

# MIM Notes



January 15, 2003, Nº 274

The Official Newsletter of the Maoist Internationalist Movement (MIM)

Free

## Authority-lovers write Bush a blank check

The Bush administration continually plays to an audience that believes it is not informed enough to oppose the war with Iraq. He plays this card especially by saying there is secret evidence of weapons of mass destruction or Saddam Hussein's own war-mongering that justifies Bush's going to war.

For certain authority-lovers, Bush hits the mark this way. A student at the University of New Hampshire speaking against the student government and student majority generally put it this way: "We base opinions of foreign and domestic policy on the knowledge we receive from a biased media, from our friends' opinions, and from our professors' leading questions. Bush bases his opinions on Top Secret intelligence data gathered from multiple sources, national estimates from senior intelligence officials, and advice from experts. If even he does not have a complete picture, ours must be a minuscule piece of the puzzle."(1)

It's not just young students accustomed to using an argument equivalent to "father knows best." With regard to



whether neo-confederate Trent Lott should be replaced as majority leader of the U.S. Senate (and he resigned the day we wrote this story), the incoming president of the Colorado state senate and Republican deemed conservative enough to publish in the National Review said, "What they [the U.S. Senate] do about it is up to them, and they'll have my respect regardless. They have many considerations to weigh, knowledge I'm not privy to, and they don't need my uninvited opinion."(2) True, the Colorado state senate is not national power, but John Andrews is still an elite level power-holder and even he says he has to defer to the Republican Senators on the neo-confederate movement instead of demanding to know why Lott is still around in the fourth ranking power position in the country.

Ironically, in the same article, Andrews said the Republican Party is the party of Lincoln. The New Hampshire student feeling too uninformed to have a say on the question of war also said, "There is nothing wrong with voicing an opinion. . . . America is, after all, a democracy—

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## People on the street denounce Amerikan prison brutality

MIM is currently working as part of a movement to abolish Security Housing Units (SHUs) in California prisons. SHUs are isolation units where prisoners spend 23 hours per day in small, windowless cells. SHU guards are notoriously brutal, as illustrated by the infamous "gladiator fights" at Corcoran Prison, where guards forced prisoners to fight and bet on the outcome.

Here we publish interviews gathered during a recent protest in downtown San Francisco. Interviews were mainly with former prisoners but also others who had something to say about the criminal injustice system.

One of the men interviewed was a former prisoner at Corcoran. He testified to the inhumane conditions in the SHU and the corruption and brutality of the guards. "The things I'm about to tell you are based on a true story from the Corcoran SHU in 1994..."

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## Big corporations choke the Internet Google pulls plug on MIM ads

On December 27, the Internet search engine and corporation Google pulled the plug on 22 different advertisements—all of the existing advertisements promoting MIM's website. Google sent two form letters repeating the following rationale 22 times: "Google policy does not permit the advertisement of websites that contain 'language that advocates against an individual, group, or organization'. As noted in our advertising terms and conditions, we reserve the right to exercise editorial discretion when it comes to the advertising we accept on our site."

Some of the ads in question included these: "Understanding Stalin. Controversial magazine review of Stalin critics and his defenders [www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/mt6.html](http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/mt6.html)"

Another ad Google took off with the same justification was "Communists on Star Trek. Star Trek: Nemesis reviewed. Over 100 free Maoist movie reviews [www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/movies/](http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/movies/)"

There were 20 other such ads—all the ads that MIM attempted—that Google took down. In each case, the language of the Google form letters said that the ads should be revised to be in line with policy, but given that Google took down all 22 ads on various and sundry topics, and given that there was no logic behind rejection of each ad other than that it was communist, MIM followed up with

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## Concordia Hillel sues student union

On December 20, the Jewish student group called Hillel at Concordia University sued the student government over its suspension in relation to military recruiting. According to the Montreal Gazette, Hillel does not deny there was a brochure recruiting for the Israel Defense Force on its Concordia table discovered by the student union, but it says it did not authorize it. Hillel is seeking \$100,000 in punitive damages.

Recruiting for foreign militaries is against the law in Canada. The Royal Canadian Mounted Police received information with regard to the IDF recruiting.

According to Hillel itself, "The Concordia Student Union (CSU) offered to reinstate Hillel, but has refused to unfreeze Hillel's funds unless Hillel signs a document committing not to promote war. Hillel refuses to sign the document."

The Concordia student government had already previously passed a resolution that Concordia was a military-free

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# Letters

## Ani DiFranco fan rips MIM review

Dear MIM,

i just read your review on ani's album dilate. [http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/bookstore/music/alternative/anidifranco.html] let me just tell you that every song that you interpreted was completely off the mark. ani is leading a revolution far more powerful than you could imagine. her music does not preach that women are helpless victims. Ani has empowered women all over the globe to fight and to stand for something. I was quite amused at your lack of insight: you reviewed ani's song "done wrong" as a song of a hurt, whining woman complaining, HA! just to let you know what the song was actually about, ani is singing about the death penalty in this ballad, she is using a woman as a metaphor. if you want to review music you should strengthen your level of insight and become a little more educated. you have completely missed the meaning behind every one of her songs. ani's record label is "righteous babe records," a label that she started on her own, with her own money. how the fuck can you consider that weak. she has built herself up from almost nothing, she has given women the motivation to do the same. nowhere in her songs does she imply that women are weak victims. ani stands for something and uses her status as a respected female musician to voice her opinion and speak

out against people with tunnel vision, such as yourself. i am sorry sir, but you have no idea what you are talking about, as ani would say, "take your big dick out of the sand and look around!"

—Ani DiFranco fan, December 2002

**mim3@mim.org replies:** With Ani DiFranco about to go on tour in New England in March 2003, MIM was probably due to hear from one of her promoters; even though our album review appeared in our September 1994 MIM Notes and on our web page not long after.

Let me help this along, by putting in the plug here: <http://www.righteousbabe.com/index.asp> If we go to this web site, we will find a tiny bit of material, including none of the biography that the letter-writer alludes to. It just goes to show that this persyn wants to make a big deal about how DiFranco "built herself up from almost nothing" and how great the label is, but the label web site has no material along those lines. It's tough to be "modest" and "individualist" at the same time, so MIM members never attempt to go there. We look at things from a group angle—classes, genders, nations.

With all credit to DiFranco, working for the Greens, she has spoken out against war in Iraq and for reproductive rights and deconcentration of the media. Nonetheless, we stand by what our fan's review of DiFranco said, which is that the feminism came up short in her work. Her Righteous Babes webpage gives props to Gloria Steinem, who never denied working for the CIA to spy on communists



Ani DeFranco

and progressive youth at international conferences, according to 1960s radical feminists called the "Redstockings." Steinem's political career including both book publication and magazine publicity can be traced back to the same single Rockefeller family owners of the book publishing and their publicity.

The view that a womyn in the industrialized world "built herself up from almost nothing" is the typical Anglo-Saxon capitalist or petty-bourgeois view that gets tiresome. When the writer mentions DiFranco's "own money," we have to point out that cultures built on stealing First Nations land and enslaving a continent are going to have some rich people! It has nothing to do with exceptional effort!

This sort of view we call "Anglo-Saxon individualist" cannot lead forward, because it implies the whole world's nations should kill each other off and enslave some of the remainder and then say they made it "with their own effort." That kind of thought cannot lead to peace and global harmony, so we do not promote it. The next time someone in Amerika says

they "made it" with their "own effort," we call on our readers to remind them about the basic facts of history. Whether or not Ani DiFranco participated in enslavement or genocide, the people in Buffalo passed down wealth and built an economy on that basis.

At the same time, let us defend one aspect of Ani DiFranco's biography: "she moved out of her mother's apartment. Living on her own, she played every Saturday night at the Essex Street Pub, and at sixteen she graduated from the Visual and Performing Arts High School." (Source: <http://www.columbia.edu/~marg/ani/biography.html>) Moreover, "Now, five years and six albums later, she is still a steadfast independent."

MIM is one of the few political organizations saying that the age of adulthood should be moved up. When it comes to algebra, calculus and physics, most parents would not say, "oh, she's not ready for that." They would rather be overjoyed to hear that their children took up that advancement at the earliest age possible. Many of these same parents would not

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Editor, MC206; Production, MC12

## MIM Notes

The Official Newsletter of The Maoist Internationalist Movement  
ISSN 1540-8817

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

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For general correspondence, contact:

MIM  
P.O. Box 29670  
Los Angeles, CA 90029-0670

eMail: <[mim@mim.org](mailto:mim@mim.org)>  
WWW: <<http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM>>

## 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.

# Views on immigration distinguish labor aristocracy from internationalist bourgeoisie

A survey released December 17th says that the difference between the average Amerikkkan and the Amerikkkan “elites”—a.k.a. rulers—has widened from already high levels in 1998 on the question of immigration. Although Bush has imposed the most Draconian of border controls on Mexico and Canada—to such an extent that even the conservative Western part of Canada deeply resents Bush for raising lumber tariffs—the public approves of Bush less than 30% on only two issues, climate change and immigration. The wave of national chauvinism since September 11th has contributed to unjust views of immigration.

The survey backs MIM’s theory that the labor aristocracy is more hostile to internationalism than the imperialist bourgeoisie itself. Lenin explained at length the psychology of this class that feels that it has just “barely” made it and therefore fights much harder for its privileges.

Only 14% of “opinion leaders” or U.S. “elites” agreed with the prevailing opinion that immigration should decrease. 60% of the Amerikkkan public believes legal immigration should decrease by policy of the government. This is despite the fact that the “Statute of Liberty” stands in New York City and despite the continuous bragging about being a “free

country” and “nation of immigrants.” Obviously the Amerikkkan majority does not agree to the freedom to travel and the imprisonment rate in the United States is the highest in the world, thanks to that same labor aristocracy’s dumbocratically elected politicians.

“The survey found that 70 percent of the public said that reducing illegal immigration should be a ‘very important’ foreign-policy goal of the United States, compared to only 22 percent of those in the elite.”(1) That’s why in 1992 Patrick Buchanan beat Bush in the New Hampshire primary. Buchanan and Perot run on an “Amerikkka-first” platform and 1992 was a recession.

