



Candidates deny need for draft

ACTIONS SUGGEST OTHERWISE

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President Bush mentioned the phrase “all-volunteer” military during the presidential debate September 30th and Democrats Kerry and Edwards also claim there is no need for a draft, despite the ongoing war in Iraq and the rest of the Third World. At MIM, we would say not to trust politicians running for office, but to trust what is happening on the battlefields—volunteer soldiers becoming tired and anxious to get home.

Already reports have surfaced of hundreds of soldiers not returning to the Army instead of re-enlisting as required on September 22nd. Less than two-thirds of the Individual Ready Reserve (IRR) reported as required. 14 received AWOL disciplinary status.(1) One deserter from North Carolina has asked for asylum in Kanada,(2) which we hope Kanada’s people see to giving.

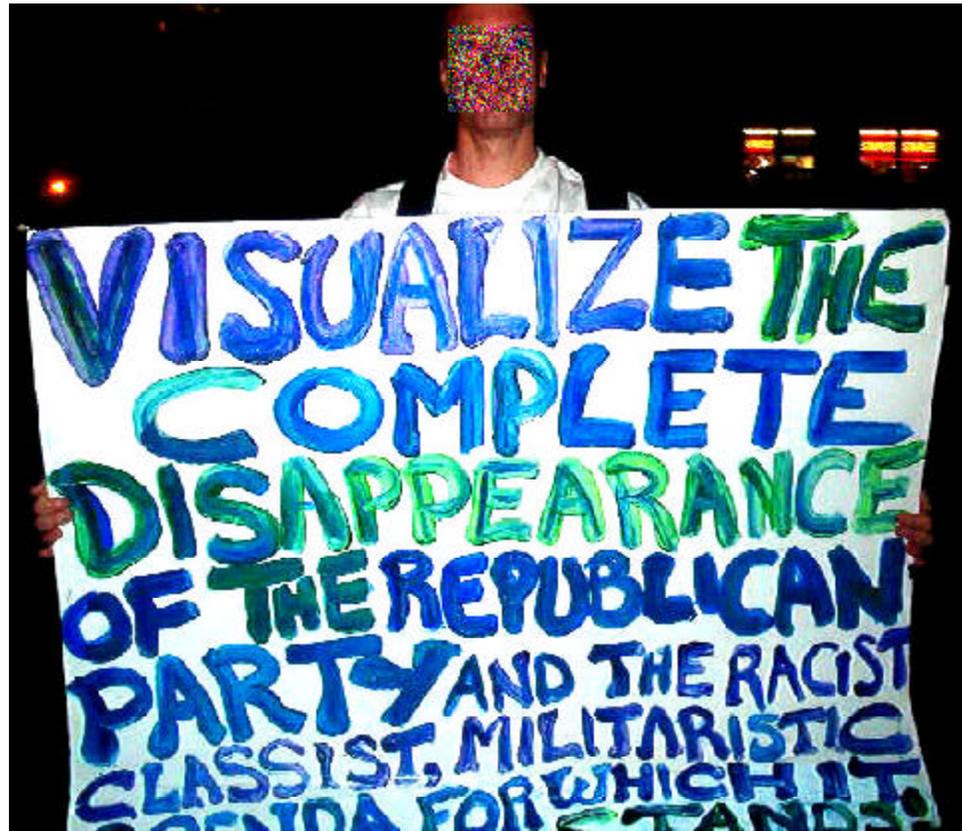
We celebrate the resistance of the U\$ military to the unjust war on the people of Iraq. Though FOX News refers to Iraqis as “terrorists” for fighting the U\$ invasion, it is really just Iraqi nationalists kicking out the occupier. A similar thing would happen in most countries in the world facing invasion.

As a result of the Iraqi people’s valiant resistance to exploiter-occupation, the National Guard is falling short by 5000 recruits this year.(3) The Army has also just announced a reduction of its recruitment standards, including an increased willingness to take people who have not completed high school education.(4) There is also talk about reducing tours of duty to six months. Unless the anti-war movement wins through a big fight, all the difficulties in recruiting point to a draft coming, especially as Republicans and Democrats make plans for Iran, Syria, northern Korea etc.

Vice-presidential candidate Edwards claims that the United States will not have a draft if the Democrats win.(5) Kerry earlier had already said that he wanted to get the United States out of Iraq as soon as possible.(6)

If bourgeois politicians could be trusted then “politician” would not be a synonym for “liar” in most people’s minds. 38% of

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This demonstrator at the Republican National Convention has the right goals.

Hate republicans? U\$ partisan divide not so serious after all

*The I Hate Republicans Reader:
Why the GOP Is Totally Wrong
About Everything*
Edited by Clint Willis
Thunder’s Mouth Press, 2003

Despite having the right title, the book is not about hating Republicans, not even slightly. Oh sure, the various articles lambaste Republican weenieisms of the last 25 years, but it is still a case where each Democratic writer “doth protest too much.”

Willis’s book seeks to win the non-existent minds of a public too oppressive and greedy for even the mild considerations of corporate power in this book. Some of the articles are medium to medium-heavy fire at Republican positions but many other articles are passionate little skirmishes generated to entertain a public too complacent to handle much more than an anagram or Quayleism. These skirmishes typical of Democratic Party activism bring to mind the quote “His mind is organized like a factory-outlet store—everything scattered around and nothing worth more than \$49.95.”(p. 265)

As we have pointed out before, “hate”

should be reserved for something to be destroyed. It was correct in U\$ history to hate slavery and fight a war to make it unthinkable. It was not until after that war that white children grew up not seeing Blacks as slaves. Change came first and the corresponding attitudes later.

The cartoon writer for the book says to “hate the sin” and “love the sinner” in reference to Republicans. Others say to distinguish the leaders from the little old ladies in the suburbs. In fact, in the whole book, there is not a single article about how to destroy the Republican Party — only articles about how to win debate contests. That’s why it cannot be taken seriously as “hating” Republicans.

At the very minimum, truly hating Republicans, even within the bourgeois two-party logic of Amerika would mean supporting a third party to replace the Republicans. As of September, 2004, we can see for example that Democrats are busy keeping Ralph Nader off the ballot; hence, Democrats are in no way qualified to say they hate Republicans. They fully intend to share power with them rather than implementing a strategy to sweep them into the dustbin of history, and this

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AGREED, NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION IS A WORTHY PROBLEM TO SOLVE

Capitalists Bush and Kerry can’t solve it

Candidates George W. Bush and John Kerry agreed in their debate September 30th on the most important single issue facing the president in the next four years. Kerry called it “nuclear proliferation” and Bush said it was “weapons of mass destruction in the hands of terrorists.” They are both talking about how nuclear weapons may end up in the “wrong Hands,” and Kerry even admitted that U.\$ nuclear testing may itself aggravate the situation. Our idea of the “wrong hands” is opposite of theirs, but MIM welcomes these imperialists to the world of serious politics: nuclear proliferation is not a bad choice of subject.

It’s just that Kerry, Bush and like-minded imperialists can in no way solve this problem as MIM can. As Prohibition of alcohol proved and the failed “war on drugs” proves now, black markets are a part of capitalism. Where supply is tight, prices go up. Where there is a ban, the profit margin increases.

Nuclear proliferation is inevitable under capitalism thanks to the same logic of profit for weapons sales, liquor, pornography, cocaine and everything else. Thanks to capitalist motivation, scientists may even invent something new for sale as a weapon of mass destruction before someone becomes the proud new owner of a black market nuke.

Under socialism, we do have law enforcement to crack down on individual transactions just as under capitalism. Such law enforcement is bound to fail on occasion under any system. Not all criminals are caught.

The advantage of socialism is that should a black market transaction

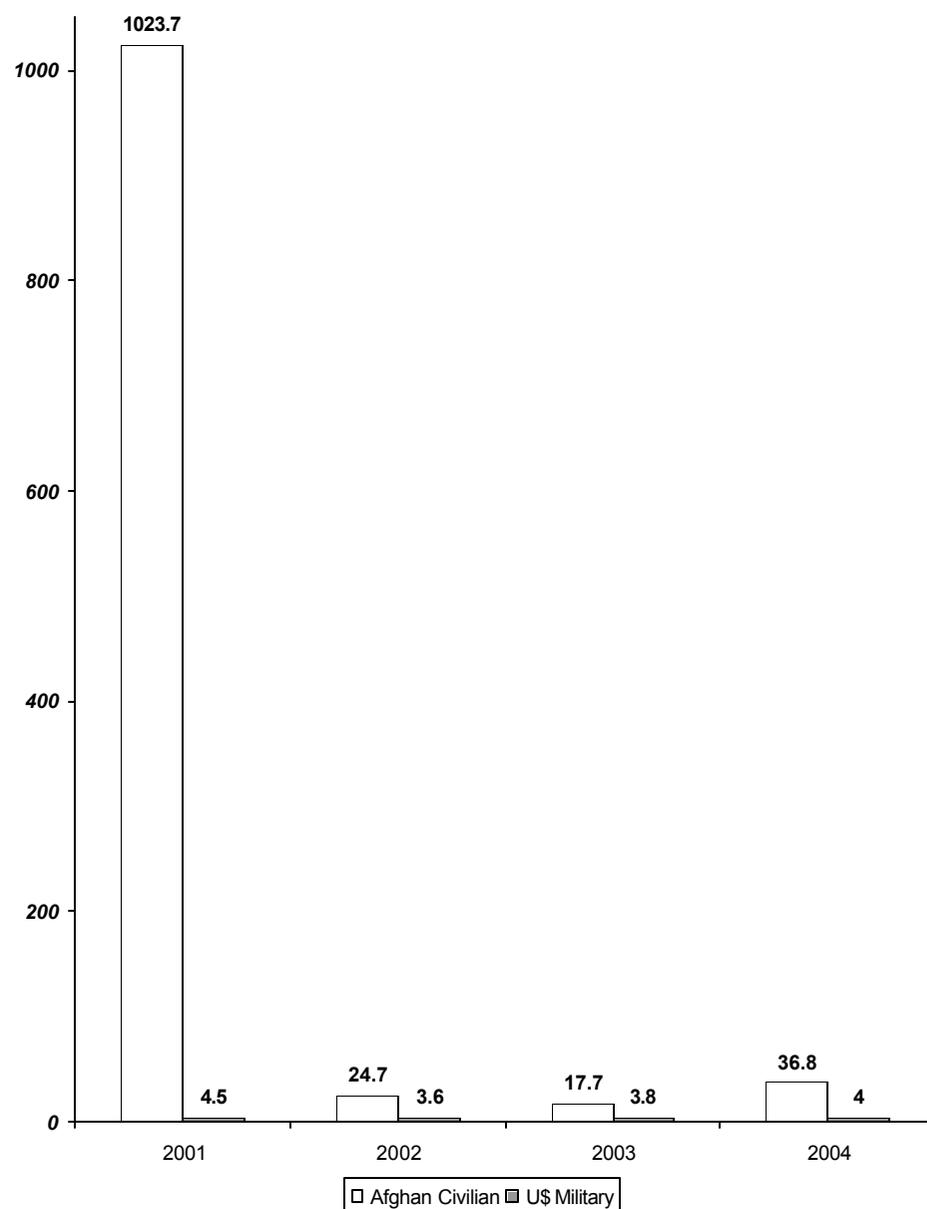
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What is MIM?

