

MIM Notes



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The Official Newsletter of the Maoist Internationalist Movement (MIM)

Free

Resistance breaking out

ANTI-DRAFT MOVEMENT ACHIEVES STRATEGIC STEP FORWARD

by mim3@mim.org

A majority of US youth aged 18 to 29 believe that President Bush has the draft in store for them. The self-activism of the youth that has achieved this point is a strategic victory, a step forward. MIM itself takes some credit for stirring the pot in literature distribution, face-to-face discussion and the web site.

True, the youth are letting John Kerry off the hook. The same National Annenberg Election Survey showed only 8% believes Kerry wants to bring back forced enlistment into the armed services while 51% believe Bush does. However, since Bu\$h is the one actually in power directing the military, we have to recognize that the survey result does demonstrate a small step forward in political consciousness. The youth may not have a path for how to get out of the current mess the United States made—with many having illusions about Howard Dean, Greens or libertarians—but they have correctly placed the problem on the agenda.

The conservatives rushed to Bu\$h's defense and said it was "ignorance" caused by a "rumor"(1) regarding the draft that started the current trend in youth opinion. MIM would reply the following: 1) If it is all just a rumor, Bu\$h can abolish the Selective Service and end draft registration and then there won't be any disputes about what the Selective Service administration said or did not say. 2) It is not ignorance to notice what is going on with troop shortages and war. Quite the opposite, it's called paying attention. 3) The government has no credibility on

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IMPERIALISTS CENSOR SERGEANT LORENTZ IN CONNECTION TO IRAQ

by mousnonya and
mim3@mim.org

A U.S. Army Reserve sergeant in Iraq has written a cogent essay explaining why Uncle Scam cannot win the war in Iraq.(1) Consequently, he is being called to the carpet and faces legal sanctions. The charge is dereliction of duty—defeatism! (2) That's right—just like in Hitlerite Germany.

Wearing the uniform, thinking the wrong thoughts and daring to put them to paper leads to trouble in the United States. MIM supports the struggle of oppressors such as Sgt. Lorentz to cease taking action for war. Sgt. Lorentz may have figured out that he is on the wrong side.

As in the other long-running occupations historically, we are also finding out about the tip of the iceberg of military resistance. CNN reported on October 15th that some of the reservists in Iraq may have disobeyed orders: "The military said all 19 members of the Army's 343rd Quartermaster Company—which has been in Iraq for nine months—were told to report to duty Wednesday to deliver fuel from Tallil to Taji, a dangerous area north of Baghdad."(3) They did not carry out the task and family members say the vehicles and fuel were unsafe.

At the same time, indications continue to arrive on the scale of the cover-up of politics in Iraq in general. The pace of casualties has increased since Bu\$h declared major fighting over, but it appears that the government does not report all the insurgent activities spread across Iraq for fear of demoralizing the U.S. public and the soldiers. Moreover, all the murder and torture photos from the Abu Ghraib prison scandal have yet to be released, because the imperialists fear the global counter-attack that would happen. The fear of the counter-attack leads to more public ignorance of what is really happening in Iraq, and the war-mongers hope to keep their war going that way. "Freedom" and "democracy" hardly

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Who's the 'punk,' commissioner? Boston police admit killing student

Boston police admitted to shooting Victoria Snelgrove on October 20th during a Red Sox victory celebration. She died hours later.

The parents justly said this: "What happened to her should not happen to any American citizen."(1) They managed to see Victoria at the hospital just before she died.

A witness saw the police shooting in the area. There were too many witnesses and cameras around and Boston is too intelligent to put up with the usual police murk in a case where the whole world knows the context, so we're not surprised that Police Commissioner Kathleen O'Toole confessed to the killing.

At the same time, O'Toole said this: "I also condemn, in the harshest possible words, the actions of the punks last night who turned our city's victory into an opportunity for violence."(2)

On the one hand we have the academic "radicals" in Boston and elsewhere who think "violence" is politically incorrect language or a threat to break up by a man if his girlfriend



Victoria Snelgrove

does not have sex. On the other hand, we have police commissioners who confessed to killing of Victoria Snelgrove and then proceeded to condemn "punks" who tried but failed to overturn a car.

Earth to Commissioner O'Toole: you are the "punk" leader. Your employees killed a student for nothing. That should have been your message of the day, period. You should have started a process of questioning: "if police shot someone in that context to death, what else did they do wrong?"

Under the dictatorship of the proletariat,
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Letters

NYLP Leader responds to Pablo Pueblo Article

NYLP stands for the New Young Lords Party, a Maoist organization that's rekindling the revolutionary legacy of the original, Black-Panther-inspired YLP.

I'm 100% in total agreement with my revolutionary comrade Don Pablo Pueblo (re: MN July 2004). Not many individuals understand that politics and imprisonment are connected. Por eso, i'm frustrated because instead of sitting here and teaching ourselves and others about this racist country and gobierno, we'd rather sit around and gossip como putas about someone else's failures. It is why I have learned through the observation of practice that misery loves company.

In my 9 1/2 years in DDU (Departmental Disciplinary Unit) I have learned to build with Don Pablo about el entendimiento sobre la opresion knowin' exactly what the fuck was going on. I couldn't help but ask these so-called "intelligent" folks that if they knew that the U.S. gobierno had us bajo una circunstancia insoportable porque como luchadores que somos nos estabamos dejando manipular por la administracion de Bush-it and as usual no one had a truthful answer.

I refuse to acknowledge anyone who claims that this is some kind of criminal recruitment or some gang of any kind.

The pigs and haters will use this type of statement only to deter others from learning about Marxism. Most Latinos I've asked whether or not they wish to experience some kind of revolutionary change have admitted que ya es tiempo for someone to step it up and make a difference in and out of the world of socialism. So we would appreciate if ignorant kats would separate themselves from the movement and allow Don Pacho Pablo Pueblo & Beto Puñala and the rest of the advanced Nobles to enlighten them about our purpose so that they themselves can correctly enlighten others.

When Don Pablo began expressing his feelings to me about starting and founding something so educational for Nuestra Raza, I was surprised, because I've never been asked to help re-organize such a great legacy. I immediately said no question, because, although I've never been involved in any kind of revolutionary organization, I have always had feelings of engaging into an all out war with those who assume Puerto Rico as part of the United Oppressors of Amerika. But you know what they say about assumptions: they're the mother of all fuck-ups and La Raza will make sure they realize that.

Did you know that the pigs were actually attempting to murder me for being so outspoken? They have even

claimed that I was running a drug operation only to justify my placement in the Intensive Treatment Unit (ITU). I have sworn to seek vengeance against the system that has done nothing more than to literally allow pigs to abuse people behind the wall.

It's a long time since I have seen you Don Pablo but during my travels I have started to share the word of the Nobles. My friend and comrade, I have baffled a lot of folks by the intro of the NYLP/LNNA article. This one member (codename "La Voz") is dying to read more of your input on this legacy. I have made it my obligation to enlighten him, no matter how bloody the war may get. I have my teachings as my principles. I'm now speaking louder than before so that others who may be curious will not be shy to ask about the movimiento.

—By an NYLP/LNNA leader (MA)

NYLP/LNNA responds: We have much love and respect for this comrade member and we applaud him for his strength in preaching the revolutionary ideal. We are aware of the oppression he's receiving and both Pablo Pueblo and Beto Puñala have advised him on how to negotiate his "hole-time" and we hope he embraces that advice. His responsibilities to his people require him to minimize interaction with those pig doctors and we're glad he's doing just that. Since this comrade is a valued member, we'll make sure to get him a pre-published copy of the PCM (NYLP/LNNA Political Compendium Manual, soon to be

published and available for purchase).

We had to shorten his letter due to availability of space, but this is the type of dedication, enthusiasm, and leadership that we appreciate from our leaders. We wanted to add that the NYLP/LNNA not only fights for Puerto Rico's liberation but we also feel that the Settler society's invasion of Mexico/Xicano lands is just as important as well as the super exploitation of Nuestra America South of the Rio Grande. We hope to hear more from our carnales in TX, CA, AZ, NM, y CO regarding the NYLP struggle against imperialism.

Noble Love!!!

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MIM Notes

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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.

The paper is free to all prisoners, as long as they write to us every 90 days to confirm their subscriptions. There are no individual subscriptions for people outside prison.

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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.

Rash of obvious lies discredits mainstream press

by Mousnonya

Last year the New York Times reported—falsely—that Iraq was working feverishly towards a nuclear weapon.(1) There was also a bout of plagiarism at the Times, unsurprisingly also beating the drum for more murder in Iraq. More recently, Dan Rather reported on George Bush's military service—relying on fake documents;(3) although it was obviously true to the people of that era that National Guard service was the privilege of the elite such as Bu\$h who had connections. And now the Fox News Network has falsely “quoted” John Kerry claiming he said things that he never did about having a manicure and being

metrosexual.(4)

Readers, there is a pattern here. These are just the obvious lies that the bourgeois press is willing to admit it made! There are more lies that they quietly sweep under the rug. More importantly, these major media did not have the guts or concern for the truth to debunk all the excuses for the Iraq War before the invasion.

MIM tells it like it is: the corporate media is biased and serves the corporate agenda! The profit motive distorts the truth, even the “news.”

You cannot trust your government: it lies to you all the time—just look at Iraq! Now you should realize the corporate

controlled media lies too—and not just in the advertisements!

Capitalism lies and distorts the truth in the name of profit. The government is corrupt. Work with MIM to build independent media for the oppressed!