The near-unanimous approach of other “Marxist” organizations in the United States fantasizes about an exploited proletariat within U.S. borders as a reservoir of internationalism. Quite the contrary, we should be clear that the Amerikkkan population is even less internationalist and thus in some ways more reactionary than its ruling class. It goes beyond being “fooled” by the ruling class. The labor aristocracy fights for a re-division of the surplus-value in its own interests and it fights consciously. When it comes to these issues, the labor aristocracy is not a passive thing with false consciousness about to fall away and give rise to revo-

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## *U.S. military budget would have angered Amerikan ‘founding fathers’*

There is a terrible dispute afoot in the world about the U.S. military budget. Some contend that the U.S. military budget each year is only more than the next 10 closest countries combined. Others say 13, 15, 25 and some say the whole world combined spends less than the United States on the military. A writer in Pakistan said, “Americas commitment to peace is best exemplified by the fact that its annual military budget, at \$360 billion and counting, now exceeds the mili-

tary budgets of the rest of the world combined. You can’t get much more committed to peace than that.”(1)

Despite the obscenity of U.S. military power, yahoos like neo-Confederates Senator Trent Lott, Attorney General John Ashcroft and President George W. Bush

cling in an irrational way to their militarist ideas. Through organs like the “conservative” Weekly Standard they still speak in praise of “peace through

strength.”(2)

Rednecks supported these yahoos for decades and now the U.S. military is by far the strongest. So why is it that we still have war? And why are civil liberties more trampled than ever in the United States? It seems that “peace through strength” could not be more false.

Here is what the Amerikkkan founders said in the “Federalist Papers,” a collection of essays defending the U.S. Consti-

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## *Wheat rots in storage as Indian masses starve A recent example of capitalist ‘success’*

As MIM has continuously pointed out, the idea that capitalism is better than socialism for the people of the world cannot be substantiated by any real comparative data. (1) The only way to make this seem like the case is to compare the imperialist countries—countries which are rich because they rob the rest of the world—to the poorest countries that became socialist and leave out the fact that they did not start in the same place as far as development is concerned. That said, the New York Times recently published an article that provides some information about recent events in India, which show in graphic detail capitalist “success” in the third world.

People throughout India continue to eat boiled leaves and grass seeds even though more than enough wheat was grown in this year’s harvest. Capitalist logic calls this wheat “surplus”—a sickening example of what happens when profit is put above survival rights.

Though approximately 350 million Indians “go to bed hungry every night,” and half of all children are malnourished, Indian landlords continue to hoard more and more wheat, which is essential to the

diet of the poor. In fact the Indian government currently has 53 million metric tons of “surplus” wheat in storage. They have so much in storage that they cannot even fit it in their warehouses, and are now storing the wheat in fields, with plastic and jute bags and tarps in an unsuccessful effort to preserve it.(2)

The two main things that have been done in India because of the recent “over-production” crisis have been to spend massive amounts of money on storage of the “surplus” wheat in order to keep prices high enough for a profit, and exporting the wheat at lower prices than they charge the Indian masses. According to The New York Times “a recent report found that it was spending more on storage than on agriculture, rural development, irrigation and flood control combined.” (2) Thus the Indian bourgeoisie is forced to spend money on keeping prices high enough for a profit while the masses find it harder and harder to even eat every day.

Also important to the idea of the “success” of capitalism in the neocolonial countries is the fact that exports of important food products are often sold at

cheaper prices than they are sold to the masses of the country. This is the case in India today, where it is not surprising to find the export prices lower than that paid by the Indian population. The fact is that in capitalist countries, producing an abundant amount of food is usually a “bad” thing, while under socialism, producing enough or more than enough food is viewed as a good thing. The word “surplus” under capitalism refers to an amount that cannot be used in order to maintain profits; under socialism the word means that which is left over after everyone has already eaten.

Also a telling fact on capitalism’s “success” is the environmental destruction that that is threatening India’s ability to have any sort of self-sufficient agriculture. The majority of the food grown in India is grown in the state of Punjab. In order to survive the Punjab farmers must grow massive amounts of wheat and rice, which has the effect of depleting the soil and water. (2)

Since it is true that when socialist countries existed they left all capitalist countries that started at the same place in the

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## *The problem with fantasy genres*

**Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers (2002)**

**Directed by Peter Jackson  
2 hours 58 minutes  
released December 18 2002**

The second film in the Tolkien trilogy has received very positive reviews and it is on its way to surpass the previous chapter in sales. For MIM, “Lord of the Rings” is just a contribution to the stability of capitalism.

The first part of the adventure trilogy titled “Lord of the Rings” based on J.R. Tolkien’s books of the same name brought in \$860 million globally with \$547 million of that coming from outside the USA.(1) It cost \$93 million to make and another estimated \$50 million in ads.(2) “The Two Towers” surpassed its production costs before Christmas and is on course to surpass both Harry Potter films also in the above \$300 million revenue category.(3)

“Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers” is full of action, adventure, magic and fighting. The film integrates computer-generated animation and live action in a way that wasn’t possible until very recently. We do not question its artistic or technical merits. Rather, we argue that artistic skill cannot redeem a work with a fundamentally ugly political premise.

This is not to say that “Lord of the

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# Views on immigration distinguish labor aristocracy from internationalist bourgeoisie

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lutionary internationalism. Rather the labor aristocracy is an active class pursuing its own distinct and readily identifiable interests, which is why there is a huge gap in the ruling class view and labor aristocracy view of immigration.

The real bourgeois internationalists like the Rockefeller family, Jimmy Carter, Bush Sr. and Clinton have been way too much for the Amerikkkan population on the immigration issue. Raising questions about unemployment or declining wages (not counting benefits) with these labor aristocracy people only results in their going to Buchanan. Failing to understand that is failing to understand the concrete situation we are in and Lenin's theories about the labor aristocracy. Except amongst immigrants and the Spanish-speaking population, we should not be talking about a proletariat at all inside U.S. borders. It just makes resentful chauvinists more resentful and narrow-minded.

Recognizing reality means that what we are doing in the major imperialist countries where the population is bourgeoisified is fighting to unite with the lumpen and a small wing of the bourgeoisie—the left-wing of the internationalist bourgeoisie. The mainstream press shows some elemental awareness of this when it derides the recent anarchist-led protests as that of “trust-fund babies” that have the money to travel from one protest to the next opposing the IMF and so on. The press said the same thing about the Weather Underground in the 1960s and 1970s when some of its prominent members were powerful lawyers and millionaires.

There is a wing of the bourgeoisie that is far-sighted and internationalist: it just does not rule. It is also very small right now though it showed up in Seattle and various other protests on the global order. The left-wing of the internationalist bourgeoisie is an ally of the proletarian struggle comparable to what Lenin, Stalin and Mao called the “national bourgeoisie” that could ally with revolution in semi-feudal conditions. Such a national bourgeoisie and the left-wing of the internationalist bourgeoisie are endangered species but real. We have to recognize their separate interests apart from imperialism.

It is not our task to oppose Bushes, Blairs, Carters, & Clintons with objectively nationalist demands to oppose NAFTA or immigration. Rather our task is to show that our approach to establish a global minimum wage, a global environmental protection regime and thus a globalized class struggle is the only solution that can bring peace and prosperity.

The Center for Immigration Studies lacks in theory even though it has conducted the surveys on immigration: “It

is not entirely clear why the public and nations leaders have such different views on immigration. Other areas in which the public and elites disagree are those dealing with protecting the jobs of American workers and economic competition from other countries. This strongly suggests that one of the main reasons ordinary Americans are concerned about immigration is that they fear job competition.”

The huge gap between the imperialist internationalists and the labor aristocracy has resulted in a host of hypocritical political situations. While the labor aristocracy benefits from the ability of their countries' businesspeople to do business in the Third World, when the Third World people try to do business in the imperialist countries, the labor aristocracy throws them off planes for “looking terrorist.” Then it raises various movements against the Third World people including that of Le Pen in France and Buchanan in the United States.

We should not say that the various trade and immigration treaties and conventions are just bourgeois consciousness foisting “false consciousness” on an imperialist country proletariat. We should defend those treaties and seek to drive their logic further.

The government of the Netherlands allowed immigrant Joma Sison into the Netherlands and it signed various treaties and conventions that guarantee Joma Sison certain rights. The Filipino comrades have recognized that. In practice they point out those treaties and conventions and seek to defend them instead of letting the Dutch government back out of them. The Filipino comrades would be guilty of spreading false consciousness if they spent so much time talking about treaties and European humyn-rights conventions and it were true that there is a European proletariat about to rise for internationalist revolution. That is not the situation or the level of political advancement we have, so upholding international treaties against the labor aristocracy is correct.

Various treaties, conventions and laws already standing do not stop the European labor aristocracy from complaining to immigrants. Here is what one completely typical labor aristocrat had to say on the Internet Usenet group soc.culture.filipino: “Poor Joma sisson. Complaining to the dutch government that he wants his previous benefits restored. That he only gets a ‘measly’ allowance of 201.93 Euros and that the government does not pay his house. Excuse me, I am paying taxes for that. If you have complaints go back to the Philippines. See how much you get there. Complaining we are ‘a police state’. Oh sob, sob. If you are so unhappy in the Netherlands then what are you doing there?” We point out to this jerk that the Netherlands prevents Sison from work-

ing—thanks again to political pressure from people like himself. Then he turns around and says Sison does not pay taxes.

Joma Sison and other communists would be willing to accept a deal where the imperialists withdraw their businesspeople from the Philippines. Yet the labor aristocracy wants it both ways. It wants the treaties that allow them to buy clothing at the Gap manufactured by imperialist manufacturers allowed to visit and do business in the Third World, but they don't want the Third World people to have the right to visit the imperialist countries for their own business purposes.

These labor aristocrats should be dealing with their own governments first instead of extending hostility to immigrants for the treaties and conventions that their own governments signed. If these labor aristocrats get their governments and business out of the Third World, there would be no Third World people wanting to live in the imperialist countries. Rarely does someone want to leave his or her homeland except in disastrous circumstances, circumstances created by the imperialists. When the imperialists effectively rule in the Third World, there is no point in complaining when the Third World people visit or seek to live in the imperialist countries themselves.

Our phony Marxist critics seek to make excuses for the survey results that show the so-called workers to be worse than the imperialists themselves. They do not see the contradiction between the labor aristocracy and the imperialists and they fail to utilize it correctly. They do not see distinct class interests.

The labor aristocracy's narrow view leads to war amongst nations over certain local business matters. Hitler was the ultimate expression of narrowness on immigration and international exchange. For its part, the internationalist bourgeoisie has only itself to stand on, which is why its views are very unpopular on immigration. The narrow social basis of their kind of internationalism results in oscillation in the imperialist countries between fascism and liberal democracy.

The imperialists clearly benefit from international exchange and subversion of Third World countries, but the labor aristocracy benefits at the store while feeling its jobs threatened. It is only the proletarian internationalist view that will make a reality out of the theory of international economic cooperation. When MIM comes to power, it will make sure that the people understand and concretely feel the benefits of trade, and economic cooperation in general.