The Maoist Internationalist Movement (MIM) is the collection of existing or emerging Maoist internationalist parties in the English-speaking imperialist countries and their English-speaking internal semi-colonies, as well as the existing or emerging Maoist Internationalist parties in Belgium, France and Quebec and the existing or emerging Spanish-speaking Maoist Internationalist parties of Aztlan, Puerto Rico and other territories of the U.S. Empire. MIM Notes is the newspaper of MIM. Notas Rojas is the newspaper of the Spanish-speaking parties or emerging parties of MIM. MIM upholds the revolutionary communist ideology of Marxism-Leninism-Maoism and is an internationalist organization that works from the vantage point of the Third World proletariat. MIM struggles to end the oppression of all groups over other groups: classes, genders, nations. MIM knows this is only possibly by building public opinion to seize power through armed struggle. Revolution is a reality for North America as the military becomes over-extended in the government's attempts to maintain world hegemony. MIM differs from other communist parties on three main questions: (1) MIM holds that after the proletariat seizes power in socialist revolution, the potential exists for capitalist restoration under the leadership of a new bourgeoisie within the communist party itself. In the case of the USSR, the bourgeoisie seized power after the death of Stalin in 1953; in China, it was after Mao's death and the overthrow of the "Gang of Four" in 1976. (2) MIM upholds the Chinese Cultural Revolution as the farthest advance of communism in humyn history. (3) As Marx, Engels and Lenin formulated and MIM has reiterated through materialist analysis, imperialism extracts super-profits from the Third World and in part uses this wealth to buy off whole populations of oppressor nation so-called workers. These so-called workers bought off by imperialism form a new petty-bourgeoisie called the labor aristocracy. These classes are not the principal vehicles to advance Maoism within those countries because their standards of living depend on imperialism. At this time, imperialist super-profits create this situation in the Canada, Quebec, the United States, England, France, Belgium, Germany, Japan, Italy, Switzerland, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Israel, Sweden and Denmark. MIM accepts people as members who agree on these basic principles and accept democratic centralism, the system of majority rule, on other questions of party line.

"The theory of Marx, Engels, Lenin and Stalin is universally applicable. We should regard it not as dogma, but as a guide to action. Studying it is not merely a matter of learning terms and phrases, but of learning Marxism-Leninism as the science of revolution."

- Mao Zedong, Selected Works, Vol. II, p. 208.



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MIM Notes is the bi-weekly newsletter of the Maoist Internationalist Movement. MIM Notes is the official Party voice; more complete statements are published in our journal, *MIM Theory*. Material in *MIM Notes* is the Party's position unless noted. *MIM Notes* accepts submissions and critiques from anyone. The editors reserve the right to edit submissions unless permission is specifically denied by the author; submissions are published anonymously unless authors insist on identification (prisoners are never identified by name). MIM is an underground party that does not publish the names of its comrades in order to avoid the state surveillance and repression that have historically been directed at communist parties and anti-imperialist movements. MCs, MIM comrades, are members of the Party. The Revolutionary Anti-Imperialist League (RAIL) is an anti-imperialist mass organization led by MIM (RCs are RAIL Comrades). MIM's ten-point program is available to anyone who sends in a SASE.

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Average Monthly Combat Fatalities in Afghanistan

A sharp reader pointed out that the chart we published to go along with our story "No end in sight to Amerika's 'war on terror'" (MIM Notes 307, pp. 1, 5) failed to convey the magnitude of the difference between the number of civilians killed in the initial bombing raids on Afghanistan and the number of Amerikan troops killed in combat; it also failed to clearly show that far from declining, the number of combat casualties has risen in the last year. Here is a reformatted chart using the same data, which—because a well-painted picture should be worth 1,000 words—we publish without comment—except to ask readers to keep this chart in mind the next time they hear some hired talking ass on FOX News or CNN say that Amerika has brought peace and security to Afghanistan. (Source: <http://pubpages.unh.edu/~mwhero1d>.)



'Land of the free' censors Korea

Media knows nothing about northern Korea

There is a bothersome trend in the US media to talk about northern Korea as if they really knew anything about it. We hear standardized propaganda stories about starvation in northern Korea along with admissions that the speaker did not see anything in northern Korea to back the story. Recently, Jonathan Watts writing for the "alternative" weekly Boston Phoenix (and the English Guardian before that) joined the chorus.

Watts is typical in that he admits he did not get to go where he wanted in northern Korea while at the same time knowing generally that the United States is still at war with Korea—the model for Iraq where an occupation goes on forever. The basic facts didn't stop Watts from writing a story how Koreans are "paranoid" about American intentions—shortly after Bush called Iran, Iraq and northern Korea the "axis of evil."

X Gen: don't have a cow

35-year-old Watts has fallen for the new propaganda against northern Korea in an X-Generation sort of way. He sees tension and talk of war and calls it "paranoid"(1) in northern Korea. Poor Kim Jong-il, just another overcharged baby boomer without a sense of proportion, right Watts? "The talk of nuclear bombs and first strikes sounds premature,"(1) he says. This comes from a writer based out of Tokyo, not far from places called "Hiroshima" and "Nagasaki." It's pretty

typical of American pragmatism to only speak of what has already been "experienced" persynally. Watts probably does not realize that all people in the world do not share the same philosophy. Some people even learn from other people's experiences.

In fact, northern Korea is right to treat Watts as a potential spy for the U.S. military. He should not be allowed to travel inside Korea to plan how to attack Korea just as CIA assets participating in

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The independent, anti-imperialist journalism of John Pilger

www.johnpilger.com

review by MIM,
September 2004

John Pilger appears to be an independent journalist based in Britain who contributes to many mainstream publications including the New York Times, The Guardian, The New Statesman(1), the Daily Mirror, and BBC broadcasts. We say he appears to be independent because many journalists and publications claim to be independent but in reality represent the interests of whoever is financing their work behind the scenes, frequently making them mouthpieces of one imperialist or another. Pilger's work is, for the most part, anti-imperialist and so it seems unlikely he's being paid to do this; in fact it's pretty remarkable that he gets published in such

mainstream press.

One article on Pilger's web site that MIM likes a lot is a piece he wrote for the New Statesman in August of 2004 entitled, "Bush v. Kerry: The Fake Debate." In it he points out that more wars have been launched by so-called liberal Democratic American presidents. He notes "Although few liberal-minded voters seem to have illusions about John Kerry, their need to get rid of the "rogue" Bush administration is all consuming."

But Pilger points out "The multilateralism or 'muscular Internationalism' that Kerry offers in contrast to Bush's unilateralism is seen as hopeful by the terminally naive; in truth, it beckons even greater dangers." And he points out that as Bush alienates former allies it is possible he will more quickly lead to a destruction of the

system that is crucial to America's hegemony.(2) MIM calls this increasing inter-imperialist rivalry, something that revolutionaries can take advantage of to advance our struggle.

Pilger concludes this article: "The real debate is neither Bush nor Kerry, but the system they exemplify; it is the decline of true democracy and the rise of the American 'national security state' in Britain and other countries claiming to be democracies..."(2) We agree that the real debate should be about the system, not the lesser of two evils. But this statement also sums up where Pilger and MIM differ. Pilger sees a history of true democracy somewhere while MIM sees a history of class struggle that we are fighting to lead to true democracy and freedom only after capitalism has been overthrown. Elsewhere Pilger points to the

dangers of "globalization" while MIM attacks imperialism as the system that has globalized the world economy. The imperialist system is the real source of exploitation and oppression of the majority of the world's people.

Pilger's work (available on his web site) includes informative pieces on the war in Vietnam and America's deceptions and destruction during that war. He has a section on East Timor describing the imperialist complicity in the Indonesian invasion and massacre of that country. There are also useful sections on Iraq and Palestine. Pilger focuses on repression and terror perpetuated by the U.S., Britain, and Australia. During the 2000 Olympic games in Sydney Pilger took the opportunity to report on the oppression of indigenous people by the Australian

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Shut down the control units!

United Front to abolish the SHU September report

Continuing our regular protests the first Saturday of every month, the United Front to Abolish the Security Housing Units (SHU) was out on the streets again September 4th. Protesters took to the streets to denounce these torture isolation cells that hold prisoners for years at a time. The SHU in California is just another name for a prison control unit, something that exists in prisons across the country as cruel, but not unusual, punishment particularly targeted at politically active prisoners.(1)

In Oakland the Maoist Internationalist Movement (MIM) and Revolutionary Anti-Imperialist League (RAIL) were helped by the annual Art & Soul Festival, which brought larger crowds by our table than usual. We were armed with quarter-sheet fliers on the SHU for those who wouldn't stop, and had a constant stream of people willing to sign the petition and discuss torture in prisons. In two hours we gathered over 50 petition signatures. As usual in the predominantly Black downtown Oakland, people were generally aware of what's going on in US prisons and were quick to sign.

One 13 year old girl whose father is in

prison stopped at our table to find out what we were doing. When she heard we were protesting torture in California prisons she quickly signed the petition and told her sister to sign as well. Later she brought by several friends to sign the petition and hear about the issue. It is not only those in prison who are affected; their wives, children and other family members on the streets also suffer. With the high lockup rate of Black men, it is no surprise that we find tremendous sympathy to our SHU protest among Black wimmin and youth like this one.

In San Francisco RAIL comrades protested the SHU from 12 PM to 2 PM downtown. Half-way through the protest, another United Front comrade, whose son is being held captive by the California Youth Authority, came by to help with the petitioning. Progress was slow at first and many passers-by seemed apathetic. Comments such as "I like the SHU" were heard more than once and are a good reflection of an overall attitude which seemed prevalent that Saturday. This area is frequented by tourists and shoppers along with homeless and former

prisoners. Youth and street people were most receptive to our message.

The protest against the SHU was taken to San Francisco's Golden Gate Park the following Saturday, September 11th for the "Power to the People" festival. Activists from the Barrio Defense Committee and RAIL gathered about 100 signatures from a sympathetic crowd. We displayed a 5 x 4 foot poster laminated quote from Steve Castillo about conditions in the SHU which shook a lot of people. People stopped (despite of the busy movement by the crowd) to read it. The fact sheet was also distributed. We had some excellent discussions with people.

This month we also learned of retaliation by the California prison guards in the aftermath of the court settlement of the Castillo case which challenged SHU conditions and classifications.(2) The settlement won some reforms for SHU prisoners. The prisons use secret evidence and informants to classify prisoners as gang members, evidence that the prisoners cannot review or challenge. The Castillo settlement will give prisoners more access to challenge their classification, but

still leaves much leeway for the California Department of Corrections (CDC) to give out indeterminate SHU sentences with fake evidence. Several prisoners have reported increased brutality by the guards, and attempts to manufacture documentation "proving" gang membership to keep prisoners in the SHU longer.

The CDC recently attacked Jose Luis, who has been the focus of an on-going campaign by the Barrio Defense Committee (an organization in the United Front to abolish the SHU). The CDC is using informants to accuse Jose Luis of gang membership, setting him up to linger in the SHU indefinitely. Like many other SHU inmates, he suffers serious physical health problems from his long-term solitary confinement. It is cases like this one that make it clear why we can't just reform the conditions in the SHU and the system used to put prisoners there.

Notes:

1. www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/agitation/prisons/controlunits
2. www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/sfbay/july22shu.html

Hate republicans? US partisan divide not so serious after all

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is reason enough by itself to sweep the Democrats into the dustbin of history with the Republicans.

Questions that need answering in a true "I Hate Republicans Reader" would be: 1) How to overcome the money advantage of the Republican Party in its political campaigning without competing like Democrats do to be Republicans Lite. 2) What are the issues proven statistically to win away Republicans in the suburbs and rural areas to something new — or at the very least, to cause them to cease political activism.

To understand U.S. politics as it exists, one does have to read books like this one, where the passion is often in the personal details about Republican or Democratic lives—this one having stained Monica Lewinsky's dress, that one having avoided serving in Vietnam through connections putting him in the National Guard (not the way the National Guard is today). It's a lot of petty stuff that sells newspapers and generates TV viewerships—the kind that generates fascists around the world. "Give people some freedom of the press and what do they do with it?" the fascist hyenas wonder, "Gawk at Geraldo, Monica Lewinsky and O.J. Simpson, 24/7."

Those of us not just salivating for another round of insults about Gennifer Flowers or Bush's lack of a brain deserved more in 414 pages. We deserved to be shown evidence of what works and does not work in campaigns toward progressive goals. Without that scientific political element on how to be effective all that accumulates is political frustration.

The closest that we got to something useful along these lines was from Greg Palast, who showed the readers not how to defeat Republicans, but how Republicans win—by voter profiling. Republicans literally won the Florida election in 2000 with computer programming to wipe disproportionately Black voters off the voting lists. We did not learn how the Democratic Party or anyone else is going to defeat such maneuvers in the future. To this day, what we hear is that Kerry has lawyers prepared to go to any state. Yet, given the political apathy that created the situation where Florida does not have sufficient people to staff its own polls, reality is that solving the voter profiling problem is tied up with raising political consciousness generally. Places like Florida are rife with people in love with Oliver North-style coups against democratic governance anyway.

