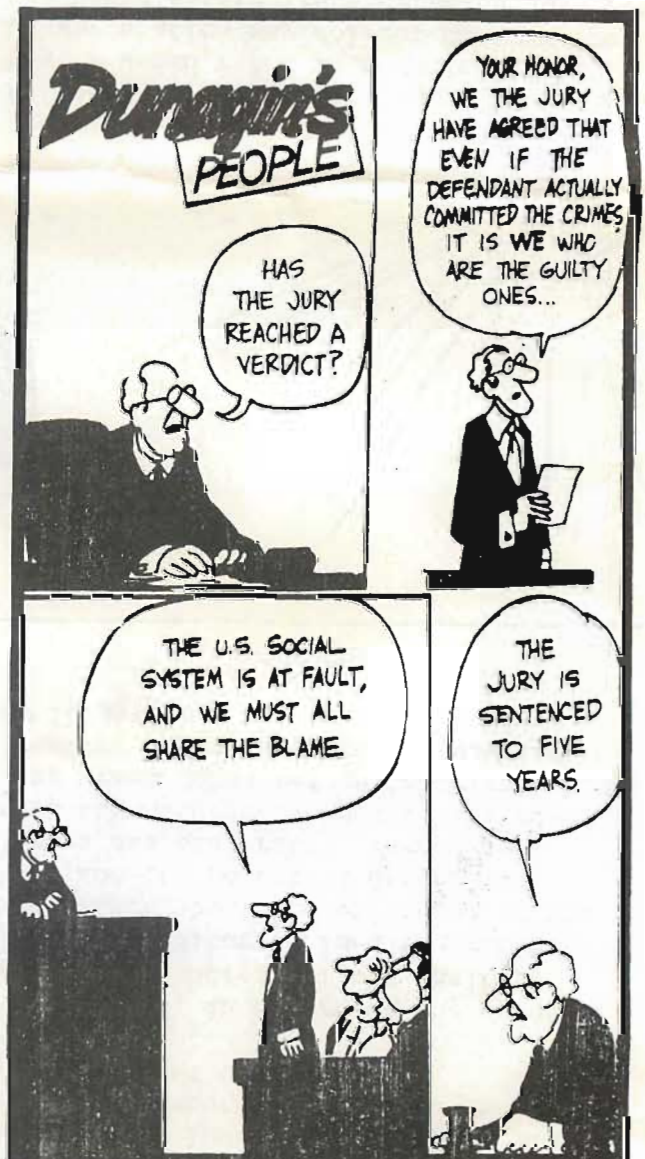
The illegal abortion charge was based on a relatively new Kentucky law that prohibits anyone but a licensed physician from performing an abortion. Pitchford, the first person to be prosecuted under this law, faced ten to twenty years in prison if convicted.

During the trial Pitchford's former companion Dwight Mundy testified against her. Mundy turned state's evidence under threat of being indicted also.

Pitchford won support from around the country. Some women came from as far away as Atlanta to observe the trial. On the last day, the courtroom was crowded with local and national news reporters and women's rights activists, about 150 people altogether.

-from The Militant

ABORTION VICTIM WINS



our purposes

THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS

is a monthly newsletter that focuses on women and children incarcerated in the Pacific Northwest and throughout the world.

Our purposes are: to remind people that women and children are locked up; to tell about the conditions they live under; how they are selected for the different forms of incarceration; and about the consequences of imprisonment for the prisoners, their families and friends, and all of us.

to encourage analysis of different kinds of incarceration such as prison, jails, juvenile centers, foster homes, mental prisons, nursing homes, halfway houses, poverty, destructive families, and exploitive, dangerous and confining jobs.

to communicate ideas on how to improve living conditions, reduce the numbers of us in jails, and shorten sentences while believing that society needs to be radically changed so that prisons of any kind will no longer exist.

to communicate across the barriers that have been put up to keep us in, or out.

to break the isolation of women and children in prisons by providing a place where they can communicate to each other.

We welcome input and work from anyone who agrees with our purposes. We hold regular meetings in Seattle. Write to our P.O. Box 22601.

We need women writers, editors, and artists from inside the joints.

We do not answer letters addressed to "Dear Sirs"!

Also, please Note:

the return address on the back of the paper is that of our main organization which has the mailing permit. We get mail sent there, but with a delay and a chance of losing it. People should use our own p.o. box number to contact THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS. We are free to prisoners and poor people, 50¢ a copy, \$5.00 a year.

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