Notes:

1. The Times Scoops That Melted, Cataloging the wretched reporting of Judith Miller, By Jack Shafer. Friday, July 25, 2003, at 3:49 PM PT <http://slate.msn.com/id/2086110/>

2. Top New York Times editors quit, Rose Arce and Shannon Troetel CNN <http://www.cnn.com/2003/US/Northeast/06/05/nytimes.resigns/>

3. Even Humbled by Error, Dan

Rather Has His Thorns, ALESSANDRA STANLEY Published: September 21, 2004 <http://www.nytimes.com/2004/09/21/politics/campaign/21tvwatch.html?ex=1096948800&en=492ef28e51f0ce50&ei=5070>

4. Faux News: Fox News Fabricates Story, Washington Dispatch, October 01, 2004 <http://www.washingtondispatch.com/culture/archives/000616.html>; Fox bitten by reporter's joke quotes, JO PIAZZA and M. GEORGE STEVENSON NY DAILY NEWS <http://www.nydailynews.com/entertainment/story/237804p-204107c.html>

Abu Ghraib connections show interlocking prison systems

The Abu Ghraib prison torture scandal has helped illustrate the interlocking nature of the U.S. military, civilian, and private prison systems. The story of O. Lane McCotter, which we have not previously reported on, is a case in point.

A Texas prisoner pointed out to MIM that McCotter, former director of corrections in Texas (1985-87), New Mexico (1987-91) and Utah (1992-1997), was “part of a criminal-justice reconstruction team appointed by the U.S. Justice Department to assess the Iraqi corrections system and help implement improvements” in May 2003.(1) McCotter had left the Utah prison system after multiple scandals, including the death of a schizophrenic prisoner tied to a chair for 16 hours, and

misuse of state resources.(2)

After leaving the Utah system, McCotter became director of corrections business development for Management & Training Corp.(1) That company ran a private prison in New Mexico that has been investigated for unsafe conditions and inadequate medical care. He took a leave from the company to go to Iraq, where he led the preparations for converting Iraq's Abu Ghraib prison to U.S. military use.(2)

The revolving door here is clear.

McCotter started his prison career for the military, running U.S. military prisons—including Leavenworth—for 10 years before leaving to enter the Texas prison system as assistant director.(2) After running prison systems in three states, he started running private prisons, and finally returned to the military as a private contractor to retool the Abu Ghraib torture facility. His career reads like a history of U.S. prison abuse.

The Texas prisoner concludes: “Where did he learn to set up such a torture

facility/hell hole? . . . And this was George Bush's point man to set up Abu Ghraib? For shame. Done with malice aforethought. And now the chickens are coming home to roost. . . . By definition a barbaric prison system is run by barbarians. Another Abu Ghraib. We will either have socialism or barbarism.”

Notes:

1. AP report from KSL TV in Salt Lake City, <http://tv.ksl.com/index.php?nid=5&sid=27519>.

2. Houston Chronicle 16 May 2004, p. A1.



TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS
O.L. McCotter, Director • Huntsville, Texas

McCotter's
old
letterhead.

Censorship is systematic tool of repression

MIM received a stack of Publication Violation Notices along with rejected copies of MIM Notes 303 from the Snake River Correctional Institution in Ontario, Oregon. The reason for the censorship was a brief letter in Under Lock & Key (ULK) from a comrade in SRCI regarding the successes of their recent hunger strike. In their own words, “Page 11 portrays information that is detrimental to security.”

Censorship is nothing unusual for MIM, whether it is within U.S. prisons, on U.S. campuses or in public parks and sidewalks. It is a tool of repression to prevent effective organizing on the behalf of the oppressed and exploited under imperialism. Those who believe we live in a free country in the United States are among the privileged few who have persynal freedom and have never fought for the freedom of others.

A crucial hindrance in the organizing efforts of comrades behind bars is the inherent censorship they face by being cut off from society in general. Then, when organizations like MIM make a specific effort to reach them and offer them a forum to share information thru ULK, we are targeted for specific censorship.

This recent case is worth mentioning because the pigs were specific about why we were censored, demonstrating the motivation behind the censors who work for imperialism. They had no interest in allowing prisoners to sum up their successes in a public forum such as ULK and to acknowledge the unity of comrades in that facility.

Strategy games alternative to first-persyn shoot-em-ups

Software review:

“Rise of Nations” & “Rise of Nations: Thrones & Patriots”

Microsoft
2003 & 2004

“Rise of Nations” (RoN) is game of the year for 2003, according to a few industry writers. Behind it is one of the same people who put together “Civilization II” and “Alpha Centauri,” which accounts for how “Alpha Centauri” and RoN seem to borrow from the previous game “Civilization.” Others have said RoN rips off “Age of Empires.” From MIM's point-of-view, we are stuck with games like RoN for now, so we have to give RoN a grudging recommendation. When the proletariat seizes power it will expand on and improve RoN greatly.

Militarist fascination and computers

The main advantage of the “Civilization”-type games is that they are not the other mindless video and computer games people could play that are pure excitement of militarism for its own sake—the thrill of action-violence—enhanced by computer graphics that are an important art form. Strategy games used to be for programmers and other nerds who stayed in front of computers long hours. Now with Sony Corporation and others entering the fray, more shelf space at the store goes to simpler militarist games connected to the TV set.

The plus side of simple militarist games is that they are more active than passive TV-watching of militarist propaganda. On behalf of television, we might suspect that MTV is less harmful than FOX News militarism—in

which case passivity might be better than twisted joy in video-game militarism, in which there is often not even an ideological reason to serve as a veneer for the glories of war.

At the moment, MIM can not stop the decadent fascinations of imperialism, but the spread of pornography hooks men on the Internet and the spread of militarist games is hooking some people on technical advances such as computers. So the cloud of imperialist computer culture may have a silver lining. Hopefully the masses learn fascination with computer-related things instead of just fascination with militarism and then graduate to higher-level games like RoN.

In between the simple militarist games and games like RoN are role-playing games where the brain may be at work in a complicated maze and journey, but emphasis is on the individual's combats or explorations. “Doom” and “Myst” fall in this category. These games reflect the state of the politics and economics of settler societies that focus everything on the individual—though at least “Myst” is non-violent. The entire category of role-playing games can be written off as brainwashing of the sort MIM seeks to avoid above- all; although in the future, under socialism it will be possible to teach useful concepts using role-playing games. Maybe in cultures where there is a stifling group-oriented conformity, it may be progressive to look at role-playing more before passing into group-oriented communism.

Imperialist country art and video game consumers are prone to believe they are not products of society and the vast majority of existing games does nothing to counter

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FBI seizes independent website's computers

Two weeks before we reported on the Amerikan army's censure of reserve Sergeant Lorentz for his essay "Why We Cannot Win" the Amerikan Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) seized computers housing the European Indymedia website. An Indymedia press release described what happened.(1)

Thursday morning, US authorities issued a federal order to Rackspace ordering them to hand over Indymedia web servers to the requesting agency. Rackspace, which provides hosting services for more than 20 Indymedia sites at its London facility, complied and turned over the requested servers, effectively removing those sites from the internet.

Since the subpoena was issued to Rackspace and not to Indymedia, the reasons for this action are still unknown to Indymedia. Talking to Indymedia volunteers, Rackspace stated that "they cannot provide Indymedia with any information regarding the order." ISPs have received gag orders in similar situations which prevent them from updating the concerned parties on what is happening. [...]

The last few months have seen numerous attacks on independent media by the US Federal Government. In August the Secret Service used a subpoena in an attempt to disrupt the NYC IMC before the RNC by trying to get IP logs from an ISP in the US and the Netherlands. Last month the FCC shut

down community radio stations around the US. Two weeks ago the FBI requested that Indymedia takes down a post on the Nantes IMC that had a photo of some undercover Swiss police and IMC volunteers in Seattle were visited by the FBI on the same issue. On the other hand, Indymedia and other independent media organizations were successful with their victories for example against Diebold and the Patriot Act. Today however, the US authorities shut down IMCs around the world.

The list of affected local media collectives includes Ambazonia, Uruguay, Andorra, Poland, Western Massachusetts, Nice, Nantes, Lilles, Marseille (all France), Euskal Herria (Basque Country), Liege, East and West Vlaanderen, Antwerpen (all Belgium), Belgrade, Portugal, Prague, Galiza, Italy, Brazil, UK, part of the Germany site, and the global Indymedia Radio site.

Indymedia had to learn through the news wires that Rackspace turned over their computers in response to an order under the Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty (MLAT). Apparently the FBI subpoenaed the UK-based internet service provider in response to an Italian request. "The U.S. authorities, going beyond the requirements of the RFI [Request For Information], then issued an order to seize the drives," says an Indymedia press release dated 14 October 2004.

"Indymedia's seized hardware was

mysteriously returned in the same way it disappeared—without any information provided as to who took it or why, and on whose orders." Indymedia is currently investigating whether the hard drives were tampered with.

Several organizations of international journalists correctly protested the FBI's actions. "We have witnessed an intolerable and intrusive international police operation against a network specializing in independent journalism," said Aidan White, the General Secretary for the International Federation of Journalists (IFJ). "The way this has been done smacks more of intimidation of legitimate journalistic inquiry than crime-busting." David Dudge, editor for the International Press Institute, said, "The fact that the authorities' actions are shrouded in mystery leaves Indymedia in the Kafkaesque position of not knowing the identity of its accusers or the nature of their claim."

MIM adds that this is nothing new. We've reported in these pages about cyber attacks on MIM and pro-Palestinian organizers.(2) Our newspaper is regularly censored by prison wardens and college administrators.(3) "You have the right to free speech," the old joke goes, "as long as you don't actually try to use it."

Amerikans need to re-learn some of their "founding fathers'" lessons regarding a free press and the abuse of governmental power. The Patriot Act and similar new laws make it easier for

government officials to censor or imprison journalists on a whim, without having to justify their actions publicly. This only makes it more difficult for the Amerikan public—who face attacks at home and whose sons and daughters are dying abroad because of their government's actions—to learn the truth about the world and their place in it, at a time when "respectable" "established" news organizations only parrot government's spin meisters.