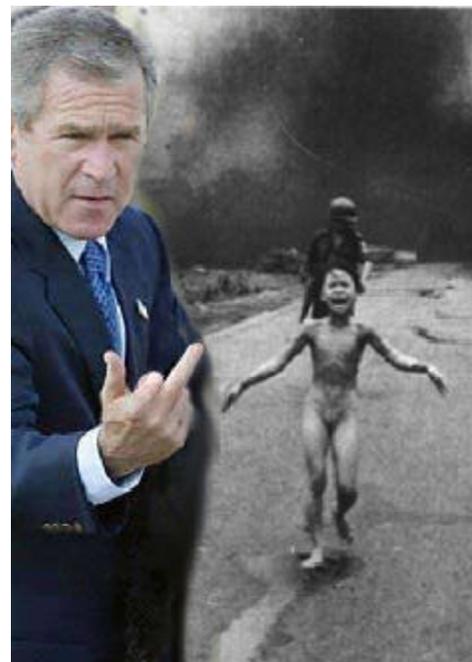
In addition to wiping out Democratic voters via computer, Republicans also stacked the Supreme Court with its partisans who found it unnecessary for Florida to conduct a correct election. Again, contributor Alan Dershowitz and others told us the problem—but not how to solve it. The fact that Amerika cannot run an election and that the Supreme Court does not care is itself very indicative—but disempowering.

Bridget Gibson writing on democraticunderground.com showed how the corporations known as the media are funding the Republican Party—Fox, AOL/Time Warner/CNN, GE/NBC and Disney/ABC. (p. 105) Moreover, Paul Begala tells us that Enron was the largest contributor to George W. Bush's political career. (p. 165) Most of the writers do not tell us which corporate donors fund the Democrats and why. That is why a socialist perspective is necessary to get the big picture.

Ralph Nader's and the Greens' solution is that everyone can get an equal say in politics if we downsize corporations. That will level the playing field they think. In contrast, we at MIM believe it is part of capitalism to succeed through growth of large corporations and their influence/bribery of government officials—the more influence, the more successful in business. Breaking up mega-corporations into smaller ones only starts the process anew. Hence, the real solution is to realize that global-sized organization is here to stay, but the only choice is whether it is profit-directed or socialist-directed. We do not seek to get involved in gathering campaign contributions from mega-corporate donors. That is their game. We need to seek power in a different political system entirely that does not play to the strengths of the fat-cat donors.

On the question of race, the book has three good exposures of Jesse Helms, Trent Lott and Bush by Ernest Furgurson, Nate Hardcastle and Paul Begala. On the other hand, these amount to fewer than 20 pages while the section on "incompetence" is over 50 pages.

The question of Republican incompetence is perhaps the easiest way to differentiate a communist view from a Democratic one. Incompetence only matters if the goals are good. If the goals are bad to begin with, there is no reason to complain about incompetence. Bush's incompetence may in fact speed revolutionary victory. In contrast, the Democratic Party schtick boils down to saying it would do a better job oppressing Iraqis, Saudis etc. or whatever else the bourgeoisified soccer mom of the suburbs



is thinking that day. The incompetence routine is also why the Democrats can go to the same corporations as the Republicans to hit them up for money. The question of "incompetence" within the current political system is corporate-speak.

On the question of civil liberties, we appreciate that this book did not back down in front of the Patriot Act furor; even though Kerry co-wrote the Patriot Act. Stanley I. Kutler and some other progressives have even managed to get the facts onto monopoly capitalist TV—that Lincoln voted to censure the president over the Mexican war and president Theodore Roosevelt considered it treason not to criticize a president just because it was war time. (p. 328)

We would add that apparently some of the Liberal founders of the United States such as Jefferson regarded criticism of the government as so important that they would even consider MIM "patriots" for criticizing. One critic of MIM at Fort Bragg (home of the US Army's Special Forces) also wistfully compared us with most of his colleagues who he says do not care about politics at all.

Hence, the question comes down to what is a patriot. Some have told us it is the apathetic who are unpatriotic while people such as MIM who care about politics and put our resources into standing up to power are in fact patriotic. Such a definition cuts to the core values of alleged "Americans." (1) If it is "treason" not to criticize, and it is patriotic to engage in politics, because that is how America defined itself originally, then communists are "patriots" and Nixon's "silent majority" is un-American.

MIM does not use the word "patriotism" the way some Liberal founders of America did. Patriotism has come to mean greedily putting one's nation above others. Of course, we would say that Americans benefit from MIM-style internationalism, but we would also say slave-owners benefitted from ending slavery. At a practical level, we know that

slave-owners as a group resisted the end of slavery, in some cases to the death. Likewise Amerikan patriots in their millions are resisting changes needed for future harmony. Defining MIM as patriots for being involved in politics and civic duties has the downside risk of evading nasty and ugly conflicts.

In the end, MIM shares the political Liberal, libertarian and anarchist goal of self-directed citizens consciously guiding their own futures through conscious political participation that may become apolitical in some distant day of the perfectly harmonious communist future. We believe the process of getting there is more like Lincoln's Civil War than the preoccupation of the prosperous with Monica Lewinsky's stained dress.

Karl Marx taught us to look at the groups called classes to understand how our mutual goal may realize itself in the future. Marx also showed us how internationalism is key to the realization of the goal of self-directed individuals living without coercion. Patriotism is useful only to special interests seeking weapons contracts, Iraq contracts or oil resources for a select few. Those American Liberal patriots still seeking the loftiest goals of Jefferson, Lincoln and Roosevelt minus the genocide and slavery should realize that their goals require an internationalist outlook.

We do not see any real "hate" in the "I Hate Republicans Reader" and that's a shame. Corporate politics is an obscenity. The corporations and their government lackeys have every bit as much "totalitarian" surveillance and repressive power as the Big Brother socialists they condemn, but the goals of the corporate totalitarians are greed and more greed—not universal peace, health care, housing, and education.

Notes:

1. See www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/wim/cong/noamericans.html.

Demographic facts back MIM line on gender

Imperialist country wimmin are having fewer and fewer children. The New York Times finally ran an article in August admitting that the “population bomb” of 1960s lore looks like a dud. In 1968, the UN worried about 12 billion people existing in 2050. Now 9 billion seems likely—still a 50% increase from now.(1) The decline is both in the imperialist countries and the Third World—the whole world.

The underlying reason that population theorist Malthus is proving wrong again this time (and Mao right by the way) is the dynamics of leisure-time. After centuries of being coerced into having children by parents and grandparents and by the economic necessity of having someone as a caretaker in old age, we are now seeing a drop-off in the birth rate. Whereas it used to be necessary to have maybe 10 children to see two survive, now parents have fewer and fewer children in the rich countries, because health-care is good enough to see most children survive and because wimmin now have more opportunities open to them than in the past.

As a larger portion of wimmin work in the rich countries, we see that on average wimmin are choosing to put their time into career and non-children-oriented leisure-time lives rather than children-oriented leisure-time lives. Many richer wimmin have figured out that they will not die if they have no children. Thanks to various lacks of opportunity and superstitions, wimmin only rarely came to that conclusion in the past.

This is not to say it is the case of every single imperialist country womyn to give up motherhood—of course not. Many still choose “traditional family.” The point is the percentages or average.

Although the U.S. population is not declining, it has ceased growing in the old patterns. According to a Rutgers study, “just one-third of American households are choosing to have children. That’s down from 80 percent in the mid-1800s and 50 percent in 1960. By 2010, the US Census Bureau projects just one-quarter of all American households will have children living in them.”(2)

No matter who preaches, a powerful trend like the one we are seeing now does not alter course. The Pope is famous for advocating no birth control and large families—especially relative to Protestantism. Yet, in Italy, a recent poll found 52% of females aged 16 to 24 plan to have no children.(3) It’s powerful proof of Marx’s science that ideas do not move history: underlying material forces do.

“By 2000, Italy’s fertility rate was Western Europe’s lowest, at 1.2 births per woman. Its population is expected to drop 20 percent by midcentury.

“Italy plummeted right past wealthy, liberal, Protestant Denmark, where women got birth control early. Denmark was below population replacement level in 1970, at 2.0 births per woman, and slid to 1.7 by 2001.”(1)

The United States is averaging 2.13 births per womyn,(1) enough to break even in population. The crypto-racists like Patrick Buchanan are concerned that within that white wimmin have given up on Christian family like the Europeans. Apparently, having a Pope in the backyard is not good enough, so self-professed “counterrevolutionary” Patrick Buchanan has given praise to fascist Franco, the general in Spain who took power with help from Mussolini and Hitler.(4) Yet, even there, the land of Franco has reached a point where it has the lowest birthrate in Europe according to Buchanan.

Even in the least Westernized of the main majority-white countries—Russia—Buchanan recounts that population will fall from 147 million to 114 million by 2050 thanks to a birthrate of 1.35 children per womyn.(4)

One of the biggest changes for wimmin since Mao’s absolutely revolutionary advances for wimmin is occurring right now in Japan, where the taboo against wimmin staying unmarried after 30 is suddenly gone with more than half unmarried after 30.(5) In 1985, 30.6% of Japanese wimmin were unmarried in their late 20s. Now it is 54%.(6) Among couples, the average produces 1.32 children.(6) when 2.08 is necessary to replace Japanese population.

Here’s another interesting leisure-time dynamic—Japan’s check-ins at love hotels are off 20% or more in the last five years. Love hotels used to have one purpose dedicated to a couple hours of action. Now they have shifted to Karaoke and video games.(6)

Meanwhile, Japanese divorce has also increased from 1.3 divorces per 1000 people in 1990 to 2.3 in 2002, which is still below the U.S. 4.0 per 1000 people.(6) The most revealing of all is that economic factors appear to underlie the new choices of wimmin. Young wimmin live with prosperous parents who do not have overcrowded houses as they did 50 or 100 years ago. The perception of both male and female singles in Japan is that living together with the opposite sex would result in a decrease in living standards—59.9% in the case of wimmin who live with their parents and 58.2% of men who live with their parents. Even among singles living apart from their parents, most perceive not much gain in shacking up. Only 20.9% see their living standards would increase that way among wimmin singles and 14.2% among men.(6) These economic and sociological complexities have found their expression in the idea that “the good men are all married.” “Good men” translates as sufficiently richer than the wimmin’s parents that Japanese single wimmin would not feel a disadvantage of doing chores around the house.

In many ways, the Japanese situation is the most revealing of all the imperialist country situations, because the situation of Japanese wimmin had been most

Coercion was an essential part of the family unit prior to the economic prosperity and independence of wimmin seen in imperialist countries today.

backward of the imperialist countries—with no permission for careers or staying unmarried after 30 up until recently.

Today we see that Japan may have to choose between letting wimmin work or taking in immigrants, something very psychologically difficult for the Japanese labor aristocracy and rulers. A survey has also uncovered what really used to keep the Japanese family glued together—not love, but money. It just so happens that in this odd moment in history, Japanese wimmin expect to have a lower standard of living if they marry Japanese men. It is better to live with one’s parents economically—speaking—not in every case, but on average. So now, Japanese wimmin have lost interest in Japanese men—not in every case but on average. This shows in the statistics and disproves ages of received “wisdom” on the family.

The Japanese case definitely reinforces MIM’s theory that leaves open the possibility that sex may disappear as non-sexual coercion of wimmin disappears. It certainly seems that if desire is only the eroticization of power, when power disappears, desire may also. Already Japanese report having sex less than one third as much as Americans—36 times a year to 124 for Americans.(6)

The Japanese statistics raise the question whether Japanese men will be able to change a few cultural habits and then woo Japanese wimmin again or whether there is a more profound trend, even more radical than that by Japanese and international standards. Right now it looks like the truth may very well be that Japanese wimmin submitted for centuries as a favor to men and as a factor in peace at home. Now that wimmin are OK economically in Japan without boyfriends or husbands, the romance culture goes out the window—not in every single case but in the majority.