The labor aristocracy is wrong that the world does not benefit from free flow of trade and people and the resulting cooperation. The labor aristocracy view is ignorant and fearful. The imperialists simply cannot implement “free trade” and

“freedom of travel,” because they give the clearest benefits to only a small elite. It is only the MIM line that is the solution to this contradiction.

Note: <http://www.cis.org/circle.html>

## *Help promote the internationalist position on immigration*

The article “Labor aristocracy differs from internationalist rulers” is way too difficult for everyday “persyn on the street” agitation. We need pointed art posters to turn the tide on immigration questions. If you can draw up posters criticizing the labor aristocracy for its views on the immigration question, please forward them to MIM. Here are some ideas:

(1) Big mouth labor aristocrats wearing clothes with tags “made in China” and India while eating cheap food farmed in Mexico or by migrant Mexicans then tell the Third World people to go home.

(2) Big mouth labor aristocracy to unemployed Third World people not allowed to work spits, “I'm paying taxes for your welfare benefits!”

(3) Salt-of-the-earth immigrant worker says: “I'll go home to my country if your country goes home from mine!”

(4) Floriduh labor aristocrat with no income taxes in a state funded by sales taxes referring to undocumented workers: “I'm paying for their children to go to school!” Salt-of-the-earth farmworker replies: “No, I'm paying for yours to go to school AND I'm feeding them.” Note that Florida's estimated state revenue from sales tax in 2000-2001 was \$13.6 Billion, while the estimated state budget for education was \$14.5 billion.

**We constantly update MIM's coverage of the U.S. war on our web site, with news and opinion, agitation materials, articles in English, Spanish, French, Chinese and Russian!**  
**Read and distribute the newspaper -- and get the latest:**  
**[www.etext.org/ Politics/MIM](http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM)**

# The problem with fantasy genres

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Rings” is the ugliest in fantasy-fiction. There are several themes in Tolkien’s books which MIM likes. Various species including elves, hobbits and humyns have to come together to fight for their existence in an epic battle between good and evil. Even trees become involved in the fight by attacking the evil forces that chop down trees to make weapons. In arguments solidifying their alliance, the forces of good have to defeat both idealism similar to post-modernism which denies that evil is real and defeatism which sees the triumph of evil as inevitable. Tolkien praises self-sacrifice, discipline and commitment to the common good.

Still, the principal aspect of the “Lord of the Rings” books is reactionary in the sense that Tolkien pines for a return to a feudal “Golden Age” where peasants and servants knew their place. There is also a distrust of science and technology in “Lord of the Rings” and its predecessor “The Silmarillion.” It’s one thing to decry the destruction of the environment and its consequences for humyn health wrought by the capitalist-led industrial revolution in 19th century England—but the Christian Tolkien goes beyond this and suggests that science is a form of hubris, upsetting the “natural” order where humyns are subordinate to god. (“The Silmarillion” is an extended version of the Biblical story of the tower of Babel.)

And despite the fact that a womyn slays the chief evil Ringwraith in “The Return of the King,” Tolkien clearly thinks that wimmin belong in the kitchen, not on the battlefield or in government. The only other substantial female character in “Lord of the Rings,” the Elf-Queen Galadriel, is praised more for her beauty than her wisdom.

Many critics believe that the “Lord of the Rings” is an allegory for World War II or the Cold War, with the ring of power representing the atom bomb, etc. Tolkien denied this vehemently and instead argued that the parallels sprang from the

fact that good fantasy literature is based in and comments on reality. Indeed, although we disagree with Tolkien’s reactionary point of view, there is enough real-world experience condensed in some of the books’ themes to provoke some interesting and useful thoughts.

Director Peter Jackson plays down the books’ relevant themes in his films, however, and plays up the sword-and-sorcery adventure. Aside from valuable sub-themes of environmentalism and inter-species cooperation against evil, which are offset by the questionable gore in both chapters of the trilogy so far, there is not much of redeeming value to the “Lord of the Rings” movies. On the negative side, a large portion of the real-world humyn population believes in magic and spells, to such an extent that it escapes real-world solutions for real-world problems. For this reason alone, any fantasy-adventure fiction faces a high hurdle to surmount in the minds of us Maoists trying to promote scientific thinking about social life. The spreading of social superstition and excuses for why the people do not control their own lives leaves the ruling class in control, the same way religion in general does.

Tolkien’s books reinforce this kind of superstition,<sup>(4)</sup> and Peter Jackson takes the magic in the story even more at face value than Tolkien. For example, Peter Jackson makes it seem that King Theoden of Rohan has been possessed by the evil wizard Saruman. In the books, Theoden’s “enchantment” has a more material basis: Saruman is engaged in psychological warfare against Rohan, sending spies into Theoden’s court, making open peace overtures while covertly preparing for war, playing on Theoden’s provincialism and conciliatory nature, etc.

Any fantasy-adventure films and novels, especially those set in the past, are liable to become props of the status quo without serious efforts to compensate for the whole genre’s flaws by raising progressive themes in oblique and fictional manners appropriate for fantasy worlds.<sup>(5)</sup> In contrast, by usually show-



ing humyns what they are capable of in the future, science-fiction tends to have progressive value in the pure sense of the word “progress.” In a fantasy-future movie like the “Matrix,” it is not one or two supreme magicians casting spells that control the world. In the “Matrix,” the people simply download knowledge through a cartridge in the neck. Thus, the “Matrix” puts forward an enlightened view of knowledge, history and humyn capability. In contrast, “Lord of the Rings” raises up a musty past in a manner that will perpetuate backwardness today.

#### Notes:

1. <http://www.boxofficemojo.com/data/lordoftherings/versus.htm>
2. <http://www.boxofficemojo.com/movies/?id=fellowshipofthering.htm>
3. <http://www.the-numbers.com/features/2002-Holiday.html>
4. The central conceit of the “Lord of the Rings” is that even though the forces of good possess the “ring of power” forged by evil, they cannot use it against evil lest they themselves become evil. This is just the old idealist pabulum that “power corrupts.” Elves, men, etc. take

up arms against evil, but Tolkien portrays this as a doomed rear-guard action—only the “pure-hearted” sacrifice of the hobbits can magically redeem the world. In contrast, MIM upholds Mao’s dictum, “To eradicate war it is necessary to make war” and believes a study of history shows that it is possible to use “the master’s tools” to overthrow the master. Hence we are sympathetic to characters such as Boromir or Saruman who argue that the ring should be used against evil.

5. Some Tolkien fans have openly embraced “Lord of the Rings” as “escapism:” “if the real world is evil and ugly, at least we can forget for a while in a fantasy world.” Tolkien himself contrasted this “escapism of the deserter” to the “escapism of the prisoner,” who sees the evil in the real world and is looking for way to break out into another possible world. In principle, fantasy literature could build radical understanding of the world and the possibilities for change. In practice, Tolkien is far too backwards-looking to provide any real-world solutions.

## Authority-lovers write Bush a blank check

Continued from page 1...

of, by and for the people. But let’s be realistic.” While that’s a big “but” there, it seems that Andrews and our authority-loving student are not intending to be fascists.

Reading Abraham Lincoln, one realizes there is another reason to defer to those imperialists who know better—monarchism, and considering that Bush inherited his power without a majority vote, it was remiss not to consider this possibility. “Kings had always been involving and impoverishing their people in wars, pretending generally, if not always, that the good of the people was

the object. This, our Convention understood to be the most oppressive of all Kingly oppressions; and they resolved to frame the Constitution that ITAL no one man END should hold the power of bringing this oppression upon us. But your view destroys the whole matter, and places our President where kings have always stood.” (3) If Bush knows better than the New Hampshire student, then the New Hampshire student is supposed to demand the information needed from Bush—to be in the spirit of Washington and Lincoln. Otherwise, we may as well have kings.

We communists see nothing wrong with deferring to revolutionary scientific

authority. We just point out that some arguments supporting Bush are not really in the spirit of Washington or Lincoln while claiming they are. The socialist system MIM advocates has its advantages and disadvantages, but lately the American system is all disadvantages. MIM does not claim to be for majority rule, and we only support Lincoln on a case-by-case basis, but we are opposed to fascists and monarchists and their lack of reason in connection to war and neo-confederate movements. Fascists and monarchists should not be quoting Lincoln in their favor. The lazy authority-lovers should either get to work and come up with some reasons for what they think

instead of passing the buck to big Daddy or they should start a monarchist movement for Bush’s ascension.

#### Notes:

1. Emily Cole, “Resolution questioned,” The New Hampshire, 22Nov2002.
2. <http://www.nationalreview.com/comment/comment-andrews121602.asp>
3. Abraham Lincoln, “Letter to William H. Herndon,” February 15, 1848, Don E. Fehrenbacher, ed., Abraham Lincoln: A Documentary Portrait Through His Speeches and Writings (Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press, 1964), p. 60.

# California Supreme court upholds governor's power to deny parole

By a Pelican Bay SHU prisoner

The California Supreme court ruled on December 16, 2002 that the governor has extensive authority to veto parole to prisoners convicted of murder even in very, very rare instances where the sham parole boards and/or kangaroo courts approve releasing a prisoner who has been confined in the gulag for decades and is eligible for parole. This ruling no doubt will adversely affect many prisoners serving open ended sentences who qualify for parole. "Monday's 89 page majority opinion written by Chief Justice Ronald M. George concluded the governor has the final word on parole as

long as he is backed by 'some evidence,' including his own view that the inmate poses a risk."

Essentially Gray Davis has a "blank check" and unobstructed latitude to further implement his capricious and arbitrary repressive "across the board" no parole for lifers policy which is purely a scheme to retain people in the gulag. Most prisoners given a life sentence become eligible for parole after serving a set number of years in prison. They are then supposed to go in front of a parole board which decides, based on their behavior in prison, case history, and testimony of others, whether or not to

release the prisoner. This is in keeping with the idea that prison is meant to rehabilitate criminals who can learn from their mistakes and return as productive members of society. The Supreme Court's ruling makes clear that there is no pretense of rehabilitation to the criminal injustice system.

Davis' "no parole for lifers" scheme is hypocritically advanced to keep people imprisoned who allegedly pose a threat and danger to society when it is actually the imperialists and their stooges who pose a great threat and danger to all societies the world over! The whole problem lies with imperialism principally

and with the bourgeois criminal injustice system en masse. The United States leads the world in incarceration per capita—the majority of people in the gulags across the U.S. prison-state are oppressed people. Due process is constantly disregarded.