"Indymedia is calling for supporters to sign a solidarity declaration at http://solidarity.indymedia.org.uk/denouncing_the_hard_drive_seizure_as_an_unacceptable_attack_on_press_freedom_freedom_of_expression_and_privacy. They are demanding a full disclosure of the names of organizations and individuals involved in the seizure, a copy of the court order, and an independent investigation into any violations of due process."

Notes:

1. Unless otherwise noted, all quotes come from <http://www.indymedia.org/en/static/fbi.shtml>. Coincidentally (or not), their site was down when we went to double-check the quotes just before we went to press.

2. MIM Notes 273, 1 Jan 2003.

3. <http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/agitation/censor/colleges/index.html>; <http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/agitation/prisons/censor/index.html>

Report on the expansion of MIM's media

MIM's central task: "to create public opinion and the independent institutions of the oppressed to seize power."

We continue to lag considerably behind our Five Year Plan goals. August 2004 compared favorably with August 2003 in variety of files that our readers found of interest, but the growth in users lagged behind the growth in content as measured by the number of different files touched by readers. The variety of files offered has allowed for a deepening of readership—more pages taken per reader relative to growth in number of readers.

On the plus side, August is generally our slowest month in the year. In August 2004 we reached two major milestones: 1) Our readership was over 1000 people per day in our slowest month. 2) We handed out over 100 non-art & non-graphics files per hour on average in our slowest month. Since we achieved this in an August it is not likely we will go backward from that level of traffic.

We suffered another unexpected technical setback in August. We continue to hear your clamour for the publication of books (several of which are

Comparing August 2003 and August 2004

	August 2003	August 2004	Change
Number of different computers MIM served*	26933	31730	+17.8%
Avg. MIM pages served per day	2085	2835	+36%
MIM data transferred (megabytes per day)	75	131	+43%
MIM Notes printed copies compared with pre-911=100	111	111	
All language newspapers printed copies compared with pre-911=100	111	111	
MIM prison circulation averaged over two months Jan 2002=100	31	0	
Number of top 53 cites of U.\$/Kanada receiving at least 1000 MIM Notes	Unknown	3	
Average days after print date by which 80% of papers have been distributed	Unknown	5	
Number of Art page users	4109	5212	+27%
Number of different MIM web page files actively chosen from	3584	5859	+64%
Amazon visitors sent from web page	442	570	+29%

Comparing September 2003 and September 2004

	Sep., 2003	Sep., 2004	Change
Number of different computers MIM served*	34933	38738	+10.9%
Avg. MIM pages served per day	3033	3503	+16%
MIM data transferred (megabytes per day)	86	77	-11%
MIM Notes printed copies compared with pre-911=100	133	222	
All language newspapers printed copies compared with pre-911=100	133	222	
MIM prison circulation averaged over two months Jan 2002=100	94	0	
Number of top 53 cites of U.\$/Kanada receiving at least 1000 MIM Notes	Unknown	3	
Average days after print date by which 80% of papers have been distributed	Unknown	18	
Number of Art page users	4279	6430	+50%
Number of different MIM web page files actively chosen from	3501	5711	+63%
Amazon visitors sent from web page	546	720	+32%

*Results exclude art, graphics and some other users.

forthcoming) and the establishment of another Internet discussion group. We also apologize to our French-speaking readers: we have failed to print another edition of Notes Rouges. It's not that we forget our obligations. We simply fail to

meet them. We are not usually so far out of line with our operational plans. Hopefully we are in transition to a higher stage level of operation.

A few oddball tidbits—outside the English-speaking countries, MIM's art

page readers are heavily German and Iranian. We also had over 350 hits on our old review of "Sim City 3000," a complex simulation video game.

‘Shut down the Security Housing Units!’

October report

MIM and RAIL continued our work with the United Front to Shut Down the SHU (Security Housing Unit) with a series of protests, educational events and outreach work in October. Our regular first-Saturday-of-the-month protests in San Francisco and Oakland were a success. This month we were again out on the streets downtown in both cities, handing out literature, collecting petition signatures, and talking to people about these long term solitary confinement cells and why we want to shut them down.

In San Francisco, we moved the table to a new spot which turned out to be much better for talking to people. Many former prisoners and family members of former prisoners stopped by to express support, sign the petition, and take literature. A few people familiar with the campaign also stopped by the table to say hi and thank us for our work and pledge their continued support. We collected close to 50 signatures in the two hours of outreach.

In Oakland, RAIL was on the street in various locations and doing outreach at friendly events before, during and after our monthly rally to build for our teach-in around the SHU the following week. All of our work around downtown brought us in contact with former SHU victims, family members and supporters. We gathered dozens of signatures during this time and handed out hundreds of fliers for our teach-in.

The day after the first Saturday rally we attended the Hip Hop Summit at Laney college (in Oakland) and set up a table featuring information on the SHU and some “Don’t Vote, Organize!” propaganda. The latter was in stark contrast to the overall theme of the event. The upside was that there was a strong focus by the Summit on local ballot initiatives dealing with issues such as putting more cops on the street and reforming the Three Strikes Law. This is a significant difference from the pro-Kerry voting campaigns that most organizations are taking up. Our reception at the Summit was very positive. We gathered several sheets of signatures and gained a lot of good attention and new allies. Many people there were familiar with the criminal injustice system and there were activists there supporting Proposition 66 (the Three Strikes amendment) and copwatch, among others. We met a number of activists with organizations in the state that were interested in learning more about the United Front and possibly getting involved.

The most encouraging voices at the Summit were members of the Prisoners of Conscience Committee (POCC), most notably Mutulu from dead prez and Chairman Fred Hampton Jr. Dead prez performed that evening alongside five other acts to close the summit. The POCC were the only other people besides MIM and RAIL putting out a “Don’t Vote” message at the Summit. As usual, dead

prez put on an excellent performance, while stressing the POCC Code of Culture—namely, that the performance wasn’t a “hip hop concert,” but people coming together to express their common experience and organize to change that experience. While it was discouraging that the crowd surged in size after the organizing programs were over, dead prez brought a better message to the evening crowd than a lot of people were putting out during the day, and RAIL took the opportunity to hand out fliers to hundreds of young people.

Chairman Fred Hampton Jr. spoke at a separate forum the following night in Berkeley to promote the POCC and raise funds to attend the International Social Forum in Brazil, where they hope to present their African Anti-Terrorism Bill (AAT). The AAT is one of the POCC’s major tools in pressuring politicians and media personas to make concessions to the cause of liberating African people. The theme of this event was “The Math of the Masses: No position on political prisoners + No position on reparations + no position on the AAT Bill = NO VOTE!” Throughout the night, Hampton stressed that when people are so desperate that they’ll vote for anyone, they open themselves to all kinds of attacks. The POCC is taking a principled stand on not voting, just as MIM has done for decades. Neither of us has ruled out voting as a possible tactic, but until it becomes a tactic that can push revolutionary struggle forward with we will build allies by coming out in principled opposition.

Fred Hampton Jr. is working in the footsteps of his father who was killed in his bed by the government at age 21 for being a successful organizer for the Black Panther Party. Chairman Fred Jr. spoke about his father’s successes. He helped the Devil’s Disciples become the Black Disciples and take on work with the BPP’s breakfast for school children program. Fred spoke about how these organizations weren’t joining the BPP, but they were working with them where they could find unity. This is the same strategy the POCC is taking up today, apparently successfully, in working with unpoliticized street tribes. While Hampton spoke about the many “coalitions” they are forming with groups in Chicago, this is an example of what MIM defines as a “United Front.” The difference being that the POCC, as the BPP before it, is finding unity with these organizations in action while each group is keeping its independence in terms of ideology and what it stands for in general. A coalition implies a melding of organizations into one monolithic whole, the tragedy of this being that the politics of the most advanced sectors are watered down by the politics of the rest.

The POCC also does a lot of prisoner support work similar to MIM. Analogous to MIM’s Serve the People Prisoner Release on Life program, the POCC has



“Welcome Black to the Community,” which at this stage provides a care package to recent releasees to help them get on their feet. The POCC also has a “One Prisoner, One Contact” program that gets people on the outside writing to prisoners on the inside. And as the Chairman stressed its not just writing about, “hi, how are you, can’t wait for you to get out.” They’re working to build real contact between prisoners and communities to build organization, just as MIM does with its prison correspondence work. The POCC does a good job of putting politics in command of its work and we look forward to their future successes and potential alliances in our respective work.

The following night we had our own public education event in Oakland on the SHU. Only a small group attended but it was a good event with a lively discussion. The speakers focused on the contradictions within the prison system and how the SHU and the criminal injustice system as a whole fit into the bigger picture of imperialism.

Opening the event, a RAIL activist explained the dialectical nature of prisons as tools of oppression and breeders of resistance. S/he stressed the strategic importance of the SHU campaign in relation to all the other humyn rights issues we could be taking on. On one side we have the SHU as an extreme form of repression that is isolating some of our best leaders from the masses they are trying to organize. This is why it is so important that we win this struggle. It would not just be a victory for one small humyn rights struggle, but the relative liberation of our comrades from these SHUs (relative because they will still be imprisoned) will push forward the long term goal of guaranteeing all humyns’ survival rights by overthrowing imperialism as a whole.

The other side of the SHU is that it is so brutally repressive that as long as they

do exist our movement will only grow as more family members and ex-prisoners have had experience with the system. These units have already been condemned by the United Nations. Even those who promote prisons can’t deny that about 90% of those in the SHU will be released some day and that it is better for society if they had spent that time taking classes, working, exercising and interacting with other humyns.