The reactionaries may oppose the trend by giving ever steeper tax cuts to people who have children. As that becomes the only way to bribe people into having family, the traditional brainwashing on the family will stand only more exposed. The risk is that the entire people will realize that money holds the whole thing together.

MIM does not have a theory for all the leisure-time reasons that well-off people prefer a life of partying or socializing to a life of raising children. The invention of the pill may be an explanation for some of the increased leisure-time spent

enjoying life instead of raising children. However, we can say that the facts prove that coercion was an essential part of the family unit prior to the economic prosperity and independence of wimmin seen in the imperialist countries today. There is no other possible explanation for why better-off wimmin choose to have fewer children or forego gender relations entirely as in Japan.

Even Patrick Buchanan admitted the truth about wimmin’s choices—if only in one sentence in a whole book in which he tries to invalidate those choices: “This is not a matter of conspiracy but of consensus, of free choice. European women have decided they want one or two children, or none, and they have the means—contraception, sterilization, and abortion.”(7) Birth rates are higher in more coercive cultures. Whether referred to as a duty to God, country or family, the raising of children by many wimmin in the past looks rather forced, now that we see what wimmin would do in better-off circumstances economically-speaking. MIM would like to see the coercion of wimmin in the family unit reduced internationally.

MIM celebrates the choices of the white wimmin to become more independent and enjoy themselves. It means that many fewer troops available to destroy Iraq, occupy Korea, Haiti and Afghanistan etc. In the short and medium-run the facts of war and peace are much more important than anything about population.

Notes:

1. DONALD G. McNEIL Jr., “Demographic ‘Bomb’ May Only Go ‘Pop!’” New York Times 29Aug2004.

2. Carlene Hempel, “No kids, please,” Boston Globe Magazine 22Feb2004, p. 19.

3. Patrick J. Buchanan, *The Death of the West: How Dying Populations and Immigrant Invasions Imperil Our Country and Civilization* (NY: Thomas Dunne Books, 2002), p. 16.

4. Patrick J. Buchanan, *The Death of the West: How Dying Populations and Immigrant Invasions Imperil Our Country and Civilization* (NY: Thomas Dunne Books, 2002), p. 17.

5. Patrick J. Buchanan, *The Death of the West: How Dying Populations and Immigrant Invasions Imperil Our Country and Civilization* (NY: Thomas Dunne Books, 2002), p. 21.

6. USA Today 3June2004, pp. 15a, 17a.

7. Buchanan, p. 99.

White nationalism on the horizon

The facts of population growth are pointing to serious cranky white nationalist outbursts in the coming years. The strategy of Patrick Buchanan is out in the open in his book *The Death of the West*: “Only a social counterrevolution or a religious awakening can turn the West around before a falling birthrate closes off the last exit ramp and rings down the curtain on Western Man’s long-running play. But not a sign of either can be seen on the horizon.”(1) In order to save “Western civilization” from population suicide, Buchanan has become the official theorist of the Amerikkkan trailer trash. “Go Bubba, go! Get your honey to squeeze out another rug-rat!” Talk about the barbarians from within!

He has seen correctly that the demographic trend toward aging disproportionately affects the imperialist countries and that means the “white race.” Repeatedly he says that he has to admit that the Western culture he cherishes may be doomed.(1)

Buchanan does not give any reason for why he wants to preserve the white race or why Third World people cannot take up Western culture, in which he counts Marxism. Instead, knowing full well that demographic tides are impossible for anybody to overturn, Buchanan calls for a “shoot-for-the-moon” strategy—an extremely dangerous one with all the main rules written by Hitler.

Buchanan argues a la Hitler that cosmopolitan elites have ruined the West with their decadent pornographic culture(2) that causes wimmin to enjoy life and not raise children in stable families. (Buchanan’s argument is so out-of-date and old-fashioned, most people today won’t see that it is from Hitler’s book *Mein Kampf* and earlier reactionary works. In other words it may seem that what Buchanan is saying is even “novel.”)

Buchanan recognizes full well that the way things are there will be no one to pay the social security pensions when all the whites of the current generation retire in the United States and Europe. (This might be one reason he made the observation that he could tolerate a 90% tax for some tax brackets.(3)) Despite the facts about the danger to pensions in the imperialist countries, Buchanan actually wants to halt immigration, not increase it! In other words, he sees things getting out of wack soon and he wants to make it worse.

Buchanan also raises hoary stories about politically correct people run amok and treating Blacks too liberally.(4) They need to be under more control Buchanan says; even though the prisons already hold a higher percentage of Blacks than Stalin’s peacetime prisons held of Soviet citizens—something Nixon propagandist Buchanan and the like never mention anywhere.

We should be clear that even rich retired people with many assets can face a life of ruin without immigration from the

Third World. What MIM is calling for is difficult for whites to see but not entirely opposed to their interests and even Buchanan obliquely acknowledges it.

Money is worthless with no one to hire or with a ruinous inflation caused by too few workers to produce goods and services. (This is another reason that commodity fetishism is just that—fetishism. Having big numbers in the bank account mean nothing if the demographics are not right.)

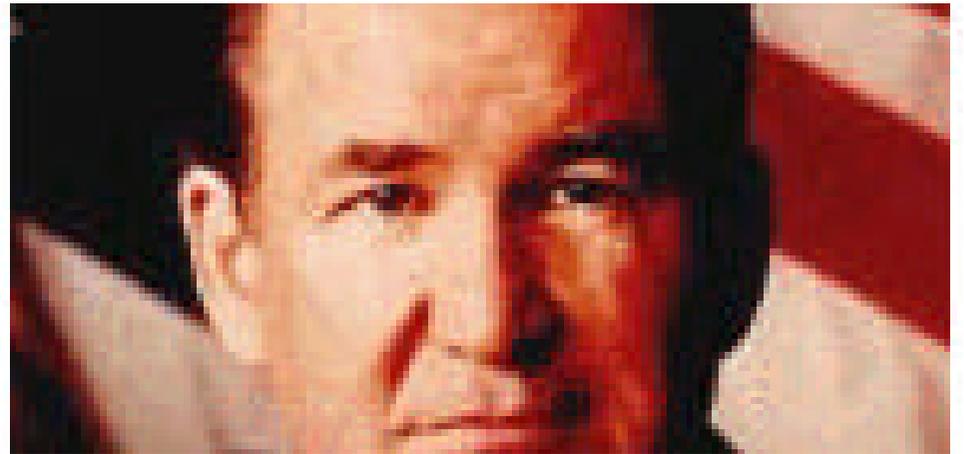
In other words, Buchanan is betting that 25 years from now, imperialist governments will not raise taxes sufficiently. He won’t be too sad if social security disappears. That’s part of “socialism” in the baby-talk of this sort of reactionary anyway. This is the kind of guy who sees millions die in Russia from diminishing pensions and alcoholism and without batting an eyelash says the sacrifice is necessary for capitalist success hundreds of years in the Russian future.

Drawing a comparison with ancient empires destroyed by “barbarians” from within, Buchanan says that immigrants from the Third World do not assimilate into Western culture. They move in and simply reproduce without changing or improving, he says. Of course he points to the 911 hijackers as an example of immigration, even though the white nation he loves arrived by immigration too.(5)

Buchanan calls on the whites to go back to the Christian family to reproduce and do without all the disruption caused by immigration.(6) With their social services being higher than in the United States, the Europeans according to Buchanan are in deeper trouble than the Americans, and this is part of the reason that Buchanan claims to want to withdraw from Europe and empire generally. Maybe he sees the writing on the wall and wants to give fascism a chance to rise again in Europe. In any case, Buchanan says Europe would have to allow in 1.4 billion Third World emigrants in order to maintain the present level of social-services in Europe in 2050.(7) For this reason, he says Europe is headed to being a “Third World continent.”

To all the short-sighted labor bureaucrats and labor aristocrats attacking NAFTA and GATT agreements because they allow Third World workers to “steal our jobs,” MIM points out that Pat Buchanan and the KKK agree with you.

It is very clear that Buchanan intends fully to unite with the Naders and social-democrats to stop the stealing of “our jobs.” “As the Battle of Seattle showed, the passion and fire, be it laborite, Naderite or Far Right, were outside the hall in the street.”(8) As far as MIM is concerned, we’ve been down that road before of idiotic racist social-democrats paving the way to fascist victory. What Buchanan is talking about underscores the urgency of taking up the MIM line and



only the MIM line in the imperialist countries. The rare internationalist social-democrats who want reforms to open the borders, reduce tariffs on the Third World and internationalize any agricultural subsidies are our friends. The majority of social-democrats are the conscious and unconscious instigators of fascism. They demand high levels of social services while undercutting the means for paying for them.

With luck, Buchanan is thinking that there won’t be enough workers to pay for social security, so the welfare state will come tumbling down. With bad luck from Buchanan’s point of view, taxes will go up very high to cover the welfare state, but at least the taxes will provide a deterrent to immigration these white nationalists think. Working for the Republican Party most of his life with a mantra of cutting taxes and big government, Buchanan has offered a glimpse of unity with the taxers if he can save Christianity and the racial composition of the imperialist countries.

Perhaps there can be a major threat to pensions and a rise in taxes without a social explosion landing in fascism. MIM would not bet on it in the imperialist countries, which is another reason to favor the MIM platform to open the borders and work on getting white people used to it. While Buchanan is a simple-minded and open enemy, in many ways the European social-democratic nationalist or racist is the worst enemy. The racist social-democrat demands services while also opposing immigration, thereby creating the worst sort of economic crisis that plays right into fascist hands when the public becomes frustrated for social and economic reasons it does not understand.

As MIM has said in *Imperialism and Its Class Structure* in 1997 if there is one concession that makes sense to make to the labor aristocracy, it is their pensions in return for political quietude. The MIM line championing the Third World proletariat and opening the borders of imperialist countries—if carried out quickly enough—can provide a sufficient basis to pay a pension to retiring imperialist country workers. One has to let in immigrants now if they are to have children to support others in old age. With the line of Buchanan or Nader, the economic or tax basis for support of social

security will be very much in doubt.

It will be far better to handle some insecurities about jobs now than to face a crisis of social security and stupid white nationalists complaining about that and a sudden influx of immigrants later. The whites need to prepare themselves now for the MIM line on the Third World and stop borrowing money from the world to attack Third World countries, which are going to be providing the economic well-being of elderly whites if anyone does.

Instead of bowing to economic necessity, Buchanan makes it clear that he seeks to impose minority rule: “Western civilization and culture are superior. One-person, one-vote democracy is not an inviolate principle. . . On a global basis it will not do. With 4 percent of the world’s people and 30 percent of its economic wealth and military power, Americans should be the last people on earth to be babbling nonsense about the equality of nations.”(9)

If the species survives weapons of mass destruction and environmental destruction by 2050 and socialism does not seize the world by then, there may well be a competition in reformist internationalism instead of nationalism. More advanced countries will realize that it makes sense to get along with large numbers of people including peoples who are having many children. The narrow-minded will fall by the economic wayside.

Notes:

1. Patrick J. Buchanan, *The Death of the West: How Dying Populations and Immigrant Invasions Imperil Our Country and Civilization* (NY: Thomas Dunne Books, 2002), p. 47. “The rise of feminism spells the death of the nation and the end of the West.” *Ibid.*, p. 42. “The death of the West may already be baked in the cake.” *Ibid.*, p. 231. “Candor compels one to admit that the prognosis is not good.” *Ibid.*, p. 264.

2. *Ibid.*, e.g., p. 84.

3. *Ibid.*, p. 37.

4. *Ibid.*, e.g., p. 70.

5. *Ibid.*, p. 235.

6. See for example Buchanan’s call for religious war to stop gay marriage: <http://www.theamericancause.org/patyesvirginia.htm>

7. *Ibid.*, p. 22.

8. *Ibid.*, p. 240.

9. *Ibid.*, p. 246.

So why not get involved in the ‘culture wars’?

According to Nixon and Reagan servant Patrick Buchanan, lifestyle politics and culture warfare have succeeded where Lenin failed in his direct assault on capitalist state power and organization. At the same time, Buchanan makes the case that demographic and cultural changes will end up being truly revolutionary.