Notes:

San Francisco Daily Journal, Dec 17, 2002 "In the controversial case of Robert Rosenkrantz, the justices vote 5-2 that the governor effectively has carte blanche." See also Inre Rosenkrantz, 2002, DJDAR 14087.

## People denounce Amerikan prison brutality

Continued from page 1...

During that time period I was sent to a world of hell. It was in 1994, August 12th that inmate [X] was shot and killed in the administrative segregation yard while the fight was set up for me and my cellie to fight [Y] and his cellie [X]. The fight had stopped and they shot and killed him unjustifiably...

"When I was at Corcoran State Prison the officers were setting people up to fight, they were beating people up, there were assaults. ... I seen people hang themselves. I witnessed police opening the doors to let other enemies in in order to hurt somebody. I've seen police put stuff in people's food, they put something in my food one day. ... Any time officers have a code of silence you must question why. If they haven't done anything wrong there would be no reason for a code of silence. Every single officer that shunned the other officer for coming forward should be fired. But the fact is that they know they are doing things unjustifiably and want to stay in control..."

Another former SHU prisoner also provided testimony to the conditions: "I'm a witness to it. I was in there. I know how they treat people in there. The SHU program ain't nothing nice. They treat you like a dog. I'm here to let you know that. I'm a witness to it and I know, I was there. I just discharged."

A young white man stopped by to tell the story of his awakening to the injustice system. While 61% of the population in California is white, whites make up only 35% of prisoners and only 18% of SHU inmates (according to CDC statistics). It is no surprise that Blacks and Latinos stopping by the SHU protests are more likely to already know someone in prison, or have been incarcerated themselves. And as a result of first hand experience of the oppression, they are more sympathetic to the fight against the criminal injustice system. As this white man

comments, white people believe firmly in the Amerikan "justice" system until they see firsthand that it is not true. And even then, many will call instances of injustice anomalies. This young man was shocked out of his suburban white complacency by a few days in jail:

"I'm 28 years old. I've never been processed for charges ever in my life. Four days ago my girlfriend and I had an argument. We raised our voices, as most couples do when they get into arguments. A neighbor got afraid and called the police. I hadn't hurt my girlfriend or would ever hurt my girlfriend. The police showed up and within seconds they put me in handcuffs and started pushing me. My girlfriend was irate, she was yelling and screaming. I was irate, I was telling them to go to hell. I was pissed. I did nothing wrong and I was being arrested. They slammed me against the car.

"Within 4 or 5 hours I had \$10,000 cash ready to post bail. It took 3.5 days to get out because they were holding me because they were mad that I told them all to go to hell. One of the persons in my cell was Hispanic. He didn't speak English. An officer was trying to talk to him, losing his temper big time. Another one of the kids said 'officer, he doesn't speak English.' The officer pushed the kid and said 'no shit asshole' and slammed the door in his face. Under his breath the kid muttered 'bitch.' They dragged the kid out of the cell by the neck and beat his ass for 20 minutes.

"I don't know if you know how hard of a blow it takes for a head to make concrete echo, but it did, for a very long time. After this the officer came back in and said 'this is my house, who's the bitch now?' Another guy thought that was funny and chuckled. He got the same thing and was beat for 20 minutes.

"The temperature in the jail was maybe 60 degrees with 15 of us in there in an empty cell. They took both of those kids,

stripped them down to their underwear, without blankets, and left them in a cell without food for 8 hours. It was the most inhumane thing that I have ever witnessed in my life.

"This just happened to me a few days ago. I'm in shock. I'm a white boy from the suburbs. I never thought something like this could happen in this country until I witnessed it with my own eyes. I'm afraid to make complaints to the police department. The people I was in jail with told me if you do that you'll be right back in here. I'm irate, it's sick, it's disgusting, it's torture. I think the majority of people in control, police officers and prison wardens, are the sickest twisted members of our society. Innocent until proven guilty is a joke, anyone who believes that is living in a fantasy land, and the idea that our prisons reform people in any way is a joke, they try not at all to reform people. They try to punish people and to use scare tactics."

Others who had not been in prison but had firsthand information about it also stopped to speak out against the conditions. Some had relatives in prison: "I'm from SF, I just have a problem with the prisons here and I would like to put my foot down on this, it's wrong. I have family in Folsom and San Quentin in Vacaville. One of my family members got raped and I just don't like this. There is an excess of abuse and I just want to stop it."

Others had relatives working in the system: "A couple of years ago I found out that there were guards ... that actually put in transfers to go to Pelican Bay [one of the California SHU prisons] because they looked forward to being able to do violence against the prisoners. And this was well known. The guards that used to work there, I don't know if they're still there or not, were known to have a pig on the back of their badges. This comes from personal experience

from a relative who used to work in that system. I don't want to give my name because my relative still lives there and I don't want her to be hurt. I was always concerned for many years about what was going on at Pelican Bay."

MIM is working to arouse and organize everyone who can be united against the criminal injustice system. We are fighting winnable battles for reforms, like this one to shut down the SHU torture units, while we build for the complete dismantling of the system of oppression that locks up a higher proportion of Blacks than they had in Apartheid South Africa: Amerikan imperialism.

To get involved in the battle against the SHU visit MIM's web page and download a flyer and petition and hit the streets: <http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/agitation/prisons>.

Did you know?

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

What's New @ MIM's Homepage

# Interview with a Pelican Bay SHU prisoner

*This interview was conducted by a member of United Struggle from Within, a MIM-led mass organization of anti-imperialist prisoners.*

Question: Why were you placed in Pelican Bay SHU?

Answer: I was placed in Pelican Bay's SHU on February 20, 1992 for what Corcoran State Prison Institutional Gang Investigators claimed on 12/4/91 was my involvement with a prison gang. I was falsely labeled a prison gang associate and simply placed in a modified unit at Corcoran pending approval of the gang packet that was submitted on me to Sacramento's Special Service Unit (SSU). I wasn't afforded any type of due process or hearing on it at all until ... March of 92 but by then Sacramento's SSU had already approved the five pieces of fabricated information that they had on me. My only options after that were to challenge the information via the appeals process which was to no avail and then take it to the courts which was also just as useless.

Q: And approximately how long have you been confined in the Security Housing Unit (SHU)?

A: I have been confined in the SHU of Corcoran State Prison and Pelican Bay for the past 14 years now. Three years in Corcoran's SHU and 11 years in Pelican Bay's SHU. The past 11 years have been for prison gang association.

Q: How are the conditions of the SHU?

A: The conditions of the SHU I feel are what you make of it and also how you deal with it psychologically. I have seen so many guys let the loneliness, solitude and lack of program and activity get to them and either drive them crazy or into debriefing and cooperating with the prison officials as an informant just to get out of the SHU and its restricted program and privileges.

It also affects your health after long term confinement. You become deathly pale due to the lack of sun. Your skin develops spots that doctors can't explain or properly treat. You become very sensitive to noise and irritated by sounds out of the ordinary. To keep yourself busy and occupied you read, write, study, or watch your TV if you have one...

The administration officials too are always trying to make life and obtaining things from the outside world as hard, complicated and restrictive as possible for us. It's always in the name of "security risk" too. Life in the SHU sucks especially when you have done nothing wrong at all to be placed in it other than the man's labeling you falsely as a prison gang associate.

Q: What is the likelihood of you getting released to the general prison population? What are the avenues available to you to obtain a release from SHU housing?

A: Well I have a 50/50 chance of maybe getting out of the SHU or at least getting rid of my prison gang associate labeling come April of 2004 when I'll be eligible for non-active prison gang associate

review. This is a program that the CDC was forced to create back in August of 1999 when they were found out by the courts that their debriefing policy was their own underground regulations.

My release then of course all depends on whether or not there has been any new confidential information given on me by informants who have sought protective custody by debriefing and divulging all that they know about the prison gang that they are supposed to be a member or associate of. If they say during their debriefing that you're an associate or that you've done anything for them, the man uses that against you to keep you in the SHU for another six years until you become eligible again. This year to my knowledge five prison gang members have debriefed, one whom I know from home, so I just might be ass out in 2004.

Q: What type of information is being used against you to retain you in the SHU?

A: Well the latest right now is an informant who sought protective custody in April of 1998. He was a prison gang member who told prison officials that while I was working as tier tender in our pod in April of 1998 that I was trafficking in metal weapons for his gang. I was never charged formally for this nor did I lose my job because it never happened. I was never the tier tender during that time nor did I ever have any metal weapons then or ever. I have appealed that piece of information to no avail or with any cooperation by prison investigators. They don't want to change it because they know that if they do that it jeopardizes all of the other information that he divulged on many others. So I won't be eligible for my next review until April 2004. Hence six years after April 14, 1998.

The only two options we have of getting out of the SHU are the debriefing process (to turn informant) which I won't do, or to qualify for the inactive prison gang associate review every six years.

Q: Due to being validated and retained in the SHU indeterminately or indefinitely, does this status preclude you from receiving a parole date?

A: Yes it most certainly does. Being housed in the SHU indeterminately as a prison gang associate most certainly precludes me from obtaining a parole date as the board of prison forms will never give a prison gang associate a parole date if he's a lifer in a SHU [the prisoner being interviewed is serving a life sentence]. I have been denied parole twice. I'll be up for parole again in July of 2004 and if I'm still in here as a prison gang associate I'll only be denied again. How much time I have served means nothing at all to them.

Q: Can you please communicate your thoughts regarding the systematic repression and injustices at Pelican Bay, particularly in SHU?

A: I find it quite pathetic that prison officials would literally warehouse

prisoners in a Security Housing Unit indeterminately and force them to turn into informants if they want to get out of the SHU and from under the label of "prison gang associate or member." These are labels that they themselves impose on those of us whom they feel aren't being "good inmates" who will simply fall into line. I was never even a street gang member let alone a prison gang associate. I have no desire to be one as my intentions when entering prison 18 years ago were to do my time as productively as possible, without any problems.

Once you're in PBSP SHU you're pretty much here for good as their inactive program's a joke and hard as hell to qualify for. Their appeals process is a joke too in that those in charge of investigating your appeals issues don't even do so and fabricate responses as if they had done so. The gang investigator can use any type of confidential

information he or she wants to use against you as their definition of what constitutes gang activity is so vague and overbroad. For instance, on my last law enforcement investigative unit (LEIU) review on 10/10/00 they used the signing of a get well card to an alleged prison gang member who was at the time dying of cancer in June of 1999 and later died, to constitute gang activity. They also use such things as drawings or talking or exercising with alleged prison gang associates or members to constitute "gang activity." The Institutional Gang Investigators have a field day putting together gang packets on prisoners as they can use any little petty things they want to constitute gang activity and get away with it as Sacramento's SSU approves everything they send 'em to warehouse prisoners who aren't even old enough to know who any of these alleged gang members are that they're supposed to be associates of right now.