A presentation by the Barrio Defense Committee (BDC) exposed the use of the SHU for social control, particularly targeting Mexican prisoners. The BDC comrade also discussed how Mexican community members are being targeted by the police through programs called “Weed and Seed” that are artificially increasing the charges being brought against people because they are being picked up in neighborhoods the government has decided to target. Afterward, MIM gave context to the repression in the SHU discussing why the United States has the highest imprisonment rate in the world and how prisons and the SHU fit into the system of national oppression within u.s. borders.

United Struggle from Within comrades in the SHU participated in the event through written statements read by RAIL activists. The opening speaker stressed the connection and similarities between the SHU and Abu Ghraib and Guantanamo Bay. The flier for the event used Abu Ghraib photos in an effort to make a point that this was a systematic problem. Torture and terror are not new to the United States, their use has only increased over time. Black people have seen this terror since the beginnings of slavery, and today there are few parts of the world you can go that have not been touched by U.S. terror. It is only within the context of ending all U.S. terror that we can make the struggle to abolish the SHU an effective one.

Don't trust the authorities

Youth need to figure out the wars for themselves

The following is a list of quotes from a web page. At first the Vietnam War required no draft. It ended up with 500,000 troops in Vietnam. The list of quotes shows that all of the major authorities aside from having completely wrong ideological values also either did not know what they were doing or lied to the public to keep it stoked up for war.

"The training, transportation and logistical support we are providing in Vietnam has succeeded in turning the tide against the Vietcong."—General Barksdale Hamlett (US Army Vice Chief of Staff), October 10, 1962

"The spearhead of aggression has been blunted in Vietnam."—John F. Kennedy, January 14, 1963

"Victory is in sight."—General Paul D. Harkins, March 5, 1963

"The Vietcong is going to collapse within weeks. Not months but weeks."—Walt Whitman Rostow (Chairman of the Policy Planning Council of the US Department of State), July 1965

"Its silly talking about how many years we will have to spend in the jungles of Vietnam when we could pave the whole

country and put parking stripes on it and still be home by Christmas."—Ronald Reagan, October 10, 1965

"We must never forget that if the war in Vietnam is lost. . . the right of free speech will be extinguished throughout the world."—Richard M. Nixon, October 27, 1965

"Hold on a little longer and pretty soon we will have them on their knees at the bargaining table."—Sen. Everett Dirksen, January 9, 1966

"The North Vietnamese cannot take the punishment anymore in the South. I think we can bring the war to a conclusion within the next year, possibly within the next six months."—General S.L.A. Marshall, September 12, 1966

"I believe there is a light at the end of what has been a long and lonely tunnel."—Lyndon B. Johnson, September 21, 1966

"The military picture is favorable."—Gen. William C. Westmoreland, April 24, 1967

"We have reached an important point when the end begins to come into view."—Gen. William C. Westmoreland,

General Westmoreland's statements to the press and presidents over years in the face of the obvious dangers and immorality of genocidal bombing are proof that strong spirituality is not a good thing.

November 21, 1967

"The troops will be brought home in 18 months."—General Harold K. Johnson, August 12, 1967

"If I'm elected we'll end this war in six months."—Richard M. Nixon, 1968

"The enemy is about to run out of steam."—Gen. William C. Westmoreland, February 2, 1968

"We have the enemy licked now." END—Admiral John S. McClain, February 1969

"I think we've certainly turned the corner."—Melvin Laird (US Secretary of Defense), July 15, 1969

"The enemy is reeling from successive disasters. . . . We are, in fact. . . winning the war."—William Buckley, December 20, 1969

"We're on our way up . . . the pendulum is beginning to swing."—Gen. William C. Westmoreland, April 16, 1972

"Militarily and politically, Hanoi is losing."—Richard M. Nixon, June 26, 1972

Like their "war on drugs," the imperialists' "war on terror" and war on Iraq are really matters of the spiritual foolhardiness of the middle-class and poor people they seek to misguide. Without understanding places like Vietnam and Iraq better, it is impossible for the public



to really know what the rulers have in mind, other than the usual genocide and oil theft. That's why the Iraq War is a reason for youth to study politics more deeply.

If oil and military contracts are not good reasons for a war in your mind, and if you or someone you care for is draft-age (and that includes wimmin who will be drafted), then you need to study the politics of war more seriously.

If it were up to our current rulers descended from J.F.K and Reagan, the United States would still be fighting in Vietnam. It was only the deaths of so many young men that caused any rethinking, any independent investigation.

Thanks to Mike Rodriguez for his quotes archive: http://www.allthepages.org/archives/cat_quotes.html

ANTI-DRAFT MOVEMENT ACHIEVES STEP FORWARD

Continued from page 1...

issues of war and peace—ranging from the lies in Vietnam to the scare tactics about Saddam Hussein's alleged nuclear weapons. Not surprisingly, youth are going to find a way to figure out things for themselves.

In the first televised debate with Kerry and since then, Bush has stressed that like his "Secretary of Defense" Rumsfeld he is opposed to the draft. At the same time, Bu\$h's hand-picked colonial administrator L. Paul Bremer the 3rd who headed Iraq from May 2003 to June 2004 just said that "the United States paid a price for not stopping the looting in Iraq in the immediate aftermath of major combat operations and that we did not have enough troops on the ground to accomplish that task."(2)

The only way that the United States could have landed enough troops in Iraq to take control as it did in Germany was to have a draft—and even then the political plan with the details and the general ideology in the air to create change on the scale of Germany or Japan after World War II were lacking. Conversely, the Iraqi people are more prepared to visit the United States and straighten it out than the other way around.

Bremer knows very well that Kerry's side picked up his comments to prove that Bu\$h never knew what he was doing, but Bremer made the comments anyway because he is desperate to get in his two cents in recent Congress discussions of

the military's size and budget. The "competence" faction of the rulers is somewhat upset right now, but we cannot trust any of the "increase the size of the military" politicians as having a real solution. Quite the contrary, their plan will exhaust the all-volunteer military while expanding the budget deficit.

In an attempt to fool the youth just prior to the 2004 election, Bu\$h's buddies in Congress sponsored a vote for the draft. It lost 402-2. This was the way the Republican Party tried to stop youth from massively voting against it.(1)

To get the draft, the imperialists know they need some dramatic events like 911, so the politicians can say they had "no choice" but to turn to a draft, just as they said they "had no choice" to go to war to back their lies and distortions about the UN weapons inspections in Iraq.(3) We say to ignore the politicians. They only reflect what is already happening. Just because the politicians talk about how Bu\$h did not plan ahead for the peace in Iraq does not mean youth should also fail to plan ahead. It is the casualties in Iraq and the threats Uncle Sam makes against other countries that determine the question for those yet to serve.

Notes:

1. <http://www.time.com/time/magazine/article/0,9171,1101041018-713207,00.html>

2. <http://www.iht.com/articles/542686.htm>

3. www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/bookstore/books/violence/milanrai.html

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.

Fight censorship in the military!

MIM starts webpage on censorship in the military

www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/agitation/censor/milit/

The U.S. Government Census Bureau determined that there were 26.4 million living veterans in the United States as of 2000. That is 13% of the population and includes approximately one in four men over age 18.(1)

A large portion of society becomes acclimated to repression in the military as youth. A militarized country is not a free country, and on this MIM does not say anything particularly new.(2) The “founding fathers” while guilty of genocide and slavery knew from European experience why they opposed having too many veterans and a standing army that is large and permanent. It’s cause-and-effect that militarization leads

to despotism, and this is now such a problem that MIM itself does not believe it is possible to leap straight into a peaceful and state-less world.

The continual necessity for their services enhances the importance of the soldier, and proportionably degrades the condition of the citizen. The military state becomes elevated above the civil. The inhabitants of territories, often the theatre of war, are unavoidably subjected to frequent infringements on their rights, which serve to weaken their sense of those rights; and by degrees the people are brought to consider the soldiery not only as their protectors, but as their

superiors. The transition from this disposition to that of considering them masters, is neither remote nor difficult; but it is very difficult to prevail upon a people under such impressions, to make a bold or effectual resistance to usurpations supported by the military power.

--Alexander Hamilton, “Federalist Papers” #8, November 20 1786.(3)

It is imperative to fight the degradation of the whole society by militarist brainwashing and censorship, but we have to admit that with the number of veterans, police and prison guards in the United States, the situation has gone beyond anything Alexander Hamilton

imagined happening. The perpetual war of the United States on the Third World has led to a situation where 1) the United States attacks other countries in the name of “freedom”; 2) yet, soldiers learn to do without freedom in practical life in the military and 3) the United States can land a hundred thousand troops anywhere, but it can’t run its own elections.

Notes:

1. www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/2002/cb02ff18.html.
2. www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/faq/freecoun.html.
3. www.yale.edu/lawweb/avalon/federal/fed08.htm

IMPERIALISTS CENSOR SGT.

Continued from page 1...

seem meaningful when the government is able to keep its citizens ignorant about the war it is supporting or having second thoughts about.

That is also the reason that George Bush said in the presidential debates that he does not want to debate the war because he’s worried about the “message it sends” to the troops. There is a solid 40% of the United States that, once it gets into a war, has no way of getting out, because that substantial minority considers it unwise or even unpatriotic to criticize any war. Permanent war is the thinking of much of Amerika: a substantial minority of people will simultaneously brag about belonging to a “free country” while simultaneously trying to shut up critics.

When MIM points out that capitalism censors the press all the time, we usually send readers straight to our prison literacy outreach programs.(4) Our attempts to bring education to those imperialism chose not to educate are usually sabotaged by the pigs; however, there are dozens of other examples of capitalist pig censorship: all press under capitalism must sell advertising to survive—and so advertisers have a major impact on the editorial policies of journals.