So our readers may wonder: why not get on the sex-drugs-and-rock’n’roll bandwagon? If Buchanan is afraid of the lifestyle revolution, then it cannot be all bad.

However, MIM starts from the premise that lifestyle is not politics. What Buchanan is talking about happens because of underlying economic and demographic factors. Preaching about them does not work.

The advance of technology is responsible for some changes. It is futile to preach against contraception such as the pill or the “morning-after pill.” In such matters the language of “choices” is bound to triumph.

It is also backward to lust for the days when a mother could be sure more than half her children would die before growing up just from the normal course of infectious disease and hunger. Trying to undo these changes will only produce insane social movements akin to Hitler’s—doomed no matter how determined.

When wimmin started going to college en masse that created a basis for temporary sexual relations before career and family settled in. To oppose college because of that is also backward and hopeless. People want to be more educated. While other people are having fun in society, it is also impossible to see any value in discriminating against gays. MIM has actively opposed discrimination against gays since before its foundation with its current name in 1984.

In these subjects, Buchanan would label us “cultural revolutionaries” lumped in with bourgeois reactionaries such as Hillary Clinton. To add insult to injury,

MIM would not favor any censorship of the arts or media including pornography that Buchanan could come up with under capitalism. It would inevitably aim at the proletariat and oppressed nationalities while campaign contributors would obtain monopolies in pornography production, just as now the “oldest profession” is tied up with bribery of municipal governments everywhere.

Nonetheless, we oppose pornography under socialism and for party members we expect monogamy. We’re also for banning reactionary artistic works, not just as bad influences on children but for all of society. The key is that this must be done without any eye toward profit or business competition whatsoever and of course that means socialism.

For MIM, humyn advancement is not a story of culture and passing it on through

the generations. It is about economic and social organization first of all. If the mode of production is advanced, the culture built on top of it will be too. In

fact, Buchanan’s ideas are throwbacks to more economically and technologically backward days—not days when cloning and test-tube babies are already on the horizon. For that matter if Buchanan is so sure that Western culture is so superior, it will find a way to transmit itself to other peoples.

In the struggle toward socialism or to adjust to future changes, the labor aristocracy of the West has a choice. It can continue with its Pavlov-dog type response backing nationalist politicians like Buchanan because of past economic rewards for backing wars for plunder or super-exploitation of immigrants or the labor aristocracy can realize that the bad ole’ days for wimmin are gone. There is no reason wimmin should be baby factories especially in rich countries and there is no shortage of population in projections up to 2050. What is important is not to produce more people but for the existing people to enter into harmonious relations.

NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION

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succeed, there is no place to spend the money. Large cash transactions are criminal under socialism. It is the fact that capitalism makes so many luxury goods and properties available for cash that makes the black market attractive. It is especially funny to see people like Donald Rumsfeld complain about northern Korea selling nuclear commodities while he is heading up agencies pumping out millions of dollars of capitalist propaganda to northern Korea and elsewhere.

To those who say the economy would collapse without the same motivations of luxury goods and property available to the rich, we would ask them who they are kidding. They should see what will happen

to the economy when a few nukes go off in a few cities. If we all had to live under economic conditions similar to Stalin’s Soviet Union, before we mastered improving living standards under socialism, it would still be better than the current capitalist alternative which guarantees nuclear and other disasters, as even one of the world’s top investors named Warren Buffet has already admitted.(2)

Notes:

1. <http://www.cnn.com/2004/ALLPOLITICS/09/30/debate.transcript.1/index.html>
2. <http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/mn/html/mn260.html>

Pilger

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government, describing the apartheid-like conditions and repressive legislation.

On September 16th Pilger published an article in the New Statesman entitled “The most important terrorism is ‘ours.’” In it he condemns American and British terrorism in Iraq, Israeli terrorism in Palestine, and Russian terrorism in Chechnya. Reporting like this makes a valuable contribution to anti-imperialist struggles around the world. MIM takes

things further, not only exposing imperialist terrorism, but also supporting national liberation struggles around the world, and stating clearly the need to overthrow the corrupt and rotting system of imperialism in the struggle towards communist society.

Notes:

1. The New Statesman claims to be socialist at best is just a liberal mouthpiece for the left wing of the Labour party and some liberal revisionists using the term “socialism.”
2. “Bush v Kerry: The Fake Debate,” pilger.carlton.com/print/133343.

What is militarism?

Militarism is war-mongering or the advocacy of war or actual carrying out of war or its preparations.

While true pacifists condemn all violence as equally repugnant, we Maoists do not consider self-defense or the violence of oppressed nations against imperialism to be militarism. Militarism is mostly caused by imperialism at this time. Imperialism is the highest stage of capitalism—seen in countries like the United States, England and France.

Under capitalism, capitalists often profit from war or its preparations. Yet, it is the proletariat that does the dying in the wars. The proletariat wants a system in which people do not have self-interest on the side of war-profiteering or war for imperialism.

Militarism is one of the most important reasons to overthrow capitalism. It even infects oppressed nations and causes them to fight each other.

It is important not to let capitalists risk our lives in their ideas about war and peace or the environment. They have already had two world wars admitted by themselves in the last 100 years and they are conducting a third right now against the Third World.

Even a one percent annual chance of nuclear war destruction caused by capitalist aggressiveness or “greed” as the people call it should not be tolerated by the proletariat. After playing Russian Roulette (in which the bullet chamber is different each time and not related at all to the one that came up in previous spins) with 100 chambers and one bullet, the chance of survival is only 60.5% after 50 turns. In other words, a seemingly small one percent annual chance of world war means eventual doom. After 100 years or turns of Russian Roulette, the chances of survival are only 36.6%. After 200 years, survival has only a 13.4% chance.



Spreading what?

From a protestor at the Republican National Convention 2004. Anyone who thinks the United States can spread freedom needs to think again.

'Land of the free' censors Korea

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the weapons inspections in Iraq had helped Bush attack Iraq later. These weapons inspectors were supposed to be doing their job and instead Americans used them to prepare an invasion better. People like Watts should be talking about how Amerika's treatment of Saddam Hussein is likely to make future cooperation with proletarian internationalist weapons inspections more difficult globally. Instead, Watts and others play a lazy and self-indulgent blame-the-victim game.

No media freedom

As Arnold Schwarzenegger proved in his speech to the Republican National Convention, it is possible to tell Americans anything about Soviet tanks(2) and they will believe it. He even proved that it was possible to whitewash Austrian Nazis such as his father with his pabulum about "Soviet tanks" which drove his father's party from power.

Schwarzenegger also rehabilitated Richard Nixon, who Schwarzenegger cited as the first to steer him to the Republican Party. Jumping on the bandwagon, Rush Limbaugh and Sean Hannity on the radio gave Schwarzenegger their "conservative" blessings and said his speech was not at all "moderate"—no kidding! Schwarzenegger lived in the British occupation zone, at a time when it was hard to travel out of zones, but we do not doubt that his father told him the British were Soviet agents or some such similar Nazi story—exactly proving why the German and Austrian people needed to be occupied in the first place. Hitler's feelings that non-Nazi Austria was in the hands of Jews and "socialists" may explain why Schwarzenegger calls Austria "socialist" even when no politicians calling themselves "socialist"

are in power—including when the "Terminator" left Austria.

If it is possible to say such things about Austria, it goes without saying that writers such as Cecil Adams writing in February 2004 are going to use northern Korea as a reference point for discussion of the prison state. Without any facts or references to facts, it is possible to assert in the United States as Cecil Adams does that northern Korea is maybe the worst prison-state in the world. Likewise, when northern Korean Kang Chol-hwan escaped to the "West," he threw out some made-for-TV and newspaper lines of the type that Americans eat up by reflex, Schwarzenegger-style. "If you don't want to believe us, go to the North [northern Korea—ed.]"(3) If only it were so easy.

Kang Chol-hwan said this despite the fact that it was illegal by American and southern Korean laws for Americans and southern Koreans to go to northern Korea. Southern Koreans had been invited repeatedly to visit the "North," only to face the threat of prison sentences and torture in the "South." So, for a propagandist to tell people to "go to the North" and "see for yourself" is just plain stupid. Maybe such a line "go see for yourself" was appropriate in one context somewhere in the Cold War, but repeating the slogan with assurance that it will conjure magic effects in other circumstances is reminiscent of the Pavlov dog. The Cold War weapons contractors receiving Pentagon largesse no doubt have the same Pavlovian response as Kang Chol-hwan and his intended American audience. They hope the incantation leads to massive profits on weapons systems somehow.

The media and people have no reason to trust Kang Chol-hwan given the Americans' and southern Koreans' sorry record criminalizing travel to northern

We can only say that Kim Il Sung's line is too close to Brezhnev's for us to think that he avoided the fate of countries with that line implemented.

Korea. It was not until September 1999,(4) that the United States allowed its own people to take up trade, business and travel with northern Korea. Even commercial air flights to Korea were illegal. Then, bone-heads like Kang Chol-hwan who departed from northern Korea to southern Korea in 1992 wonder why no one believes the American story about Korea.

The simple fact is that it was against the law for the citizens of the "land of the free" to go to northern Korea and many a southern Korean youth suffered torture or death for talking about the idea of visiting northern Korea. The difference between genuine Soviet dictatorships and the West is that Soviet dictatorships do not ban travel and then brag about having "freedom." Kang Chol-hwan had 238 pages of space to point out somewhere that the southern Koreans and Americans could not travel to northern Korea to "see for yourself" —thanks to American and southern Korean regimes. Nowhere did he actually inform his reader of that basic fact.

In fact, when Kang Chol-hwan landed in southern Korea, the longest serving

political prisoner in the world was still in prison in southern Korea—there since the Korean War. His crime for which he was still being held was refusing to renounce communism. That is all. Renounce it verbally and the prisoner Kim Sun-Myung would have gone free. Instead he served 45 years before his release and was lucky that his mother still survived to see him.

When Kim Il Sung died in 1994, the US puppet regime arrested dozens of southern Korean students for wanting to visit northern Korea. The New York Times of July 15 1994 reported that prior to the arrests, there were still four people languishing in prison for visiting northern Korea before. Again, this was going on well after Kang Chol-hwan made his statement about just going to visit northern Korea.

This is not to mention so-called cases of "espionage," when the only evidence was that a Korean visited northern Korea. Amnesty International took up that cause as well and opposed the torture by the US puppet regime. An example would be the case of Kim Chang-ho years after Kang Chol-hwan's defection and flippant remarks about visiting northern Korea.

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Candidates deny need for draft

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the public already believes that a draft is coming in a second Bush term in office and 18% in a Kerry term in office.(7)

Even if Kerry is elected and personally wants to get troops out of Iraq, the class he represents won't just blithely let him walk out of Iraq! That's why he is now campaigning to "win" the war in Iraq partly by expanding the military.

If Bush loses the election we at MIM think it will in large part be because U.S. voters decided he failed to murder and bribe the right people to get the price of oil down. There is not a great opposition to the war in principle. The basic lust for Third World resources in the United States is one more reason MIM never campaigns for the economic demands of Americans. A demand for higher pay at any legal US workplace only creates a

political atmosphere where people also demand wars for oil. Americans need to understand that it is their economic demands throwing the global environment and military situation out of wack.

The demands that we do support are those of people who want to live and not participate in imperialist war. We side completely with the protests of the middle classes which are starting to see their kids come back from Iraq in aluminum boxes or missing arms, legs, eyes, and who knows what else.

MIM offers Amerika a clear choice based on the cold realities: Continue to suck the lifeblood from the Third World, knowingly or not. Or, get in step with the rest of the planet and oppose the vicious vultures roosting in Washington. We say: Resist the war with all your might and main! It is the lives of YOUR children,

YOUR cousins that are on the line: NOT the lives of the rich, lying pigs in Washington or any of their family. And Kerry is just one more rich pig who was stupid, naive, or shrewd enough to play imperialist roulette and survive.

MIM cannot endorse Kerry, because that would be wishful thinking. Objective facts will force him both to stay in Iraq and to get the troops for it — one way or another.

