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In Amerika, yes. Meeting to aid prisoner education

MIM's Free Books for Prisoners program is a Serve the People program whose purpose is to do what we can to help prisoners turn their time under lock & key into a time to develop their politics and to build with us toward the beginnings of a more just and productive society. We collect and send out political, legal and historical books primarily, to give prisoners tools to study the conditions under which they are living and to turn their knowledge into political organizing. Prisoners use the materials to form study groups with other comrades and to organize other prisoners.

Regularly, we collect books on campus to send to prisoners. But there is another part of the program that is not as obvious to non-prisoners. We send MIM Notes for free to any prisoner in Amerika that wants us. Join us to help with the mailing. To make this more fun, we'll watch "The Last Graduation" about the end of college education for prisoners. After the film, we will discuss how we can fight the Amerikan InJustice System in general and the prison system in particular. The discussion will take off where the video leaves off: Why does the Congress and the Prison System fear educated prisoners?

What happened when Congress eliminated Pell Grants to fund college educations for prisoners?

The Last Graduation

A sharply focused documentary on the Amerikan incarceration craze and the trend towards increasingly dehumanizing confinement with a focus on the end of college programs in one New York State prison

Amerika's prison population is swelling at an alarming rate — tripling in just fifteen years. Education in prison has proven to be one of the few effective tools at reducing recidivism.

So why have federal and state governments rushed to cut off funds for effective college-in prison programs?

The Last Graduation frankly explores the issues involved in this vital question — from the advent of higher education in prison in the wake of the 1971 Attica uprising to the last graduation from the Marist College program at Greenhaven Prison in 1995.

The Last Graduation eloquently advocates reinstatement of college programs by letting the educators and prisoners tell their own stories.

The police and prison system are key weapons in Amerika's imperialist war against it's internal colonies: the Black, Latino and First Nations. Until recently, the prison system hid it's social control purpose under a veneer of rehabilitation. Now this charade — and the positive programs that went along with it — have ended in the "get tough on crime" barrage from reactionary politicians.

For more information, contact: smith_rail@excite.com, 413 582 3934 or www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/ma