**Think you have free speech?
Think again!**

This case of imperialist censorship should make clear the illusory character of “freedom” under capitalism. Here we have a career soldier who likely wants the imperialists to win and even has some insights about how they could. But instead of being listened to he is getting what he deserves: a slap in the face! MIM just wishes we could be the ones to slap Sgt. Lorentz to his senses. Instead, he is being victimized by his (former?) imperialist masters for his insolence and probably getting a lot of double-talk, and mixed messages. Sgt. Lorentz is now learning

more wrong lessons from a system of lies that can only teach wrong lessons. Our sympathy for Sgt. Lorentz is a direct function of his commitment to eradicating his 20 years of crimes by taking up the anti-imperialist banner.

The lesson here is clear: the imperialists even censor their own ilk. Consequently, those who care about civil liberties should not expect the imperialists to defend them. Speaking of independent media, MIM generally does not talk about Libertarian or “Old Right” sites like “LewRockwell.com” or “antiwar.com.” These sites are examples of a minority strand of capitalists who think that war is bad for business and that it should be opposed in the name of the market. It makes for interesting, principled, but theoretically incoherent, reading. The “libertarians” have not yet realized that capitalism engenders and even requires the wars that they rightly oppose. So while MIM can salute capitalists like Murray Rothbard for their anti-war stance the fact is that capitalism generates wars because the arms industries stand to profit from them as do the banks! No amount of wishful thinking will change the facts: greed is indifferent to the suffering it engenders.

Notes:

1. Why We Cannot Win, by Al Lorentz 20 September 2004, <http://www.lewrockwell.com/orig5/lorentz1.html>
2. Operation American Repression? By Eric Boehlert 29 Sept. 2004 http://archive.salon.com/news/feature/2004/09/29/military_justice/
3. <http://www.cnn.com/2004/WORLD/meast/10/15/military.investigation/index.html>
4. Fight Censorship in Prison! <http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/agitation/prisons/censor/index.html>; Books for Prisoners, <http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/agitation/prisons/booksforprisoners/>



**IMPERIALISM
KILLS
MILLIONS**

<http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/rail/impkills.html>

Strategy games alternative to first-person shoot-em-ups

Continued from page 3...

that deluded belief. The predominance of militarist and role-playing games is the reason that MIM finds something to cheer in RoN, because at least in RoN there is an entire economy, a political system and history. The outcome of the game does not depend on the action of one super-robot constructed by the player: as in "Tropico," we see all the citizens scurrying about their work and that work determines whether the player wins or loses.

Economy

Like most other strategy games, RoN cuts through the dense fog of bourgeois economics which focuses on consumer choices, markets and profits. In RoN the workers produce five goods and services—food, wood, metal, oil and knowledge plus various exotic elements. Five goods and services provide a dynamic underpinning for the whole game.

The RoN economy does not depend on individual choices, sales or profits. The marketplace does exist but it plays no directing role. It is the player who directs the economy and (if for no other reason) that is why MIM has to recommend RoN.

Something we like is that the game starts with food and wood. These are analogous to what Marxists call the "productive sector" agriculture and industry. With work in these two sectors in the economy it is possible to expand. Universities and white collar production come only later in the game.

In "Tropico" we liked the effect of having transport workers included. In both "Tropico" and RoN we see the difference between role-playing games and strategy games: workers will set about work themselves and not each unit has to be programmed. In a role-playing game, each action of each individual is the key to the enjoyment of the game. As a strategy game, RoN goes the extra step and says that there is no need to program someone to deliver food or wood. That is the sort of choice that strategy game programmers make to allow focus on the bigger picture.

If the player completely bungles the economy, competitors will come to destroy him/her literally. Most likely, the player will achieve economic surplus and expand business into more territory. In all of this so far, Marx would have found himself in familiar intellectual territory.

The gloomy side of the game is that it is inevitable that some will expand the economy and that appears to lead to war. Economic surplus makes war possible, but RoN has no socialist solution. Even diplomacy is severely limited by the overall logic of the game. The most one can do is start the game by checking off the computer options that the computer competitors will be driven to economic expansion as their strategic focus. In this, RoN follows along in the recent trend

toward non-violent options—not as arising from the game itself but by programming choice at the beginning of the game. For this, RoN again deserves some credit.

There are some parents who would like to buy the game that excludes the war option. We have to note that RoN does have scenarios where the "mission" is for an army to kill civilians—what is known today as "terrorism." The reason given for the slaughter is that they are settlers stealing "your" land. On the one hand, the mission terrorism will desensitize some people, but on the other hand, the depiction is historically accurate for many places including Palestine today. Hopefully people will question whether it is worth "conquering the world" or participating in a world with "rules" like that.

The other side of the coin is that diplomacy in RoN is undeveloped—perhaps a good thing that does not promote illusions. In fact, one section of the game makes explicit that conquering the world is the solution to the problems. Perhaps as a concession to the market, the detailed emphasis ends up on military battles. The military strategy is limited to what types of units to produce and what formations to put them in where. It is not connected the way Mao connected military science to politics and moving forward.

Perhaps RoN can bundle together with games that have non-violent options and create a pacifist combination pack. Although anyone able to play the game is "adult" enough to decide for him or herself whether war is fun or not, as a matter of gift-giving some would like the pacifist option.

History

As in a theater production, RoN makes use of historically specific props and images. The expansion pack offers Alexander the Great, Napoleon and the presidents of the United States during the Cold War—probably months worth of playing time. The correct names of many political leaders pop up in the game—so at least at that slight level the game can acclimate players somewhat to international history.

When we play the "Cold War" scenario, an icon of Lenin pops up and recommends war to take over countries because the Communist Party is short on cash. It's another way of pressing the player to "conquer the world."

On the other hand, the cynicism is even-handed. Regardless of ideology or history, in the Cold War game, bribing states or taking them over by military force is the way to win.

The even-handed cynicism deserves to be called bourgeois internationalism. RoN has African civilizations—Nubia and Egypt, Middle Eastern civilization—Turkey and Persia, European imperialists, China and Korea etc. The expansion pack even makes it possible to fight as Lakota Indians or as members of the Iroquois Confederacy.



Of course we appreciate the attention to the various nations. What we find reactionary in the RoN context is the idea that civilizations just rise and fall. That could be a possible explanation for the focus on military conquest that will cycle on forever as it seems to have in humyn history as depicted by RoN. What is lacking is a sense of advance as opposed to circular conquests. This circular view of history especially suits Americans right now who can say, "they had their turn rampaging; now it's ours." RoN can be a typical excuse for conservatives with a species-death-wish: "that's the way it is." That's the way it cannot be anymore or the planet can say bye-bye.

In the "Conquer the World" scenario of the "whole world," all the players are trying to become global dominators. Those that do not can be wiped out. Those left standing are good at economic surpluses, diplomacy and military tactics. In a certain sense, the economy and technology advance in the survivors, but the question is whether "victors" geared to war can obtain peace. History answers that no empire has ever conquered the whole world and all attempts have ended in war. Even if Hitler's Third Reich had conquered the whole world, it would not have survived without internal war leading to new nations and another cycle of wasteful violence. Marx & Lenin turned to economics and science and said the dialectic would bring about peace unexpectedly by giving rise to an advanced class of proletarians.

In the expansion pack, there is a clock ticking toward nuclear doom—another bit of realism. What is missing is a realistic sense of how people can fight it. In this, RoN reflects the past, but does not develop or synthesize a theory about it to move forward. That's what Marxism offers. There is still no other answer for that clock ticking toward nuclear doom.

The Cold War

Historically-speaking, RoN is the most realistic of the games by the same people overlapping with "Civilization." Nonetheless, "Superpower" is far more realistic, an example of a competitor of RoN. RoN fans would probably reply that RoN covers far more history while "Superpower" is just recent times.

In playing the RoN Cold War scenario, again, peace or a new idea for peace was not an option. In the one scenario the reviewer played, the Americans attacked while the Russian side tended to economic matters. The Americans passed on the Korean War, but they did invade Vietnam. Eventually President Reagan also invaded Cuba in the game.

Summary

The marketplace knows about armaments and past wars. To sell a game modeling how to achieve peace and harmony is a lot to ask our gaming bourgeoisie at the moment. It was an advance for RoN and others to "assume" the world is non-violent and that the game occurs in that context, either as economic competition or cultural competition. Along these lines, "Galactic Civilization" is perhaps better in putting the problem on the table, because it builds the pacifist option into the existing world of competitive militarists. Although pacifists in that game arm themselves, they can compete directly with the militarists. The problem there is that most pacifists might not see the "pacifists" as very pacifist.

There is a vicious cycle where art imitates life and life imitates art. To become fully humyn, we must intervene to break the cycle of history, no matter how true up to this point. That's why we criticize the video games people play.

RoN has a "something for everyone" approach to strategy—with politics, economics, history and military science.

Boston police admit killing student

Continued from page 1...

had O'Toole said something like that to her comrades, she would have been asked for self-criticism. Had she managed to say something like that to the media, she would have been fired and found another job. That is the correct model of community-to-police relations. Nothing less will ever produce the optimum non-violent social order.

Red Sox ownership should see that this incident ruined the Red Sox celebrations and should pressure the police and city officials. In celebrations after a Los Angeles Lakers championship victories some fans turned over two police cars. Lakers star Shaquille O'Neal could see where his bread is buttered and he paid for the police cars. In that incident over-hyped by the media, a media van also suffered along with \$750,000 worth of other business damages.(3) MIM says "so what?" The police deployment costs more than that and none of it compares with the death of Victoria Snelgrove.

The fear of cars being turned over or some wild graffiti or drunken scuffles did not justify Boston's police deployment. Anyone with an ethical sense of proportion can see that.