MIM says: Don't vote—organize! Resist the brutal, greedy, and unnecessary wars waged by the First World against the Third World whether in Iraq, Afghanistan, Peru or anywhere else the imperialists think they can squeeze out blood-money!

Notes:

1. [http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2004-](http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2004-09-27-reserves_x.html)

09-27-reserves_x.html

2. <http://www.canoe.ca/NewsStand/WinnipegSun/News/2004/09/25/642781.html>

3. New York Times 24Sept2004, p. 16.

4. New York Times 1Oct2004, <http://www.nytimes.com/2004/10/01/politics/01recruit.html>

5. "Edwards: No Military Draft if Dems Win," JENNIFER BUNDY, Associated Press http://story.news.yahoo.com/news?tmpl=story&ncid=1963&e=11&u=/ap/20040915/ap_on_el_pr/edwards_15Sept2004.

6. "Kerry vows to withdraw troops from Iraq," Mon 6 September, 2004 Patricia Wilson <http://www.reuters.co.uk/newsArticle.html?type=worldNews&storyID=5782&cat=us>

Kerry said: "We want those troops home and my goal would be to try to get them home in my first term and I believe that can be done."

7. <http://msnbc.msn.com/id/6159637/site/newsweek/>

'Land of the free' censors Korea

In 1995, Yu Chong-sik received an extra three years tacked on to his 20 year sentence served. The reason was praise of northern Korea according to Amnesty International.

Kim Song-man received a death sentence commuted three years later for passing leaflets out to northern Koreans in Europe. His total sentence was 13 years served in the U.S.-puppet regime's prisons.

According to Amnesty International, the US puppet regime may have fabricated a 1982 visit to northern Korea to imprison Lee Jang-hyong for 14 years till 1998. His case was otherwise completely murky with no evidence available.

Even today, after the lifting of many restrictions, the Treasury Department requires that U.S. citizens obtain permission before spending dollars in northern Korea.(5) As for Kang Chol-hwan, he went through a southern Korean control process. Even in 2003, higher-ranking defectors than Kang Chol-hwan face travel restrictions—by the southern Korean Yankee puppet regime. An October, 2003 report by anti-communists at the freekorea.net said that Hwang Jang-yop had defected from northern Korea six years previously and still did not have the freedom to travel—even to or within the United States.(6) A German attempting to visit Hwang Jang-yop was denied—in the United States by the United States, not to mention other Koreans trying to visit Hwang Jang-yop. The anti-communists trying to “free” northern Korea to enjoy such “freedoms” admitted that the restrictions on Hwang Jang-yop were political—on account of his strategy of drawing attention to northern Korea's alleged “plight.”

The black market

MIM cannot say it knows much about northern Korea. We know its political line, because we read it and we know the US role in occupying Korea.

With regard to the political line of northern Korea, it is too similar to Brezhnev's for us at MIM not to notice. Thus we suspect that northern Korea is not unique in the world and has gone the

same corrupt way as the revisionist bloc led by Brezhnev against Mao. Specifically, the Kims leading Korea never endorsed Mao's theory of continuous revolution or the thesis on the bourgeoisie in the party in particular.

In fact, we would cite Kang Chol-hwan as proof that the battle between socialism and capitalism is not over. Famine occurred at the same time as a huge increase in the black market, according to Kang Chol-hwan himself. The question then arises: did the black market and corresponding bourgeoisie in the party cause the famine or did the famine cause the black market? That's all presupposing there was a famine. Kang Chol-hwan says he does not know for sure how extensive hunger problems were and talks of figures ranging from one to three million people involved.

The bourgeois critics want us to believe that socialism failed and produced a black market which is alleviating conditions instead of making them worse. In Kang Chol-hwan's book *Aquariums of Pyongyang*, there is actually no evidence to this effect. What we see instead is corruption of party officials followed by economic hardship.

Kang Chol-hwan even admits that in the 1960s he was doing rather well materially and had reason to believe that it was even better in northern Korea than in southern Korea. In the 1960s, Kang Chol-hwan “had a refrigerator, washing machine, vacuum cleaner, and even the most sought after of all luxury goods: a color television set.”(7) These facts lead us to wonder what would have happened had Kim Il Sung launched a struggle against the bourgeoisie in the party as Mao did.

It's hard to know how much is true from reading Kang Chol-hwan, because this supposedly heroic defector admits that he made up stories about people in order to get them punished in northern Korea. If we decide to take him seriously at all about economics, then he points out that by the time police arrested his family, the police were taking 90% of the arrested family's wealth for themselves.(8) That would surely be the sign of capitalism, not socialism.

Even more directly, Kang Chol-hwan admits that he had sudden black market success at his prison camp and then the food situation seriously deteriorated for people. He does not say so, but MIM reads between-the-lines that the black market bourgeoisie like Kang Chol-hwan had succeeded in corrupting the system to such an extent that the people suffered. Kang Chol-hwan's grandmother came to see the regime as similar to Hitler's (9) but if so, it would be the class struggle by people like Kang Chol-hwan which made it so. His motto became “man's limitless capacity for vice.”(10)

As of 1987, Kang Chol-hwan said he found no evidence of starvation.(11) Instead, his family became ever bigger grafters. He admits he sabotaged the supply system of northern Korea without using the word “sabotage.”(12) In echoes of China's Great Leap, when the worst starvation happened after the move to private responsibility systems in farming had already been completed, Kang Chol-hwan tells us that after he became a gigantic grafter and after peasants all abandoned collective farms and put their efforts into private plots,(13) famine came calling. If he and the peasants are indicative, then famine came about because of capitalism, not the earlier successes of the class struggle.

“This wild trend toward privatization—or appropriation, if you prefer—explains why peasants are now having an easier time procuring food than workers who live in small towns, where famine has struck hardest.”(14) That sounds very typical of capitalist logic to us—not socialist planning which accounts for the city's right to eat while forcing those living on the land to work or be deported elsewhere.

Things that Kang Chol-hwan found wrong only proved to MIM that his opponents were often correct. For example, while people were facing malnutrition, Kang Chol-hwan objected to the state's practice of discouraging use of land for cemeteries,(15) a problem also found in China.

In any case, Kang Chol-hwan is only one persyn. MIM would never make a general statement about conditions in Korea based on him. We can only say that Kim Il Sung's line is too close to Brezhnev's for us to think that he avoided the fate of countries with that line implemented. If Kang Chol-hwan is right that: “It's clear: North Korea is a total sham. Officially, it outlaws private business, but in the shadows it lets it thrive,”(16) then MIM is right about the facts in northern Korea as well. It's exactly what a Maoist would expect from a situation where the alleged communist party does not lead a struggle against the bourgeoisie in the party.

Notes:

1. http://www.bostonphoenix.com/boston/news_features/other_stories/multi-page/documents/03007197.asp

2. This is a basic fact of history. <http://www.cnn.com/2004/ALLPOLITICS/09/03/schwarzenegger.ap/index.html>

3. Kang Chol-hwan & Pierre Rigoulot, *Aquariums of Pyongyang: Ten Years in the North Korean Gulag* (New York: Basic Books, 2001), p. 224.

4. New York Times stored here: <http://www.globalpolicy.org/security/sanction/nkorea/99-09-17.htm>; the BBC admitted that southern Koreans only started allowing travel to the “North” in 1997. http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/special_report/1998/09/98/korea_at_50/166604.stm ; U.S. restrictions on travel to Cuba are here: <http://www.commongroundtravel.com/assets/pdf/travel-restrictions.pdf>

5. <http://www.usatoday.com/travel/news/2003/07/15-iraq-warning.htm>

6. <http://www.freenorthkorea.net/archives/freenorthkorea/000700.html>

7. Kang Chol-hwan & Pierre Rigoulot, *Aquariums of Pyongyang: Ten Years in the North Korean Gulag* (New York: Basic Books, 2001), p. 6.

8. *Ibid.*, p. 39. On page 185 he admitted to telling stories to get people arrested for the purposes of revenge.

9. *Ibid.*, p. 101. There would be some backing for this idea in northern Korea's favoring eugenics and Kim Il Sung's destruction of Stalin's theory of nation.

10. *Ibid.*, p. 160.

11. *Ibid.*, p. 161.

12. *Ibid.*, p. 174.

13. *Ibid.*, p. 175.

14. *Ibid.*, p. 176.

15. *Ibid.*, p. 102.

16. *Ibid.*, p. 196.

A chant inspired by the Bush-league propaganda on northern Korea

What do they want?

North Korea!

When do they want it?

Now!

What do they want?

North Korea!

When do they want it?

Now!

What do they know about it?

Absolutely nothing!

Did you know?
There are more than 200 back issues of MIM Notes available on the MIM website? Not only can you browse more than 15 years of the newspaper, you can also keep up with the very latest on MIM agitation campaigns, prisoner news, all the latest on the US war, and much more. MIM's website is an indispensable tool for the revolutionary movement. Get involved!

What's New @ MIM's Homepage

Oregon can't address mentally ill

I was recently placed in segregation for an alleged assault. I can't really say much, but it was some stupid shit, the result of the imperialists failing to provide health care to people with mental problems. Instead of giving them the help they need, in a proper setting, they instead send them into the prison system to punish them for their condition. Under their own "laws" these practices should be seen as "cruel and unusual" punishment because the integration of should-be mental patients with average prisoners such as myself is not only a conflict of interest in terms of so-called rehabilitation, but also creates a dangerous environment. For example, how can the paranoid delusions of a known schizophrenic inmate be considered reliable information to place another prisoner in segregation?

But as always, the imperialists will get what they pay for. They probably believe that by the use of integration of mental patients with the general population, they can maintain control by methods of divide and conquer. But as we've seen in the past, every time they try to stop the problem they only create a disease.

People outside this state would probably be surprised to see the extreme absurdity they call the Oregon DOC. For a state that until recently only had one area code, they got so many prisons it was impossible to fill them up with mostly minorities, so they started locking up their own people. Now the prison population up here is over sixty to seventy percent white. They got this mandatory minimum law up here called Measure 11 that gives mandatory seventy-month sentences to first time offenders for shit like fist fights and targets kids as young as 15. There's not enough minority kids in this state to fill up their unnecessary large prison system, so they started locking up their own kids; little Harry Potters are coming in here who never really broke a crime in their life and just fell victim to a cop that took a creative writing course, are now doing seventy months with no chance for parole and to fit in they're getting tattoos on their neck. But like I said, the imperialists will get what they pay for cause these former Harry Potters will be returning to their suburbs and gated communities.

They also have a couple pretty sizable IMU Control Unites up here that are really unneeded considering in ten years there has been only about three alleged homicides in the ENTIRE DOC. There isn't any real dangerous inmates in their Special Housing Units, so instead, they got people in there mostly for one-on-one fist fights where no one even got hurt. And unlike the SHU in California up here you don't get shit: no TV's, no commissary, no phones, nothing. In IMU, just like the DSU where I'm at right now, where most of the minorities reside in this state, gente are doing bad. Ventilation is poor and they fail to properly sanitize the cells after mental patients decide to throw their feces, so we are often forced to attempt to sanitize whatever cell we're placed in.

Reading material is also slim to nothing really of value, mostly romance novels, westerns and mysteries, which can pass the time for some inmates but for Spanish-speaking prisoners, they have absolutely nothing available to them in their language.

Under Lock & Key

News from Prisons & Prisoners

And since there's no education programs available to learn English or really to learn anything, Latinos end up sitting in the hole for years with nothing to read, no way available to better themselves, and no way to help them pass the time. There is also no multicultural books or anything written by Latino or African authors.

There is a way for us to stock the book carts up with more titles though. If any of us individually orders, or is sent any soft cover books we can then donate them to the book cart for the entire segregation population to read. Maybe you can help us in this matter, especially in regards to Marxist-Leninist-Maoist (MLM) literature. As I said before, the minority population in this state is mostly concentrated in the segregation and Special Housing Units. A large amount of these lumpen-proletariats are Latino, mostly of Mexican and Chicano decent (the Chicanos mostly those that have moved up here from southern California in the last ten years or so, such as myself).