## Wheat rots in storage as Indian masses starve

*Continued from page 3...*

dust in terms of life expectancy, infant mortality rates, access to medical care etc, it is especially interesting that India is just now catching up with China's infant mortality rates of 1970! (3) Add this to the facts mentioned above, and we can see how "successful" capitalism is in the non-imperialist countries.

Interestingly enough, the New York Times chose to end with a quote from one of India's many poor who lost a family member because of starvation. Speaking of his son he says "If we had money, we would have bought him wheat so he wouldn't have died." (2) This, of course is our point in a nutshell. Imperialism

puts profit above survival rights and makes it necessary for the majority of the world's people to starve and die while food sits rotting in warehouses and fields.

Notes:

1. See for example <http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/faq/success.html>,

<http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/faq/infant.html>, <http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/faq/lifeexpectussr.html>,

<http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/faq/lifeexpectussr2.html>,

2. New York Times, Dec 2 2002

3. <http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/faq/worldbankoninfantmortality.pdf>

### 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.

# Concordia administration shows pro-Zionist bias

While saying the student government response was “disproportionate” for merely freezing the funding of Hillel at Concordia, the university administration has participated in the criminalization of its students. For example, the administration has pursued suspension of a student government vice-president for sticking and participating in protests against Israel. It has also had a hand in charges seeking 15 years imprisonment because someone broke a window when Netanyahu came to speak—after police rioted on an escalator at an event where the public was not allowed, this at a supposedly public university where taxpayers rightly felt cheated by the security surrounding Netanyahu.

Aaron Matte finds himself in trouble with the university administration and has to write editorials in the Montreal Gazette saying that criticizing Israel is not anti-Semitism. He shows some good

signs of being internationalist: he is Jewish and receiving flak for standing up against Israeli imperialism.(1)

On October 16th, the administration banned tabling—at Concordia, a public university—and it banned a student government vice-president from the campus for 24 hours for attempting to table. The administration had the support of 20 police vehicles including a bus to accomplish the job.(2)

In fact, after a September 9th protest prevented a planned speech by Israeli imperialist Benjamin Netanyahu, the Concordia administration banned all tabling on all subjects and banned Middle East discussion until December 15th. At that time, Hillel claimed to be somewhat on the student government side in favor of free speech.(3)

Here is what a Muslim website had to say: “There are 11 students who face expulsion next January because they

stopped Benjamin Netanyahu, who according to Btselem authorized the torture of over 2,500 Palestinians, from speaking at our University. To this date, no Zionist student has faced expulsion for assaulting, harassing or, in one documented case, sexually assaulting another student during the protest of September 9th.”(4)

In November, a court backed the university administration in saying that “free speech” has limits. The court ordered members of parliament not to speak on the Middle East on the Concordia campus. Instead the Concordia Student Union and the parliament members spoke just outside on the streets.(5)

MIM holds with all decent people that interrupting a mass murderer, far from being a crime is normal. What is abnormal is that Netanyahu did not face arrest before speaking in public or while

speaking in public. Instead, people protesting the mass-murderers face criminal charges of local and federal sorts thanks to the Concordia administration and the failure of the local government to arrest the right people—Netanyahu, not the students.

Notes:

1. Montreal Gazette 29Nov2002.
2. <http://thelink.concordia.ca/article.pl?sid=02/10/16/2241244>
3. <http://thelink.concordia.ca/article.pl?sid=02/09/26/0332235>
4. <http://www.montrealmuslimnews.net>
5. <http://cbc.ca/stories/2002/11/15/concordia021115>. After writing this article, MIM discovered that the rector and provost representing the Concordia administration and cracking down on Muslims and internationalist Jews are both Jewish.

## Hillel sues student union

*Continued from page 1...*

zone and this in fact seemed in line with the administration’s own stated desire that the conflict on campus over the Middle East temper itself.

Hillel is organizing a campaign to pressure the student government through the university administration. (The student government is its own corporation legally distinct and part of the Canadian government.) The University administration has already embroiled itself with the student government by cracking down on anti-Israel free speech at Concordia and by pursuing officers of the student government for multi-year suspensions.

Hillel’s denials regarding military recruiting ring false. Hillel’s stated mission does not exclude military recruitment. Quite the contrary, the same web page where they attack the Concordia student government, Hillel is inviting people to tours conducted with the IDF and meetings with the IDF.

Ordinarily university administrations urge their student groups to uphold the laws and avoid being in connivance with law-breakers. The administration instead raised questions as to whether the student government followed procedures and said the response to law-breaking—CSU’s asking for a mere pledge from Hillel—was disproportionate! MIM is not sure how much more mild the Concordia student government could be, but the university administration opinion is that the students acted too extremely even after allowing Hillel to table again and merely freezing its funding for its failure to agree to student government funding rules. “The agreement, which now must be signed by all CSU clubs before they can receive funding, demands that the groups be ‘fully committed’ to ‘respect for all persons, [...] non-violent behaviour,’ to ‘not permit speech or materials that promote racism against any individual or group [or] that seek to re-

cruit for any military or paramilitary organization,’ a commitment to ‘reasoned respectful dialogue’ and ‘to protect the core academic functions of the University.”(3) Hillel refused to sign.

The student government ably defended its actions for all who bothered to listen: “Hillel also distributed a pamphlet mocking the Islamic faith with a caption stating ‘Jihad enough.’ Another leaflet equated a Klansmen to an Arab wearing a kefiyeh, the traditional Palestinian headscarf. Below these pictures was the statement the ‘Common Bonds of Hate.’ This was considered offensive by both black and Arab students.

“Finally, [a critic of the CSU] asks rhetorically, ‘What Jewish student would want to attend Concordia today?’ Maybe she should ask the three Jewish executives in the CSU or the Jewish councillor who brought forward the motion to suspend Hillel.”(4)

Nonetheless, a campaign led by Jews to silence Jews opposed to Israeli imperialism goes forward in the mass media. Papers across Canada run columns about Concordia barely getting into any details, but suggesting there is “anti-Semitism” at Concordia and campus generally.

Notes:

1. <http://www.canada.com/montreal/news/story.asp?id=%7B719http://www.canada.com/montreal/news/story.asp?id=%7B71966D7A-55A0-41BE-A058-48881AAE9A1C%7D66D7A-55A0-41BE-A058-48881AAE9A1C%7D>
2. [www.hillel.org](http://www.hillel.org)
3. <http://thelink.concordia.ca/article.pl?sid=02/12/13/0646207>
4. <http://www.canada.com/search/story.aspx?id=9a79f18d-cb0a-49e6-ba01-8364a30ceff2>

## Google pulls plug on MIM ads

*Continued from page 1...*

a letter to Google about communist ads in general.

Excerpts from our letter were as follows: “Since you have canceled all 22 of our ads, it is clear that you do not accept ads from communists.

“Yet you do take ads from the U.S. Army, U.S. Air Force, the admittedly ‘right-wing’ newsvigil.com, and Republican Party activists, despite all their connections to Trent Lott and much worse. What is your justification for that? Is Google oriented toward one side of the political spectrum? Can you answer that for the record please? Specifically why do you take ads from a government whose top officials speak at Bob Jones University, [which did not allow interracial dating until just recently and under pressure], made the Confederate military leaders honorary/posthumous citizens again and support as in Ashcroft’s case, ‘states’ rights’ and southern ‘patriots’? Why do you run ads from Confederate flag activists but not MIM?”

MIM received the following response from a “Rob” of the “Google AdWords Team.” “Google believes strongly in freedom of expression and therefore offers broad access to content across the web without censoring search results. At the same time, we reserve the right to exercise editorial discretion when it comes to the advertising we accept on our site, as noted in our advertising terms and conditions.

“The AdWords team reviews each ad and we reserve the right to refuse to run certain ads or categories of ads on a case-by-case basis. We do not permit ads from sites with content advocating against particular people or organizations. If your ads do not direct our users to this material, we can run them.”

Obviously the above is a legalese bu-

reaucratism of no truthfulness, because offering a review of “Star Trek: Nemesis” is not against an individual or organization, while Google’s taking ads from Republicans accusing Democrats of “lying” is definitely against an organization. Google is both evasive and hypocritical. Some would say Google does not follow its own policy, but MIM is much more concerned that it accepts government ads and ads from the party in power (Republican Party) without taking ours.

Also of note, as a matter of scoring honor points by those affected, out of the hundreds of keywords used in the ads promoting MIM’s website, Google chose only a handful in a handful of ads as improper including “Ho Chi Minh,” “all sex is rape” and “oppression of children.” Congratulations to Ho Chi Minh for being an unspeakable name in advertising while Lenin, Stalin and Mao are allowed by Google. Also congratulations to anti-patriarchy activists. Nonetheless, it was not the keywords that caused MIM ads to be rejected, as the vast majority of ads had no specific words rejected.

MIM encourages any attorneys who do not believe that the U.S. Government should have the right to advertise where other advertisers are rejected on a political basis to write to MIM’s Web Minister ([mim3@mim.org](mailto:mim3@mim.org)) to offer assistance. It is our belief that running ads in Google is a way of aiding the political supporters of the U.S. Government with taxpayer money. Hence, the U.S. Air Force and U.S. Army should not be allowed to run ads in Google unless Google accepts ads from all taxpayers of any political persuasion.

# Military would have angered 'founding fathers'

Continued from page 3...

tution that conservatives usually claim to uphold. "The safety of the people of America against dangers from *foreign* force depends not only on their forbearing to give *just* causes of war to other nations, but also on their placing and continuing themselves in such a situation as not to *invite* hostility or insult; for it need not be observed that there are *pretended* as well as just causes of war."(3)

The Amerikan reactionaries have focused on the latter part of the above statement, the fact that in modern times, military weakness invites attack. Yet, now the United States is the undisputed military power of the world and according to the Bush administration itself, we are in a long "war on terror."

Logic says that there are now countless countries—more than 200—that are easier marks than the United States to attack. That leaves only one conclusion: that the war Bush says the United States is in is not an opportunist war of "pretended" cause. Rather it is a war where the United States gave "just causes of war to other nations."

Whether today's reactionaries know it or not, that is where their logic leads. Those are the assumptions behind their views—that weakness invites opportunist attacks. Conversely if the United

States is strong, we must conclude that the attacks from much weaker powers that have much weaker potential targets than the United States have a basis in just cause. That is part of realism.

Instead of concluding that their thinking is wrong and their leaders incompetent, the Amerikkkan redneck votes fear and fear alone. The "founding fathers" warned repeatedly on the danger involved in a permanent military built on the basis of fear.