Even among more moderate writers in the press, Brian McGrory of the Boston Globe seems to have no grip on what causes what. The death of a man at the Super Bowl celebration in February was by a drunk driver. Unless the city is going to successfully ban alcohol or driving and deploy police for that, there are going to be drunk-driving related deaths. Putting riot cops on the street is not a solution for that problem. Using the Super Bowl death of a man killed by a drunk driver to justify riot police deployment is oink-speak in two senses.

The reason that police never see that is that they earn money to abuse the public. Police Commissioner O'Toole's "punks" rhetoric is nothing but a justification for police pay. The tally for the Democratic National Convention held in July is still not done, but already it is clear that just Boston police alone (and there were other police agencies involved) have received at least \$5 million in overtime pay from that.(4) Not surprisingly the police and their friends in the media are constantly hyping non-existent threats—not to mention the threats that do exist but police cannot solve.

Some of the same cold-hearted knee-jerk police supporters who will sweep Victoria Snelgrove under the rug will also complain about taxes even as their beloved police bilk the public with hyped fears about demonstrators or Red Sox crowds. These same sicko cheapskates will be lining up to send troops to Iraq with the hope of cheaper gas so they can afford the taxes to pay for more cops. Their attitude is not much different than that of the pirates of yore. They are for force to settle questions, not for improved production to make everyone better off.

If all the people they favor having as police and prison guards had real jobs, they would not need to be sending youth to die for oil.

Under the dictatorship of the proletariat there won't be police unions or anything of that kind, no police cliques. Police and prison officials will be public servants or they will find other jobs, and other jobs will be guaranteed under socialism. The people of Boston should put MIM in power as our current politicians do not have a sense of proportion in life-and-death matters.

The difference between Pedro Martinez and city officials

After losing a game to the New York Yankees, star Boston Red Sox pitcher Pedro Martinez said that the writers could call the Yankees "my daddy." It was a way of showing a self-critical spirit in a sporting way—to admit defeat by an opponent. The statistics showed that Pedro fared relatively poorly against the Yankees all season and Pedro was man enough to admit it. People without a grip on reality and a self-critical attitude do not have achievements like Pedro's.

In contrast, ego-tripping government officials in Boston deployed police that killed Victoria Snelgrove and the next day could not focus themselves on the appropriate message of the day which was that they and their police were wrong and they were going to do something to prevent being wrong again. If Pedro can say the Yankees are "his daddy," then Commissioner O'Toole can say that she was the leader of the "punks."

Meanwhile, Boston Mayor Thomas Menino was busy threatening to arrange expulsion of students for celebrating in too rowdy a fashion. "The students have no sense of responsibility whatsoever,"(5) he had the gall to say just after his police killed one. Earth to Menino: you should be expelling police rioters and maybe then you would earn students' respect.

We at MIM told you so. In our live coverage of the "crowd control" at the Republican National Convention in New York City we said: "One thing we did not see in the labor aristocracy media—a comparison of how much violence has been carried out by police as compared with demonstrators. The reason we do not hear that subject talked about is that police riots against the public are much more common than violent riots by

demonstrators. Hiring fewer cops and providing existing ones something else to do is the surest road to reducing violence."

Commissioner O'Toole and Menino bear responsibility for provoking the crowds into minor mayhem and for lacking any sense of proportion regarding the major disorder that caused the death of Victoria Snelgrove.

The role of spectator sports

MIM opposes commercialized spectator sports. The couch potatoes should glorify their own competitive exploits with one tenth what they give to spectator sports now and we would have an amazing people.

It's also unavoidable to ask in a situation like this one—why there is such an outpouring regarding the Red Sox. The answer is the manipulation of sports corporations.

People bored with their own lives under capitalism find intense vicarious pleasure in the achievements of others. Not surprisingly, that basic kind of alienation leads to the sports bar and alcohol. People in charge of their own workplaces and leisure lives would not feel that kind of alienation that leads to spectator sports mania and alcohol and other drugs—problems that police under capitalism can never solve.

As we can see from the Victoria Snelgrove case, police cannot solve crowd control issues either. Someone died at the Super Bowl too and prohibition of alcohol does not work in the United States, because capitalism creates black markets. The only real answer to this whole knot of problems is socialism—self-actualization at work, self-actualization in sports and other leisure-time activities. Puncturing the whole spectator sport myth is important for the same underlying reason as puncturing the myth of the importance of the capitalist class in production.

Notes:

1. <http://www.cnn.com/2004/US/10/22/fan.death/index.html>
2. Metro Boston Edition 22Oct2004, p. 1.
3. <http://www.usatoday.com/sports/nba/02playoffs/2002-06-13-lakers-fans.htm>
4. http://www.boston.com/news/politics/conventions/articles/2004/10/11/convention_overtime_at_66m_may_top_9m/
5. Metro Boston Edition 22Oct2004, p. 6.

What is the dictatorship of the proletariat?

The proletariat is the group of people who are propertyless and thus have "nothing to lose but their chains." The proletariat is the least conservative element of society. The bourgeoisie is the class of people who appropriate the labor of wage workers through their control of the means of production.

Dictatorship is organized force. According to Marxism, all governments are dictatorships. When classes are abolished, it may be possible to have no dictatorships because governments will be abolished and replaced by voluntary cooperation. We communists admit to having dictatorship governments until we achieve our goal of classlessness. It's a matter of accountability.

Dictatorship of the proletariat is the government of socialism. Dictatorship of the bourgeoisie is the government of capitalism.

Concretely and with reference to North American ideas, dictatorship of the proletariat is government implementation of "survival rights" above "property rights."

The realization that the right to life itself can not be negotiable favors the proletariat. Along with that realization comes the notion that a non-negotiable "right" implies the use of force to protect it from those who profit abusing those so-called rights. The use of force or law backed by force (government) to feed, clothe, shelter and otherwise protect survival rights is dictatorship of the proletariat.

The dictatorship of the proletariat is the most central question of socialism. We do not water it down or evade it. The whole Cultural Revolution in China (1966-1976) was about how to maintain and strengthen the dictatorship of the proletariat so that it would not be corrupted. We communists are not Liberal. We do not tolerate those who put profit or such goals above survival rights. We favor repression or control of such people until the causes of their twisted thought have been removed and bourgeois thought has become completely impossible to the whole people. That will only happen under advanced stages of communism.

Because there is no exploited white working class in North America, MIM favors the joint dictatorship of the proletariat of the oppressed nations (JDPON). This amounts to putting u.S. imperialism into receivership by something like a proletarian United Nations. The whole dictatorship of the proletariat idea or its current form required as JDPON is a strategy for advance from capitalism toward communism, in which dictatorship is only a stage existing until certain tasks eliminating classes are done.

What questions do YOU have?

Wasn't Mao a butcher? Why do you spell it "Amerika"? Shouldn't you try non-violence first? What is internationalism? Isn't hating white people reverse racism? Why don't you leftists work together? Why don't you tone it down? What is a cardinal principle? What is your program? What is necessary to join MIM? What concrete actions can I take? How do I write articles for MIM? What is your copyright policy?

Go to <http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/faq>
and get real answers to these and other questions.

The real truth about Three Strikes and mandatory minimums

Three strikes is a failure, enacted to allegedly remove violent offenders from society; this law brought to life by a mentality of vengeance is but the result of sophisticated manipulation.

There is a combination of forces at work to further erode family, societal and state structures; to raise them to a level of all out fascism. The kidnap, savage rape, and murder of Polly Class by Richard Allen Davis are just one spectrum of what led to the policy's creation. The "1992 Riots" played a significant role due to the widespread chaos and destruction of Los Angeles. Once the anger spread, it reached cities in other states. The truth is the fear of an all out conscious uprising of America's semi-internal colonies brought fear to its highest levels of manipulative authority: the state, city, and federal government.

It's been ten years practically since the invention of this law. Take a look around your neighborhood, has crime increased or decreased? Read the sanitized media of newspapers and watch the television, has that changed much? The real crooks are the corporations who subconsciously convince millions of people in this land and the world that they care and they provide some service to the world community. Has not the landscape of this land steadily progressed to its current state of venomous capitalism? While many advocate three strikes for the oppressed nations of America, what about the corporate three strikes? We won't begin to make progress in this country until the real criminals are brought to socialist justice; our hypocrisy to say we're against crime, and not against it "in all forms."

So what has mandatory minimum's sentencing guidelines improved? These guidelines have improved the systematic attack on the occupation of America's semi-colonies right to life and liberty. If the wealth of any nation can be concentrated in the hands of a few, and denied the many, you can only have a system of unfair implementation. Currently, the president and his crew have formed an oligarchy, concentrating Capital and force to have a monopoly on wealth and influence. Monopoly capital controls America's affairs not democracy, liberty or anything else.

The media has proven to be a powerful tool, guiding the impressions and sentiments of the populace of this land. Media is also used to stereotype, degrade, and assault whole nationalities of people. This brings me to George Hegel who propagated a philosophy of (1) creating a problem or "convincing a significant portion of the population that there is a problem," (2) generating opposition to that problem, and finally (3) people would be ready for a phased solution to the supposed though actually created problem.

This is what has happened, and is happening to those inside U.S. prison camps. The generation that proceeded this one was hooked on crack and dope and the state not only provided the dope, but supposed help for the mothers and fathers to buy the dope they imported. How? Welfare in the 80's and 90's. Is it any wonder that three strikes came as the next phase? There are minds at work that have significant enough foresight to plan far into the distant future. These minds construct and continually revitalize what I call social, political, economic, genetic, spiritual, mental, and psychological weapons to keep America's semi-colonies in their place of master-servant relations based on historic

Under Lock & Key News from Prisons & Prisoners

oppression.