—an Oregon Prisoner, June 2004

RAIL responds: This is just another example of the prison system using people against each other, as this comrade points out. The CO's will believe what they want to hear no matter who says it and in what context. However, the issue of inadequate treatment for the mentally ill can not be dealt with thru isolation, but through a healthy integration into society that this system cannot provide. At a recent rally we spoke to a man who had spent years in a mental institution. During that time, friends working with MIM visited him regularly, greatly helping him deal with the problems he was facing until he was able to be released. What he realized and says today is that there is no such thing as mental illness as an internal/psychological problem, but only as a social problem. We may not be able to say for sure that there is no one who would need drugs for mental illness in a communist society, but we do know enough at this point to say that mental illness is much higher in advanced imperialist countries than in previous societies and contemporary societies with different economic and social structures. We can also point to the elimination of suicide and eating disorders in socialist China as examples of how to revolutionize society in such a way that combats mental illness.

The prison system in the uS doesn't just handle mental illness poorly, but it promotes it through such things as isolation, taking away prisoners' sense of control over their lives, using scare tactics and thru physical and mental abuse. We know the imperialists have no interest in reform and that is why we have seen prison populations sky-rocketing for decades. We expose the nature of this beast to show that while we can rally around reforms, the ultimate goal must be to overthrow of this system if we ever want to improve the lives of the majority of the world's people.

We sent this comrade the only Mao books we had in Spanish. There is an endless demand for MLM books, and works in Spanish are in even shorter supply.

Supporters can help in facilities like this by donating to MIM's Free Books for Prisoners Program.

Charged for work injury in TX

Boy, can I tell you some good stories about the Texas Department of Criminal Justice. Recently they have resorted to stealing from the inmate trust fund, through medical co-pay, as they call it.

For example, I was injured while working at the unit's garment factory. I did not volunteer or ask to work there — I was assigned to work there without pay, and failure to work would result in a disciplinary case.

So while working on a sewing machine accidentally a needle went through my finger, and blood was everywhere. So I myself cleaned the wound as best I could. Next day when I woke up I had this terrible pain on my finger and felt my heart pounding in it. As I looked at it, it was bigger than my thumb, and red, blue, yellow and purple. So I told my supervisor. She in turn made an accident report, and I was rushed to the unit's infirmary. Everyone looked at it, and I was finally given a pill — and charged \$3 for services rendered. I was only given one pill.

To this date I have failed to get a refund, because everyone says it was an appropriate charge. Also, I am a diabetic, age 58.

— A Texas Prisoner, June 2004

MIM responds: MIM has long opposed the policy of mandating work for no pay in Texas — and penalizing prisoners who can't work for medical reasons even while denying them decent medical care. Please continue to send reports on these abuses. Contact MIM or visit <http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/agitation/prisons/campaigns/tx/> for information on the campaign or to get copies of our petition, "No Punishment for Sick Leave in Texas Prisons."

Corruption and Retaliation in NY

Dear Mr. Goord, Mr. Malone, Governor Pataki, and Reverend Sharpton,

There is very serious problem going on here in Comstock Prison. On June 6, 2004, I was set up by Sergeant Brown and his gang, who took me into a strip frisk room and put some dope on me. They told me that I'm going down if I don't go into the hearing and make a deal. On the day of the hearing, the hearing officer was already aware to make a compromise with me if I plead guilty. So I did and received four months but that is not the biggest issue.

The biggest issue is that they have me in a special housing unit (SHU) with claims of me being an Al Qaeda member. They are treating me like the prisoners in Abu Ghraib Prison. They gave me one old ripped up mattress, no bucket to receive hot water to wash up, no net bags, no boxes, no toilet paper, a dirty filthy cell with no kind of cleaning supplies. The toilet bowl is extremely filthy and most of the time they don't feed me. They place empty trays on the gate so that on camera, it looks

like they're feeding me.

These are untrained, rude, racist and rebellious people who are decorating themselves in blue and green uniforms and saying that they are promoting democracy and justice. They say they're watching over criminals. Let the records reflect that these prison guards are doing this wickedness to me on the order of their supervisor, whom I have a complaint on. They are doing this in retaliation. They know fully well that I am a Muslim and not any member of Al Qaeda but that is their excuse to cause me great harm and suffering. This is the same evil mentality that caused great harm to the people of Iraq. These are the same people who jumped on Malcolm X's grandson. These are the same unruly, arrogant, outlaw, racist people who are Klansmen hiding behind government uniforms.

When they pass my cell, they burst out in laughter and make racial epithets. They also prevent me from writing to anyone to obtain

MIM on Prisons & Prisoners

MIM seeks to build public opinion against Amerika's criminal injustice system, and to eventually replace the bourgeois injustice system with proletarian justice. The bourgeois injustice system imprisons and executes a disproportionately large and growing number of oppressed people while letting the biggest mass murderers — the imperialists and their lackeys — roam free. Imperialism is not opposed to murder or theft, it only insists that these crimes be committed in the interests of the bourgeoisie.

"All U.S. citizens are criminals—accomplices and accessories to the crimes of U.S. oppression globally until the day U.S. imperialism is overcome. All U.S. citizens should start from the point of view that they are reforming criminals."

MIM does not advocate that all prisoners go free today; we have a more effective program for fighting crime as was demonstrated in China prior to the restoration of capitalism there in 1976. We say that all prisoners are political prisoners because under the dictatorship of the bourgeoisie, all imprisonment is substantively political. It is our responsibility to exert revolutionary leadership and conduct political agitation and organization among prisoners — whose material conditions make them an overwhelmingly revolutionary group. Some prisoners should and will work on self-criticism under a future dictatorship of the proletariat in those cases in which prisoners really did do something wrong by proletarian standards.

relief. From this day on, I assure you that these guys who have decorated themselves in blue uniforms must stay away from me. I will go straight above these Rumsfields because they are the ones who are giving out orders. They know what is going on so I will go over their heads. I won't write to them anymore. They never remedy any situation when it comes to prisoners.

I request a serious investigation into this serious matter. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

— A New York Prisoner, June 2004

Lawsuit challenging Cal SHU moves on

I have an important update, as we recently reported in MIM Notes about the difficulties we were having in attempting to bring challenge to the conditions as they exist at this particular kamp, and specifically here in the SHU.

The Eastern District had been blocking our efforts by making the screening process very strict, however after filing a third amended complaint in January of 2004. Just last week, August 8, 2004, Judge Snyder finally allowed us to proceed on all the grounds raised, so we want to thank all those who called in and sent letters and faxes to the Judge urging her to allow us to proceed. We passed but only one small hurdle. We'll continue to need your support if we're gonna be successful in our efforts. Letters of encouragement, legal advice, particularly around the 1st, 8th and 14th amendments, as well as the equal protection clause and ex post facto law.

We sincerely hope that you will get behind this effort and send us protection with your support. We will keep you updated via ULK.

- A prisoner at Corcoran, August 2004

California censorship appeal denied

Appeal on censorship first level reply was returned; reason for denial two statements quote "MIM says the oppressed must meet the violence as a matter of self defense.", "Peoples heads are not like leeks; they cannot grow back once they are chopped off." I have resubmitted for 2nd level review based on over exaggeration to actually stating security threat, denial of facility captain review CCR 3135(a); 3136(b), and 1st and 14th amendment violations. It is definitely a challenge to get the censorship overturned, they also cited inmate to inmate correspondence as reason for denial. I'll keep fighting the battle here, I plan to use other media examples to show that bias exists. MIM is no more dangerous than ultra right materials who fan white chauvinism.

- a California prisoner, July 2004.

Washington IMU repression

I have been locked up for 28 straight years; the past few on "state tour" being shipped back and forth between Intensive Management Unit (IMU) facilities.

There are four levels in IMU. Level 1 is a sanction and for those who receive infractions while in IMU. Everyone starts at Level 2 (no radio or TV, nor allowed a newspaper or magazine subscription). Level 3 allows one magazine or newspaper subscription; level 4 allows two magazines or newspaper subscriptions. Also, the person on Level 3 is allowed a radio; on Level 4 given the choice between radio or TV.

I am the sort of person they kept and continue to keep on Level 2. Various excuses at different times are given (I have not had an infraction for some time!) The present excuse is because I do not attend monthly review hearing (in writing I am given the choice to attend or not.) I do not attend because of being tired of them writing in reports I said things I never said.

Prison officials may restrict reading material in punitive segregation, although most cases upholding this practice have involved short periods of time:

Gregory v. Auger, 768 F.2d 287, 289-91 (8th Cir. 1985) - inmates in disciplinary detention could be deprived of all but first class mail of a "personal, legal or religious" nature where detention was limited to 60 days), cert. denied, 474 U.S. 1035 (1085); Daigre v. Maggio, 719 F.2d 1310, 1312-13 (5th Cir. 1983) - ban on newspapers and magazines in segregation upheld as applied to an inmate who served 10 days); Pendleton v. Housewright, 651 F. Supp. 1354, 1366-68 (S.D. Tex. 1983) - deprivation of publications except for legal and religious material in solitary confinement upheld where limited to 15 days.

However, the above refers to punitive or disciplinary segregation. They have me on administrative segregation. See e.g., Hardwick v. Ault, 447 F. Supp. 116, 128-31 (M.D. Ga. 1978) - mail and reading material restrictions in administrative segregation held unconstitutional. An added interesting note is although I am not allowed magazines or newspapers, I may have books. Isn't that something!?

You can help by sending letters to: Eldon Vail, Deputy Secty, Department of Corrections, PO Box 41118, Olympia, WA 98504; and, Carol Porter, Superintendent, WA Corrections Center, PO Box 900, Shelton, WA 98584.

— Washington prisoner, July 2004

Walls of Mass Destruction

Take a look and see why these walls were made,

To reach in our minds and start to invade
To strip our minds of hope and dreams
With loneliness which this place brings
Sometimes you wonder who you can run to
when you're full of anger,
But a rec yard full of strangers
Strangers who could care weather you're here
or there,
Who don't speak much, but just stare
Now once you've realized that who, whats,
whens and whys,
You'll start to see through your eyes
That these are walls of destruction,
Which need reconstruction
Now only you can reconstruct the walls with
your mind
By putting the mistakes behind
Educating, and setting goals, so that you may
achieve
A better world that will set you free
So know that for every problem has a solution
And the solution is: Revolution.

--A CA prisoner, July 2004

Take off the Chains

As the blood drips from the side of my mouth.
With a handful of my hair,
he pulls as his coworkers edge him on.
Shut the fuck up is all I hear,
as the flurries of punches and kicks become
one with my face.
This is rehabilitation in the land of the free,
and they say they don't torture konvikts like
me.
But what the fuck is chaining us to a wall and
them pretending they're
Rocky or confining us to the darkness of a
kage under lock and key?
Take off the chains...
Do they live in a fantasy, to say they don't
torture people like me,
then why do the beatings still happen after
the chains are locked on me?
And yes the visions and thoughts will last
forever within me...
My screams and kryes are unheard to the
world,
But if heard...
My screams and kryes would break down these
walls.
And I am only one, could you imagine us all,
standing strong as one mass on top of these
walls?
One body and one mind is how we must fight,
cause just think about the brother or sister
that will get a beating
tonight.
Take off the chains...
It is time to unite,
cause now our screams must be heard.
And this is why that I write.
For I "the Fallen Angel" speak nothing but
the "T.R.U.T.H."
We must break away the chains to make a
change for our youth...

--May 2004

Join the fight against the injustice system

While we fight to end the criminal injustice system MIM engages in reformist battles to improve the lives of prisoners. Below are some of the campaigns we are currently waging, and ways people behind the bars and on the outside can get involved. More info can be found on our prison web site: <http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/agitation/prisons>

Stop Censorship in Prison: Prisons frequently censor books, newspapers and magazines coming from MIM's books for prisoners program. We need help from lawyers, paralegals and jailhouse lawyers to fight this censorship.

Books for Prisoners: This program focuses on political education of prisoners. Send donations of books and money for our Books for Prisoners program.

End the Three Strikes laws: This campaign is actively fighting the repressive California laws, but similar laws exist in other states. Write to us to request a petition to collect signatures. Send articles and information on three strike laws.