"The violent destruction of life and property incident to war, the continual effort and alarm attendant on a state of continual danger, will compel nations the most attached to liberty to resort for repose and security to institutions which have a tendency to destroy their civil and political rights. To be more safe, they at length become willing to run the risk of being less free. The institutions chiefly alluded to are STANDING ARMIES and the correspondent appendages of military establishments."(4)

The "founding fathers" believed something was wrong if a country could not summon an army for two years, get a job done and then disband it. Once a nation formed and demonstrated its strength, the "founding fathers" believed that other nations stood up and took notice.

The U.S. military is the most powerful in the world having spent 12 digits a year for decades at a time. Its existence goes way beyond what the founders envisioned for the United States. Yet, still there is no peace.

Long ago it was time to conclude that our leaders do not have a working plan for peace, even with the strongest military in the world at their disposal, not to mention the world's largest economy. Rather than surrendering more freedoms and more money while suffering ever higher tech atrocities it is time to throw the dopes out and find leaders who know how to make peace.

Notes:

1. [http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=story\\_13-12-2002\\_pg3\\_8](http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=story_13-12-2002_pg3_8); This is also the impression of the mainstream Kanadian press. Bush friend Paul Martin slated to be a future Prime Minister of Canada says as much, e.g., 29 Nov 2002, Ottawa Citizen, p. a9. Others say U.S. military spending is only more than the next 25 nations combined, e.g., <http://www.globalissues.org/Geopolitics/ArmsTrade/Spending.asp>

2. <http://www.weeklystandard.com/Content/Public/Articles/000/000/001/842sqsk.asp> In case anyone dares to question MIM's facts on U.S. imperial-

ism again, we suggest reading the Weekly Standard's Max Boot. He admits it all, dredging up a series of Amerikan provocations and usurpations from 1945 to 1991. "The reality was a good deal more sordid. What did containment entail? It meant support for the Greek colonels, the Argentine generals, the shah, Pinochet, Marcos, Somoza, and other unsavory characters who were in 'our' camp. It meant helping to overthrow rulers, such as Mossadegh in Iran, Arbenz in Guatemala, and Allende in Chile, who were seen as drifting toward the other side. It meant major wars against North Korea and North Vietnam. It meant invasions of the Dominican Republic and Grenada. It meant support for anti-Communist guerrillas in places like Cuba (the Bay of Pigs), Angola, Nicaragua, and Afghanistan." Boot only left out that Allende and Arbenz won elections and the U.S. imperialists put in a king to replace the parliamentarian Mossadegh. Boot is referring to U.S. destruction of parliamentary democracies in Greece, Iran, Guatemala and Chile.

3. Federalist Paper #4 by John Jay.

4. Federalist Paper #8 by Alexander Hamilton.

## Letters

Continued from page 2...

be happy having their children get sex education or independent livelihoods. MIM is in favor of gearing education at an early age toward achievement in all realms.

We also applaud setting up independent record companies, because we favor "building public opinion and the independent institutions of the oppressed" as our central task. Nonetheless, we do not believe that DiFranco is leading forward her independent institution with the correct line despite obviously making efforts.

The comrade should read MIM Theory 2/3 to sharpen up on the gender question. Instead of attacking MIM writers for their "big dick" "in the sand," Ani DiFranco fans should accept that questions of gender relations and feminism require as much challenge and sorting out as any other question.

### Round II of the discussion with Ani DiFranco fan

Dear MIM,

After reading your reply I came to the conclusion that you guys suck at interpreting the words out of someone else's mouth. In fact I agree with just about everything you said in your reply. Just because I happen to be white and living in America does mean I live, or agree with the fundamental values that America attempts to instill in it's population. Most

likely, I feel equally as cynical about America as you do. Do not make assumptions based on what you think you know, you never know! As far as Ani is concerned... Unfortunately, if you want to get a message out to people in this country you have to have money, you have to buy into property and prestige to a certain extent. This is the way of the land, you have to know it to fight it. Ani is a feminist; only a female can identify with a true feminist. Just because a woman experiences pain or hurt does not make her weak or cowardly; she speaks of her experiences. god forbid she convey feelings that make her human. I am not a close friend to Ani; I do not claim to know her motives, but you don't have to know her to understand the positive impact that she has had on women all over the world. What one of your writers did was give a personal interpretation of what he/she heard. They failed to do a true music review. This is my argument, not that he/she did not like Ani's music, but that he/she let wrote an interpretation.

Remember you are preaching to the choir...

—Ani DiFranco fan, December, 2002

mim3@mim.org replies: Since you agree with most of what we said in our reply, I went to look at the lyrics of "done wrong" on "<http://www.azlyrics.com/lyrics/anidifranco/donewrong.html>" (because they're not there on the Righteous Babes website, another gripe I have about the institution). I'll admit that unlike the original MIM reviewer of Ani DiFranco's work, I am not a fan of that

kind of music. However, for lyrics, I can read, and I am positive that the public will not interpret this as a statement on the death penalty like you claimed.

This is something artists have to take responsibility for, because no one else can. The producer of Archie Bunker and "All in the Family," intended to satire Bunker, but polls of the public show that the last persyn they thought the TV show was satiring was Bunker. The public assumed "Dingbat" and "Meathead" were far more worthy of satire. Although I persynally think that there is a lot of great material in "All in the Family," objectively speaking, the show is obviously a horrible failure. If I had the Hollywood chance to do the show myself, I would not do it.

That has to do with the difference between the "subjective" and the "objective." It's something that a full-blown materialist ideology like Marxism provides. It's not a question of making assumptions about Ani: it's a question of the objective impact. Maybe she intended to talk about the death penalty, but it's a pointless failure if the majority of listeners would not pick that up and if the majority in fact will hear a romance- above-all theme.

That's also why we disagree with saying only wimmin can know feminism. If by this you are saying wimmin should be lesbian and separate from men, that at least is consistent. You did not say so, and the impact of your statement will not be good, because saying feminism is only knowable to wimmin means there is no way to communicate with men. If such

is true, then heterosexuals should give it up or people as a whole should give up on communicating, so we would say, that this is too much concession to the "subjective." Soon people will be saying, there is no way to be anti-racist without being a people of color; there is no way to be for gay liberation unless one is gay and after we are done listing all these subjective ideas, we will find ourselves saying, there is no way to be an individual communicating with others in any meaningful way, in which case, what's the point of sending MIM a letter, positive or negative, and what's the point of writing song lyrics?

We agree with you that it takes money to make change and we have made a point of rebutting the "Buddhists" in our movement who think it is a matter of renouncing money. It's a matter of renouncing money for yourself and giving it to the movement, but it's also a matter of having money in the first place. We do not disagree with Ani DiFranco on this point, just her choices of where to give money and how to lead the institution she funds.

MIM pays for MIM Notes out of its own pocket. Precisely for that reason, we share some agreement with DiFranco on money and independence, but we are also not "preaching to the choir." We are preaching to people who do not want to hear it and who send us hundreds of hate letters each month. Our circulation is over 40,000 but MIM Notes has no subscribers and the reactions fit accordingly. We consider responses to MIM Notes a good measure of how far the society has to go in its self-transformation.

## California gang classification: policies behind the SHU

Pelican Bay's arbitrary policies and the Department of correction's gang validation policy in general is very arbitrary - this issue was what generated the recent resistance (hunger strike) contra skeleton bay. The California Department of correction have this obsession with validating prisoners as members or associates of prison gangs and giving those who get validated an "indeterminate SHU" term.

The LEIU/SSU (special services unit/intelligence and special operations) in Sacramento reviews the gang validation package that is submitted to them by the institutional IGIS (Institutional gang investigators and coordinators) and then Sacramento decides whether a prisoner is validated as a prison gang member or associate or rejects the validation package. The information that the Gestapo agents use against a prisoner in this process can be classified as non-confidential or confidential. Once a prisoner receives an "indeterminate SHU" term they end up here, or sometimes get housed at Corcoran SHU.

Either way the prisoner is retained in the SHU for at least six years until he is eligible to get his case reviewed by the DRB (Department Review Board). And if the prisoner has been gang free for those six years he may get classified as "inactive" and get cut loose to the general population where, if he gets one more piece of information against him about gang activity, he gets thrown back into the SHU for another six years.

The information these fascists use against people most of the time is very very petty. A drawing or a "get well card" to a dying prisoner at Corcoran constitutes gang activity after these prisoncrats or pigs get done manipulating the information so as to make it constitute gang activity. Most of the time confidential informants fabricate information and the gang coordinators know this, yet it is still used against prisoners to keep them back here in this ossuary!

This six year inactive policy is fairly newly initiated (a couple of years) as before there was no way for us validated prisoners to leave the SHU unless we parole, debrief or die. As the result of many legal battles a few people over here managed to get the court's attention. Thus Pelican Bay and LEIU came out with the six year inactive policy. But this policy is tokenism. Although a few prisoners have been released to the general population, many remain in the SHU due to petty petty info that doesn't even constitute gain activity—greeting cards, drawings, etc. Informants providing pure lies, uncorroborated info, manipulated info. In short, Skeleton Bay always finds a loophole and most validated inmates remain in the SHU indeterminately—in the fucking dungeon. Many prisoners are entombed back here in SHU for the rest

# Under Lock & Key

## News from Prisons & Prisoners

of their longevity.

—A prisoner in Pelican Bay, CA, December 2002

**MIM adds:** We are waging a battle against the SHU control units in California both inside and outside of the prisons. To download flyers or sign a petition to shut down the SHU visit our web site at <http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/agitation/prisons.html>

## STG threat unveiled in Virginia

Revolutionary Greetings,

I am writing to you from the Red Onion State Prison—the only remaining super-maximum prison in the Virginia Department of Corrections.

Yesterday, here at ROSP, we received the new Division Operating Procedure 861 "Inmate Discipline." Our last revised issue of this procedure went into effect September 1, 2000. That innovative issuance allowed the prisons to collect fines for any and all infractions, keep prisoners in isolation for 30 days straight (previously, it had been 15 days), and not require the officer reporting "Category II" infractions to even show up at the "disciplinary hearing."

Well, "Category II" infractions became even more common, five and ten dollar fines (the maximum is \$12.00 or up to 60 hours of work) normal. But we were still better off than prisoners in other states — who had to deal with the dreaded "Security Threat Group (STG)" rules.

From April 1 1992 to September 1 2000 the DOP 861 remained unchanged. We figured we had dodged the STG bullet for about eight more years. But the new DOP 861 becomes effective November 1, 2002. Not only did we not dodge the bullet — we've been hit with an improved bullet.