I write this from a prison cell (camp). They gave me 25 to life for vandalism. I've only had one prior arrest, but 2 charges: assault and alleged robbery. The tax payer will foot the \$23,000-25,000 a year bill to house and feed me, basically lock me out of a promising future with my two daughters, two brothers, and three sisters.

California under the leadership of Governor Grey Davis accelerated occupation, militarization, and open fascism. The CCPOA has only been a monster using its statistics and lobbying with capital to pass draconian sentencing schemes to fill its warehouses. Crime and justice is not its sole motive, profit is. I tell you this from a position inside one of America's prison camps, where there can be found Prison Industrial Association (PIA) sweatshops. There is a whole host of predatory economic ploys, where prisoners are warehoused, exploited, and psychologically abused. We are denied cosmetics, clothes for warmth, solitude, education, or food that sustains a normal weight. We have to buy everything on top of the state receiving \$23,000-25,000 a year to supposedly house us. The money is not spent on us. It's being funneled to others. We are also taxed an inmate welfare fund tax outside of government taxes. This tax is 10%. So they pocket that too, outside of buying balls, basketballs, racquetballs, and board games; not using the revenue as it is intended. I'm surprised that the CCPOA has gotten away thus far with its deception and political science tactics. It doesn't take a rocket scientist to realize Hegelian deceit at work.

Crime is sensationalized to the point of public outcry with over-dramatizations, sensationalisms and attacks on the U.S. population. A crime doesn't need to be made into a short 2 to 3 minute deceptive movie just to catch a perpetrator. Utilization of the airwaves in this fashion amounts to deceptive trickery to keep you looking for a monster of their creation and not the real life, blood-sucking monsters who steal daily, not only cash but minds and futures. Don't be fooled, America has over 2 million captives in these dungeons. I often characterize this as the American holocaust. Is a slow degenerative death less torturous than an immediate execution? In the event that I do survive and others who are serving these mandatory minimum sentences, what is the product that you or society will be sending back? Will it be better or worse?

I'll close this by saying George Orwell ("1984") was often asked if he could give a description of rights in or during the process of the new world order, what would it be like? He replied: the clearest picture I could give you would be a combat boot stomping a face. If your position is to assist the progression of change concerning these issues, join MIM in collective conscious struggle, because procrastination is the thief of time.

—California Prisoner, December 2003

SHU repression in California

This letter is written on behalf of myself and all the prisoners housed here at 4B1R,

Corcoran State Prison "SHU". This missive is a grievance, and a plea for help in order to prevent mass hunger strikes and/or clashes with these dirty pigs. We the prison class here at Corcoran State Prison hope that by bringing attention to the ill practices of this administration and its staff, that we may at least bring to an end the Eighth Amendment violations of the practice of cruel and unusual punishment for being housed in the SHU.

We understand that we may not be able to stop this administration from engaging in its corrupted ways. We also understand that we may be retaliated against for sending this letter. It's the only way we, or should I say "I" on behalf of the prisoners of 4B1R, felt our issues would be best handled and given full attention without violence. I also hope that by writing this missive that the prison class wouldn't feel so helpless and defenseless.

We would like to state that we as a whole have been very patient about the lack of a laundry system that would allow our clothes, "underwear, socks, t-shirts, etc.", to be taken, cleaned and returned. When myself and a prisoner by the name of X first arrived we asked for laundry bags. We were told that if we sent out our laundry it would not come back. This would have been a big problem being that we only had 1 pair of socks, 1 issued state underwear, 2 sheets, 2 blankets, 1 t-shirt, and 1 jumpsuit. It took us almost 6 months to receive a proper issue of clothing.

We asked around, we found out that "no" laundry was being collected for the purpose of cleaning. All laundry had and has to be washed/cleaned by hand with only bathing soap that is provided by the state at 1 bar per week. This single bar of soap for those who cannot buy the extra bars from commissary is supposed to last 7 days, and within those 7 days this single bar of soap is to be used to clean your body 3 showers a week, to clean your cell floor, sink and toilet. There is no other cleaning supplies made available for keeping our living quarters clean which is essential to maintenance of physical and mental well being.

It is our belief that "if" the Health Department were to come out to do tests on the levels of bacteria and germs living and growing in these cells, toilets, sinks, etc. that they would find the levels are very unhealthy and dangerous for any living human being. This we believe is also true for the bacteria growing and living in our food. More times than I care to even mention, hair has been found in my food.

Food is being served cold in violation of the Department of Corrections Rules and Regulations which clearly states that two out of three meals are to be served "HOT". Not only is it cold, but it's being served on paper plates which are stacked one on top of another to the point where the next prisoners portion of food is smashed and stuck to the bottom of the paper plate that was placed on top of it. It should be mentioned that these paper plates develop leaks when moist food is placed inside not to mention the food stuck to the bottom from the plate it rested on top of. For those reasons we ask that this info be passed on to the "Department of Health Services

Environmental Health Specialist."

I was also asked to bring to the attention of this newspaper and its readers, the practice of handcuffing, then beating, kicking, spitting, to name a few, that is subjected to prisoners housed here at Corcoran SHU. This administration and its staff also is in the practice of retaliations against the prison population housed here.

This letter may cause me to be beaten and kicked around, of course after I've been handcuffed. I am already without power that allows my TV to show. This is being done only to provoke me into becoming unbalanced, which will not happen. We will try to keep the peace and we ask readers to call, write, fax and/or e-mail "A.K. Schribner, Warden of Corcoran State Prison" in protest of the ill and unconstitutional ways they are forcing us to live in.

We thank you MIM for giving us avenues such as this one, in which we can tell the world about such ill treatments such as these that has been addressed within this missive.

Letters of protest should be sent to the Chief Director of Corrections:

MIM on Prisons & Prisoners

MIM seeks to build public opinion against America'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.

Chief Director Rick Grenz
Dept. of Corr.
P.O. Box 942883
Sacramento, Ca. 94283

Censorship, Assault, Transfers, threaten Study Cell

One MIM-led study cell has seen a significant increase in activity over the past year and all participants and session leaders deserve commendation for the advances we have made. However, with these advance has come many setbacks in the forms of repression. As our study cell discussed effective means of organizing a revolutionary cadre organization (RCO) behind bars, one of our biggest challenges raised its ugly head: State Repression. Below are recent letters from participants in this study cell.

My deepest apologies is given first off... I haven't been able to respond to the study guide #1.2 (if I'm not mistaken) but the oppressors and sadistic pigs have caused me great pain, in which was not physical. But in this place called [xxx], I was attacked where it was most felt; my literature and photos were misplaced purposefully during a cell search. Yes, cowards move as of such, but it's nothing, I have to take the good with the bad. I was attacked due to the amount of literature I have, and no bullshit magazines (ie. pussy books, XXL, Source, etc.) The stuff they keep our mind frame on the negative, stagnant bullshit(false self-worth, etc) They hate to see a "convict" spending his time wisely, every time they walk past my cell, I'm either reading, working out or at peace, and these cracker hate that shit, which I know, so that's why I said, "take the good with the bad."

So keep this in mind comrades, that when one doesn't respond as swiftly as supposed to, don't always think the worst, ie. that one has dropped out because he/she couldn't handle the classes. Because that isn't the case, I look forward to our classes, I will always partake in such, I love to network, and build because this is what helps one grow and learn. This is what I seek truthfully, so again pardon me for missing the class, I'm still interested, so please include me in the next.

—September 2004

I received the OMC study material, as well as some of the responses. Unfortunately, I've been unable to participate w/ the study group due to some legal matters I'm currently dealing with. I've been moved around from SHU to SHU, my property has been lost, and I've been assaulted. Since I didn't have my property, I was unable to contact you because I didn't have the address. I continue to understand different aspects of struggle and can only stand firmly in my convictions.

Though I'm unable to participate in the current study group, I'd like to continue with

our communication. Enclosed please find a small donation (\$10).

—September 2004

Unfortunately the latest materials you sent me were violated, so I won't be able to properly respond to this section of the study. Hopefully you can print this letter in place of my responses. I suspect the violations were probably due to the responses to study guide #1.2 and wouldn't be worth fighting because I wouldn't get a review on it for about a month or so and knowing the way they operate I would gain nothing but losing and bringing more unwanted attention on myself (which I already have more than enough of!) so I'm a let this one go, but any further censorship I plan to challenge.

At any rate, I thought I should let you know what was going on and that I still want to remain in the study group. I enclose the 'mail violation' for your records and hopefully this was an isolated incident. One thing, this act of censorship does show is evidence of the difficulty we face building an RCO, but nevertheless "our passion for freedom is stronger than their prison." In the struggle...

—September 2004

Anti-imperialism from the 'gang pod'

I am a Latin King of the Almighty Latin Kings Queens Nation being held captive in the State of Texas injustice system. I am housed in a "gang pod" because of who I am a part of, not for anything I allegedly did. There is nothing but Blacks and Latinos in this pod of allegedly various gangs. This administration seems to not recognize white supremacist gangs, which roam freely in population, working in all the better jobs, covered with tattoos of pentagrams, devil symbols, racist symbols and swastikas, but there are people in these "gang pods" who have no gang tattoos or no tattoos period.

Anyhow, I would like to request my message be placed on your Under Lock & Key pages, please:

To all my Lions across the globe of the ALKQN and fellow comrades of the same struggle: International Revolution! Awake from your sleep. Now is not the time to lay down, but to stand tall, elevate to reality. Will we continue to allow the enemy — the imperialist oppressor — to label us as "dangerous criminals," when by historical facts the U.S. Snakes are the most murderous dictatorship to roam our lands? Educate your minds, my brothers and sisters, learn their laws and system and use it against them. Use MIM's opportunities to educate yourselves and contribute to the movement. There will be times when the pigs will try to break us or our unity, but do not be discouraged — resist their hate! Remember, we fear none, but let your strikes be against the only true enemy,

the imperialist oppressor. Let the revolution be the struggle for the global community of Third World peoples, not for a select few but for all in common of oppression! ... A clenched fist to all comrades of the same struggle — let's mobilize and multiply!