Shut Down the Control Units: Across the country there are a growing number of prison control units. These are permanently designated prisons or cells in prisons that lock prisoners up in solitary or small group confinement for 22 or more hours a day with no congregate dining, exercise or other services, and virtually no programs for prisoners. Prisoners are placed in control units for extended periods of time. These units cause both mental and physical problems for prisoners.

Write to us to request a petition to collect signatures. Get your organization to sign the statement demanding control units be shut down. Send us information about where there are control units in your state. Include the names of the prisons as well as the number of control unit beds/cells in each prison if that is known. Send us anti-control unit artwork.

MIM's Re-Lease on Life Program: This program provides support for our comrades who have been recently released from the prison system, to help them meet their basic needs and also continue with their revolutionary organizing on the outside. We need funds, housing, and job resources. We also need prisoner's input on the following survey questions:

1. What are the biggest challenges you face being released from prison?
2. How can these problems be addressed?
3. What are the important elements of a successful release program?

Facts on US imprisonment

The facts about imprisonment in the United States are that the United States has been the world's leading prison-state per capita for the last 25 years, with a brief exception during Boris Yeltsin's declaration of a state of emergency.(1)

That means that while Reagan was talking about a Soviet "evil empire" he was the head of a state that imprisoned more people per capita. In supposedly "hard-line" Bulgaria of the Soviet bloc of the 1980s, the imprisonment rate was less than half that of the United States.(2,3)

To find a comparison with U.S. imprisonment of Black people, there is no statistic in any country that compares including apartheid South Africa of the era before Mandela was president. The last situation remotely comparable to the situation today was under Stalin during war time. The majority of prisoners are non-violent offenders(4) and the U.S. Government now holds about a half million more prisoners than China; even though China is four times our population.(5)

The rednecks tell MIM that we live in a "free country." They live in an Orwellian 1984 situation where freedom is imprisonment.

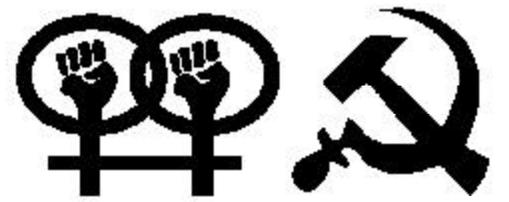
Notes: 1. Marc Mauer, "Americans Behind Bars: The International Use of Incarceration 1993," The Prison Sentencing Project, 918 F. St. NW, Suite 501, Washington, DC 20004 (202) 628-0871 Reference: SRI: R8965-2, 1994

2. Ibid., 1992 report.

3. United Nations Development Programme, "Human Development Report 1994,:" Oxford University Press, p. 186.

4. Figure of 51.2 percent for state prisoners there for non-violent offenses. Abstract of the United States 1993, p. 211.

5. Atlantic Monthly December, 1998.



Bush reitera lo mismo: **Es posible un aumento de tropas en Irak**

Escrito por mim3@mim.org y mousnonya

Traducido por Células de Estudio para la Liberación de Aztlán y América Latina

El 24 de mayo, Bush salió en la tele con fin de preparar al público para las semanas y los meses que tocan en Irak. "Nuestros comandantes han estimado que menos de 115,000 tropas resultarían suficientes en este momento del conflicto"- dijo Bush. "Dado el reciente crecimiento de la violencia, mantendremos el actual nivel de tropas-138,000- por el tiempo que sea necesario".

"Si los comandantes necesitan más tropas"- dijo Bush,- "las mandaré". (1) El mismo día el senador demócrata Joe Lieberman se puso del lado del presidente diciendo en el CNN que la guerra en Irak era "una prueba generacional". En vez de señalar que esta guerra ha fomentado el odio hacia el imperialismo estadounidense, Lieberman declaró que habría más ataques en el suelo estadounidense si las tropas no se quedan en Irak.

Mientras tanto, los senadores Hillary Clinton (D-NY) y Lindsey Graham (R-SC) hicieron un llamado abogando por unas "fuerzas militares más amplias". Hillary Clinton expresó dudas en cuanto al financiamiento de las mismas pero dijo que no había otra opción. (2) Es posible que Graham vea la guerra como una oportunidad de trabajo para los blancos jóvenes rurales de su estado, ya que Carolina del Sur ha perdido muchos puestos de trabajo, pero se niega a implementar cambios.

Los múltiples escándalos alrededor del tema de torturas de los prisioneros en Irak y Afganistán significan que otros imperialistas como la ONU están en una mejor posición para negociar. En este momento los gobernantes estadounidenses están tratando de aparentar flexibles ante el público. Nosotros pensamos que esta apariencia se dirige más que nada hacia la opinión pública estadounidense, y no tanto hacia otros líderes estatales.

La diplomática de Hillary Clinton, Madeleine Albright, dijo que apreciaba el reconocimiento del valor de la ONU por parte de Bush el 24 de mayo. El hecho de que Bush está dispuesto a fomentar las ilusiones de la población electoral demócrata indica que existe una unidad bipartidista.

El MIM anticipa la introducción de un servicio militar obligatorio después de las elecciones a menos que los iraquíes u otros luchadores del Medio Oriente obtengan una enorme victoria militar o a menos que haya una desesperada lucha radical en contra del servicio militar obligatorio durante los meses que vienen. Por el momento parece que la posibilidad de sacar a EE. UU. de Irak es mejor que nunca: 1) Bush está "recibiendo palizas" a nivel internacional y hasta cierto punto dentro de EE.UU.; 2) Bush y Blair aparecieron ante la ONU buscando una bendición para la ocupación. Hay que enfatizar que si bien es

cierto que EE. UU. están recibiendo palizas militares y latigazos verbales por parte de la opinión pública internacional, y que pronto Bush se enfrentará a las elecciones, es posible que dicha búsqueda del apoyo de la ONU tenga como su meta una consolidación de la opinión pública estadounidense con respecto al tema del servicio militar obligatorio. A los imperialistas les gusta decir que ellos "hicieron un intento" con la ONU y fallaron, de modo que necesitan implementar un servicio militar obligatorio. (Desde nuestro punto de vista, no importa si el Tío Sam decide arruinar el país mediante gastos de déficit para expandir las fuerzas militares o implementar el servicio militar obligatorio. De cualquier manera el imperialismo estadounidense está condenado a ser parte del basurero de la historia. Cuanto más luchan los iraquíes y los afganos, menos eficaces serán los mercenarios que llevan a cabo reclutamientos.)

Los imperialistas jugarán las cartas de la ONU. Otra carta podría ser la Liga Árabe, una asociación de lacayos gubernamentales árabes. El 23 de mayo, los lacayos árabes sugirieron la idea de mandar tropas a Irak como parte de la fuerza internacional respaldada por la ONU. (3) Un milagro diplomático llevaría tropas árabes a Irak, y Bush podría lanzar un grito de victoria para las elecciones de noviembre.

Nosotros pensamos que es muy probable que todos estos esquemas se implementen con el fin de demostrar al público estadounidense que Bush "hizo el intento", y de darles a los senadores Clinton y Lieberman las excusas que necesitan para respaldar diseños más agresivos. Es posible que Inglaterra sea uno de los pocos países que se nieguen a contribuir muchas tropas a los imperialistas estadounidenses. Un 66% del público electoral inglés se opone a que se manden ni siquiera 3000 tropas más a Irak. (4) Los imperialistas estadounidenses carecen de personal militar hasta tal grado que no son capaces de continuar sus operaciones ofensivas contra Irán, Siria o Corea del Norte. Cuatro hechos sobre los movimientos de tropas enemigas y la "estructura de sus fuerzas" demuestran porqué la capacidad militar de los imperialistas ha llegado al extremo, dada la ausencia de un reclutamiento militar obligatorio.

En primer lugar, las tres divisiones (alrededor de 50,000 soldados) recientemente retirados de Irak están clasificadas como "no preparadas para luchar". (5) Hasta que no se reemplace o se repare su armamento, en lo cual se tardarán unos cuantos meses, estas tropas no estarán disponibles para su uso en el extranjero. Estas divisiones han sido reemplazadas por reservistas y guardias nacionales. Con menos entrenamiento y un armamento inferior estos soldados serán menos eficaces.

En segundo lugar, el enemigo ha tomado la

decisión de retirar sus tropas del Corea del Sur para mandarlas a Irak, y no es para que los soldados del frente coreano obtengan una "auténtica" experiencia de combate. (6) La desesperación del enemigo es suficiente para que éste arriesgue un frente (Corea) por otro (Irak).

En tercer lugar, EE. UU. han empezado a buscar miembros de la Reserva Individual, en otras palabras, soldados que durante los últimos ocho años han estado en servicio activo o pasivo. Están sujetos a la posibilidad de una movilización a base de aviso, aunque no estén pasando por un entrenamiento junto con la guardia activa o unidades de la reserva pasiva. (7) Si bien los funcionarios frecuentemente se han negado a dar de baja a personal militar en servicio activo de acuerdo con el programa "paremos las pérdidas", una activación de la Reserva Individual es el último paso que el gobierno puede dar para incrementar el número de tropas, si se evita la introducción del servicio militar obligatorio. En cuarto lugar, EE. UU. también están planeando mandar a Irak sus unidades de entrenamiento de la fuerza de oposición ("OpFor"). (8) OpFor son los mejores soldados de las fuerzas militares. Su trabajo consiste en entrenar nuevas unidades de acuerdo con los estándares más altos. La presencia de estas unidades en Irak significa que los reclutas recién entrenados no tendrán ni idea sobre cómo pelear, de modo que logros a largo plazo (algunos de los mejores soldados de las fuerzas armadas en Irak) resultan en pérdidas a largo plazo (reclutas no entrenados serán aplastados como moscas el año que viene, y sus compañeros fastidiados o indispuestos a luchar terminarán matando a oficiales).

Estos cuatro hechos indican que EE. UU. no tienen el personal adecuado para llevar a cabo sus planes, lo cual implica la introducción de un servicio militar obligatorio después de las elecciones, independientemente de que facción imperialista obtenga el poder estatal. El servicio militar obligatorio no es más que otra forma de opresión de los jóvenes, aún en países imperialistas. Los imperialistas estadounidenses se han dado cuenta de que no obtendrán apoyo material de los imperialistas alemanes y franceses, y ni siquiera de la ONU. Los socios de un crimen con derechos iguales se respetan a sí mismos. Así que EE. UU. implementarán un reclutamiento obligatorio: los problemas presupuestarios apuntan a la misma posibilidad.

El capitalismo promueve una actitud de "vivir en el momento". Este hecho envenena el razonamiento capitalista en cuanto a la guerra. Esta es una de las múltiples razones por la cual el MIM tiene confianza estratégica en el proletariado mundial. Los imperialistas siguen cometiendo errores en esta guerra (9) debido a una sobreestimación de su poder y no pueden admitir la verdad- el hecho de que

su imperio está construido sobre el sudor y la sangre de la mano de obra tercermundista robada por los imperialistas.

Sin considerar el insano tratamiento de los prisioneros y los abusos de los civiles documentados en previos artículos de MIM Notes, está claro que nuestros enemigos están extendidos más allá de su capacidad y están cometiendo errores. Si se suman sus cálculos erróneos de fuerzas militares y sus atrocidades contra el pueblo de Irak, se obtendrá un resultado claro: los imperialistas perderán la guerra en Irak. Cuanto antes sea la derrota, mejor para todos nosotros.

Estos hechos confirman la predicción del MIM de que los países imperialistas desesperadamente necesitados de recursos tercermundistas, terminarán expandiéndose más allá de su capacidad e involucrándose en difíciles guerras por recursos tercermundistas. El enemigo está cometiendo graves errores diarios. Pero nuestra victoria no será rápida: desafortunadamente, los imperialistas matarán a muchos proletarios antes de que sus errores estratégicos se manifiesten en sus propios países. Tenemos que minimizar nuestras pérdidas hasta el máximo grado posible mediante la organización de una resistencia a la guerra. No tarden en oponerse al imperialismo: la vida que Uds. salven puede ser la suya.

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