The STG infractions and their relatives have been given overwhelmingly broad definitions, without a single definition of what constitutes an STG. And once an STG infraction has been issued, there is no dropping it down to a lesser infraction.

Yes, we only half-heartedly fought against the previous revisions to DOP 861, but we are disorganized and few and far between. And we're in worse shape today, for the STG infractions are designed to break any prisoner organization, to cut prisoners off from external help, and to get prisoners to obey the system by making us individuals in cells next to each other, rather than groups of people with common interests working collectively for our common benefit.

The new STG offenses and their

relatives are listed below. One hundred number infractions are Category I and considered more serious than two hundred number infractions which are Category II.

125. Intimidation of any person in the furtherance of STG activities (new).

126. Recruitment of any person into STG participation or activities (new).

127. Involvement in STG activities not otherwise listed as an offense in this operating procedure (new).

128. Participating in, or encouraging others to participate in, a work stoppage or group demonstration (used to be 240).

129. Gathering around, or approaching, any person in a threatening or intimidating manner. (used to be 214)

197. STG activity related to any of the offenses in the 100 series (new).

247. Possession of STG related materials or paraphernalia (new).

248. Using or attempting to use codes, signs, dress or other outward manifestations of STG involvement or association (new).

297. STG activity related to any of the offenses in the 200 series (new).

But what is an STG? The DOP 861 handbook, given to every prisoner, doesn't define it. What constitutes STG related material or paraphernalia? MIM Notes? The Bill of Rights? The Emancipation Proclamation?

Oh, yes. The STG threat has been unveiled in Virginia. And it's here to stay. As long as those who will die in prison (from the length of their sentences) accept such rules, these rules will keep coming. I [get out] mandatory (without any more infractions) in 2007. Or 2010, if I get more infractions. These rules will still be here (if not stronger and worse) when I leave prison in 2007.

Now, I'm not going to roll over and simply take whatever VDOC decides to do. But neither should you expect me to get infractions (for what? I can't hurt the system by letting them keep me in long-term segregation). I'll still do what I can to draw outside attention and support — and when I get those three years earlier, I'll join that outside attention and support.

In the struggle,

—a prisoner in Virginia

**MIM responds:** We agree that there is no point to racking up more infractions and delaying your release if you can avoid it, if you plan to contribute to the struggle against these and other manifestations of oppression in the prison system. However, even by working within the rules, prisoncrats will find ways to write activists up for infractions. And sometimes prisoners have to take risks because there is no other choice. It

is vitally important that you and others keep working to publicize outrageous repressions such as those you describe here, and to expose their political purposes to supporters and would-be supporters on the outside.

## Censorship: Amerikan as apple pie...

Our library is very strict when it comes to books. They feel that any kind of book which is "un-american" does not belong in here. We even have problems when it comes to "Black History Month." So basically what I am trying to say is: please do not waste your time with our library. [MIM often asks prisoners if they can get MIM Notes or other revolutionary literature into prison libraries.] I could better spread the word at yard time.

In the struggle,

—A Pennsylvania prisoner, October 2002

## MIM on Prisons & Prisoners

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

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

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

## We can win anti-censorship struggles

I'm writing to let you know that I have received Jan., Feb., and Mar. issues of MIM Notes—after my attorney filed a lawsuit [in February].

—A Pennsylvania prisoner, May 2002

## One good thing

The one good thing that's been happening lately is that the MIM Notes have been getting in lately. I think this is due to a change of staff in the Publications Review Committee. They used to have one guy in there who turned down everything except sports magazines and smut magazines. I suppose to keep us "dumbed down." Hopefully this new relaxation of regulations for books/zines will last a while.

I did see the [Progress Review Committee], the ones who decide if they let me out or not... I can safely say that it went as bad as possible. They informed me that I was on a "Do Not Let Out" list put out by the central office of the [Department of Corrections], which people such as Russell Maroon Shoats are on. [Russell Maroon Shoats was a founding member of the Black Unity Council, which eventually merged with the Philadelphia Black Panther Party. He was convicted of attacking a police station and killing a policeman in response to the police murder of a Black youth in 1970.] Personally, I think this is being done for the new Super-Max set to open up by next year. Label more people as being a security threat to justify the costs and need for a new super-max. You know how things like this go.

Have you heard of the new National Security Exit/Entry registration policy they're implementing? Photographing and finger-printing all visitors coming in to the U.S.? I've always considered the U.S. as a police state, while before it was more or less hidden now it's out in the open. I think this is all still just the beginning, and only going to get worse.

—A Pennsylvania prisoner, April 2002

**MIM comments:** The previous two prisoners wrote from SCI Greene, which is infamous for restricting media access to prisoners. MIM led a campaign against this censorship, calling it a clear attack on the ability of the writers at MIM Notes and prisoners to criticize the American

prison system and express wider political views. We asked for prisoners and non-prisoners alike to send in postcards and petitions asking the administration to stop censoring MIM Notes. Prisoners such as the first letter-writer also filed lawsuits to end the censorship.

We thank all the prisoners who agitated for their MIM Notes and kept us up-to-date as to whether the papers were getting in or not. We can't say for certain if the change in policy was due to our campaign or the new Publications Review staff or both—in either case, the change was short lived, as several prisoners from wrote to tell us SCI Greene censored the May issues of MIM Notes (see below).

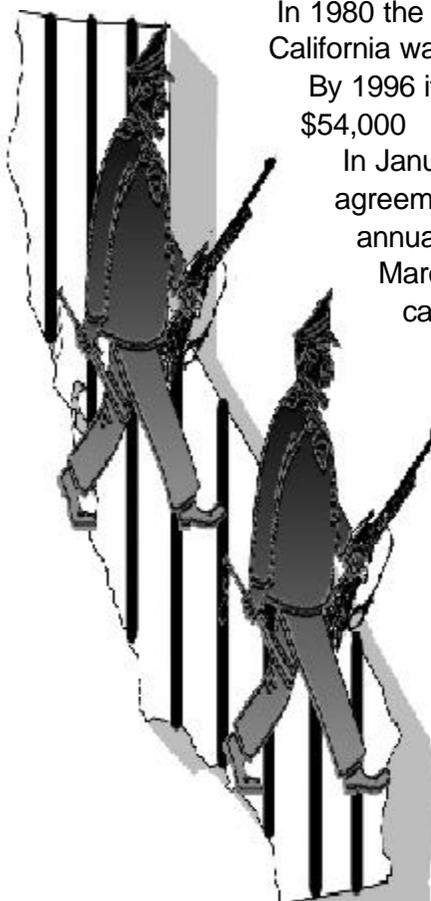
A final note: close readers will have noticed that these letters are over six months old yet just appearing in Under Lock and Key. Mostly this reflects just how under-staffed MIM Notes is. We have a hard time keeping up with the current level of correspondence—never mind that as we become more effective at distributing the paper that level increases. We are always on the lookout for consistent, motivated correspondents who agree with the basic principles behind MIM's work in prisons.

On the flip side, prisoners also need to understand the realities of our work and keep writing to us, passing around MIM Notes and MIM Theory, etc. even if MIM does not respond to their letters personally. This particular letter-writer demonstrated admirable patience, consistency and initiative. Even though MIM had not written in six months, he sent in art for use in MIM Notes, submitted a lengthy book review, kept us up-to-date on doings in his prison, and stayed on the MIM Notes mailing list.

## PA: "USA Today si, MIM Notes no"

On June 6, 2002 the mail room held my MIM Notes for the Publication Review Committee. A few days later the Committee denied its entry. I appealed their decision, but I don't think that I'll get any positive results.

There aren't many so-called rights in America right now and the ones people do have are slowly being stripped away. Privacy doesn't exist anymore, if it ever did for that matter. Just about every anti-American group or any group that expresses oppositional views to this government is under heavy surveillance.



In 1980 the average salary for prison guards in California was \$14,400  
By 1996 it had grown to \$44,000. Today it is \$54,000  
In January 2002 Davis signed a five-year labor agreement with the union that could increase annual salaries to \$73,000 by mid-2005 (In March the union gave Davis's reelection campaign \$251,000).  
In 1985 the ratio of prison spending to higher education spending in California was 1:6, in 1994 that had dropped to 1:1  
From 1984 to 1994, California's prison increased prison funding by 209%, while increasing state university funding by only 15 %.  
Since taking office Davis has received \$712,000 directly from the prison guard union and another \$356,000 generated at golf fundraisers sponsored by the union.

*Information about the Criminal Injustice System brought to you by the Maoist Internationalist Movement.*

The only news I get is from the USA Today and Christian Science Monitor. The USA Today constantly gives biased reports and the Christian Science Monitor isn't much better, except that they give better international coverage.

—A Pennsylvania prisoner, July 2002

**MIM responds :** MIM received several other reports that the May issues of MIM Notes were censored, including from the prisoner above who wrote to say he did get Jan-Mar issues. As of December we have no evidence the May issues ever made it inside.

MIM publishes its newspaper to counteract the spin put out by bourgeois mouthpieces like USA Today and Christian Science Monitor. But that does not mean we do not read them or encourage others not to. We don't have the resources to cover international events in person or even carry out thorough polls here inside U.S. borders, so we have to make do with the available bourgeois sources, just as Marx did when writing Capital or Lenin did when writing Imperialism.

## Commissary rip-offs: it's not just Keefe

I was reading an article in MIM Notes about the Keefe Food distributing company. A brother was wondering how one company can virtually corner the market on commissary sales in the Federal prison system across the United States.

Well I have the answer to your question: it's not just Keefe, it's over a dozen of these companies. And what's so important about these companies is they only market to prisons! A few of the others that have been doing the same thing as Keefe are: Lander, Kroger, Wortz, Smart Choice and Cactus Annie's companies.

You see my brothers and sisters, everyone who has a vendor license and has not had any type of run-in with the law can get a contract to sell food items to prisons. I am enclosing a copy of the commissary form from this prison so you can share it with your readers.

Some of the prices from this Federal commissary list are:

Ramen soup \$.25  
Chocolate Chip cookies \$2.20  
Plain tortilla chips \$1.60  
Sensodyne toothpaste \$5.80

— a Federal prisoner in Colorado, 18 December, 2002

**MIM adds:** Commissary prices are prohibitive for prisoners, who may have no income, or might work for as little as 50 cents/day. Because the prisons often do not take care of prisoners' basic nutritional needs, prisoners are forced to buy food and other necessities from the commissary. The commissary issue in prisons is tied to two basic human rights issues: the international minimum wage, and the right to food.