—A Texas Prisoner, August 2004

New comrade joins Oregon censorship struggle

Greetings. I am an inmate at the Snake River Correctional Institution (hereinafter SRCI). Due to the Department of Corrections (hereinafter DOC) refusal to follow their own agency rules, those on your mailing list at this institution neither received, nor were informed of any violation of your last issue. Please understand and know of the fact that your newsletter was NOT refused by any of the intended recipients. The DOC and SRCI have made it a practice, policy and custom to claim that notification of refused mail is only necessary when the mail item is opened. This brings into question that idea of inflammatory material can only be known after it has been opened.

The above isn't the first time that the DOC and its institutions have had an exaggerated response to prison concerns. Inmate mail is constantly "lost" or "misdirected." Mail is returned to senders (including family members) marked "refused by inmates" when the inmate was never even informed that the mail item ever existed. Many legal actions have been litigated concerning such acts by Oregon's DOC, including, but not limited to, Wayne D. McGee and Roy G. Cheney II V. Cook, Appellate no. A110036, Prison Legal News v. Cook, (cite unknown), and many more.

My point is, if you require any type of assistance, I have a professional degree from XYZ school as a paralegal, and am interested in any assistance I can give.

—an Oregon Prisoner, October 2004

RAIL responds: We did receive notice from SRCI for the recent censorship of MIM Notes indicating that it was "detrimental to security." So we were not given the "refused by inmate" excuse. In fact, SRCI has been consistent in censoring our stuff with political reasoning as well as petty regulations about the appearance of the envelopes we send to prisoners.

The fact that things are being censored as being inflammatory without being opened is further evidence that MIM is being targeted for censorship across the board, in this country where we are promised free speech.

We welcome the offer to help us in litigating this case with SRCI, as we are in constant need of people with knowledge of the law and time to work on the numerous censorship cases we have to deal with.

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.



New York Times admite errores sobre Irak

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

El 26 de mayo de 2004, el sitio web Fox News publicó un artículo reiterando la declaración del New York Times sobre un error en su reportaje sobre armas de destrucción masiva antes de la invasión de Irak iniciada por Bush en 2003. A diferencia del New York Times, el MIM Notes dio a conocer los errores del New York Times en enero del 2003, antes de la admisión propia por parte del New York Times.

En su reseña del previo reportaje sobre Irak, el New York Times dijo: "Hemos encontrado una serie de comentarios que fue menos rigurosa de lo que debería haber sido. En algunos casos, cierta información, controversial en aquel entonces y cuestionable hoy en día, no calificaba para ser publicada o no fue desafiada. Ahora que estamos echando un vistazo al pasado, lamentamos el no haber llevado a cabo una investigación más agresiva de las aseveraciones conforme iba surgiendo nueva evidencia".

Nuestro artículo del 2003 sobre el discurso de Bush sobre el Estado de la Unión, en el que despellejamos tanto a Bush como al New York Times, en seguida se convirtió en uno de nuestros

artículos más populares, con miles de búsquedas en el Internet en el transcurso de varios meses. Dicho artículo puso el dedo en la llaga ampliamente apelando a las sospechas de la gente.

En cuanto al tema de los tubos metálicos supuestamente utilizados en la producción de armas atómicas, en enero de 2003, el MIM Notes señaló lo siguiente: "El New York Times también habla de tubos de aluminio e intentos de Irak de comprar uranio, pero [el ex marino de EE.UU. y el ex-inspector de armas de la ONU Scout] Ritter señala que un verdadero programa de armas nucleares no tiene nada que ver con pocas cantidades de aluminio y uranio; cuesta decenas de miles de millones de dólares y emite sustancias detectables por el Tío Sam- tecnologías de espionaje estadounidenses. Discusiones sobre los "altos" servicios de inteligencia británica que supuestamente atraparon a alguien quien intentaba comprar uranio son un show perfecto, pero estas discusiones son deshonestas si los mismos servicios de inteligencia saben que se necesita más para elaborar una bomba nuclear. Lo que el New York Times omite es la discusión del punto de vista de Ritter aseverando que el Tío Sam debería saber si Irak produce armas nucleares".

Ahora el New York Times está admitiendo lo siguiente: "El 8 de

septiembre de 2002, el artículo principal del periódico salió bajo el título "EE. UU. dicen que Hussein intensificó su búsqueda de partes de bombas tipo A." Este informe habló sobre tubos de aluminio que, según obsesivas declaraciones de la administración, se usaban como componentes para la producción de combustible para armas nucleares. Esta declaración no fue emitida por tráfugas, sino por las mejores fuentes de la inteligencia americana disponibles en aquel momento. De todas maneras, esta declaración debió haber sido hecho de una manera más cuidadosa."

Es bueno que el New York Times haya admitido sus errores. Definitivamente algo sospechoso estaba pasando con todos estos alarmantes editoriales "pop-up" en la página web del New York Times, poco comunes aún según los estándares imperialistas. "Artículos basados en declaraciones tajantes sobre Irak tendían a recibir mucha publicidad, mientras que subsiguientes reseñas de los mismos que cuestionaban la información transmitida por sus antecedentes estaban medio enterrados. En algunos casos, ni siquiera había reseñas." La persona que sacó estos editoriales "pop-up" debería ser despedida como un posible agente de Bush/ Sharón; los editores que esconden noticias que se oponen a la "Revolución" neo-conservadora deberían ponerse a escribir reseñas de restaurantes.

Habría que añadir que el New York Times todavía no se deshizo de la ilusión de que es posible que armas de destrucción masiva sean encontradas. Si bien el New York Times reconoce que muchas de las declaraciones pasadas respecto a armas de destrucción masiva resultaron erróneas, no tiene ningún problema en decir que un año más tarde es posible aseverar con certeza qué fue lo que paso en el caso de que armas de destrucción masiva aparezcan en Irak.

En esta guerra contra Irak se está cambiando el enfoque. Desde que el Internet adquirió mucha popularidad, el New York Times ha tenido que prestar más atención a su público. Los intelectuales que componen parte de los lectores del New York Times, no han sido engañados por el clamor de los tambores de la guerra. Ojalá el New York Times hubiera reaccionado antes de la guerra o por lo menos antes de la reciente campaña en contra de Chalabi. Cualquier persona que no sea lo

suficientemente inteligente como para entender las motivaciones de los tráfugas para diseminar información falsa con fin de abogar por una guerra, no tenía que meterse en la administración del gobierno o la industria noticiera.

No podemos darnos el lujo de no leer el New York Times, el periódico récord de los imperialistas. Sin embargo, el MIM Notes tiene un trasfondo más confiable con respecto a todas las preguntas fundamentales: 1) armas de destrucción masiva; 2) el papel de los demócratas; 3) la probabilidad de la resistencia de Irak; 4) y hasta el hecho de que nuestro movimiento a favor de la paz no supo impedir la invasión de Irak porque resultó demasiado pequeño burgués. Lo hemos dicho antes y lo volvemos a repetir: el público se beneficiará mejor leyendo el MIM Notes porque, aunque Bush gaste miles de millones de dólares anuales en la "inteligencia" y aunque el New York Times apele a más gente que el MIM, tanto el gobierno como sus voceros carecen por completo de una capacidad para juntar los pedazos de información sobre la guerra y la paz u otros temas políticos fundamentales que tienen a su disposición, de una manera fructífera. El capitalismo corrompe el proceso de la producción de la verdad.

Fuentes consultadas:

http://www.nytimes.com/2004/05/26/international/middleeast/26FTE_NOTE.html?8dpc

¿Que es el MIM?

El Movimiento Internacionalista Maoísta (MIM) es un partido revolucionario comunista que ejerce el Marxismo-Leninismo-Maoísmo. El MIM es una organización internacionalista que trabaja desde el punto de vista del proletariado del Tercer Mundo; es por esto que sus miembros no son americanos sino ciudadanos del mundo.

El MIM lucha para acabar con la opresión de todos los grupos sobre cualquier otro, naciones por naciones, clases por clases, y géneros por géneros. La revolución es una realidad para los Estados Unidos mientras su ejército continúa extendiéndose en su esfuerzo por asegurar la hegemonía mundial.

El MIM difiere de otros partidos en tres puntos básicos: (1) El MIM sostiene que después que el proletariado conquiste el poder estatal, existirá aún el potencial para una restauración de tipo capitalista, bajo la dirección de una burguesía nueva dentro del mismo partido comunista. En el caso de la Unión Soviética, la burguesía se apoderó del gobierno después de la muerte de Stalin, en 1953; y en China después de la muerte de Mao y del derrocamiento de la llamada "banda de los cuatro" en 1976. (2) El MIM sostiene que la Revolución Cultural en China es la fase más avanzada a la que llegó el comunismo en la historia. (3) El MIM afirma que la clase trabajadora blanca de los EE.UU. es primordialmente, una élite trabajadora no revolucionaria en el presente. Es por esto que no es el principal vehículo para avanzar el Maoísmo en este país.

El MIM acepta como miembro a cualquier individuo que esté de acuerdo con estos tres puntos básicos, y que acepte al centralismo democrático, el método de gobierno por la mayoría en lo que se refiere a cuestiones de línea del partido. El MIM es un partido clandestino que no publica los nombres de sus miembros para evitar la represión estatal dirigida históricamente contra los movimientos revolucionarios comunistas, y anti-imperialistas. Si Ud. desea una suscripción para cualquiera de nuestros periódicos o libros teóricos, en español o en inglés, por favor mandar dinero en efectivo o un cheque al nombre de MIM a esta dirección:

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