## Facts on U\$ 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.

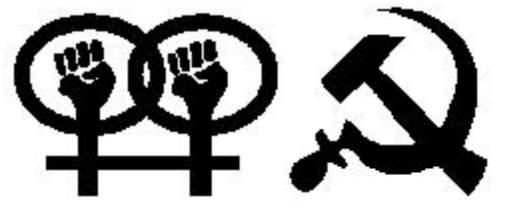
Notes: 1. Marc Mauer, "Americans Behind Bars: The International Use of Incarceration 1993," The Prison Sentencing Project, 918 F. St. NW, Suite 501, Washington, DC 20004 (202) 628-0871 Reference: SRI: R8965-2, 1994

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.



## Challapalca: prisión de exterminio

*Toledo utiliza los mismos métodos criminales de Fujimori*

El penal de Challapalca es una prisión de castigo y exterminio ubicada a más de 5,000 metros de altura sobre el nivel del mar. Aquí las temperaturas descienden en las noches a menos 25 ° grados y el frío que tienen que enfrentar los prisioneros es infernal. En comparación hay que señalar que la región más alta del mundo es el Himalaya la misma que tiene picos que van desde 5,000 hasta 8,848 metros de altura. En esas altitudes, como la que rodea la prisión de Challapalca, la presión atmosférica es menor y menor también la cantidad de oxígeno. Este fenómeno cambia radicalmente el metabolismo del ser humano, que en el caso de los prisioneros, debilitados por las torturas y la mala nutrición, resulta una muerte lenta pero segura.

Esta abominable cárcel, que sólo puede ser comparado con las más brutales prisiones de la época de la inquisición medieval, está ubicada entre los límites de los departamentos de Puno y Tacna. Como denuncian los prisioneros de guerra, en este lugar no existe la luz eléctrica ni el agua potable. No hay tampoco servicio médico ni medios de transporte público que facilite la visita de los familiares de los presos, quienes reducen sus visitas a una o dos veces por año. En este lugar, las celdas son pequeñas construcciones de cemento en la que no ingresa la luz natural ni tienen una apropiada ventilación. Los presos son pésimamente alimentados, no tienen derechos a ninguna atención médica y son permanentemente reprimidos por los servicios de seguridad.

### Prisión de castigo para los revolucionarios

En esta prisión están reclusos los prisioneros de guerra considerados militantes del Partido Comunista del Perú (PCP). El "castigo" se refiere a reprimir con el exterminio sus ideales comunistas y su firme posición de propugnar la continuación de la guerra popular. El gobierno y la prensa peruana califica a estos valerosos combatientes con el apelativo de "Proseguir" en alusión a su posición de seguir desarrollando la revolución. La prisión de Challapalca, como campo de concentración, sirve en exclusivo para castigar a los revolucionarios que ni las más infames condiciones de vida ni las torturas carcelarias logra doblegarlos. Este sistema de prisión de exterminio fue implantado por Fujimori y el régimen actual ("gobierno de todas las sangres") se ha encargado de hacerlo más brutal y criminal. De esta prisión están excluidos, los presos del Movimiento Revolucionario (MRTA) y los traidores y capituladores (partidarios de las "cartas de paz") que desde el año 1993 se pasaron a

trabajar con el Servicio de Inteligencia Nacional (SIN) que dirigía Vladimiro Montesinos.

Los prisioneros de guerra en una carta que han hecho llegar a la redacción de El Diario Internacional y a otros medios de comunicación del Perú, denuncian que el 21 de setiembre de 2001 fueron trasladados del penal de Yanamayo al de Challapalca como medida de "castigo" y de exterminio. Señalan que durante el traslado sufrieron todo tipo de tortura física y psicológica. Algunos de ellos quedaron gravemente heridos, y hasta la actualidad no han recibido ninguna atención médica. Denuncian también que dicho "castigo", es decir la reclusión en el penal de Challapalca, no podía ser mayor de un año, pero que hasta la actualidad y habiendo pasado más de 12 meses el gobierno no pretende cambiar esta situación de extrema gravedad para la sobrevivencia de los prisioneros. Según los prisioneros, el peligro de aniquilamiento en el penal de Challapalca, tuvo su punto más álgido el 23 de octubre de este año (2002) cuando los custodios del penal irrumpieron violentamente en las celdas bajo el propósito de realizar una "requisa" (léase represión). Dicha "requisa" que se inició a las 10 de la noche, mientras los prisioneros dormían, sirvió para golpear brutalmente a los prisioneros del PCP y arrebatarles (confiscar) alimentos, herramientas de trabajo, medicinas, utensilios de cocina, vestimentas, etc. Como denuncian los prisioneros, durante la "requisa" las autoridades del penal secuestraron a los delegados a quienes aislaron en celdas de tortura. Frente a este hecho los prisioneros respondieron con una decidida acción de protesta que bajo la consigna de resistir y combatir hizo retroceder a los carceleros. Esta medida fue suspendida el pasado 23 de octubre cuando se hicieron presentes representantes de la Cruz Roja Internacional y autoridades de la institución penitenciaria del Perú quienes mediaron para apaciguar los términos del conflicto. Sobre esta situación y para un mejor conocimiento de la dramática vida en Challapalca, editamos textualmente una denuncia firmada por los prisioneros de guerra. Dicho documento, fue presentado al Fiscal de la Nación el 20 de octubre de este año. En dicho texto, junto con denunciar el carácter fascista del sistema carcelario del Perú, se denuncia penalmente a las más altas autoridades penitenciarias del país.

### Denuncia de los prisioneros de guerra de la prisión de Challapalca

#### Señor Fiscal de la Nación

Los abajo firmantes, presos políticos y prisioneros de guerra acusados de pertenecer al Partido Comunista del Perú, reclusos en el establecimiento Penal de Challapalca-Tacna, al amparo del artículo 139 incisos 14 y 22 de la Constitución Política del Estado, nos dirigimos a Ud. Para manifestar lo siguiente:

1. Que con fecha 21 de setiembre del 2001 fuimos trasladados 34 internos del Penal de Yanamayo al Penal de Challapalca-Tacna por motivo de "castigo", según las autoridades penitenciarias, sufriendo todo tipo de vejámenes (tortura física y psicológica, robo de nuestras pertenencias y materiales de trabajo). Según las normas penitenciarias, dicho "castigo" comprende un período de regresión progresiva de 365 días (un año) el mismo que se cumplió el pasado 20 de setiembre del 2002. Sin embargo, a la fecha, no se nos retorna a nuestros lugares de origen pese a que se ha vencido el plazo del "castigo" que se nos ha impuesto sin procederse de acuerdo al Código de Ejecución Penal en su artículo 34. Además, del traslado arbitrario y abusivo de trece presos políticos desde el Penal "Miguel Castro Castro" al Penal de Challapalca-Tacna dizque por "hacinamiento" (24\_04\_2002).

2. Que se nos mantiene en este lugar inhóspito, a más de 5,050 metros sobre el nivel del mar sometidos a temperaturas gélidas que llegan hasta menos 25°C, aislados de nuestros familiares, reclusos en celdas pequeñas con ventanas minúsculas que impiden el ingreso de la luz natural y la ventilación requerida, impidiéndonos estudiar o trabajar en las mismas ya que la luz eléctrica sólo se utiliza de 5.30 p.m. a 9.00 p.m.. Estas condiciones de existencia perjudican más nuestra ya deteriorada salud día a día, más aún, cuando aquí ni siquiera existen médicos especializados, ni medicinas ni equipos especializados; la alimentación es deficiente y ni siquiera se cuenta con agua potable. Es así que dos internos en grave estado de salud tuvieron que ser evacuados a Juliaca (los internos Bartolomé Melitón Cárdenas y Wilson García Asto). Así hay otros internos que requieren urgente evacuación, ellos son: Antonio Bendezú Vega (Tumor urológico), Miguel Cuno Choquehuana (complicaciones post-operatoria a la próstata); José Zamora Pérez (Taquicardia), Franquiel Esquivel Santos (infección renal y tuberculosis), Román Rengifo Murrieta y Juan Islas Trinidad (gastrointestinal ulceroso) y José Arcela

Chiroque (osteomielitis crónica e hipertensión).

3. Que el establecimiento Penitenciario de Challapalca-Tacna no cumple con las reglas mínimas establecidas por la ONU para el tratamiento de reclusos. Se viola el derecho de los internos a la rehabilitación, reeducación y resocialización conforme al artículo 134 Inciso 22 de la Constitución Política del Estado y el artículo II del Título preliminar del código de Ejecución Penal; de allí que sea calificado como centro de tortura por los organismos de derechos humanos (DD.HH) tales como la Corte Interamericana de Derechos Humanos y Amnistía Internacional que exigen su cierre definitivo. En Challapalca se implementa y se mantiene un régimen carcelario de mayor aislamiento, aniquilamiento y genocidio teniendo en cuenta la Convención de la ONU para la prevención del delito de genocidio y el artículo 129 del Código Penal peruano que tipifican claramente el delito de genocidio como delito de lesa humanidad por el sometimiento a condiciones de existencia que acarrear la destrucción física o mental, en forma total o parcial.

4. Que por lo expuesto, denunciamos la violación de nuestros derechos conforme al artículo 139 Inciso 22 de la Constitución Política del Estado y el artículo 1° del código de Ejecución Penal, denunciamos al presidente del INPE Javier Bustamente, al Vice presidente del INPE Moisés Hirst Carrillo y a la Directora de la DRAP- INPE Hilma Luna Frisancho por delito de función en su modalidad de abuso de autoridad conforme al artículo 376 del Código Penal, por delito contra la vida, el cuerpo y la salud conforme al artículo 128 del Código Penal y por delito de genocidio conforme al artículo 129 del Código Penal; a quienes hacemos responsables por nuestra integridad física y mental. Así mismo, exigimos el inmediato traslado a nuestros lugares de origen por unidad familiar y el cierre del campo de concentración fascista de Challapalca por atentar la integridad física y mental de los internos. Challapalca, 20 de octubre del 2002.

#### Prisioneros firmantes:

Franklin Esquivel Santos, Roman Rengifo Murrieta, Ortega Pardo Adrian, Miguel Dipas Vargas, Jovino Montero Arteaga, Alejandro Anyosa Ochoa, Carlos Bravo Quijano, Gregorio Principe Picon, Fortunato Soto Tarazona, Juan Quispe Castro, Luis López Medrano, Wilman Castro Rosas, Edward Solano Ascanio, Ceryl Carhuaz Aquino, José Arcela Chiroque, Hermes Rubio Hugo, Juan Islas Trinidad, Leo Peña Gutiérrez, Julio García Inuma, Cesar Pardo Yaringaño y Wilman Castro Rosas.